

SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE - March 2018

Storm damage to the Coastal Path and Phase 3 Coastal Erosion Protection: Following the Parish Council's request on January 6th to SCC (Flood and Coastal Policy and Rights of Way Team) for a meeting to be held in order to look at ways of addressing the recent coastal path damage and Phase 3, Suffolk County Council has thankfully agreed to chair a meeting on March 27, which will hopefully be well attended by all the relevant statutory bodies.

Although this meeting is not open to the public at this initial stage, the Parish Council has asked for the possibility of a second meeting that parishioners can attend. In the meantime, we will continue to provide as much information as possible on both topics on our website shotley.onesuffolk.net and we would encourage members of the public to refer to it as the only source of verified accurate information. Unfortunately, information posted either on social media or third-party websites is sometimes quite inaccurate, regardless of the source.

The very last section of gabions which is where most damage has occurred is quite challenging, as its installation did not follow due process and breached most of the permissions that were in place. It is on land which is RSPB reserve (not Parish Council) and was not part of any of the plans or licenses approved by the Parish Council or statutory bodies.

Mrs Jane Burch, the SCC Coastal and Flood Policy Manager for SCC kindly arranged for an independent technical assessment which returned an estimate of £55K to £60K for a full repair of this 63m section; the Parish Council engaged the original Project Manager, Mr Andrew Hawes, who returned a repair estimate of £29K, and our Vice-Chairman, Cllr R Wrinch, who himself has carried out sea defence work on his land, approached his contractor, who may be able to carry out a simple repair for under £5K. However, this repair would be a temporary measure and may not last the next storm. We encourage you to have a look at the reports provided by the professionals (on our website) so you have a good understanding of all the different aspects.

A full detailed report will be produced by the Parish Council following the meeting of March 27th and we aim to ensure that our parishioners are kept fully informed throughout the process.

Felixstowe-Shotley-Harwich high voltage electricity improvement scheme – River Stour

Directional Drill at Whinny Queech, Shotley: UK Power Networks will be returning to Whinny's Queech, off Stourside, on 19th March to finalise the directional drilling works. Most of the work will take place on the Harwich side of the river, however there will be a requirement to operate the drill intermittently for a 2-3 day period within Whinny's Queech during the first phase of the programme. The equipment used means that some disturbance is unavoidable, but every effort will be made to minimise any unnecessary noise and our works will be limited from 7am to 7pm Monday to Sunday. A representative from contractor McNicholas will be on site at other times- **contractor's careline 0845 2000214.**

Heritage Park maintenance works: With regard to the recent clearing of a fire break in the Heritage Park, the Parish Council would like to reassure parishioners that both Natural England and the RSPB were fully consulted and informed prior to the works in order to ensure that our wildlife was looked after. We were very lucky to have the Community Payback Team helping us but it was difficult to keep a straight line and we went over by about one metre, for which we apologise. Further work will take place once the bird nesting

season is over to ensure a continuous fire break all the way down the cliff in order to protect the adjacent properties.

Gate Farm Road Caravan Park: Update received from Mr Simon Bailey, Team Leader – Heritage & Planning Compliance, BD C- The Gate Farm case remains active as an investigation and enquiries are being made with the BDC Electoral Services team and the Shared Revenues Partnership at Ipswich Borough Council. Once enquiries are completed, the information will be assessed in order to ascertain whether there is an indication of permanent residential use, and if any permanent residential use goes beyond what is permitted at the site.

With regard to the rumours regarding the delivery of 40 caravans to the site, if there is no planning permission in place at the time of delivery the placement of the caravans will, of course, constitute a breach of planning control. Unfortunately, BDC is not able to take action against a breach which has not yet happened.

General matters: The Parish Council will seek to carry out the regular maintenance of the path between Mole End and East View Terrace (route to school) on a regular basis, as recent cut backs to maintenance by SCC mean that the area only gets cut once a year.

We also hope our parishioners and visitors enjoy the two newly installed benches in that same area. These should provide a lovely resting place with a view over the Orwell and Felixstowe Port.

The Parish Council has also funded the cutting back of the protruding overgrown branches on Lower Harlings.

The Parish Council approved the Shotley Open Spaces request for a letter of support to SCC Highways for the installation of one “Walkers Are Welcome” sign at the entrance to the village.

Plastic waste on our foreshore: Still using the help of the Community Payback Team, once they had finished at the Heritage Park, they cleared a substantial amount of plastic and other waste from our foreshore. However, and pardon the pun, that was only a drop in the ocean! If you venture the other way past the Marina, it is a never-ending challenge and one that we need all the help we can get in tackling. So, if this is a matter close to your heart and you have some free time on your hands please get in touch.

For these and any other parish matters, please contact us at: shotleypc@btinternet.com, telephone no. 01473 788248 or find us at shotley.onesuffolk.net

The Shotley Parish Council would like to wish you all a Happy Easter!

Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Shotley Parish Council