



SHOTLEY PENINSULA CYCLING CAMPAIGN Newsletter No.7, May2012

www.spcc.info

Welcome to our latest newsletter. The Campaign continues to gather momentum, but we also need your continuing support to help push things along.

Progress on the new community path:

In addition to the progress we are making on the first section of the community path (from Bourne Bridge on the edge of Ipswich to the top of Freston Hill), which we reported on in our last newsletter (No. 6) in February, we have now moved on considerably at the Shotley end of the route. You will recall that we are now also prioritising this section of the proposed path (from the north end of Shotley Street down to the Foot Ferry at Shotley Marina), as this section looks to be achievable in the shorter term.

At the beginning of April, we walked the route with representatives from the County Council's Highway's team, Sustrans, our County Councillor David Wood, and a member of Shotley Parish Council. This site meeting had a very positive outcome; it looks as though we should be able to get an important part of this section of the route, (between the south end of Shotley Street and the north end of Shotley Gate), off the road and onto adjacent highway land. This would largely involve widening and improving the existing footway, so that it could be safely shared by cyclists, pedestrians, and wheelchair users. These proposals will now be drawn up, and costed, in more detail, so that Shotley Parish Council and other interested parties can have a better look at them, and give us their comments.

We will keep you posted on any progress.

Ganges Planning Application:

The site owners are shortly expected to submit a fresh planning application for the re-development of the former naval base at Shotley Gate. We believe that there will be a reduction in the number of proposed dwellings, but that, nevertheless, the proposed development will, inevitably, greatly increase the amount of traffic on the already busy, and in places already overloaded, B1456. This will inevitably worsen conditions for cyclists using the road and we intend to make this point in the strongest terms to Babergh District Council's planning committee when we respond formally to the planning application.

However, we realise that there are many other factors that BDC will have to take into account and that they may nevertheless grant Planning Permission for this latest proposal. When the SPCC submits its detailed comments to Babergh, we will need to cover the possibility that the application will be approved. In our submission to Babergh we will therefore be making the point that if they are minded to grant Planning Permission, then they should be asking the developer to make a very substantial financial contribution towards the cost of the Ipswich to Shotley Community path.

This financial contribution would need to pay for a major part of the path, and would certainly need to be enough to at least fund the most urgently needed sections of the path.

It would really help our campaign if you could also respond to the planning application, at the appropriate time, making these above points, to Babergh, in your own submission.

The more responses the Babergh Planning Committee members receive that include the above points about cycling on the B1456, and the desperate need for a safe alternative route, the more

likely we are to get funding that would allow construction of the proposed Community Path, should the Ganges development go ahead.

Annual General Meeting:

This year our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st June, at 7.30pm, at a venue yet to be arranged.

We will send you a reminder nearer the time, but please do put this in your diary now. It is very important for the committee to get feedback from the members of the SPCC about what we have been doing over the last year, and what we need to concentrate on over the next twelve months.

We will also need to elect a new committee, and are very keen to welcome new members onto it, especially anyone willing to take on the job of Treasurer or Publicity Officer. If you would like to find out more before the AGM, please contact one of the present committee (see contact details at end of newsletter).

Annual Subscription and membership:

May is normally the month when everyone is asked to renew their memberships. However, this year we intend to propose an amendment concerning membership at the AGM in June, in order to make renewal easier both for you and for our Treasurer.

We are thinking along the lines of proposing a five-year membership for the cost of four single years, ie, for £20.00.

We will therefore delay sending out reminders to renew until after the AGM.

Please note that we have already made it possible to renew your membership on line at www.spcc.info

Over the last year we have increased membership of the SPCC by about 100, to over 200 members, plus 10 group members (including all the schools within this area), and we hope to achieve a similar increase in membership again this coming year.

Your continuing support is absolutely vital to our campaign: the more supporters we have, the better we can make our views count, and the more successful we are likely to be when we start what will inevitably be the hard task of fund- raising to pay for the construction of the path.

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