

Shorne Parish Council

————— Borough of Gravesham —————



Parish Council Matters for December 2015

Lower Thames Crossing Latest

Gravesham Rural Forum has sent a letter to Patrick McLaughlin, the Secretary of State for Transport, urging him to consider the serious impacts that would arise if a decision is made to build any new Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend.

The letter, endorsed by Shorne Parish Council, together with the Leader of Gravesham Borough Council, Adam Holloway MP, and Kent County Council's Member for Gravesham Rural, challenges the statements currently circulating in favour of Option C, and makes it clear that only an improvement at Dartford will relieve the problems and issues that the current crossing faces, and deliver the additional capacity to meet the needs of traffic travelling around London.

The letter sent to the Secretary of State can be accessed and viewed on our website at: <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/default.cfm?pid=news&newsid=11658>

Neighbourhood Planning

The Localism Act 2011 provides the right for parish councils to produce their own Neighbourhood Plans under The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 which came into force on 6th April 2012. The Parish Council has appointed a working party to look into the requirements and to investigate the pros and cons of having a Neighbourhood Plan, together with the likely costs, in order to determine whether it would be beneficial to the parishioners before making a decision to proceed or not.

Daffodil Display

Seven volunteers from Shorne spent their Sunday morning on 25th October planting around 500 daffodil and narcissi bulbs on Chestnut Green. The bulbs were kindly donated by Mrs Polhill, who also helped to plant them. It is hoped that this will provide a cheerful display next spring, supplementing the daffodils previously planted throughout the village by Mrs Hornby.

A Visit from Vandals

In stark contrast to the above, at least 4 cars had their windows smashed around midnight on 28th October, as vandals left a trail of destruction through Shorne and Shorne Ridgeway. Police have been notified, but if anyone has any information relating to the incident they should contact the Police.

Footpaths Volunteers

Are you a regular user of the footpaths or bridleways in Shorne, and consider it important that they are kept open for the enjoyment of those who use them? If so, you might want to join the growing number of volunteers who help to monitor and maintain the 13 miles of footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

With the severe cutbacks in the services provided by the KCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams, it is becoming increasingly important for volunteers to plug the gaps. There are a number of ways you can help. For example, you can:

Become of Volunteer Path Warden, by adopting a path or paths, and carrying out periodic walks to report on their condition and to report any issues. This is particularly suitable for individuals or couples who regularly walk the footpath.

Adopt a Path, or a section of a path, and carry out regular routine maintenance to make sure the vegetation is kept under control and the path remains clear. This would suit small groups of friends who would like to adopt a favourite pathway in their locality, and can spare an hour or so each month to keep it neat and tidy.

Join our Vegetation Clearance Team, a group of volunteers who are prepared to roll up their sleeves on occasions to tackle soft vegetation such as nettles and brambles on footpaths that are starting to become overgrown. Without these volunteers, some of our footpaths would become impassable. We currently have a dozen or so volunteers, but many hands make light work, and we are always looking for more volunteers to join us.

Even if you don't want to become a volunteer, you can do your bit by taking a pair of secateurs in your pocket whenever you go out for a walk, and taking the trouble to snip off any twigs or brambles that are starting to get in the way!

If you are interested in becoming a Shorne Footpaths Volunteer, please give Bob Lane a call on 01474 822680, or email shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk.

Christmas & New Year

Shorne Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners and their families a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

There is no January edition of the parish magazine, but you can keep up to date with parish council news by visiting our website at <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk>, or on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil>.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council