





# SHOTLEY HERITAGE CHARITABLE COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY LIMITED



RUMOUR	FACT						
<b>7. Directors get a financial reward.</b>	<b>UNTRUE:</b> The National Booster Fund asks the Society to provide an attendee at national panel meetings. Each time our elected volunteer attends a one-day regional or national meeting a fee of £300 is paid to the project. This fee has never been paid to an individual, it always comes in to the Pier bank account resulting in additional income for the Society. Directors are unpaid and can claim receipted expenses.						
<b>8. The Directors are turning it into a commercial venture.</b>	<b>UNTRUE:</b> The original Steering Group voted to form the Society in its present form which is a Community Benefit Society with Charitable status for tax purposes. There is one vote per shareholder which was considered fair for individuals and protects the Pier from predatory developers. The steering group decided that it wanted to be able to have trading activity to pay for ongoing maintenance costs, and any future profits could only be used to further the aims of the Charitable Society. This was decided by democratic vote and included the wish to have a small retail shop, a café and other pier related activity such as selling fish and crabbing bait, leisure activities for the public such as boarding boats, and using the pier to get into the water for canoes.						
<b>9. A new survey is required.</b>	<b>TRUE:</b> Even though Babergh District Council commissioned a survey costing £20,000, this was a visual survey only. What is now required is a detailed survey with a structural assessment of each element of the Pier. The new survey would be funded from grant opportunities and fundraising activities.						
<b>10. Outsiders are running the Society.</b>	<b>UNTRUE:</b> All Directors are permanent residents on the Shotley Peninsula and are answerable to the investors.						
<b>11. There was no public consultation.</b>	<b>UNTRUE:</b> Consultation has been at the heart of the work with the Steering Group. A Special General Meeting, and Shareholder meetings have been held, with other fundraising/information-sharing events and leafleting to raise awareness. We have received a good deal of publicity as a result of our newsletters and items on social media. We have received many supportive comments and others which have helped us make decisions with caution. We held 35 consultation events over a 15-month period specifically to ask people what they wanted to happen. No objections were raised to the plans at the last Shareholder meeting.						
<b>12. The Pier will take business away from local companies.</b>	<b>UNTRUE:</b> The activities planned for the Pier would be Pier-related eg walking, art/photography from the scenery on the rivers, fishing, crabbing, boating etc., all taking place on the Pier. The service and merchandise we would offer would not be comparable to that available in local companies and there is no intention to compete with them.						
<b>13. Planning Application and Appeal.</b>	With the Planning Application rejected by only one vote, the Directors took advice and lodged an appeal on Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September. This was reported at the Shareholders' meeting where no objections were raised. Were we not to appeal, it is a fact that the perceived value of the Pier would be reduced by a considerable sum and it was essential to avoid this. With shareholder and community concerns, Directors agreed to reconsider certain design elements permissible should the Appeal succeed. The appeal is the most cost-effective way to proceed and has a good chance of success.						
<b>14. There are wild predictions about costings on social media.</b>	Costs are based on undiscounted estimates. Discounts may be applied by organisations which support the project or work may be partly undertaken by volunteers. The estimates are buildings and platforms £1.2million, with the overall pier promenade between £300,000 and £900,000. There are a number of grant and funding opportunities available to us which we will fully explore and pursue.						
<b>15. Community involvement.</b>	Most decisions have been reached with the help of the steering group and shareholders, but the community also has a voice. The Directors would urge anyone with concerns to raise them with the Pier Group directly and we would also welcome community groups to meet with us. One or two people have suggested that the Pier should be restored without any buildings. However, if there was no Workshop to enable restoration, and no Visitor Centre to help us generate an income, no work could take place and the existing pier would continue to deteriorate and be lost forever. Help us to avoid that from happening.						
<b>16. Contact details.</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Website: <a href="http://shotleypier.co.uk">shotleypier.co.uk</a></td> <td style="width: 33%;">Facebook Page: Shotley Pier</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Twitter: @shotleypier</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Email: <a href="mailto:shotleypier@gmail.com">shotleypier@gmail.com</a></td> <td>Facebook Group: Pier Interest Group</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Website: <a href="http://shotleypier.co.uk">shotleypier.co.uk</a>	Facebook Page: Shotley Pier	Twitter: @shotleypier	Email: <a href="mailto:shotleypier@gmail.com">shotleypier@gmail.com</a>	Facebook Group: Pier Interest Group	
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<b>Your opinions, ideas and questions are welcomed. Please contact us or talk to a volunteer.</b>							