



Shotgate Parish Plan

Shotgate now



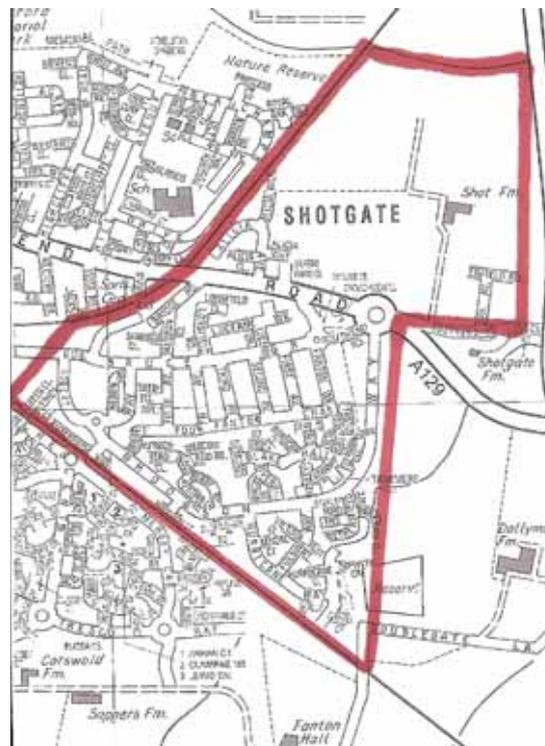
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February
2012



A Parish Plan workshop



Shotgate Parish Boundaries

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OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Shotgate Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7-30 pm at the Baptist Church Hall in Bruce Grove.

Residents are very welcome to attend all meetings and are encouraged to participate in the Open Session held just after the beginning of each meeting. This session is an opportunity for the public to speak and ask questions on matters of concern about anything within the scope of the Parish Council.

CONTENTS



PAGE

2	Introduction
3	How will the Plan be implemented?
4	A brief history of Shotgate
5	The Shotgate Sign
6	Chapter 1 - Shops, buildings and land use
9	Chapter 2 - The Park
13	Chapter 3 - Roads, footpaths and alleyways
18	Chapter 4 - Public transport
20	Chapter 5 - Security and vandalism
21	Chapter 6 - Action plan
24	Contacts
25	Acknowledgements

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the first Parish Plan for Shotgate, published in February 2012.

When the Shotgate Parish Council was approved by Government and formed in May 2007, one of the essential tasks was for the Shotgate community to create a Parish Plan to provide guidance to the Council, setting out the wishes of residents for the future of Shotgate.

This Parish Plan has been constructed by a Parish Plan Steering Committee (PPSC) comprising representatives of the community and three parish councillors. Its origins arose from a public workshop followed by a drop-in session, which gave residents the opportunity to highlight what they found good about Shotgate, what was bad and what needed improvement, together with ideas for additional features and activities. In late 2009, these comments and observations were translated into a Parish Questionnaire or Parish Survey inviting the views of all residents, including young people between the ages of eleven and seventeen. The report of the questionnaire survey was published in March 2010 and contained statistics indicating the levels of agreement and disagreement to a whole range of questions, together with comments on other topics. This has been used to create this parish plan and remains available on the Parish Council website (www.essexinfo.net/shotgate-parish-council)

The strength of the Parish Plan is the input from the community and the PPSC extends thanks to everybody, who took the time to contribute to the Plan, either by completing the questionnaire or by attending one of the events. Without this input there would be no Plan.

Keeping the Parish as it is today is not an option as communities inevitably evolve. This Plan will be valid for up to ten years, but should be re-visited by the Parish Council at the commencement of each four-yearly period of office to assess progress of implementation and reconsider targets and phasing for the succeeding four-year period. It is intended that the Plan should be fundamentally reviewed before 2021.

So what will you find in the Plan? It contains a short history of Shotgate, along with some local information about the facilities, a few important numbers and reasons why Shotgate is a good place in which to live.

Each section covers a particular theme and highlights the background and the current position, with the views of residents on individual topics taken from the 2009 questionnaire.

The amount of work indicated in the Plan is considerable and needs to be phased and prioritised. The Parish Council, as the authority charged with implementing this Plan, has considered the many actions highlighted and prioritised the projects over the initial four year period, indicating its timescale for addressing the issues. A breakdown of all these projects, and their yearly allocation, is shown at the end of this document. Gradually over time it is hoped that the changes (some of which have already taken place) will become apparent. There are many improvements indicated, but these cannot all be put in place overnight, which is why they have been prioritised and phased. Thus, a degree of patience will be necessary as progressively improvements are made for the benefit of all who value Shotgate.

An action programme for prioritising and addressing issues is set out in Chapter 6 of this Plan. It is certain that events will dictate that this will change and evolve, but our Parish Council is committed to improving the area for the benefit of all who value Shotgate as a community.

Shotgate should be a pleasant place in which people are proud to live and work, free

of crime and vandalism with clean and safe streets, a broad range of facilities, recreational opportunities for all ages and a sense of community, where we all, young and old, feel ownership of our village. The more we come together as a Shotgate community, the greater the chance of maintaining a pleasant and secure environment in Shotgate, of isolating and driving out any of the degradation, over-development and anti-social behaviour that could so easily creep in and blight all our lives.

None of us wants to feel threatened, to have to see graffiti wherever we walk, to suffer littered pathways, walk dangerous streets and to feel we are powerless and can do nothing to make things better.

Together we can!

This Parish Plan will set the tone of Shotgate for the medium term – how we want to live and how we want to see the place we live in develop and improve for all our benefits, whatever our own personal circumstances. The Plan will tell our Parish Council, Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council and other authorities and organizations what the community of Shotgate wants of them and help to achieve for Shotgate the sort of future we, the residents and our local shopkeepers, would all wish for ourselves.

HOW WILL THE PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

All communities of whatever size are dependent for their smooth operation, administration and improvement on a number of authorities and other organisations. Shotgate is no exception and among these are Essex County Council, Basildon Borough Council, Shotgate Parish Council, the Police, the NHS, bus companies, communications companies and many others.

The issues set out in this plan are the responsibility of one or more of these bodies and it is essential, indeed fundamental to the success of this plan, that they feel able to support its intentions and are prepared to work towards implementing the wishes of the Shotgate community.



As the local representative of the Shotgate community, Shotgate Parish Council is at the heart of implementing this Plan and it is through the Parish Council that the various issues will be raised with the appropriate responsible bodies. Thus, in Chapter 6, Shotgate Parish Council has indicated its initial programme for addressing the wishes of its community set out in the Plan. Events outside the control of the Parish Council – budgets, financial circumstances, political decisions etc - will inevitably mean that the strategy will need to be varied over the plan period and at the end of that period, the plan will be reviewed to assess progress, together with what the agenda should be for the ensuing period.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHOTGATE

Mid-iron age pottery found at Shot Farm shows that the area was inhabited in 300 BC. In Roman times, a road ran from Ilford to Latchingdon through here. In the Saxon period, commonhold land was often sliced into parallel strips known as 'Sceats'. This is the origin of the 'Shot' part of our name, which has nothing to do with shooting or hunting.

The Domesday Book of 1086 lists four farmsteads in Wickford, one of which was probably on the site of Shotgate. By 1300, this is listed as Ames or Aimes Farm. By 1540, the Rede family owned the farm and one of its members, Elizabeth, emigrated to America to marry the son of the governor of Massachusetts and is an ancestor of both former US President George Bush Jr and presidential contender John Kerry. In 1663, Turnpike (Toll) roads appeared in England and, until 1866, one ran from Shenfield to Rayleigh along the Old Southend Road, after which it was turned over to the Rochford Highway Board. During this period (1747), the Sharpe family renamed the Ames Farm as Shotgate Farm. Perhaps this indicated the existence of a tollgate at the Wickford / Rawreth boundary. During this period, an inn, the King's Head, stood near present-day Oak Avenue.

In 1907, houses were built in Enfield Road and Oak Avenue as part of the 'Plotlands' initiative. In 1921, the Archer family bought Shotgate Farm, and, in 1927, sold land for development. This led to the foundation of modern-day Shotgate, consisting of Bruce Grove, 1st to 5th avenues and the shopping parades.

In 1989, the village was greatly expanded by the Hodgson Way Industrial Estate and housing estates, so named after the WW2 RAF airman, Pilot Officer William Henry Hodgson, a New Zealander, who, on 31st May 1940, was engaged with hostile bombers and fighters over the River Thames in his Hawker Hurricane, which was hit and caught fire. In attempting to return to his base at RAF Debden, he resisted bailing out, which would have left the aircraft to crash on a populated area and instead, crash landed in fields just outside Shotgate to avoid damage and injury to local people. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery. There is a memorial to him located in Hodgson Way opposite the junction with Blake Hall Drive





The Shotgate Village Sign, which is located by Southend Road (A129) just west of the Post Office, is made up of various symbols;

- The GATE is the way into and out of a SHOT of land.
- The WHEATSHEAF derives from the Wickford coat of arms and stresses the rural nature of the area.
- The ARCHER represents the Archer family, who purchased Shot Farm in 1921.
- The RIVER CROUCH was once much wider and deeper than today and in pre-history its salt marshes probably covered what is now Shotgate.
- The HURRICANE fighter recalls the incident on 31 May 1940.

CHAPTER ONE

SHOPS, BUILDINGS AND LAND USE

SHOPS



At the centre of Shotgate, there is a range of shops and businesses serving the community, including butcher to car spares, off-licence, hairdressing to pharmacy, post office, convenience store and newsagents to mobility facilities sales, and food takeaways. Additionally, in Southend Road, Ives' Timber Yard provides a wide range of timber, building and DIY materials. There is also a doctors' surgery, a Baptist Church and a thriving Community Association hall. There are office premises above some of the shops. Although

not self-sufficient, Shotgate boasts more shopping and other community facilities than many comparable areas.

The major issue in relation to this central area is the shortage of car parking space. At many times of day, the area is crowded and traffic is congested, albeit that the surgery, community hall, Basilica House and the church have their own dedicated parking places.

There is scope for improvement to both the facilities and the appearance of the area. The parking spaces fronting the retail area adjacent to Basilica House is in need of resurfacing, a matter being addressed by the Parish Council. Residents believe the visual amenity could be improved by provision of hanging baskets during the summer and additional Christmas lights in December. It was also felt that more and larger waste disposal bins would assist in keeping the area more litter-free and smart.



BUILDINGS

Shotgate has evolved in three strikingly different building styles over many years. The older, original developments were predominantly bungalows, interspersed with individually designed detached or semi-detached houses. The Alicia Avenue area and parts of Fourth Avenue, built in the late 1960s contains a predominance of semi-detached houses and the dwellings off Hodgson Way and those in Crouchview Close, built over the last twenty years, are modern estates. There is a view that any future development should be confined to bungalows and it is clear that overall development needs to be addressed through the medium of a Village Design Statement with appropriate consultation, so that the community's wishes can be taken into account by the Borough Council as and when it is considering planning applications.

There is community support for an additional community building and this is considered in greater detail in Chapter 2 - The Park (page 9).

LAND USE

There is a degree of support for the provision of allotments. This is a matter that has already been addressed by the Parish Council, in response to requests made by residents under their statutory rights. However, the scarcity of land in Shotgate for use as allotments and of volunteers for joining a community-led working party has resulted in this not being progressed to date. In view of its statutory obligations, the Parish Council keeps the matter under review.



NATURE RESERVES

There are two nature reserves on the outskirts of Shotgate. Shotgate Thickets and Giddings Copse are located north and south of the River Crouch as it passes through the village.

OTHER ISSUES

There is a view that the community could be enhanced if more

information on community activities could be provided in a greater number of locations. At present, there are only the Parish notice board outside the pharmacy and the Community Association notice boards within and outside its hall. Public notices and information are also posted in the butcher's shop window. The church has a board advertising its own activities, together with another inside its hall.



Most residences in Shotgate have gardens and there is interest in creating a Village Best garden competition to be held on an annual basis, along the lines of the event in Billericay.

SURVEY RESULTS

The views of the Shotgate community on these issues, expressed in the Parish Survey, were as follows:-

Resurfacing the area in front of the two parades of shops

ADULT YES –80% NO –11% UNDECIDED - 9%

YOUTH YES –62% NO –29% UNDECIDED - 9%

Christmas lights outside the shops

YES –70% NO –14% UNDECIDED – 16%

More and/or larger public waste bins

YES –66% NO –16% UNDECIDED – 18%

Hanging baskets outside the shops

YES –59% NO –18% UNDECIDED - 23%

More information on existing social events displayed on notice boards

YES –57% NO –16% UNDECIDED - 27%

Should Shotgate have an additional public building that could be used for a youth club?

ADULT YES –57% NO –24% UNDECIDED - 19%

YOUTH YES –67% NO –29% UNDECIDED - 4%

Should any additional housing in Shotgate be restricted to bungalows?

YES –51% NO –26% UNDECIDED - 23%

Should Shotgate have allotments?

YES –49% NO –18% UNDECIDED - 33%

Should there be a Shotgate Best Garden competition?

YES –46% NO –19% UNDECIDED - 35%

FURTHER RESIDENTS' COMMENT

Shops could do with a little more redecoration and TLC and would benefit from some planting or baskets.



CHAPTER TWO

THE PARK

The Park, also known by some as Shotgate Recreation Ground, is at the very heart of Shotgate and has the potential to become the feature, which ties together the two distinct Shotgate residential areas – the old, bounded by Southend Road and Fanton Walk and Chase with the newer, developed around Hodgson Way.

At present, the Park has few purpose-built facilities, but is well populated with bushes and trees with interesting contours at the southern end created with spoil from the more recent residential developments.



Residents' aspirations for the Park, expressed in the response to the Parish Survey, were many and varied (see below). The physical area of the Park constrains the size and number of facilities, which could be incorporated, necessitating the Parish Plan Steering Committee (PPSC) to come to a conclusion as to which combination of facilities would benefit the greatest number and broadest range of residents' needs and interests.



and dog litter facilities. (Dog litter located away from seating areas).

2. In order to facilitate exercise, several exercise equipment offshoots should be located around the route.
3. Well-equipped separate and fenced-off play areas for both Under-7s and Over- 7s of sufficient dimensions to allow expansion in due course.

The PPSC believes the overall content of the Park should be as follows:-

1. The Park should be designed around a wide path running as far as practicable around and close to the Park perimeter. This would provide a walking, running, skating and cycling facility along the concept of the promenade at Southend and would provide the access to all other activities. There would be significant additional perimeter seating and litter



4. An area for informal ball games, possibly including a mini-football pitch and basketball hoops.
5. A BMX area should be accommodated, possibly utilising the existing contours at the southern end.
6. A picnic area with appropriate seating and tables.
7. A sensory garden.
8. Space should be allocated for an eventual Parish building to contain provision for a Parish meeting room, a Parish office, a Wardens office, police facilities, lavatories, a hall for residents' use and a hall for commercial hire.
9. The existing natural features of the Park should be utilised wherever possible.

The PPSC sees this list as the basis of a long-term plan within which elements can be provided as and when funding becomes available. It is felt that a planned, targeted approach against a settled layout or blueprint is preferable to ad-hoc development. This approach and the detailed content are broadly supported by officers of Basildon Borough Council (BBC), as owner of the Park.

BBC has indicated that a number of companies, specialising in the provision of park equipment, are prepared to work in partnership with the local community to design and project-manage park development, whilst actively assisting in the vital fundraising process. This service is offered at no cash cost to the community on the basis of the company being contracted to the task and enjoying sole rights to the provision, supply and installation of all the facilities over a given period.

The PPSC believes that the Parish Council should take a lead in the major reshaping and development of the Park by formally tendering for a project management company to re-develop the Park over a period of years. The project manager should be selected on the basis of a combination of the various services offered and the total cost it could secure for the development, in order to minimise the extent of fundraising. BBC is already involved with one such company.

The project manager should report to a community group, possibly the Parish Council, the PPSC or a body specifically created for the purpose. Thus, it is essential to recruit more volunteers from the community.



A BMX track for Shotgate?

SURVEY RESULTS

The views of the Shotgate community on these issues – separately for adults and youths - expressed in the Parish Survey, were as follows:-

Adult opinions

Should more seating be provided?

YES –87% NO –8% UNDECIDED - 5%

Should a toddlers' (Under 8s) play area be provided?

YES –84% NO –6% UNDECIDED - 10%

Should the Shotgate Fete be re-instated?

YES –74% NO –6% UNDECIDED - 20%

Should marked football pitches be provided?

YES –68% NO –17% UNDECIDED - 15%

Should a cycling path be provided?

YES –65% NO –21% UNDECIDED - 14%

Should a park warden be introduced?

YES –63% NO –20% UNDECIDED - 17%

Should a Sensory Garden, particularly attractive for some disabled groups, be provided?

YES –62% NO –15% UNDECIDED - 23%

Should an Exercise Path be provided?

YES –58% NO –20% UNDECIDED - 22%

Should a cricket square be provided?

YES –51% NO –25% UNDECIDED - 24%

Should a tennis court be provided?

YES –41% NO –36% UNDECIDED - 23%

Should a youth (11-17) shelter be provided?

YES –40% NO –36% UNDECIDED - 24%

Should a Crazy Golf course be provided?

YES –38% NO –38% UNDECIDED - 24%

Should a skateboarding facility be provided?

YES –38% NO –42% UNDECIDED - 20%

Should a BMX cycle track be provided?

YES –32% NO –49% UNDECIDED - 19%

Youth [11-17] opinions

Should the Shotgate Fete be re-instated?

YES –74% NO –6% UNDECIDED - 20%

Should more seating be provided?

YES –62% NO –22% UNDECIDED - 16%

Should marked football pitches be provided?

YES –58% NO –24% UNDECIDED - 18%

Should a Sensory Garden, particularly attractive for some disabled groups, be provided?

YES –54% NO –25% UNDECIDED - 21%

Should a Crazy Golf course be provided?

YES –54% NO –30% UNDECIDED - 16%

Should a tennis court be provided?

YES –52% NO –33% UNDECIDED - 15%

Should a skateboarding facility be provided?

YES –51% NO –35% UNDECIDED - 14%

Should a park warden be introduced?

YES –50% NO –34% UNDECIDED - 16%

Should a toddlers' (Under 8s) play area be provided?

YES –48% NO –37% UNDECIDED - 15%

Should a BMX cycle track be provided?

YES –45% NO –41% UNDECIDED - 14%

Should a cricket square be provided?

YES –44% NO –38% UNDECIDED - 18%

Should a cycling path be provided?

YES –44% NO –41% UNDECIDED - 15%

Should an Exercise Path be provided?

YES –41% NO –41% UNDECIDED - 18%

Should a youth (11-17) shelter be provided?

YES –40% NO –43% UNDECIDED - 17%

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM RESIDENTS

Facilities

Residents want to see the following extra facilities within the Park:-
bowling green; multi-purpose floodlit court; nature trail;
café/coffee/wine bar; floor maze; adult exercise apparatus; more play
equipment for under-5s, including climbing area and low climbing
wall, all fenced off and dog-free; small pitches for mini-soccer; toilets;

paddling pool for summer months; running track; basketball; flower beds; nature reserve based on existing trees and hedges; graffiti boards; fenced off dog areas; multi-use games area; lplay; Christmas ice rink; summer outdoor cinema; music concerts; additional bins; additional dog bins. It is suggested that the park should be closed overnight; there should be better monitoring, including a warden/gardener/park-keeper; paths should be repaired; dogs should remain on leads in all but specified dog areas; security and lighting should be improved, including provision of a marked police hut.

Community building

It is suggested that a two-storey building should be erected at the edge of the park to house the following facilities:- café, licensed bar, small recreation hall (partly as youth club), separate hall for hire, accommodation for a park warden, accommodation for the Parish Council and toilet facilities.



CHAPTER THREE

ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND ALLEYWAYS

ROADS



With the exception of Southend Road, the A129, the pre-A127 main road between London and Southend, most roads in Shotgate are relatively narrow residential carriageways. Bruce Grove was, at one time, prior to the development of Hodgson Way, the main access from Shotgate to the Shotgate Industrial Estate. With the recent emergency exception in 2010/11, when 300 metres of Hodgson Way needed to be reconstructed, it has not served this purpose for some twenty years. Residents in the vicinity remain opposed to its re-opening for any industrial purpose.

Bruce Grove/Russell Gardens

Sandown Road and Bridge Road have increasingly become preferred access roads to and from the Avenues and, along with the additional traffic generated by the residential development on the former warehouse site (Bridge Works), are now exceptionally busy through routes.

Hodgson Way is the main approach to the Shotgate Industrial area and the more recently developed Wickford Business Park and handles some two thousand five-hundred vehicle movements daily, principally HGVs, but including traffic to and from the residential areas accessed from Hodgson Way.

The roads around the central shopping area have hardly changed over fifty years, save for the realignment of Southend Road and the addition of the small housing development off Crouchview Close, but the traffic levels have increased significantly. The popularity of this central area has led to a degree of congestion at certain times, which makes the area difficult for public transport and motorists and potentially dangerous for pedestrians. There is a pressing need for an holistic review of traffic patterns and movements in this central area to establish whether some benefits might accrue from revised traffic flows and parking arrangements.



Unsurprisingly, traffic management throughout Shotgate is an issue and there is a strong feeling that speed limits, traffic calming and additional pedestrian crossing points will enhance the safety and environment of Shotgate.

FOOTPATHS

At present, the Park provides the only footway from the residential roads off Hodgson Way to the central shopping area and is considered by many to be potentially unsafe after dark despite being lit. Many residents feel that a better and safer alternative would be a pathway alongside



Hodgson Way, where traffic movement would add to security.

Shotgate is bounded by railway lines to the North and South West and generally surrounded by open countryside to the East. In addition to the existing public rights of way, residents would like to see a better-constructed and signposted footpath to the River Crouch and alongside the river to add to the amenity of the village.

There is also considerable interest in formalising the existing footway under the London/Southend railway line between Shotgate and the Wick Country Park, to bring the country park and its natural amenity within walking distance. Another desirable improvement would be the creation of a path/cycleway between Shotgate and the old A130 road.

ALLEYWAYS

Alleyways provide a useful shortcut for



pedestrians, but at the same time create problems for those whose

homes are close to them. As they are generally rights of way, closure is an unrealistic option and other means need to be established to improve the environment of alleyways both for users and neighbours.



SURVEY RESULTS

The views of the Shotgate community on these issues, expressed in the Parish Survey, were as follows:-

Alleyways and footpaths tidied up and more clearly signposted

YES –85% NO –4% UNDECIDED – 11%

A better constructed and signposted footpath to the river Crouch and alongside the river

ADULT YES –66% NO –11% UNDECIDED - 23%

YOUTH YES –49% NO –37% UNDECIDED - 14%

A footpath on Hodgson Way alongside the park
YES –64% NO –18% UNDECIDED - 18%

A 20 mph speed limit in all residential roads
YES –60% NO –29% UNDECIDED - 11%

A zebra crossing in Bruce Grove opposite the Community Hall
ADULT YES –45% NO –38% UNDECIDED - 17%
YOUTH YES –48% NO –40% UNDECIDED - 12%

A zebra crossing opposite the surgery
ADULT YES –42% NO –40% UNDECIDED – 18%
YOUTH YES –55% NO –42% UNDECIDED - 3%

A zebra crossing on Hodgson Way near Fulmar Way
ADULT YES –38% NO –28% UNDECIDED – 34%
YOUTH YES –38% NO –45% UNDECIDED - 17%

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM RESIDENTS

Parking should be restricted at the end of Crouchview Close and a flashing speed limit sign installed to deter speeding as vehicles exit Southend Road

Improve the path under the railway between Shotgate and The Wick to give easier access to the Wick Country Park and the Robert Frew Surgery. Provide clear signage. In the long term, consider providing a route for vehicles to the Wick along the same line.

The bend at the junction of Fanton Walk, Gardens and Chase by the Park is a blind-spot and parking should be prohibited by introducing double yellow lines

Create a continuous pathway/cycle path from Shotgate to the old A130.

Install solar powered electronic speed signs in as many locations as possible

Redesign mini-roundabout junction by shops at end of Bruce Grove to improve safety, as motorists ignore priorities.
Clearer larger signage is needed at Southend Road/Bridge Road and Bruce Grove/Southend Road junctions to deter heavy lorries from attempting to use those residential roads as access to industrial areas.

Deter bikers, especially motorised, from countryside footpaths, which quickly turn into muddy impassable areas.

There should be larger “No Through Road” signs and more “No entry” signs off Hodgson Way to deter lorries, which are relying on SatNav, and more speed limit repeaters to remind drivers of the speed limits, with the possible installation of speed cameras.

Stop drivers parking all or in part on footpaths creating obstructions for wheelchairs/pushchairs and obstacles for partially sighted.

Plant more trees in roadside locations wherever practicable throughout Shotgate.

Stricter action on owners of animals fouling verges and footpaths.

Parking should be banned in the road outside the Post Office and the Nursing Home, which should be double yellow lined, as crossing at that point is unsafe.

Grass verges and the Park should be cut more often in the growing season.

Create safe pedestrian route past Shot Farm to Alicia Way.

Whole length of Hodgson Way should be 30mph and traffic calming, not speed humps, should be introduced.

Crouchview Close toddlers' park is not used by toddlers and should be converted to a car park to overcome dangerous parking in Crouchview Close.

Install road salt bins in strategic locations throughout Shotgate for residents' use as appropriate.

Prohibit ball games on greens and open spaces close to houses.

Install dog waste bins in Bridge/Longfield Road alleyway and Lucerne Walk.

Treat roads and paths with weedkiller at least once annually.



CHAPTER FOUR

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The increasing costs of motoring, together with a growing concern for the environment, allied to the political decision to make public transport free for large sections of the community have combined to place a greater emphasis than ever before on the availability, quality and frequency of public transport.



The Parish Council has a dedicated Transport Representative, who has established a close liaison and working relationship with the local transport providers and the public bodies involved in transport. Thus, the views of the Shotgate community are represented vigorously in all appropriate forums.

Whilst its location leaves Shotgate about a

mile from rail services at Wickford Station, it is served by buses, supplied by two main operators – First Essex Buses and Nelsons (NIBS) - to Basildon, Southend, Billericay and Brentwood (Warley) on the following routes:-

25 to Basildon Hospital; 222 to Billericay (one public journey and school buses only); 25 and 251 to Southend Bus Station; 251 to Brentwood (Warley) and the recently introduced (11th April 2011) 225 Shotgate (NIBS depot) to Wickford and return.



A number of services are provided on a purely commercial basis (25 and 222), whilst others exist only as a result of subsidy by Essex County Council (ECC) (25 in late evenings, 225 and 251). Thus, the criteria for extending or improving a service will always be financial, whether the commercial return or the level of subsidy required.

No.25 is ECC-subsidised only for late evening journeys on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays between Shotgate Post Office and Basildon Hospital.

No.225 is ECC-subsidised Monday to Friday for five journeys only per day on a trial from 11th April 2011 between Shotgate (NIBS depot), Hodgson Way, Shotgate Post Office, Beauchamps loop, Wickford and return.

No.251 is ECC-subsidised running at two hourly intervals on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays only.

The Parish Council has provided and maintains three bus shelters - two at the Post Office and one in Southend Road adjacent to Ives Timber Yard. It has facilitated the renewal of the existing bus shelter in Southend Road at the junction with Bridge Road, which is owned and maintained by ClearChannel.

SURVEY RESULTS

The views of the Shotgate community on these issues, expressed in the Parish Survey, were as follows:-

Would you use a shuttle bus to Wickford?

YES –57% NO –29% UNDECIDED - 14%

ACTUAL NUMBERS IN FAVOUR - ADULT 431

Would you use a bus service running every 20 minutes instead of 30 minutes?

ADULT YES –44% NO –37% UNDECIDED – 19%

YOUTH YES –65% NO –31% UNDECIDED - 4%

ACTUAL NUMBERS IN FAVOUR - ADULT 333 YOUTH 56

Would you use a weekend shuttle bus to the Festival Leisure Park?

ADULT YES –29% NO –54% UNDECIDED - 17%

YOUTH YES –72% NO –23% UNDECIDED - 5%

ACTUAL NUMBERS IN FAVOUR - ADULT 219 YOUTH 62

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM RESIDENTS

A bus service to Basildon Industrial Estate would assist students attending Prospect College; all buses should run on Saturdays as well as Sundays; the bus service should be extended to Hodgson Way, particularly as NIBS have to use that route to and from their depot.



CHAPTER FIVE

SECURITY AND VANDALISM

It is an unfortunate fact of life in today's Britain that security and vandalism have become elevated in the minds of residents everywhere. The Shotgate community is no exception, although in Shotgate these anti-social difficulties seem to occur on a cyclical rather than a regular frequency. The problems though are never very far below the surface and remain a very real concern.

Improved street lighting, increased surveillance, greater awareness and more frequent Police patrols are all seen as useful weapons in the fight to minimise vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour.

SURVEY RESULTS

The views of the Shotgate community on these issues, expressed in the Parish Survey, were as follows:-

Would security be improved by installing CCTV cameras outside the shops?

YES –74% NO –12% UNDECIDED - 14%

Would security be improved by setting up more Neighbourhood Watch schemes?

YES –61% NO –8% UNDECIDED - 31%

Would security be improved by extra street lighting?

YES –46% NO –28% UNDECIDED - 26%

Would security be improved by introducing a private security patrol at night paid out of council tax (parish precept) as provided by some local councils?

YES –43% NO –32% UNDECIDED - 25%

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM RESIDENTS

CCTV should be installed in all "hanging about" areas (eg Sandown Road/Bruce Grove junction, Bridge Road/Longfield Road alleyway). It should also be installed at the entrances to Shotgate to deter visiting vandals.

Residents suggest additional or enhanced lighting in the following locations:- 1st to 5th Avenues, Fanton Chase and Walk, where lighting is one side only; the Park; Fanton Chase open space; Bridge Road alleyway; 4th Avenue to industrial area; Crouchview Close; Lucerne Walk; Woodberry Road to Fanton; Bruce Grove; shops area; Honnington Close to the Park; areas suffering criminal incidents; Footpath 104, Alicia Walk to Beauchamps Drive.

CHAPTER SIX

ACTION PLAN

SHOPS, BUILDINGS AND LAND USE

Resurfacing of the shops, forecourt and footpath at the junction of Southend Road and Fanton Walk was completed in December 2011.

The Council has requested the list of litter hot spots from Street Care in order to focus attention on the worst areas affected by littering, and a new litter bin will be placed at the junction of Longfield Road and Bruce Grove.

The provision of hanging baskets during summer and Christmas lights is a matter for the shops in the immediate areas and there should be consultation within the current Council term.

Car parking in the vicinity of the shops is something that should be looked at within the current Council term.

BUILDINGS

The Council is currently considering the proposal for the initiation of a Village Design Statement and has sought information from Basildon Borough Council as the local planning authority. It is likely that such a study will not be initiated until the Parish Plan has been agreed.

The location of a potential Parish building should be considered in the future..

LAND USE

The Council is currently reviewing the issue of allotments. A member is liaising with interested residents and another member has attended an Allotments and Orchards event run by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to obtain both information and support. The Council has become a member of NSALG.

NATURE RESERVE

Consideration could be given to designating the dry pond and adjacent hedgerow as a conservation area in the future. The Council may consider further areas for such designation.

OTHER ISSUES

The Council has considered the provision of further notice boards and considered that the notice board at the junction of Southend Road and Bruce Grove is sufficient at the present time taking into account the provision of window space in the Butchers and Post Office. However, the Council is always open to ideas concerning the improvement of communications within the community.

A Best Garden in Shotgate competition is something that could be considered along with the provision of hanging baskets in the area of the shops. The Newsletter is an ideal opportunity to gauge the community's views on these issues.

THE PARK

The Council is currently considering how best to utilise the available space and geography of the Shotgate Recreation Ground. The Council is in regular and on-going communication with the park's owners, Basildon Borough Council, concerning the design and the provision of future facilities in the park.

The Council is attracted to the idea of an all-weather path around the park's perimeter. Such a path would be available for all residents throughout the year, The path could provide access to exercise stations along its length and the Council is currently investigating the provision of exercise equipment in the Park.

The provision of a picnic area will be looked at in the future.

The provision of a BMX area at the southern end of the park should be considered towards the end of the current term of office.

The provision of a sensory garden and conservation areas could be considered in more detail in the future.

The Council is currently considering the provision of fencing around the children's playground area.

The Council, in collaboration with Basildon Borough Council, is considering the provision of a Multi-use Games Area (MUSA) in the park.

The Council is considering the provision of a teen shelter within the current term of office.

ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND ALLEYWAYS

The Council has carried out a second walkabout to identify (i) the outstanding maintenance works and (ii) the priority needs for the roads, footpaths and alleyways throughout Shotgate.

The Council is continually notifying ECC Highways and County Councillors of defects that need attending to.

The Council is also aware of the community's concerns over speeding within the residential areas and has sought lowered speed limits for Hodgson Way and the roads in the vicinity of the shops, the Community Hall, and the Church. Further approaches to the Police and ECC Highways will be made during the current term of office.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The 6 month trial of the NIBS/ECC collaboration for buses to serve Hodgson Way during weekdays looks like continuing – at least in the near future.

The Council will continue to work in close cooperation with the Parish Transport Representative.

SECURITY AND VANDALISM

The Council is aware of the concerns of residents, shop owners and the business community relating to security and vandalism through its Council meetings, the Neighbourhood Action

Panel, and Community Safety Action Zone meetings as well as those concerns raised directly by members of the community with the Council.

The Council has considered the provision of improved street lighting (Alicia Walk), CCTV (the shops), and an alcohol-free zone (the shops). The Council intends to keep a watching brief and respond accordingly.

The provision of more Neighbourhood Watch communities and named contacts is a matter primarily for the Shotgate Neighbourhood Action Panel and the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

Activity/recommendation	Year 2011/12	Year 2012/13	Year 2013/14	Year 2014/15	Next term
Resurfacing forecourt	*				
Address littering issues	*	*	*	*	*
Hanging baskets	*	*	*	*	*
Christmas lights	*	*	*	*	*
Car parking issues	*				
Village Design Statement		*			
Community building		*	*		
Allotments	*				
Nature reserve		*			
Notice board					*
Best garden		*	*	*	*
Perimeter path	*	*	*		
Exercise stations	*	*			
Picnic area		*			
BMX area				*	
Sensory garden					*
Playground fencing		*			
MUSA	*				
Teen shelter		*			
Walkabout	*	*	*	*	
Traffic calming	*	*	*	*	
Liaison with Parish Transport Rep.	*	*	*	*	*
Security/vandalism	*	*	*	*	*

CONTACTS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

Local representatives

Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors (See website www.essexinfo.net/shotgate-parish-council)	01702 584158
Parish Transport Representative	01268 734934
Borough Councillors - Tony Ball	01268 454564
Carole Morris	01268 457488
Michael Mowe	01268 463564
County Councillors - Don Morris	01268 457488
Iris Pummell	01268 763494
Member of Parliament - Mark Francois	01268 742044

Basildon Borough Council (www.basildon.gov.uk)

Streetcare (waste, recycling, street cleaning, grass cutting, etc.)	01268 294949
Switchboard (for all other departments)	01268 533333

Churches

Shotgate Baptist Church	01268 573522
St Catherine's C of E	01268 733147

Health

Shotgate Surgery, 340 Southend Road	01268 561888
Wickford Health Centre, 2 Market Road	01268 766222
Robert Frew Medical Centre, Silva Island Way, Salcott Crescent	0844 8151150
Shotgate Pharmacy, 312 Southend Road	01268 768547
NHS Direct	0845 4647

Post Office

Shotgate Post Office	01268 733150
Wickford Post Office	

01268 560046

Pre-School

Children's Centre Highcliffe	01268 763712
Zebedee Group	01268 761267

Schools

Hilltop Infant School	01268 762531
Hilltop Junior School	01268 734649
C of E Infant School	01268 733297
Beauchamps High School	01268 735466
Castledon School (special needs)	01268 761252

Security

Neighbourhood Policing Team	07875 003503
Neighbourhood Action Panel	01268 733119
Neighbourhood Watch	
(See website: www.ourwatch.org.uk or contact g.whiter@btinternet.com)	

Shotgate Community Association

Hall Hire	07950 917984
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Wickford Library

01268 732354

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The PPSC has been assisted in the production of this plan by the Rural Council for Communities in Essex (RCCE), which facilitated both the initial Parish Plan workshop and the subsequent Drop-in session. It is indebted to Stella Meesters from that organization for her continuing advice and support.

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The principal costs of production of the Parish Questionnaire, the Survey Report and the Parish Plan itself have been met by Shotgate Parish Council.

The PPSC is also indebted for their help and support to Keith Adler, Karwai Chan, Catherine Evans and David Jerreat.

The membership of the PPSC has been as follows:-

Parish Cllr. Keith ALLEN (until May 2011)
Parish Cllr. Rae BATCHELER (from May 2011)
Michael HILL – resident
Paul KNOTT – resident
Parish Cllr. Fred LYONS
Tanisha SHARP – resident
Reg TULLY – resident
Parish Cllr. Peter VICKERS (until May 2011)



Shaping Shotgate's Future



Shotgate now

