

# Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



## PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

**December 2016**

### **Telephone Kiosk at Post Office Green**

BT has posted a notice in the public telephone kiosk at Post Office Green in The Street, stating that the phone box has had very little use over a significant period of time, and therefore they are proposing to remove the phone box. Anybody who wishes to comment is advised to contact the local authority Planning Department.

The Parish Council considers that the telephone kiosk is an integral part of the fabric of the village, and that the public telephone itself provides an essential service. The Parish Council will therefore be writing to Gravesham Borough Council to object to its removal.

It is worth noting that the telephone kiosk at the old Post Office is a heritage K6 model, located in Shorne Village Conservation Area, and is the only public telephone in the village. The nearest alternative is at The Ridgeway, over half a mile away. Without the public telephone in The Street, residents from Lower Shorne would have to travel over a mile to get to the nearest alternative public telephone. We could also find the telephone box at The Ridgeway under threat at some time in the future, in which case there would be no public telephone in Shorne.

Even in the present day and age, not everyone has a home telephone or a mobile phone, and some people depend on public telephone services. In any event, private telephones are not 100% reliable, and mobile phone signal coverage in Shorne is particularly poor, irrespective of what is shown in mobile network coverage maps.

Without a public telephone in the village, and in view of the poor mobile phone signal, it would be very difficult if not impossible to contact emergency services in the event of an incident.

If you would like to register your objections, please write to:

Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU.

Alternatively you can respond by email to: [planning.general@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:planning.general@gravesham.gov.uk).

The pre-consultation period ends on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, but Gravesham Borough Council will have a further 48 days to send their response to BT. Residents are strongly urged to send any comments they may have to Gravesham Borough Council as soon as possible.

We recognise that our objections may not be successful, and that BT may go ahead with its proposal to remove the public telephone. Parishioners can be assured that in this event, the Parish Council will not permit the removal of the kiosk, which would be adopted for other uses.

### **Bus Shelter at Shorne Crossroads**

Earlier this year, it was brought to the Parish Council's notice that the bus shelter on the north side of Shorne Crossroads was heavily overgrown with ivy. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to get any of our regular local contractors to cut it back. So on 8<sup>th</sup> November, a team of four volunteers from the parish council rolled up their sleeves and undertook the work themselves. Unfortunately, they were unable to remove all the ivy, since most of it is growing from the gardens behind the shelter, but it is a great improvement compared to what it was.

### **Lower Thames Crossing**

Many of you will have seen the Commons Debate on 14<sup>th</sup> November, in which Gravesham MP Adam Holloway made a strong argument against Highways England's preferred option to build a new Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend. He made it clear that this would not address the congestion and pollution problems at Dartford, and would condemn users of the M25 and residents of Dartford to a generation of continuing misery if it goes ahead. We are all aware of the damage it would do to Shorne and the surrounding areas.

This is the last issue of the parish magazine until February 2017, and it is very likely that the Government will announce their preferred route for the Lower Thames Crossing before then. The decision may even be announced before this issue is published.

The Parish Council will closely monitor the situation, and will endeavour to keep the Parish Council website and Facebook page up to date with any developments. The website can be found at <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk>, and you can visit and leave comments on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil).

**Whatever decision the Government may make, the Parish Council would like to wish all our Parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

### **Parish Council Meetings in December and January**

- |  |   |                               |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 | - | Parish Council Short Meeting. |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017  | - | Parish Council Meeting        |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 | - | Planning & Highways Committee |

The meetings will start at 7.45pm in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane  
Shorne Parish Council