



# Shotley Gate Sport and Recreation Design Brief January 2007

**THIS IS NOT A CONTRACT**

## **Shotley Parish Council**

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## I. Executive Summary

Shotley Parish Council exists to improve the quality of life in the village for the people who live, study, work or visit here

This brief describes in detail the intentions of Shotley Parish Council to repair and develop the two tennis courts and adjacent land at Shotley Gate. The development will reinstate one of the tennis courts and will provide a multi functional sport and activity facility for older young people on the other. To the south of the tennis courts a fitness trail will be established.

Improving facilities for young people and access to sport and recreation for the whole community are two of the principal action points of the Shotley Parish Plan.

The total cost of this capital project is £xx,xxx being: £yyyy for the tennis court, £zzz,zzz for the multi functional facility and £aaaa for the fitness trail.

It is anticipated that the cost of the project will be funded as follows:

Lottery Awards for All	£35% to a maximum of £10,000
Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership	£35% to a maximum of £10,000
Shotley Parish Council	£10%
Youth Capital Fund	£15%
Suffolk CC Locality Budget	£5%

Estimated revenue costs for insurance, cleaning and maintenance amounts to £200 per annum and will be met from the precept of the Parish Council. The facilities will be depreciated over 10 years with an appropriate amount being set aside to the Council's reserves.

Outputs for this project include the numbers of young people accessing the resource and the total numbers of people using the tennis court and fitness trail. Outcomes will include, over time, an increase in the fitness of residents, improved health of residents, reductions in anti social behaviour and people finding pathways to other activities.

## II Market Research

Throughout 2004 and 2005 Shotley Parish Council carried out extensive research which culminated in the production of the "Parish Plan;" a comprehensive description of the needs and aspirations of the local community. This research included a comprehensive household survey, a young people's questionnaire and consultation meetings with young people, local sports groups and statutory service providers.

The improvement of services for young people, improving access to sport and recreation and reducing the need to travel were key findings of this research.

For more details, please visit [www.myshotley.com](http://www.myshotley.com).

The findings are consistent with those of local and sub regional partners and mirror their priorities:

### **Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership**

The aim of the Babergh East Community Plan is to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the communities within the area covered by the Plan. It proposes to do this by addressing identified key issues which include: -

- Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime
- Health Improvement
- Access to Services and Facilities
- Services for Young People

### **Babergh Youth Strategy (Extract)**

To work together with young people to promote and enable their active involvement in the decisions that affect their lives; and

To work together with young people and partner organisations to improve services and opportunities for young people living in Babergh.

Providing things to do and facilities

## Promoting health and safety for young people

The Shotley Peninsula Youth Forum conducted some research in Autumn 2006 amongst their peers and this has shown that 67% of young people across the high school catchment did less than four hours out of school activity a week. Asked which sporting activities would you be interested in taking part in if they were available; 88 sporting activities were listed and showed the following main trends:

- 80 young people (12.3%) - football
- 66 young people (10.1%) - basketball
- 63 young people (9.6%) - swimming
- 38 young people (5.8%) - tennis
- 37 young people (5.7%) - cricket
- 32 young people (4.9%) - netball
- 32 young people (4.9%) - rugby
- 26 young people (4.0%) - trampolining
- 23 young people (3.5%) - badminton
- 21 young people (3.2%) - hockey
- 14 young people (2.1%) - athletics
- 13 young people (2.0%) - dance
- 13 young people (2.0%) - volleyball
- 11 young people (1.7%) - gymnastics
- 11 young people (1.7%) - rounders
- 10 young people (1.5%) - rockclimbing

As part of the Parish Plan consultations Year Five pupils at Shotley Community School were asked what new clubs or activities they would like to see in the Village.

Dancing Club – 2 responses

Horse Riding – 3 responses

Skiing

Hockey

Fishing

Cards

Rounders

Quad Biking

Tennis

Football – 3 responses

Competitions Club

Swimming – 4 responses

Rugby

Basketball – 2 responses

Consultations with the older age groups demonstrated the need for a safe and dry place to meet and opportunities for non competitive and recreational sport.

Apart from an adult male football team and occasional/dance aerobics classes

adults need to travel to Ipswich (30km) or Holbrook (9km) for sport facilities. The facility in Holbrook is evening only. Feedback through the website has indicated desire amongst adults for tennis facilities to be reinstated.

### III Proposal

The two tennis courts and the land known as Whinney Queech are in the area of the Parish known as Shotley Gate. Home to approximately 60% of the village housed in a modern housing estate and former MoD housing stock. The population is predominately families with school age children. To the north of the site is Ganges Wood owned in trust by the Woodland Trust. The tennis courts and play area are owned by the Parish Council, Whinney Queech is owned by Babergh District Council. A site location plan and site plan are provided at Appendices 1 and 2.

There are no planning constraints in respect of this proposal.

The tennis courts are a popular meeting place for young people however, the only facility provided are un-netted basket ball hoops and adjacent to the courts a 5 –A-Side grass football pitch, the worn goal areas limit usability.

The tennis nets and court markings disappeared many years ago. The site is currently unsecured and the perimeter and central chain link fence is in disrepair. Also adjacent to the site is a new play area for younger children. The absence of facilities and the general disrepair results in increasing the propensity for anti social behaviour and an inappropriate use of the younger children's play area. Between the tennis courts and the wood is an open grassed area also in the ownership of the Parish Council.

It is felt that by developing the area in a balanced way, i.e. by meeting the needs of different age groups and abilities and by utilizing the whole site the development will be self policing and improve its chances of being sustainable over time.

**Contractors are asked to submit costed design proposals.**

Other considerations:

Maintain the tennis courts as 2 separate spaces; one to be refurbished as a tennis

court the other to offer a wider range of activity for young people aged 11 to 18.

It is envisaged that the tennis court would be pre booked and would need to be securely locked when not in use

The position of entrances, a teen shelter and any new footpaths will need to minimize disruption to neighbours and any materials used will need to be minimise nuisance from noise

An appraisal of the surface has not been made and any subsequent repair has not been budgeted

A comparison of the cost of repair to the chain link fence to its replacement will be required

Lighting is not envisaged at this stage

Materials and colours would need to reflect and be sympathetic to the locality

Proposed design should avoid creating hidden areas

The fitness trail may be pursued as a separate project

Contractors would need to be prepared to attend one or more public meetings to explain and if necessary defend their design

Any contracts let would need to fulfill local authority's Best Value principles and all property, fixtures and fittings would be the property of the Parish Council on completion (unless negotiated separately)

**Shotley Parish Council**

**January 2007**