

Derek Davis District Councillor Report for Ganges Ward March 2021

Grants from central government, and administered by Babergh district council, have been vital in keeping many peninsula businesses afloat and business owners are being encouraged to make sure they apply for funding available before current grant applications close on March 31.

We are all starting to prepare for a further easing of the lockdown with the roadmap giving us an idea of when we can start opening more. This includes Hadleigh swimming pool, which I have been involved in since the refurbishment last year, and I'm delighted to report all the work has been completed, it looks amazing and we are planning to open to the public on April 12, all things considered of course.

Locality Awards

While many groups, clubs and organisations have had to put their activities on hold for a year now, there are still those that have reached out for support. I'm delighted that I have been able to use my Locality Award to help some very worthy causes.

Shotley Open Spaces installed a mobile defibrillator, which is housed on the wall of the Bristol Arms but can be taken when they hold their popular health walks, and they received £365 towards the cost of buying the life-saving equipment.

Having two rivers either side of Shotley & Erwarton Ganges ward means we are fortunate to have excellent sailing facilities and I was delighted to be able to award Shotley Point Yacht Club with £500 towards their youth development, which they will offer in conjunction with the RYA, in teaching youngsters to sail.

Youth and diversity was a huge factor in another £500 from my budget to help support the Shotley Peninsula Cricket Club as they also look to encourage and develop participation by youngsters in the sport.

As part of the Locality Award scheme councillors are able to contribute towards larger projects and I was pleased to donate £200 towards the larger pot put together by our Communities team needed to offer transport for those who struggled to get to vaccination centres.

This was the first year Babergh councillors have had a Locality Awards budget and not only am I delighted I was able to implement the scheme, but to be able to report all my colleagues on the peninsula have used it wisely to support our communities.

Elections

We all know what a tough year or so we have had but I'm delighted that local elections, including for county council, will be going ahead, I would like to add my thanks and congratulations to David Wood for the sterling work he has done as a councillor for the past 21 years. I also work with David on the AONB, and his dedication and commitment has been an example to us all. It is fitting the new awards are named in his honour.

I wish the three prospective candidates that have declared so far, the very best in what I'm sure will be a fair and civilised campaign. (...)

Please use your vote as you see fit, and don't forget it is not too late to apply for a postal vote.

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