

SHOTLEY BRIDGE VILLAGE TRUST NEWSLETTER

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***The Village Trust's next Open Meeting
will be held at 7.45pm on Tuesday 24 February
in Shotley Bridge Methodist Church Hall.***



Refreshments will be available.



Access to the Methodist Church Hall is in Derwent Place, at the back of the old town hall, off Snows Green Road. There is a door half-way along Derwent Place, with a sign "Methodist Church Hall"



This is an open meeting for all members, guests, and any other local resident who would like to find out about the Village Trust or simply join in the discussion.

The meeting will include the presentation of the Trust's second Annual Design Award. This is the opportunity for members of the Village Trust to have their say in deciding who will receive the award.

Please pass this newsletter on to any friends or neighbours who you think might be interested in the Village Trust and in coming to our meetings.



THE VILLAGE TRUST DESIGN AWARD for 2008

At last year's AGM, the Design Award for 2007 was presented to the designer of the conversion of the former joiner's workshop on Wood Street, near the bridge, into two flats over six lock-up garages.

This year, the committee has put forward a shortlist of four schemes completed in 2008, for you to vote on. Will Village Trust members please look at the attached sheet with pictures of the shortlist – look at the buildings themselves if you are not familiar with them – and **cast your vote** on the tear-off slip. Then either post the slip to the chairman or, preferably, bring it along to the meeting.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT SHOTLEY SPA AND CRICKET CLUB.

In December, Anvil Homes and Shotley Bridge Cricket Club submitted a planning application for the development of 25 houses and 60 flats on the site of the cricket club at the Spa grounds. The scheme includes the provision of a new cricket pitch and a bigger and better clubhouse, together with the restoration of the Spa Well. It also includes the creation of a new access road from the A694 to the north of the entrance to Shotley Park. The committee supports the objectives of providing new facilities for the cricket club, restoring the Spa Well and the remainder of the meadows and opening them up to public access. However, the committee's view is that the impact of the development, including the scale of some of the buildings and the amount of tree felling involved, on the natural and physical environment outweigh these benefits. We have therefore submitted an objection to the local planning authority.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

The last newsletter referred to the proposal to set up a neighbourhood partnership for our area. This would provide an opportunity for people and organisations in our area to come together to create a better environment to live in and to have a more effective say in the running of our community. Hopefully, it could also be a means of ensuring that our voice is heard at the Consett Action Area Partnership, one of the fourteen Partnerships that the new Durham County Council plans to set up across the county.

It is proposed that the neighbourhood partnership will cover the areas of **Benfieldside, Blackhill,, Bridgehill and Shotley Bridge**. An initial working group has been set up to draft a constitution and propose arrangements for the partnership. These will then be put to a public meeting, to seek a general agreement from local residents, before holding an AGM and electing officers and forming a committee and focus groups.

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAY ISSUES

At the last open meeting there was much discussion on highway issues in the village. A number of these issues are still being investigated by the County Highways department, including; 1) the problem with drainage on the steep bank to the village hall which results in debris being washed onto Snows Green Road; 2) the proposal to make the road behind the King's Head one way; 3) a proposal for a pedestrian refuge on Front Street, just south of the junction with Snows Green Road and 4) the need for a pavement between the bottom of Woodlands Road and the Junior School entrance.

Plans for a replacement footbridge over the river at Shotley Grove are also proceeding and, if all goes well and the necessary permissions can be obtained, it is estimated that work should start on the foundations for the new bridge later this spring.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Village Trust membership subscriptions for 2009 are due. Annual membership fees are £2 for individuals, £3 for joint membership, and £1 for juniors and senior citizens. Three-year membership is £5 for individuals and £7.50 for joint membership. Full life membership is £24.



Newsletter editor; John Worters