

Woolverstone News

May 21st 2016

Dear All

Judicial Review, former HMS Ganges site, Shotley Gate

As you know, we now have a date for our Judicial Review case into the decision made by Babergh District Council to grant planning permission for 285 houses etc. at the former HMS Ganges site, Shotley Gate. The case will be heard at the High Court in London on 20th and 21st July 2016.

Donations and Pledges

Thank you so very much to all those who have responded to the article in the "In Touch" magazine or the letter that came through your door recently seeking your financial support for Woolverstone PC's Judicial Review application. We are making significant and solid progress towards raising the money needed for our JR costs. But, there is still some way to go.

We have made a great start, but there is more that needs to be done. We need to dig deep and be as generous as possible. If you have overlooked the pledge form, or lost it, please do something about it now. If we win the High Court case - and we have a good chance - our costs will be minimal. If we lose, our costs to BDC/Haylink are capped; additionally we have to fund our representation and court costs. We have to be ready for that possibility, also.

If the Ganges development goes ahead we will see a projected 30% increase in traffic through our village – even more at peak times. Given that these calculations were made five years ago, and also looking at the increasing numbers of vehicles involved in home deliveries on our roads (up 4.2% since 2014), I expect those figure will prove to be an under-estimate.

In addition, Babergh District Council is also promoting the Shotley Peninsula as a tourist destination which, if successful, will see further traffic through the villages along the B1456. Look out for the glossy "Shotley Peninsula" guide in Tourist Information Centres.

I believe our countryside is currently under threat in a way never seen before in our history: planning regulations are being stripped away; councils are being given financial incentives from central government to build more and more houses; developers and their armies of lawyers are prepared to crush local opposition. Surely we cannot stand by and see these things happen?

Please help us to challenge the urbanisation of our unique and beautiful peninsula.

Fund raising for our challenge

We are urgently in need of someone to assist us with fund raising. We need someone who has the skills and the time to support your Parish Council in implementing their plan for events and activities to raise the money we need to challenge this decision. This role will be for only a limited period. We have lots of ideas but need someone to co-ordinate the process. We need someone who is prepared to organise events, auctions, raffles etc.; to reach out to people beyond the peninsula and enlist support for our cause. If you think you can help, please make contact with me (simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk) or tel. 01473780009 in the evenings.

Queen's Birthday celebrations - Saturday 11th June

The proposed arrangements to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday have changed.

We have been invited, as guests, to Royal Harwich Yacht Club for the afternoon. Afternoon tea and biscuits will be available for purchase on the lawn outside the Club house. Guests are also able to order an evening meal if they like. There will be a sail-past of a large flotilla of boats around 4.30, with high tide at 5.00

A bonfire will be lit in the evening at around 9.00 on the piece of land to the East of the hard, if the wind is in the right direction. If anyone would like to help with the bonfire, or have suitable materials they would like to donate, please phone 01473 780319 to make arrangements.

Road Works

Suffolk Highways have informed us that they will be undertaking some road works "approximately 30 metres after you leave the 30mph zone travelling towards Ipswich." They are working on kerbs and gullies which is necessary to improve the drainage there. The works should last two days and will involve temporary two-way traffic lights.

If you know your neighbour is not on the internet, or does not get this newsletter, please print of a copy and drop it through their letter box. If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.

Best wishes

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk)