


Derek Davis, Ganges ward (Shotley & Erwarton)

Planning is always a delicate balance and almost always causes a certain amount of division.

We have seen how tangible progress is being made at the former HMS Ganges site and now also at Ganges Point on the waterfront near to Shotley Marina.



For me, when you know what you are up against, it is about getting the very best out of it for the village in terms of suitable housing for the many, many who want to live in Shotley and Erwarton, and of course the wider district. This could be youngsters wanting to come back from university of working away, to bring up their own families. People looking to downsize, or to move into bigger homes, all circumstances have to be taken into consideration.

On top of that, development brings investment into the village through Community Infrastructure Levy, or in the case of Ganges (Barrelmans) S106 money through legal agreement.

Both the parish council get money to spend on village projects, and Babergh for larger infrastructure projects.

For example, we have seen schools on the peninsula benefit to the tune of millions, and indeed Shotley Primary School is currently going through a bid process which would net them more than £2m.

Investment in the doctors' surgery, public transport, cycle paths and the main road, all also included and social housing provision, which I have been steadily and quietly fighting our corner of nearly eight years.

Knowing when to say no is also important and I spoke in favour of backing the planning officer's recommendation to refuse a development in the farm yard next to Erwarton Hall on grounds of heritage, need, access and its proximity to the AONB, among others.

It probably won't be the last we hear of that particular application.

More recently is an application for 48 new homes in Shotley, although I can see both sides of this particular argument I will hold my tongue for now as I may be required to sit on the planning committee and would not want to show any pre-determination. You can however openly have your say up until 8 November with the public consultation open on the Babergh planning website

Parking Strategy

Babergh's parking strategy for 2022-2042 has been approved following consultation and scrutiny.

The strategy shapes our short, medium, and long term plans for provision of parking in the Districts. For more than a year, we've studied, commissioned expert reports, consulted (twice) with stakeholders and measured the record number of responses. It's been further reviewed by Scrutiny

and will be subject to regular review. The full documents is on the website put keep in mind, Babergh don't manage all parking though.

Council Tax Relief

After being a cabinet member for the best part of four years, when I was not allowed to sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I made my debut as a substitute recently

One good scheme I back as part of our targeted cost of living drive is Babergh public consultation to increase our maximum Council Tax Relief for those most in need from 95% to 100%.

CIL

Meanwhile at full council, the Council meeting approved the fourth review of our Community Infrastructure Levy Framework.

As mentioned earlier, CIL money is available for communities and groups to bid for money provided by developers as part of their responsibility to support infrastructure.

The reviewed rules allow more possibilities and higher thresholds. Millions of pounds have already been granted across the two districts.

Anybody interested in how to go about such a bid in the Ward need only contact me.



Derek Davis

Ganges ward member

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Note from Shotley Parish Council

Cllr Davis' report has been redacted to remove content which may be perceived or deemed to have a political nature or undertone. This action has been carried out with Cllr Davis' knowledge and agreement and is in order to maintain the Parish Council's apolitical stance on all matters.