

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

June 2016

Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly was held on 12th May at Shorne Village Hall. Attendees heard Parish Council Chairman Robin Theobald give a report on the key events during the past year, including progress with Shornemead level crossing and, inevitably, an update on the Lower Thames Crossing.

Susan Lindley gave a report on Planning & Highways issues during the past year, and explained that a number of property alterations had taken place under permitted development. In most of these cases, the Parish Council is not notified or consulted, and may not even be aware. The audience participated in a discussion regarding parking issues within the village. Mrs Lindley said that the matter is under consideration, but we need to take account of the potential implications of further parking restrictions.

Bob Lane gave an update on progress with Footpaths, Properties & Greens over the past year, as well as the successful volunteer litter patrols. He also talked about the Parish Council website and facebook page which he has managed since last summer.

Kent County Councillor Bryan Sweetland gave a very informative talk on the challenges faced by KCC, and a number of other local organisations also presented their respective reports.

Full details of the points discussed will be published in the Annual Report which will be distributed to all properties in the parish later this year.

Dr Ian Craig, the Parish Archivist, urged all parishioners, whatever their faith, to attend this year's Civic Service on Sunday 26th June.

Lower Thames Crossing

As reported last month, the Parish Council engaged a barrister to provide an initial legal opinion on whether there is a case for mounting a legal challenge on the consultation process under the judicial review procedure.

However, the barrister considers that a legal challenge at this stage, particularly one based on the consultation process, is unlikely to be successful. This was not the advice we wanted to hear, but clearly it would not be in anyone's interest to embark on a lengthy and expensive legal challenge with little chance of a successful outcome.

Nevertheless, the information provided by the barrister has provided the Council with indication of where our case is weak, and we will be working with other local organisations to examine the weaknesses and other potential grounds for challenge to see if we can build a case with a stronger chance of success.

Crucially, the barrister has advised us that any challenge at this stage would be premature, and that we should wait until the results of the consultation are published before making a decision on whether to pursue a challenge through the judicial review process.

Parish Council Vacancies

Following the recent resignation of George Dent owing to ill health, David Hart has also resigned. David is moving out of area to live nearer to his family, and we wish him well.

This means that two of the three Councillor positions for Shorne West are vacant.

Shorne West Ward covers some 381 properties in the following streets:

Astra Drive (odd nos only), Calderwood, Davis Place, Fairfields, Gabriel Gardens, Gazelle Glade, Genesta Glade, Glenrosa Gardens, Judeth Gardens, Marling Way (up to Astra Drive), Michael Gardens, Mollison Rise, Ryecroft, Thong Lane (344 - 356), Vigilant Way (1 – 15 odd nos), and Wykeham Close.

It is important that the interests and issues affecting the residents of Shorne West are properly represented on the Parish Council, and we are looking for suitable candidates for co-option to the Council. If you think that you have the necessary qualities and would like to be considered, please write in the first instance to:

The Clerk
70 Colyer Road
Northfleet
Kent
DA11 8AY

Parish Council Meetings in June

Planning & Highways Committee Meeting, 7.45pm on Thursday 9th June.

Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee, 7.45pm on Thursday 23rd June

* The above meetings will be held in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Annual Civic Service, 10.00am, Sunday 26th June, followed by a reception in the small hall in the Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council