

DISTRICT NEWS (February 2012)
A report from your Liberal Democrat District Councillors

PARISHES

Shotley

Following the great success of the renovated picnic area at Shotley Gate in combination with the new footpath, the Parish Council has proposals in hand to purchase a 7acre wood nearby which, if successful, would initiate the proposed 'Heritage Park'.

Erwarton

The 11Kv. electricity cables between the old Married Quarters in Shotley and the Eastern end of Erwarton Village. (ie that part of the line that lies within the AONB) are soon due to be put underground. It is expected that the work will start within a very few weeks. The work will start at the Shotley end and work towards Erwarton.

BABERGH COUNCIL

BDC Core Strategy. Revised draft expected March 2012.

Integration and transformation of administration activities with MSDC. For the latest information see: <http://www.babergh-south-suffolk.gov.uk/Babergh/Home/Babergh+and+Mid+Suffolk+Integration+and+Transformation+Information/>

BERNERS WARD

Waste Recycling Site. A review of the operation last month has led to a reduction in opening times and to revision of the charges. Volunteers are being sought to enable the tip to keep operating. For more details see <http://chelmondiston.onesuffolk.net/shops-and-services/public-facilities/recycling-facilities/?stage=Stage> The Peninsula Community Recycling Centre has been in operation for 6 months now. Use by the community needs to be sustained if the centre is to remain open - there is now a clear message of 'use it or lose it' as the limited level of use achieved so far makes the site, as currently managed, economically suspect.

Toilets. Unless alternative management arrangements can be made, the public toilets at both Shotley (Bristol Arms) and Pin Mill are under threat of closure as from 1st April 2012. Discussions on possible options to save these facilities are still ongoing. It is definitely the intention to keep the toilets open if at all possible. Generally the prospects are looking promising.

Ganges. The latest revised Haylink plan is expected very soon, though no date for consideration of the proposal has yet been announced.

Community path. A reminder that the Shotley Peninsular Cycling Campaign is always on the look-out for new members to support their drive to create a path between Ipswich and Shotley to enable cyclists, walkers and wheelchair users to more easily and in greater safety enjoy our beautiful location. To join see <http://spcc.info/Contacts%20and%20Membership.html>

Buzabout. A reminder to everyone that the Buzabout service would like more customers. Please keep advertising! For latest details see http://www.suffolkonboard.com/suffolk_links_demand_responsive_transport/suffolk_links_buzabout

OTHER

Warm Homes Grant - Vulnerable people in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being further helped to stay warm this winter with the news of a one-off grant. Babergh and Mid Suffolk, in partnership with Suffolk County Council and other partners in the county, are working to help tackle winter fuel poverty with a £265,000 grant from the Department of Health's 'Warm Homes, Healthy People' fund. Further information available @ www.suffolk.gov.uk/warmhomes

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2nd February 2012