

NEWSLETTER #7

Welcome to the latest issue of the newsletter designed to keep key stakeholders up-to-date with the future of the former HMG Ganges site.

The Reserved Matters application

Readers of Ganges News will already know that this application has been the subject of negotiations with the applicants since the amended scheme was submitted to the Council in 2007. This has involved the submission of amendments to the layout of the scheme and a new (replacement) Environmental Statement. Consultations have been carried out with the community at every stage.

Babergh Councillors on the Development Committee have also visited the former HMS Ganges site.

Babergh's Development Committee is now scheduled to consider the application on Wednesday November 18. The full agenda will be placed on Babergh's website in the next day or so here:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/Babergh/Home/Council+and+Democracy/Council+and+Committee+Papers/Development/>

The meeting will take place at the Council's Offices in Hadleigh. Because of the level of expected interest, Babergh has:

- ensured that this item will be the first on the agenda to be considered by Councillors. Therefore, anyone wishing to attend is advised to arrive in plenty of time for the meeting which starts at 9.30am
- made provision for extra seating in a room adjacent to the Council Chamber with a video/audio link to allow the public to follow proceedings of the meeting. **However, even with this extra capacity there is still a limit of about 70 places for members of the public. Car parking is also limited and use should be made of the town centre car parks.**
- agreed to change its normal arrangements for public speaking at the meeting. These will be as follows:
 - The time limit for speeches from the Applicant (or their representative) and the representative of Shotley Parish Council be extended from 3 minutes to 5 minutes
 - *Up to four speakers be entitled to speak from each of the objectors' and supporters' groups for 3 minutes each

Listed mast

Babergh

Ganges News

Whilst Babergh's aim is to ensure the long-term preservation of the mast in the best condition possible, it is important to remember that is and can be no linkage between that outcome and any planning application from the developers for the site.

However, this newsletter may be a useful way of letting its readers know that Babergh received a report in September from Galliard regarding the mast's repair.

The information contained in that proposal has now been thoroughly investigated by Babergh officers.

It looks as if any decay is confined primarily to the late twentieth century sections and not to the principal historic components of the mast. Consequently, Babergh considers that the removal of the whole structure from the site appears undesirable and unnecessary.

Officers have also met with Galliard to advise them on an acceptable scheme of repair to the mast. This would involve the retention of the lower section of the mast *in situ*, with the middle section of the mast being lowered but not removed from the site. The previously renewed yardarms, gaff, platform and top-gallant would be replaced in an identical manner.

We are pleased to say that this advice has been well-received by the landowner who has since submitted an application for listed building consent to undertake the works will be submitted for consideration sometime this month. Officers are now starting the process of assessing the application to establish whether the proposed scheme accords with the preferred option for repair.

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