



SHOTGATE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN - SEPTEMBER 2013

1. **Bruce Grove Plan Rejected**

Residents of Shotgate can now give a huge sigh of relief as Basildon Council has turned down the application to build 49 houses on the NIBS site and other buildings (known collectively as the “1 Bruce Grove” plan). The Planning Committee have to give valid reasons for rejection based on guidelines, and amongst those they focused on were: Lowering employment levels in the area (business) and over dominance of a development in relation to existing buildings (residential). The Parish Council, which unanimously opposed the development and removal of the traffic barrier, thank Cllr. Tony Ball for carrying through his support of our opposition, which he expressed at our meeting and also seasoned campaigners (they know who they are). Principally, however, it is the efforts of the residents that probably counted the most.

A victory for now, but we need to be vigilant about other applications, plus this plan returning via the appeals procedure.

2. **Paths of Glory**

Patrons of Shotgate Park can now walk a complete circuit of the park in comfort in all weathers due to the completion of two new paths, Veolia Path and Meadow Walk. These were funded in part by the Parish Council, but the main path mostly by a grant from Veolia Waste Management (who also waived charges for all removal of rubble during construction) and another grant from Basildon District Council. Two official ceremonies are scheduled to take place during October. One at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 10th October where Veolia will be thanked for their support and the other a week later on Thursday 17th October at 2.30 p.m. where ECC will be thanked for their support and funding. Also particular thanks should go to Cllr. Hodges for tireless co-ordination of plans, builders etc., and the overall vision and to our modest Clerk for securing the two grants.

If you walk around the large sections of pathway (Veolia Path and Meadow Walk) you will cover approximately 806 metres and if you covered the short pathway (along Veolia and the tarmac footway alongside the MUSA area and the junior playground) you will have covered approximately 606 metres.

3. **There's always a Killjoy**

There can't always be good news and during the summer there were some acts of vandalism in the park and the bus shelters. These are too tedious to report in detail (and predictable), however the bad news is greatly balanced by the speediness by which these have been reported to the Parish Council and in most cases already repaired.

4. Pleasant Surprise for Bus Passengers

The timetables for the 25 service displayed in the shelters are now correct. Our cup runneth over.

5. Technicolor Display

Users of the newly unveiled meadow Walk in Shotgate Park in late July and in August will have had their breath taken away, in a pleasant way of course, by the two semi-circles of wild flowers, not visible from the main path. This amazing sight, almost psychedelic in its intensity, was provided for by Basildon Council.

6. New Council Member

The Parish Council welcomes Gerry Fanthorpe as a new member, who has been co-opted to fill the vacancy and will have attended his first meeting in September.

Gerry is also Chairman of the Shotgate Allotment Society. This is not a co-incidence he has specifically been asked to join because of his interest in this area, as the allotment project has been a bit quiet on the Parish Council this past year and needs impetus. To this end, Deputy Parish Council Chairman Peter Vickers has also been voted as our liaison officer in order to give this matter greater prominence and manpower. Some clarification may be needed to decide what the Parish Council's obligations and powers are in this matter; these two appointments should greatly assist in this.

Cllr. Lyons received two other enquiries concerning the Parish Council vacancy, although no formal applications were made. Unfortunately there were delays in getting out the last issue of the newsletter (this is being looked into), which didn't help. Although there is not a vacancy at present, we are always delighted to hear from potential applicants, and we hope they will not be discouraged from putting themselves forward the next time the situation arises.

7. Appeals Procedure – Planning Applications

Please note that there is an appeals procedure for planning applications, particularly for larger scale planning applications that have been requested within the Parish and were initially refused.

8. Salt of the Earth

Fred Lyons, Butcher and Councillor of this Parish, has twenty 10kgs bags of salt available for collection for free at his shop for anyone preparing for the winter.

9. Parish Plan

If any residents would like a copy of Shotgate Parish Plan, please contact Cllr. Fred Lyons who has a number available for residents.

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