



SHOTGATE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013 / 14

1. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

In 2011 the Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings held locally in the Wickford Wards were superseded by a single **Neighbourhood Community Meeting** representative of all areas of Wickford and the Police. These meetings are held every two months at The Co-operative cafe in the Ladygate Centre, Wickford High Street.

Dates of Neighbourhood Community Meetings to be held in 2014 are: Tuesday 28 January, Friday 21 March, Tuesday 27 May, Thursday 24 July, Monday 29 September and Thursday 20 November.

If you have a current issue or concern that you would like to raise with the Neighbourhood Policing Team you can do this via one of the following options:

1. Attend a Wickford Neighbourhood Meeting at the Co-op Cafe.
2. Leave feedback on the Wickford North Neighbourhood Policing webpage at www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood.aspx
3. Leave Feedback on the "Public Forum" tab on the Shotgate NAP web site at www.essexinfo.net/shotgatenap/
4. Call the Neighbourhood Policing Team mobile number 07875 003 503.
5. Email your local Neighbourhood Police Inspector Neil Carman neil.Carman@essex.pnn.police.uk
Sergeant Mark Water mark.waters@essex.pnn.police.uk
PC Asa Smith - asa.smith@essex.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Rachel Cotton - rachel.cotton@essex.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Charlotte Smith - charlotte.smith@essex.pnn.police.uk

2. LAST ONE TO LEAVE -TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

By the time this is published, Essex County Council will have implemented street lighting savings, switching off lights in residential streets between midnight and 5 a.m., thus putting us on a par with Czechoslovakia circa 1984.

The Parish Council objected to these plans, and our thoughts were conveyed to the ECC by County Councillor Nigel Le Gresley, who has represented us quite a bit recently on other matters including road safety. He has also requested that the area by the Post Office/Pharmacy be put on the exemption list, which includes anywhere that for reasons of road safety/security concerns will have the lighting kept on.

3. POLICE SURGERIES

A trail of police beat surgeries has been arranged in conjunction with the NAP these will be held at the rear conservatory next to the Church from 10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. on Friday 13th December 2013 and Friday 17th January 2014.

Please come along and support these Surgeries, members of your local Policing Team will be in attendance to discuss any issues that you might have and feel that the Local Policing Team can assist you with.

4. **BUS CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

This was carried out recently by Essex County Council, purely covering the routes they subsidise.

Intriguingly, one question was “Would you accept the mixing of school buses with ordinary passengers”- clearly a cost cutting proposal. Actually the 825 school bus from Southend which calls at Rayleigh at 4.16 p.m. will generally pick up “citizens”, though a Billericay bound school bus (416?), which may also go through Shotgate, which stops at roughly the same time, doesn't.

5. **PATHS OF VICTORY**

The Veolia Path and Meadow Walk Pathway have and are now being fully used by residents and visitors to the area. Two new signs are now in the park to indicate the different paths and Meadow Walk Pathway has now been completed with two picnic benches, two park benches, litter and dog waste bins and also wild flowers have been planted in this area.

6. **THEY WENT THAT AWAY**

The salt bags available at Fred Lyons' shop in the last issue of the newsletter have all gone - within days of publication!

7. **PARISH COUNCIL SANDWICH**

No - not a branch into catering from your Parish, but a not so amusing incident in October/ November. Some of the sterling work in the park was carried out by Basildon Council and 80% funded by a grant from Essex County Council. Unfortunately the bill from Basildon was received before Essex had paid their grant, prompting a demand (the Parish had already paid its 20%).

Fortunately a wise man on the Parish council alerted Tony Ball, leader of Basildon Council and a stay of execution was granted, by which time the grant came through. This left us feeling like a sandwich between the two big institutions! (Sorry about the mixed metaphor.)

8. **ROAD SAFETY**

Two improvements requested of the Highway authority are a traffic light crossing on the Southend Road near Alicia Avenue, where a lot of schoolchildren cross, and a pull-in-by the Mailbox on Hodgson Way, where cars frequently park obstructively with a lot of lorries passing.

9. **EMERGENCY PLAN**

The proposed increase in air traffic from Southend Airport over the next six years has prompted Councillor Lyons to suggest the creation of an “emergency plan” which many parishes already have, should any disaster, man-made or otherwise strike the area. This would define assembly points, shelters and emergency supplies. This needs to go to the Parish council for approval, and a possible working party to implement.

10. **THE HILLS ARE ALIVE**

An article in the June newsletter mentioned many possible further improvements to Shotgate Park, including reducing some of the hills for security reasons. This has prompted several comments, and at least one letter which defend the hills.

For the record, this is only a suggestion, and no definite plan has been formed yet. There are clearly two sides to this - e.g. it's fun for kids, but it makes late night walkers nervous etc. We welcome any suggestions as to what to do with this area. Please use your imaginations - maybe it could be turned into a giant ski slope!

11. **BAWDSEY PATH**

Subject to suitable planning, the Parish Council is proposing the re-instatement of the Junior Play area which has now been defunct for many years, as well as replacing the two items of original play equipment with new items of a similar type. The proposed project would include fencing around the play area, installing a park bench and a litter bin. Additionally the project would clear the overgrown surrounding earth mounds of "scrub" to open the area up.

Additionally should funding permit we would also like to add a single junior sizes Foot Ball Goal on the grassed area that the children currently use to play on and possibly level out the current uneven surface by bringing the soil level up over the existing drainage pipe run. Again all this work is only possible if suitable funding can be found.

12. **BLOOMING GLORY**

Residents of the Parish may have noticed that over the last month or so that several areas within the Parks and within the grassed verges those large patches of grass land have been sprayed with weed killer and the dead grassed areas have been lightly turned on the top layer of soil ready for planting seed. These areas have been planted with a mixture of wild flowers. These should all bloom to give Shotgate a fine show of colour throughout the summer months. Additionally some other areas have received the same preparation but this time they have been planted with "Red Poppy" seeds which will flower in June to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War.

13. **NEW DOG WASTE BIN**

As well as the addition of new litter bins in the park area residents might have noticed that an additional Dog Waste Bin has been installed along Hodgson's Way at the junction of Bawdsey Path. If residents know or feel that a particular waste bin is required, please notify the Parish Clerk and we will see what we can do.

14. **NEW PROJECTS WITHIN SHOTGATE**

If you have an idea for a suitable project or projects that you would like to see carried out or installed (no matter how obscure) in Shotgate, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk. If it's within the scope of the Parish Council and it gets the vote of the Councillors then enquiries for suitable funding can/could be sorted.

15. **SHOTGATE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

Three letters have been written to land owners. One reply received that no land available and one land offered, which appears to be unsuitable. Local developers have intimated that there is the possibility of land being available within Shotgate, but to date nothing confirmed.

Paul Knott - Chairman - 2, Rochford Close

Peter Vickers – Vice-Chairman - 274 Southend Road

Malcolm Hodges - 7 Crouchview Close

Fred Lyons - 324a Southend Road

David Harrison - 49 Alicia Avenue

Keith Allen - 28 Fourth Avenue

Gerald Fanthorpe – 18 Meadowland Road

Georgina Bassett – Parish Clerk – 306 Maplin Way North, Southend – 01702 584158