

## **Catching up with the SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL...**

**Support for local groups:** Although going through a financially challenging time due to unforeseeable expenditure incurred over the last 18 months, the Shotley Parish Council has still managed to support a number of local groups and good causes, such as “The Shotley and Erwarton Good Neighbours”, the “Shotley Social Club”, the “Shotley Drama Group”, “Shotley Open Spaces”, “Tiffers”-The Bus Shelter, Ipswich” and the “Shotley Explorer Guide”. The Parish Council also gifted the “Village of the Year” award of £1,500 received in 2015 to the Shotley Village Hall Car Park refurbishment project.

**Parish Council vacancy:** There is currently a vacancy for a Councillor and an election is due to take place around November 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Clerk or BDC for further details.

**Ganges development:** The Parish Council continues to work with developers and statutory bodies in an effort to ensure that the village’s needs are met and the development progresses as smoothly as possible.

The Parish Council has approved a letter of support to assist Babergh District Council in their bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund of (up to) £10M which, if successful, will help the developers with some of the main infrastructure costs, ie the spine road and roundabout, refurbishment and repair of the HMS Ganges iconic mast and HMS Ganges Parade Ground, both of which are of great interest to the community.

**Gate Farm Road Caravan Park:** Concerns continued to be raised over the number and size of caravans, ongoing building works, recent police presence on the site and whether planning permissions were being breached. The matter was in the hands of Babergh District Council’s Enforcement Team, who had recently visited the site.

**Shotley Gate Post Box:** It was saddening to report that although the Chairman, the Clerk and even County Cllr D Woods had tried many times to effect the replacement of this post box, Royal Mail continued to dismiss or simply ignore all contacts made. This was despite the chairman, Cllr B Powell, offering to pay for the transportation and installation costs of a replacement post box!

**Highways matters:** The same, unfortunately, was being experienced with SCC Highways. The maintenance of some verges and paths, the moving of the village sign, removal of obstructions to disabled access and the like continued to be chased by the Parish Council and would now suffer further delays due to the ongoing restructuring of the Highways department.

**Free! No charge! Gratis!** Yes, it is totally free to advertise your business, event, special date, etc on the Shotley Website. That “**Fully Booked**” sign outside your pub or “**Appeal for draw prizes**” for your charity event is just a click away. Please send us your updates, news, and any other contributions to [shotleypc@btinternet.com](mailto:shotleypc@btinternet.com). Or just call me on 01473 788248 with your details. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Dina Bedwell**, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Shotley Parish Council