

Shorne Parish Matters for May 2104

Change to street lighting on Gravesend Road

Street lights have been switched off by Kent Highway Services [KHS] of Kent County Council in what they describe as "selected areas" of the county between midnight and 5.30am GMT.

KHS say that this initiative will save around £1million per year on energy bills and will help to protect the environment and reduce light pollution. They state that 75% of those who responded to their consultation last year on the planned hours of switch off and exclusion criteria supported the proposals.

The switch off in Gravesham includes a section of the A226 - Gravesend Road - to the west of Shorne crossroads. In recognition of the higher risk of an accident at this junction, highlighted by the fatal accident to a cyclist there last December, the Parish Council has been assured that the crossroads and approaches to it will remain lit all night.

KHS have advised that they have done a full assessment of the impact of their decision to switch off but are still looking for people to use their local knowledge in their area to identify any locations where it is felt a vulnerable group or community might be adversely impacted by the changes. For this purpose KHS can be contacted directly on **03000 418181** or by email to highways@kent.gov.uk.

Volunteers for clearing pathways - last call please!

The Parish Council is grateful for the response to the request in the December 2013 Parish Magazine for volunteers to assist in helping to keep our footpaths in check. Arrangements have now been made with Kent County Council shortly to run a small session, lasting less than a day, to which the volunteers are to be invited to find out what will be involved. To make this event as valuable as possible, and in order to ensure that we have enough support in place to make a real impact on the deteriorating quality of our pathways, we are making this final plea to you to join the team. There will be no requirement to give more time than you can manage, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that, whatever you can do, you will have helped to ensure that the pathways are kept open and in good order. Any expenses in attending the briefing session will be fully reimbursed by the Parish Council.

Please contact Brian Wilkinson, Chair of the Parish Council's Committee on Footpaths, Properties and Greens, about becoming a volunteer, on 01474 536131 or by email on brian.wilkinson@blueyonder.co.uk.

Police Community Support Officer visits

The next visits to the parish by a Police Community Support Officer, enabling residents to drop by and speak about any policing concerns or local issues, will be at Shorne Country Park on **Wednesdays 7 May and 4 June between 2pm and 3pm.**

Shorne Parish Assembly

A final reminder that the annual Parish Assembly takes place in Shorne Village Hall on Thursday 15 May at 7.30pm. All parishioners are most welcome to attend to hear what is

happening in the parish and to raise matters of interest or concern. The main speaker will be Bryan Sweetland, the parish's representative on Kent County Council. The meeting will be followed by refreshments.

Roy Dinnis
Shorne Parish Council