

Derek Davis – Ganges ward (Shotley & Erwarton)

Gate Farm

Following representations from residents and the site manager I have unblocked a hold up allowing the caravan park to have its own post code, which will greatly benefit both parties. I also successfully dealt with an issue regarding waste collection.

Housing

Doing our absolute best for our residents is key at Babergh and it was with this in mind, I invited senior officers, and the housing portfolio holder to visit the ward and see for themselves some of the issues which can annoy people.

This has led to an action list being undertaken to offer support and advice for those tenants whose gardens have become overgrown and unkempt. A tidy up of council owned areas and a highways survey to see what can be done to solve a couple of parking issues, especially in Kingsland.

Ganges

The site owners are working exceptionally hard with Babergh's planning team to complete all the conditions in order to actually start building houses, starting with the spine road through the former HMS Ganges base. It is hoped, and expected, all will be done by the end of this year, or in January and we will see movement in the early part of the year. However, this is a large project and will still take up to five years to complete.

Suffolk Coast Forum

I attended a recent Suffolk Coast Forum meeting as Babergh's representative along with public realm corporate manager Peter Garrett, and during the discussions about Shotley's shoreline protection management plan, the chair, with the approval of the committee, extended an invitation for the CIC to attend meeting as an observer body. I have passed this one, but as yet, not had a response.

Trees For Life

Our Trees for Life initiative is underway and all those who have had a baby born, or have adopted, or lost a child, between January 1, 2019 and December 31, can apply.

Families in Shotley & Erwarton are encouraged to apply before the January 12, 2020 deadline, and they can be planted anywhere within Babergh. If you don't

have room in your garden then we can arrange with the Viking Project to plant it in Golden Wood, or we can provide a plant pot grown tree.

The initiative benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting the number of trees in the district and so enhancing our biodiversity.

Eligible applicants will be invited to choose and collect their tree at a tree giving event in early 2020, where they will be able to learn more about how to plant and maintain their tree.

Go to the Trees for Life page on the Babergh website to apply. Feel free to contact me if you have any problems or queries.

Free swims

I'm delighted to confirm our hugely successful Free Swims initiative will continue during the school Christmas holiday. Those who have already taken advantage don't need to reapply, but those under-17s who want to take advantage can register online at the Abbeycroft Leisure website.

Community Safety Partnership

I attended the all day Western Suffolk Community Partnership at Elmswell, which despite the name also covers the Shotley peninsula, where we are developing a new strategy. The partnership's work includes County Lines, Domestic Abuse, Mental Health awareness, Domestic Homicide Reviews, knife crime, terrorism awareness. Please feel free to contact me for further details.

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