

Shottisham Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 12th April 2016
Parish Council Chairman's Report

It has been a year of change, with the Council struggling to obtain a full complement of Councillors and also seeking to find a full-time clerk to replace Sally Loader. We have been very grateful for the support of Jenny Webb, who has been acting as Temporary Clerk since last July, at a time when she has been busy with her full-time role in Bawdsey. We urgently need to find somebody who can take on the role on a permanent basis, but at present we have no applicants.

Planning Apps.

The Council has considered 4 planning applications in the village this year:-

1. Improvements to Trust Hall (approved & in progress)
2. Loft conversion at 2, The Knoll (approved & in progress)
3. Felling of conifer at Rose Cottage, The Street (approved)
4. Felling of Eucalyptus at 2, The Cottages (to be discussed later)

Highways Issues

Work to update signs and road markings on Ford Hill was ordered by Suffolk County Council in April last year, with an expected completion date during July. We now expect this to be completed in the next few days, -between April 18th - 22nd. Hopefully it will help to modify driver behaviour in that area. There remains an option to consider introducing 'gates' at the entrances to the village, but we still await costings from SCC for this aspect, and experience at Chillesford suggests it may not have the desired effect.

We have also been in discussion with the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and Bromeswell Parish Council, with a view to establishing a Speedwatch scheme in the village. A number of sites have been approved by Traffic Police and we have three volunteers ready to be trained when access to equipment can be agreed. If you would like to be involved in this initiative to make our roads safer please speak to any Councillor.

Site Specific Allocations

Suffolk Coastal have now published their Local Plan, and have identified the Sorrel Horse field as being suitable for a small development. This gives us a potential route to provide the housing need identified in the Housing Survey carried out last year, and at the same time could provide additional parking for the Sorrel Horse. This obviously needs a fair bit of work to achieve a viable solution, but the Parish Council has agreed to open initial discussions with the Sorrel Horse Board, and a Housing Association.

The Adeane Estate still need to raise funds for work on property in Ramsholt, but the need to fund work to the river wall, which might have protected Shottisham, has been shown to be unnecessary. Hopefully this mean that they will look elsewhere to put houses, but it seems that they may still attempt to pursue a development to the East of Heath Drive. This will now be more difficult for them because that site is no longer listed in the local Plan.

Looking forward

We have been unable to make any progress with the fencing to the Playing Field this year. Hopefully, with a full complement of Councillors for the coming year, we will be able to make progress with that work, as well as keeping our footpaths in good condition. Any support with these activities will be gratefully received.

We hope that you will support our plans to take a parish photograph outside the church on Saturday 28th May at 10:00 a.m.

Kim & Cathy will be organising the Big Lunch on the playing field on Sunday 12th June. This year it has been arranged to coincide with the national celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday.

We hope that you will continue to share your views, and attend the meetings.

M J Hazelwood