

## **Parish Council Matters**

**Have you used the Shorne Mead level crossing? If so, please contact us urgently if you haven't already done so!**

In last month's article I explained the action which the Council is taking to get this crossing re-opened. Network Rail closed it in November 2009 thereby depriving Shorne parishioners of access to Shornemead Fort and Shorne Marshes, consisting of one fifth of our whole parish, without having to endure a lengthy detour.

The Council has received legal advice that we should first of all establish the legal status of the crossing as a public right of way. Once achieved, we should then be able to enter into negotiations - involving Kent County Council, Network Rail and local voluntary organisations - on re-establishing access.

The Council has been advised that its case for gaining agreement to the crossing being classified as a right of way will be greatly strengthened if we can show that before its closure the crossing was frequently used by many members of the public.

Thanks to those who have already responded to our request to let us know about your own past use of the crossing. This will help us greatly to further our case. But we still very much want to hear from those who have not yet been in touch with us. We are sure there still many! The more we can identify, the stronger the case we can make to get this vital crossing reinstated.

If therefore you, or anyone else you know, has used the crossing in the past, could you please inform Leanne Hornby as soon as possible on 01474 82 2272 or by email at [leanneandpeter@talktalk.net](mailto:leanneandpeter@talktalk.net).

### **New Parish Councillors appointed**

The Council is very pleased to welcome George Dent, Susan Lindley and Bob Lane to fill, by co-option, three casual vacancies arising from positions which became vacant last year.

### **Parish Council election in May 2015**

Shorne Parish Council needs you!

The Council hopes to get more new parishioners to stand as councillors for Shorne Parish Council at this year's election on Thursday 7 May.

As the first tier of Local Government, Parish Councils play an important role in representing their local communities, delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve the quality of life in their areas.

Whether it is preserving or improving the state of our local greens, open spaces and footpaths, protecting community assets, or preserving and enhancing the way of life of our parishioners, there is much for this Parish Council to do. Becoming a parish

councillor provides an opportunity for you to get involved. There is no better way to support our community and take part in shaping its future for the better!

This year's parish elections are not far away. This is a golden opportunity for more people, especially young people, to look to become councillors.

Interested? Shorne Council's Parish Clerk, Theresa Martin, will be pleased to let you know more about what becoming a Parish Councillor entails and how you can contribute. Theresa's phone number is 01474 320824 and her email address is [shorne.parish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shorne.parish@yahoo.co.uk).

### **Police contact visits**

Police officers will next be visiting Shorne Country Park to give advice and assistance to the public on Wednesday 11 February from 2pm to 3pm.

Roy Dinnis  
Shorne Parish Council