

June Report from District Councillor Derek Davis

Since being re-elected I have been part of the working group going through the myriad of policies that make up our Joint Local Plan. This will come before full council on Tuesday and if, as anticipated, members agree, it will be put out for full public consultation. This document will be the planning bible, in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, and any Neighbourhood Development Plans, will be the basis of all planning applications and decisions so it is of vital importance. You will be interested to see how the settlement boundaries for Shotley and Erwarton, and also the allocated sites and number of houses we are expected to build, both locally and district wide.

Babergh successfully defended its decision to refuse planning permission at Bristol pier, Shotley, and the Shotley Heritage Charitable Community Benefit Society, known as the pier group, had their appeal dismissed. The Planning Inspector's thorough report concluded the harm of building on the non-designated heritage site would outweigh any public benefit. The full report can be found on Babergh's planning application page. Babergh, as a matter of policy with minor appeals, did not apply for costs. The pier group failed to meet the deadline to get their application for costs and so their bid to cover the consultant's fees and any other costs was not considered. Again, full details can be found on Babergh's planning website using reference DC/18/01384.

As part of our commitment to young people Babergh has invested in a new skate park in Sudbury, which as the Communities portfolio holder I will be officially opening on Saturday. While we probably won't be building a skate park in Shotley I know many people are looking forward to seeing new play equipment and other facilities at both our play areas.

Although vitally important in terms of local democracy it is recognised many people are not able to attend Cabinet, full council or planning meetings. Openness and transparency has to be at the heart of our democratic process, and to that end, Babergh now live streams those meetings on You Tube, which you can easily find using your favoured search engine.