



# Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign

Newsletter No. 26, December 2020

[www.spcc.info](http://www.spcc.info)

## The Wonders of Winter Cycling!

Ho ho ho and it's Happy Christmas from SPCC, wishing you all a very enjoyable (and safe) cycling this winter... But Lockdown 2, the driving rain, the howling wind and the long winter nights – it's enough to put you off cycling! So remember to wrap up warm, check your brakes, put new batteries in your lights, squirt some oil on your chain – and make sure that you wear some *high visibility clothing*. Speaking of which, the perfect gift for the cyclist in your life this Christmas might just be one of our stylish *SPCC High Vis vests* (see below)

In this winter edition of the SPCC newsletter we look at new planning applications for **Wherstead** and **Woolverstone** (while discussing their impacts on cycling and walking around the peninsula) and an update on the **Freston Hill** survey.

And finally - we'll be saying goodbye to our dearly loved and widely respected webmaster Tony Gould. On behalf of all from SPCC we would like to thank Tony for all his hard work and guidance over the years and wish him and Jane all the best for their future move.

Get from the couch to cycling in 7 steps with this word ladder. Then you can inflate your tyres in 8 steps (answers on the next page).

<b>S O F A</b>	<b>P U M P</b>
<b>B I K E</b>	<b>T Y R E</b>

## SPCC Keeps an Eagle eye on Planning Applications

*The committee have been sifting through recent planning submissions to Babergh District Council which concern the Shotley Peninsula:*

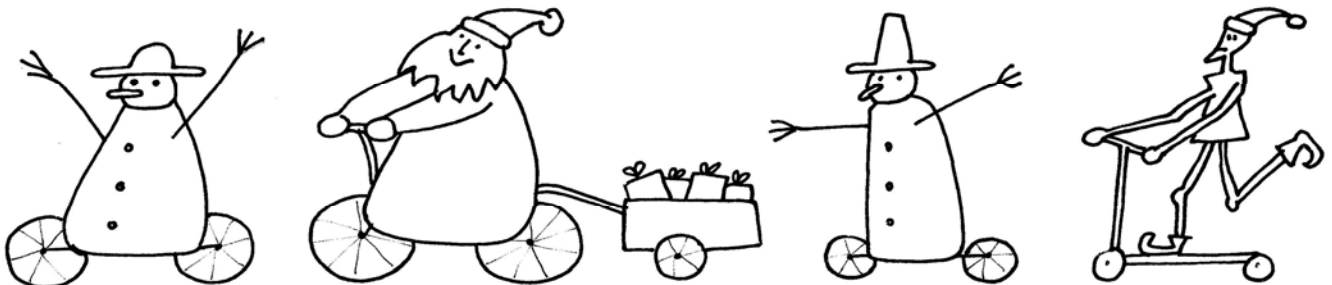
Significant recent planning applications submitted to Babergh DC might have a negative impact on safer cycling around the Shotley Peninsula. We have submitted detailed comments to Babergh listing all the cycling (and pedestrian) improvements we thought were needed before the Council should be contemplating approving any of these planning applications.

**Wherstead.** Here a cluster of commercial planning applications were submitted to Babergh at the end of last year. Three were all within the vicinity of the A.14 interchange at the top of Bourne Hill. Two of the applications were for commercial/industrial units and the other for a roadside service area. As originally submitted *all three applications paid no more than lip service to the needs of cyclists*, indeed things would have been even worse than they are now!

SPCC submitted detailed comments and suggestions and it appears to have resulted in improved provision for cyclists and pedestrians. These have been incorporated into the applications. All three applications have now been approved by Babergh. As a result (and assuming that these proposals go ahead) cyclists using the old Bourne Hill and bridge across the A.14 (either to get into Ipswich to the north or onto the Shotley Peninsula to the south) should be able to do so safely on widened, shared use paths. This will include safer crossing of the A.14 slip roads. *(continued on next page)*

**SPCC High Vis vests** have now been reduced to £4.50 for adults and £3.50 for children (previously £6 and £5). There are a number of different sizes available, *SEE OUR WEBSITE:*

<http://www.spcc.info/Merchandise.htm>



### Recent planning applications cont.

**Woolverstone.** Here a recent planning application for 22 new dwellings has been submitted to Babergh. These new dwellings would be split over five different sites around the village. The application also included two new cycle paths, one heading south over fields up to the edge of Holbrook, the other heading eastwards into Chelmondiston mainly along field edges next to the B.1456.

The SPCC's comments to Babergh welcomed the inclusion of the new cycle paths in this application but felt that they *did not go far enough in providing safe cycling*. We listed the improvements which should be made to the cycling proposals before approving the application. These include:

- Linking up the two new cycle paths through the middle of the village where the application currently leaves a 750m gap, forcing cyclists onto the dangerous B.1456.
- The need for a safer and more convenient link from the B.1456 onto the proposed Holbrook bound cycle path on the western edge of the village.

At the time of writing this article the application had not been determined by Babergh, but both Woolverstone and Chelmondiston parish councils have made similar comments about the current deficiencies of the applicant's cycling proposals

### FREE MEMBERSHIP

Membership of SPCC is still amazingly, COMPLETELY, utterly FREE! SPCC is committed to safe, healthy, low-carbon transport options for the Shotley Peninsula. Please help us to expand by spreading the word and signing up here: <http://www.spcc.info>

### Freston Hill update

Considering the potential of having the community path on the east side of Freston Hill rather than the west, members of the committee, along with a civil engineer, surveyed the hill and its verge. Except for a short section at the top of the hill the initial study looked sufficiently promising to pursue further, but the extent of the highway boundary could not definitely be ascertained. As further progress would depend on the width of the grass verge in Highway ownership being sufficient for a new cycle path Suffolk County Council have been contracted to supply information showing the extent of their land in more detail. If this information confirms enough width for a footway/cycle path this would allow us to consider making a planning application and putting us in a position to have detail drawings of a path made, if and when money can be found.

### NEEDED - new techno-savvy superhero to replace THE WEB-MASTERY OF TONY GOULD, who is sadly leaving us for pastures new:

SPCC are looking for a new webmaster, ideally one who has experience of CMS (content management systems, like Wordpress, Drupal, Joomla), familiar with Microsoft Office type programmes and who could provide very occasional PC/Internet technical help. It sounds more daunting than it is and the amount of work per month is minimal. SPCC are currently developing a new Wordpress website which will be up and running before taking over the job. Minimal email administrating would be required as well. The existing webmaster will still be contactable for any issues which are out of the ordinary.

Many thanks to our contributors: **Rosie Abensour, Mike Crouch, Tony Gould, Mike Havard & Jezz Meredith**

Word Ladder Solutions: 1) SOFA-SOFT-SIFT-LIFT-LIFE-LIKE-BIKE; 2) PUMP-LUMP-LAMP-TAMP-TAME-TIME-TIRE-TYRE

