

## **Parish Council Matters for April 2015**

### **Community Clear Up Day in Shorne**

The first ever national Community Clear Up Day was celebrated in style in Shorne on Saturday 21 March, the first day of spring, by nine intrepid Shorne Parish Councillors and residents who filled ten bags of litter and also gathered some heavy rubbish, including a street lamp standard, from roads across the parish.

This is the first such exercise conducted in the parish for several years. Team leader, Parish Councillor Bob Lane, who did an excellent job in marshalling the force, stressed the importance of communities coming together to get across the message that littering in this community will not be tolerated. Bob said “this operation proved the value of local action to take care of our environment and highlights the need for regular exercises of this kind to keep our neighbourhood looking smart.”

### **Shorne Mead level crossing**

In last month's edition I reported on the decision by Kent County Council to find against Shorne Parish Council's claim to there being a legal right of way at the Shorne Mead level crossing

This decision, if unchanged, would harm the Parish Council's case against British Rail's decision to close the Shorne Mead crossing which was based in large part on BR's claim that there is no legal right of way at the crossing.

On 2 March 2015 the Parish Council lodged an appeal against this ruling on the grounds that KCC had not given sufficient weight to the extensive historical evidence the Parish Council had supplied of a right of way over this route.

Because of the need to investigate further the issues raised by KCC in the report accompanying their decision letter, the Secretary of State has granted the Parish Council another month in which to provide supplementary information.

### **Shorne Parish Council election on Thursday 7 May 2015**

The Council invites parishioners with an interest in serving the interests of their community to stand as Councillors for the new Shorne Parish Council at the 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!

You can stand for election if you are:

a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and 18 years or older on the day you become nominated for election.

And provided that:

you are registered as a local government elector for the parish; or

you have, for the whole 12 months' period up to the date of the election, occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or  
your principal or only place of work during that same 12 months' period has been in the parish; or  
you have during the whole of this same 12 months' period resided in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of it.

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

### **HGVs Parked on the A2**

The Council has concerns regarding the large number of lorries which use the service area on the southern side of the A2 between Shorne and Gravesend East, together with the length of the slip road, as an unofficial rest stop. A number of lorries have now started to park on the hard shoulder of the coast-bound carriageway, and drivers have been observed crossing both carriageways on foot to make use of the service area facilities on the other side of the A2. Bob Lane has written to the Highways Agency on behalf of the Council, requesting them to assess the risks, and to consider what measures can be taken to alleviate the problem.

### **Park Pale**

The vehicle nuisance at Park Pale has been relatively quiet recently, apart from the occasional disturbances. Nevertheless, with spring approaching there is no room for complacency. Residents are strongly encouraged to continue to report to the Police every instance of disturbance by phoning 101. Bob Lane is continuing to monitor the situation and to seek updates from the Police.

### **Shorne Parish Assembly on Thursday 14 May 2015**

This year's annual Parish Assembly will take place on Thursday 14 May 2015 in Shorne Village Hall [small hall] at 7.30pm. Come along and hear what the Council and representatives of village organisations have been doing over the past 12 months and discuss their future plans. This will also be an opportunity to meet the newly elected team of Parish Councillors. Refreshments will be available at the meeting.

### **Other Parish Council meetings scheduled**

Thursday 9 April 2015 [Full Council]

Thursday 23 April 2015 [Planning Sub-Committee]

All the meetings take place in Shorne Village Hall starting at 7.45pm. Parishioners are most welcome to attend any of these meetings.

Roy Dinnis  
Shorne Parish Council