

This is a brief summary of the key points from the meeting of the **Shotley Parish Council**, held on **23 February 2012**. More details will be in the minutes next month.

The Council fully supported the **Shotley Peninsula Cycle Campaign's** current proposal to "twin-track" the footpath from The Street to Shotley Gate – A working party would be set up, to include councillors and would meet soon to look at this in more detail.

**Michael Vaughan was co-opted** onto the council to fill the recent councillor vacancy.

It was reported to the meeting that **Babergh had agreed a 3.5% council tax increase**.

**County Councillor David Wood** reported that a £45m broadband improvement project was underway for Suffolk – 50% funded by central government/SCC and 50% private funded; Locality Grant funding was still available (please contact Cllr Wood direct).

There were **six reported crimes in January**: all of criminal damage to either vehicles or dwellings.

There had been some damage to the play equipment at the Kingsland play area – a letter requesting a contribution towards the cost of the clear up operation had been sent to the parents of the children who had caused the damage.

The re-development of the **MyShotley.com website** was picking up pace and now had format and shape.

The **Community Warden reported** that there was still a lot of litter to be collected; two new upright posts had been cemented in at the tennis courts, graffiti had been sprayed on the wooden play equipment; replacement parts for the swings had been installed; and the majority of the paint damage to play equipment at Kingsland play area had been cleared up.

**The Footpath Group reported** that a grant of £15,500 had been approved by Babergh for the Heritage Park project; other applications were out for consideration; a meeting with all statutory bodies had been held at the gabions installation to discuss impacts on birdlife etc.

**The Community Use Project** (looking at uses for the HMS Ganges swimming pool) had drafted a questionnaire to be included in the next Noticeboard for distribution to all residents in Shotley.

The dilapidated benches at **Golden Wood** had been reported to the **Woodland Trust** for action.

**The Happy Fryer** had been requested by Babergh to would be apply for retrospective planning permission for the extractor and flue recently fitted.

**Parish Councillors** had attended a meeting with the **Ganges' Developers** to view their current proposals for the site – it was similar to that seen previously but more realistically detailed. More buildings were being retained and would be used for accommodation – this had influenced some of the northern side's slightly altered building lines and materials; they had appealed the Inspector's decision with the Planning Inspectorate and the PC had been asked to send its representations if they were any different to those sent in previously. **It was felt that as nothing had changed, no representations would be made.**

**A petition** had been received from the youngsters of Shotley and other villages on the Peninsula asking that a **Skate Park** be built in Shotley - It was accepted this would be a good idea for the area but unfortunately there was no Parish land available large enough to accommodate it. Advice was to be sought from Babergh regarding land availability etc.

There were **no objections to planning proposals** for: 33 Blake Avenue (fell a pine tree); 48 Great Harlings (removal of lower and dead branches of a pine tree) and 72 Great Harlings (erection of a rear conservatory). **Notification had been received** of the erection of a grain store and covered lean to for storage of seed and machinery at Over Hall. **Babergh had approved** The Rose Inn proposal to erect a single-storey side extension, attached smoking shelter and single-storey rear and side extensions and **refused** the Cockle Creek Cottage proposal to erect a dwelling and garage.

**Linda Rowlands - Shotley Parish Clerk**

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