

Many of you will have seen the news that planning permission was refused last week, when an 80 minute debate of the pier was held at Babergh Council Planning Committee.



Our application was actually recommended for approval and had widespread support to help us move the project forward. There were 38 objections, most of which were from members of the sailing club, the Bristol Arms and the Marina.

The discussion was illogical at times, and the Babergh Solicitor kept telling objecting councillors the reasons they were giving were not valid in planning law. After the vote of 7 against 6, the 7 councillors struggled for 11 minutes to give reasons that could be put in the council minutes. We have been advised we have good grounds for appeal.

Following the many emails and comments from investors, the Board is weighing up next steps, looking at whether to appeal and whether to revise the plans. Most of the 38 objections came from the Sailing Club next door and the small vocal group who have objected to every stage of our project. We have been approached by the Marina to have talks with them and other local businesses and, as ever, we are always ready to listen to opinions.

Investors are very welcome to give opinions to the volunteers, either by chatting or by emailing shotleypier@gmail.com

We have been shortlisted for 3 major grants, all of them require planning permission to be in place before they make an award, so we need to progress to planning permission as soon as possible.

The deliberate mis-information was spread that we intended to open an 84 seat restaurant, and this clearly influenced the councillors who believed we were trying to steal trade from the nearby pub and marina. It was hard to stomach the comment from Councillor Busby that our volunteers would ruin other local traders when we all feel that extra visitors will benefit all traders there, and we have no intention of serving restaurant meals other than light refreshments. Tables and chairs are not only for eating at!

Some people have said why not just repair the pier without a building on it? The proposed buildings are not on the pier, they would be on decking alongside the pier, a workshop for

volunteer maintenance of the pier, plus a visitor centre as is normal on a pier, to enable us to hold pier-related activity.

The kind of activity our Visitor Centre expects to have:

- Leaning on the railings to bird watch
- Junior craft activities in the school holidays to enjoy the pier
- Creative leisure such as art and photography
- Enjoying looking at the views while strolling or sitting inside or outside
- Looking at our memorabilia and changing displays of heritage
- Selling things like T Shirts, mugs and other pier related retail goods
- Fishing lessons for families
- Crabbing equipment for sale

At the steering group meeting in November 2016 at the Bristol Arms, it was suggested that a 2 storey building in the shape of HMS Ganges ship should be built. While this was a romantic notion, it felt too big and too expensive, but it shows that from the earliest stages we were talking about having a building there.

We welcome your thoughts so feel free to email us shotleypier@gmail.com and also we will show you our evolving plans if you are able to come to the various meetings listed below.

Share Certificates are on their way.

To keep costs down, we are trying to hand deliver share certificates where possible, or email pdf's to people who like electronic filing! We are also posting to far flung investors too. The Red Lion Coffee morning on 5th September is the next opportunity to have a chat and collect your share certificate.

We handed out some share certificates at Shotley Village Hall on Saturday 1st September. Pictured here are the investors who were happy to be pictured.

Barry (bottom right photo) came because of his family's close connection with the pier. Barry's mum Phyllis, aged 94, is possibly our oldest investor, unless you can tell us differently? He told us "After WW2 my father, ex royal navy Engine room Artificer worked for Trinity House across from the pier on THV Alert & Patricia. During 1949 Mum met Fred when his boat was in port - she would catch the bus from Ipswich to Shotley and Dad would send the trot boat across to Shotley Pier to pick her up to stay aboard for the weekend. Our family all want to support the re-opening."



With your share certificate, you will receive a Nominee form to tell us who should inherit your community shares. If you fill in this form, the community shares can be transferred outside

of probate. You can leave them to a person or more than one person or to a group as long as it has a constitution.

We continue to sell community shares. If you would like to buy as a gift, orders received by October 31st can be sent a share certificate by post by Christmas now that we have the printing sorted. We hope you agree the certificates look super and make a lovely gift.

Here is a lovely photo from 1967 from Dennis with his Mum and sister. Thanks for sending it in Dennis as we have very few photos of people on the pier. Of course the view to the shore has changed enormously since then, with the addition of the sailing club building (about to be further extended) plus the 4 storey apartment block to the right, and a small housing estate of 3 storey houses about to be built on the shore to the right, none of which had any trouble sailing through planning permission.



Harkstead Church kindly hosted our recent Art Weekend with more than 25 artists' work on display. Refreshments were in aid of the church appeal, while we raised funds by selling art and ceramics. A big thank you to the Church as it was a wonderful location, and the Victorian glass tiles at the altar are a work of art in themselves, well worth a visit. Peta Hillier is our Art Organiser Volunteer, and does a fab job, seen here in her pier T shirt with some of the artists and volunteers



Lastly, we are aware that many rumours are going round about what we are doing, and also some completely untrue gossip about individual Directors. Please email John Davitt, Chairman, if you have any concerns or wish to report incidents. His email address is john.davitt@btinternet.com

We are taking this very seriously and taking legal advice at present. The Booster Fund says they have seen this before; sadly some communities prefer to tear themselves apart rather than get on and improve things. We as the Board of Directors believe in getting on with things, and will not allow a small group to derail the project. With your help and support, we are making progress.

John Davitt, our Chairman said: Only a small number of investors have objected to our plans. Conversely, over 90 investors attended our village hall presentation of the plans a few months ago and there was a positive response. Additionally, an email newsletter detailing the plans was sent to over 700 people, again, with an overwhelmingly positive response.

Save the Dates

Wednesday 5th September 10.30am- 12 Coffee Morning Red Lion, Chelmondiston

Our next investors' meeting is planned for **Friday 28th September** at Shotley Village Hall at 7pm.

The AGM will be **Friday November 16th** at Shotley Village Hall at 7pm, formal notices will be sent later