

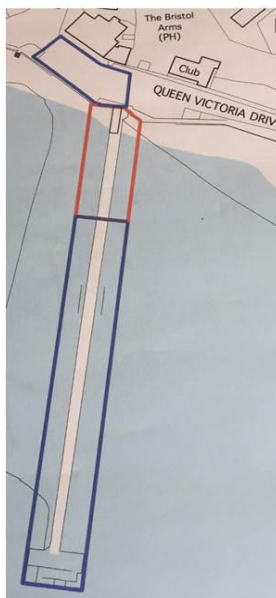
This newsletter is all about the planning application. The work is planned in distinct stages so that funds can be raised and used as we go, so that sections of the Pier can become available for use by our community as quickly as possible, rather than waiting for all of the funding to be available for the renovation of the whole of the Pier, which may take considerable time.

At the November SGM, in newsletters and press articles, Chairman John Davitt outlined the proposed plan of starting by having a Visitor/Volunteer Centre on the land end with some decking over the water, then the long promenade section for the second stage, and the hammerhead would be the last section to be renovated. The development and renovation has been planned in stages so that funds can be applied as they are raised.

The building will enable retail sales of memorabilia and other pier related things for fishing, crabbing and boating as well as being a display space for all the amazing heritage people have given us. It will become the home of the pier project, and give us even more momentum to raise the money needed to restore the entire pier. This pier will be for people to stroll on, go fishing, and depart and arrive from the river. The planned single storey Visitor and Volunteer Centre will be part of showing off the history of the pier, and enable our local community to have a heritage space. Activities such as art groups, photography groups and other community activities such as meetings will be held here, increasing leisure use of the area.

Here is the extract from the Planning Application:

“The proposal is for two single storey buildings either side of a 3 metre access to the Pier. The buildings will provide community facilities with café and workshop. Adjacent to the buildings will be small external decked viewing/sitting areas. The workshop shall provide facilities for volunteers to carry out repairs to the pier.”



The initial work is planned for the red section of the pier.

The first blue section on land in front of the Bristol Arms is the road and parking spaces which belong to the Pier, although it is also part of the adopted public highway.

The red section shows the pier as well as the ownership of the seabed either side of the pier, it is not the measurement of the planned buildings.

As part of the planning application, “the site” and the land in which one has an interest has to be outlined.

The blue section shows the 7 metre (23 feet) width of land which the Society owns either side of the pier.

Some people have commented that they think the proposed buildings are too large. To put our plans into context, take a look at this slide of Halfpenny Pier, Harwich. It’s a helpful pointer to what a small Victorian Pier looks like. Like our plan, they are single storey buildings. The angled dark roof on one building has an interesting finish. The building with the pale roof is about 30 feet shorter than the one planned for Shotley Pier, and is narrower than our plan. We plan a wider building than the ones in the photo below as group activities

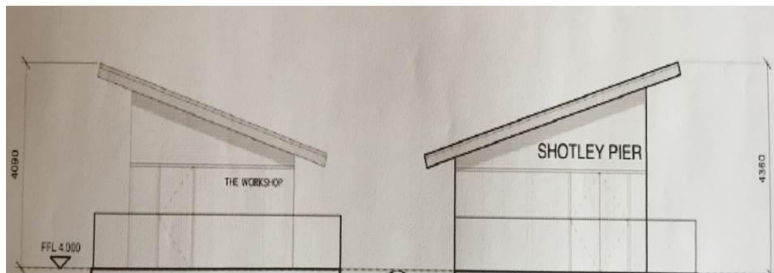
need more space than that. It is hard to envisage what the angled roof on our plan will look like, so hopefully this photo puts our plans into context.



Halfpenny Pier buildings viewed from: 1. the Road, and 2. the Water
One building has a steep dark coloured roof, the other has a pale corrugated roof

This building with the pale corrugated roof is about 30 feet shorter than the planned Shotley Pier Visitor Centre

To reduce the risk of flooding of the Visitor Centre, it will be higher than the current decking, with a gradually increasing slope of the whole area to enable full access to wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs and others who find steps difficult to use. It means that the pier will not have any steps to cope with. At the end of this section, the slope will gradually reduce again so that the promenade part of the pier can remain at its original level.



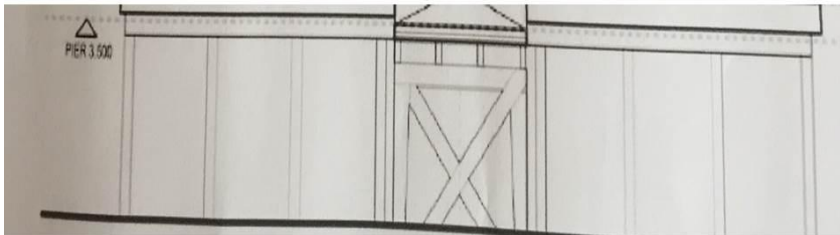
The image above shows the structural view at ground level from the pavement.

The finish, signage and entrance have not been finalised.

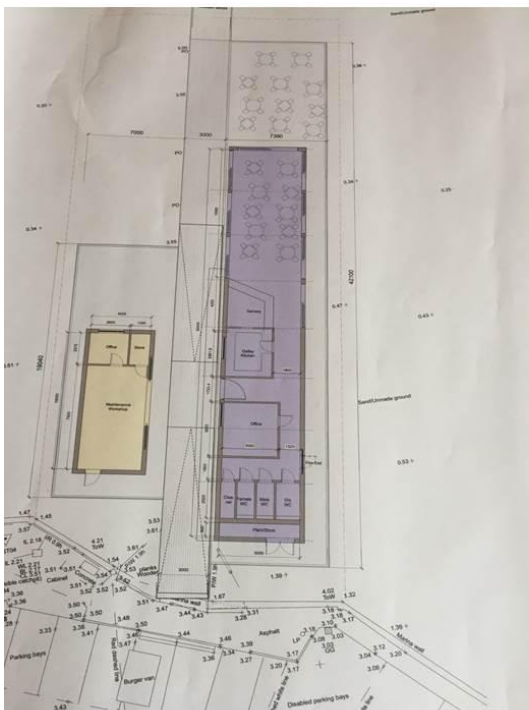
Here is the view under the Pier.

The existing popular criss-cross structure remains fully visible and accessible!

Since these plans were submitted, ground investigation has shown that only two rows of piles are needed for the extended section on each side, not four as shown here. This is an example of how things can change as we progress.



Whilst the plan has always been to renovate the Pier to its former Victorian splendour, there was never an intention to reinstate the previous hideous ramshackle shacks by the land end. The previous owner had already achieved planning permission for retail kiosks; we are now developing that plan into a community space which should include refreshments for both volunteers and visitors. The kitchen galley measures 3m by 4m, which is 10 feet by 13.5 feet

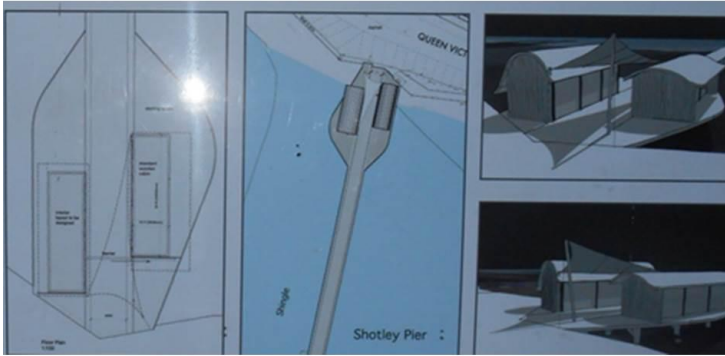


The internal layout and the outdoor decking seating area are not finalised.

We intend to have a communal area for use as craft activity, group sessions for training and leisure, as well as retail shelving for sales of memorabilia, plus display of our amazing heritage items.

Somewhere in there we hope to have a large screen TV to show shipping movements for people who would like to know what is happening on the rivers. Other ideas will no doubt come forth from our community.

Previous planning permission



The previous derelict fishing shack



This planning application enables the Board to start the consultation process with you, the Investor. The Board took the approach that it needs to get the structural engineering and footprint of the space submitted for planning permission. Internal layout and the finishes can be submitted as minor amendments. This plan is intended to be the start of the process as it always helps to have a vision to discuss.

Investors are very welcome to give feedback:

Send an email to shotleypier@gmail.com

Come to the coffee morning at the Red Lion, Chelmondiston on Weds 2nd May 10.30 - 11.45am

View the fuller plans at the Shotley Rose and leave a written comment, the bar has a supply of feedback forms

Come to the investors meeting on Friday 4th May to see the plans, and chat about them. No votes will be taken on this occasion as it is not a formal meeting.

And of course it's your democratic right to interact with the official planning process at Babergh Council.

The Victorians were innovative and loved using new technology. The Board feels we are in the spirit of that by having a modern building meeting current building standards for our Visitor Centre.

The promenade section of several hundred feet will reflect the Victorian era with old lamp-posts and strolling environment.

The Board thanks you for your interest and support, not least in reading this long newsletter. Please share your feedback, whether positive or negative so that we really do get everyone's opinion.