

Babergh District Councillor Derek Davis – Ganges ward (Shotley & Erwarton)

First off, a heartfelt thank you to every one of the 561 people who took the time and effort to vote for me, either in person at the village hall, by postal vote or using a proxy. The margin of victory is significant, with the Conservative getting only 111 votes, the Green 65 and the Lib Dem just 54, meaning I gained 71% of the vote, with a turnout of 42%, very good for local elections. It says to me I have been doing something right over the past four years and my commitment to the community has been recognised and appreciated, so it is now down to me to carry on representing your interests at Babergh, and supporting the various village groups, organisations and individuals in a positive way wherever possible, which I fully intend to do.

During this campaign I spoke to hundreds of people on the doorstep to gauge opinion and find out what the main issues that you are concerned about. What is happening at Ganges was the main topic, ironic given the new ward we live in is named after the former Royal Navy Training Establishment HMS Ganges. In short, plans to build the 285 homes, community space, care home, small hotel, retail units and open spaces, which has already given permission are still going ahead. Developers are working through the lengthy list of pre-commencement conditions (including, archaeology, ecology, drainage and site preparation) and they are very close to starting the spine road, which will run through the site to take the construction vehicles and eventually local traffic. Social housing, the need for the right sort of development, and in particular with type and where homes should be built was a concern and that will be addressed by our Neighbourhood Development plan which Babergh is encouraging villages to produce, in line with the upcoming Joint Local Plan, which will be brought to full district councils in June, and is something the parish council voted to move ahead with.

Babergh will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 22 when the administration will be formed and committee places allocated. As the non-Conservatives hold 17 of the 32 seats (eight Independents, four Greens, three Lib Dems and two Labour) and the Conservatives 15, there is no overall control so negotiations are in progress to produce a balanced Cabinet to work for in the best interests of Babergh residents.

Contact details: If you have an issue you would like to discuss please contact: derek.davis@babergh.gov.uk or call 07824167196. My Facebook page is: Derek Davis-Your Independent Councillor