

SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: R Wrinch, Hill House, Wades Lane, Shotley, Ipswich IP9 1EW



Please address all correspondence to the clerk:

Mrs Linda Rowlands
33 Orwell View Road, Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1NW
Tel: 01473 788248 Email: parishclerk@MyShotley.com

Richard Watson
Head of Planning (Control)
Babergh District Council
Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ

11 August 2006

Dear Richard

FORMER HMS GANGES, SHOTLEY GATE, SUFFOLK - APPLICATION: REF B/03/01085/OUT

I am writing following the acceptance by the Secretary of State of the recommendation of the Inspector appointed to conduct the Public Inquiry into the above planning application.

Whilst it will take us more time to fully digest the Inspector's report and the letter from the Secretary of State I think we need to start a dialogue on the process that will now follow and our respective roles.

The Parish Council have always concurred with, and pursued the view, that an acceptable and sustainable solution for the site has to be found and that this cannot be done without full community and stakeholder involvement. That view has been strengthened by the Inspector's report and the Minister's interpretation of his conclusions.

There are matters in the Inspector's report that may take time, for example further work on surveying the existing buildings. This hiatus gives us time to ensure that there is full engagement with all stakeholders to explore further options and/or influence any revised application by Haylink.

We have maintained that the approach to this site should be one of regeneration and economic development and not just meeting housing targets. Mr Frost agrees as does the County Council who last April at their Executive Committee agreed to offer Officer support in this regard. We would be interested to hear how Babergh, as a whole i.e including officers from sections other than your own, are proposing to involve stakeholders from this point forward.

Haylink may, however, choose to invoke their right to pursue the retirement community option. I need to be able to advise the Parish Council on what the process will be in order for this to happen. Would it be possible for you to summarise the current situation and provide a step by step guide to the process Haylink must follow, the key decision making points for the Council and whether these are delegated to officers or require committee approval.

I realise that paragraphs 16 and 17 of Mr Frost's report could be seen as a summary but it is not clear if the September 2000 reserved matters application is still valid, nor is it clear how the matter of the fort and the Environmental Statement would be handled.

The Parish Council will be meeting on 17 August to consider this matter further. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Linda Rowlands
Parish Clerk

Cc: Mrs Patricia Rockall, Chief Executive, Babergh District Council
Babergh District Cllr Wendy Sadler
Suffolk County Cllr David Woods
Shotley Parish Councillors