

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS – December 2014

Shorne Mead level crossing

More than four years ago Network Rail decided to close this crossing, thereby preventing access to vehicles and walkers from travelling via this route to the marshes and to Shorne Mead Fort.

In the February edition of this magazine, I reported that the Parish Council had submitted to Kent County Council an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order which would establish the legal status of Shorne Mead crossing as a public right of way. According to our legal advice, if such proof could be established, the case for reopening the crossing would be considerably strengthened.

KCC consideration of our application has been deferred until now because of the large backlog of such applications received by them. However our application has now reached the top of their pile and is under active consideration.

As I explained in February, more than 50 signed affidavits were submitted to KCC by those who had used the crossing regularly. KCC have now written to all those who signed the affidavits, together with others who have contacted us since, enclosing "Initial User Evidence Questionnaires" which request some additional information about their use of the crossing.

The Parish Council wishes now to ensure that anyone who has used the crossing, and who may not yet have contacted us formally, should be able to take part in this consultation. If you, or anyone you know, has used the crossing in the past and would now like to supply information on your use of the crossing and its value to you, it is not too late to do so. Just send your name and address to the parish council.

An "evidence form" will then be sent to you to complete and return.

The Parish Council wishes to leave no stone unturned in its efforts to restore access at Shorne Mead and the support of all its past users will be greatly appreciated.

Programme of volunteers for clearing footpaths

The Parish Council is grateful for parishioners' interest expressed in volunteering to help keep our overgrown footpaths clear.

All the necessary hand tools and high visibility clothing and gloves have been ordered from Kent County Council CC for use by volunteers.

Our intention is that the clearance programme will get under way in March 2105. We will select areas requiring clearance taking account of our own path surveys and feedback from local residents and walkers. We shall in the meantime keep those who have volunteered in the picture and look to agree with them an initial programme including likely dates and times.

It is still not too late to become a volunteer! If you are interested, or would just like to know more about what would be involved, do please contact us.

Christmas 2014 and New Year 2015

The Parish Council wishes Shorne parishioners and their families a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2015.

Roy Dinnis
Shorne Parish Council