



## SHOTLEY PENINSULA CYCLING CAMPAIGN

### Newsletter No.8, August 2012

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

#### **Welcome**

What a fabulous summer it has been for British cycling, with our first ever Tour de France winner, and then 8 Olympic gold medals. There seem to be more cyclists out on our roads and bridleways than ever, and bike manufacturers are apparently struggling to keep up with demand. There has not been so much momentum behind cycling, in this country, for decades, and we need to take full advantage of it. The SPCC's decision to try to push ahead with a new community path from Ipswich to Shotley could not be more timely, but it is far from being a done deal. We need your continual support and involvement, be it by renewing your membership, recruiting new members or writing to Babergh District Council about the Ganges planning application. More on all these points later in this newsletter, but firstly here is a round-up of where we are.

#### **Progress on the new community path:**

We are continuing to progress matters at both ends of the path, that is with the Ipswich to Freston section, and the Shotley Street to Shotley Gate section. At the Shotley end, the County Council are drawing up detailed proposals for the path, with costings, and we hope to have this information very shortly. At the Ipswich to Freston end, we are having detailed discussions to try to identify the best route where it crosses through some sensitive wildlife areas. However, we are confident that before too long the alignment of both sections of path will be largely sorted out.

#### **Ganges Planning Application:**

As members will already have heard by separate email, the SPCC has now submitted its comments on the current planning application, to redevelop the former HMS Ganges site at Shotley Gate, to Babergh District Council. You can view our full response on our website at [www.spcc.info](http://www.spcc.info), but in summary we are saying:

1. This planning application would significantly increase the amount of traffic using the B.1456 and would therefore have a negative and, we believe, unacceptable impact on cyclists and pedestrians wishing to use this already busy and dangerous road.
2. However if Babergh District Council is minded to approve this planning application, then this development should only be allowed to proceed if a significant part of the Shotley Peninsula Community Path (for cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users) can be put in place.
3. A detailed proposal for the Community Path already exists and some sections of the path have now reached an advanced stage of planning and could be constructed in the relatively near future.
4. Provision of the path is best achieved by the applicant being required to make a very substantial financial contribution towards its construction, secured as part of a S.106 Planning Obligation.
5. The exact size of that financial contribution should be the subject of further research and discussions, involving BDC, SCC, the applicant and the SPCC.
6. Furthermore, BDC should take independent advice about the overall size of the S106 pot to be offered by the applicant by requiring a financial appraisal of the whole scheme, to ensure that the applicant commits sufficient funding to properly mitigate the negative impacts of this significant development.

7. SPCC supports the early introduction of a dedicated cycle path and footway across the site into the adjacent Marina site.

Regardless of your own personal viewpoint on the merits, or otherwise, of the overall planning application (and the SPCC is not expressing an opinion on this), it will help our campaign for safer cycling and walking enormously if as many of our membership as possible write to Babergh, supporting the SPCC's stance regarding the need for the Community Path. If you don't want to construct your own letter, do feel free to just send in the seven-point summary, as above. Whilst the statutory consultation period on the application has now expired, it is likely to be several months before the planning application comes before Babergh's Planning Committee, so you still in fact have plenty of time to submit your comments in support of safer cycling and walking on the peninsula.

### **Feedback on the AGM:**

We held a successful AGM on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, with thanks going to Chelmondiston Primary School for letting us use their premises. We would also particularly like to thank Nicky Cordle of Foreshore Accountancy (Chelmondiston) who, for the second year running, very kindly inspected our annual accounts.

We are delighted to welcome two new committee members, Karla Powell from Holbrook, and Sally Williams from Chelmondiston, who has taken over the job of Treasurer from Jane Goyder. We now have a full complement of 9 committee members.

Other news includes the appointment of Elaine Purves (Head of the Ipswich Girls High School), as our first Patron. Elaine has been a strong and enthusiastic supporter of the SPCC since its inception, and will now be able to champion our cause in this new role.

### **Membership:**

Finally, it is the time of year when we ask you to renew your membership, and you should have recently received an email from Jane Goyder, our membership secretary, about this. At the AGM it was agreed to still keep the subscription to just £5.00 per household per year, but we have now also introduced 5-year membership for the price of 4 years, ie for £20.00. It is now also possible for you to pay your subscription on line, using Paypal, which should make the transaction simpler both for you and for Sally, our new treasurer, though this attracts a small extra charge to cover the costs of using this facility.

We do hope that you will renew your subscription.

You will be pleased to hear that we now have over 200 members, plus 10 organisations, who have joined as group members, but we would like to increase our membership to at least 300 before our next AGM. If you have a friend or neighbour who is a cyclist, or a potential one, please try to get them to join the SPCC: full details of how to join are, of course, to be found on our website.

Enjoy your cycling, and the rest of the summer.

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