

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

We are into the school summer holidays and as the dad of a teenager I know how difficult it can be for parents keeping their young ones active during these six weeks.

It was with that in mind that my first act as Cabinet member for Communities, was to instigate the free swim initiative for all those Babergh residents who are 16 and under. At the moment this is for use at both our Hadleigh and Kingfisher pool in Sudbury. Ideally moving forward, we will be able to liaise with other pools in Suffolk, especially Ipswich for us on the peninsula, but one stroke at a time. This has come about due to our great partnership with Abbeycroft Leisure, that also runs the sports centre at Holbrook, and we are working with them to run outdoor explorer activity days, with at least one coming to Shotley. Details were being finalised at the time of writing this so please keep an eye out on my Facebook page for confirmed dates etc, or go to: <https://www.acleisure.com/blog/>

Another initiative we have been involved in is the Active Suffolk programme encouraging primary schools to encourage their pupils to take part in a wide range of activities, whether that is the daily mile walk, archery, dance, Tchouckball, or the traditional football and netball. The project, run in partnership with NHS West Suffolk and NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) will run for three years with the support of Active Suffolk, the Active Partnership for Suffolk dedicated to increasing the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity. It is said 15% of children in Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts are obese, with even more living with excess weight and the associated health risks that this presents. Addressing this problem at a young age will help children live longer, happier and healthier lives, reducing future healthcare costs and improving quality of life.

On a more localised issue, many people have asked about the two play areas in Shotley and I'm delighted to say we are moving forward

with plans but need your help in finding out what mums, dads, grandparents, and children would like. If you can spare a few hours to join our parish working group and put together a consultation survey, and take this project forward please get in touch with me.

Contact details: If you have an issue you would like to discuss please contact:

derek.davis@babbergh.gov.uk or call 07824167196. My Facebook page is: Derek Davis-Your Independent Councillor