



SHOTGATE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2014

Dear Resident,

This newsletter covers a number of issues that have been considered and/or resolved within the Parish recently.

The Parish Council welcomes newly appointed Cllr. Emma Houghton.

Members thank the volunteers who kindly deliver the newsletters to residents, it is very much appreciated.

1. Bruce Grove

Basildon Borough Councillors have informed the Parish Council that Bruce Grove barrier will be removed and replaced by a pinch point as a self-restricted weight restrictor. Concerns have been raised regarding the necessity for overweight vehicles reversing into the small side streets of Shotgate. The Parish Council is enquiring further.

2. Public Transport - Buses

The First Essex Buses routes 25/25A continues to give concern due to unpunctuality/unreliable service. Since the major timetable changes in April 2014 and the tweak in October 2014, late running and cancellations still happen, especially at school times, necessitating three lady parishioners collecting data. This information was passed on to First who have agreed once again to amend the timetable with an intended starting date of December 2014.

3. Allotments

Talks on the allotments are ongoing and land is still required for Shotgate Parish.

4. Shotgate Park

Bawdsey Path, aka "the little park", was recently officially opened by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Le Gresley. Many thanks for funding and support towards this project to Veolia Thames North Thames Trust and Basildon Borough Council. They enabled the Parish Council to purchase further equipment for the park, including four swings, mini tower unit, seating, litter bin and suitable fencing installed for the safety of our younger residents and visitors to the area.

A funding requests towards a proposed ornamental archway, at the entrance of Shotgate Park from Southend Road has been submitted to Essex County Council. The Parish Council has now received notification that Planning Permission is not required.

5. Dollymans Farm Walkway Access to Wickford

A resident has requested the Parish Council to consider a project to arrange for this area to be re-opened not only for walking, but additionally for use as a cycle path. It would be appreciated if residents' views could be received on this, either in writing, telephone or email shotgatepc@live.co.uk or in person at a Parish Council meeting.

6. Community Park Tree Planting

The following trust link is offering over the next four years more than three million free trees to help communities, schools and youth groups create special, living memorials to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. If you would like further information on this please go to this link <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/in-your-community/>.

7. Flooding

The Environment Agency has flood plan guidance for communities. The floodline is 0845 988 1188 or enquiries at enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

8. Road Safety

A crossing is being considered by Essex Highways Panel, for Southend Road near Alicia Avenue.

9. Essex Car Share

Essex car share may benefit residents without access to cars <https://essex.liftshare.com/>

10. Helping Hands/Emergency Procedures

Helping Hands within the Community is still being considered. Additional volunteers are requested to assist to set up a branch of this organisation in Shotgate. If you have a few spare minutes and would like to be included, please contact the Parish Council. Additionally if you require help, or know of anyone who may need assistance i.e. collecting prescriptions etc. please do contact members or the Parish Clerk.

11. Election – 2015

There is still a vacancy at the time of printing for a Councillor at Shotgate Parish Council until the election in May. The General Election is on 7th May 2015 for electorate to the Parish Council. If you would like to be considered and would like to have a more active interest and say in how Shotgate is improved and have time to attend one evening meeting a month (except in August), with occasional other small meetings or working parties, please contact elections@basildon.gov.uk. Basildon Borough Council can provide the nomination papers and details on how to apply and eligibility. The deadline is very early in April for the hand delivery of return of these nomination papers so please do not delay contacting Basildon Borough Council if you are interested in applying to be a Parish Councillor.

12. Planning Committee

This continues to meet to consider planning applications and responses when issues are received in-between Parish Council Meetings that the Parish Council believes should be considered in relation to developments within this area where the people of Shotgate can continue to receive representation from the Parish Councillors.

13. Salt Bag Partnership

The Parish Council became involved in this scheme for a couple of years, unfortunately there was a lack of volunteers and the scheme floundered. If salt is required during the winter, at present, Cllr. Fanthorpe has 3 bags remaining. It may be that the businesses within Shotgate may want to join up and participate in the area. As such, the details are as follows: The Salt Bag Partnership scheme provides one tonne of bagged salt, delivery, and a support pack free of charge to help organise the scheme and provide helpful information to volunteers
<http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Roads-and-Pavements/Winter-travel/Salting-FAQs.aspx>

14. Surgeries

For information Cllr. Nigel Le Gresley (Castledon & Crouch), Cllr. David Harrison (Park), Cllr. Alan Ball (Castledon) and Cllr. Peter Holliman (Wickford North) hold a surgery on the first Saturday of each month at the Wickford Community Hall, next to the Library, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. An advert is normally put in all the local newspapers and on Face Book approximately two weeks before each date.

Cllr. Carole Morris - does not hold surgeries, but residents are free to telephone or email her on 01268 457488 carolemorris24@hotmail.com

Cllr. Malcolm Buckley does not hold regular open surgeries but can be reached by residents on 01268 472586 or meet them at a convenient location. Alternatively he can be e-mailed on cllr.malcolm.buckley@essex.gov.uk

Cllr. Michael Mowe – does not hold Surgeries, but is always contactable by telephone 01268 463564, e-mail michael.mowe@members.basildon.gov.uk, or letter. He attends various meetings in his Ward - Shotgate Parish Council, Neighbourhood Police and Neighbourhood Watch meetings as well as other local meetings.

Parish Council Members

Peter Vickers (Chairman)	274 Southend Road	Tel: 01268 767703
David Harrison	49 Alicia Avenue	Tel: 01268 734768
Keith Allen	28 Fourth Avenue	Tel: 01268 570099
Malcolm Hodges	7, Crouchview Close	Tel: 01268 768683
Fred Lyons	324a Southend Road	Tel: 01268 733119
Gerry Fanthorpe	18 Meadowland Road	Tel: 01268 462871
Emma Houghton	29 Longfield Road	Tel: 01268 931732

Clerk to the Council

Mrs. Georgina Bassett
Tel: 01702 584158

Essex County Councillors

Cllr. Malcolm Buckley
Cllr. Nigel Le Gresley

Basildon Ward Councillors

Cllr. Carole Morris
Cllr. Peter Holliman – Wickford North
Cllr. Michael Mowe

Remember, the Parish Council is here for residents, please do contact any of the above for information or any ideas/suggestions you may have to improve the Parish and/or attend the meetings to speak at the open sessions at the beginning of the meeting, thank you.

Suggestions/comments from residents for improvements or future projects within Shotgate Parish would be appreciated.

.....