

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



Parish Council Matters for November 2015

Rural Conservation Area Appraisals

Gravesham Borough Council is holding a public consultation to review all the rural conservation areas in the Borough. In Shorne, this includes, Chestnut Green, Thong, Queens Farm, and the Village centre. Unfortunately the consultation was published after the deadline for last month's parish magazine, but there may still be time.

The draft appraisal documents are available to download on our website, and hard copies can be viewed at the Civic Centre and selected libraries, including Higham and Riverview Park. Comments must be received by 30th October 2015 by using the online survey which can be found at www.gravesham.gov.uk/conservationappraisals.

Shorne Volunteers Litter Patrol

Following the successful litter patrol carried out on 21st March 2015 as part of National Clear Up Day, 19 volunteers from Shorne and Shorne Ridgeway took part in another successful litter patrol on Saturday morning, 10th October.

Equipped with litter picking wands and 'Shorne Volunteer' hi-viz waistcoats supplied by Shorne Parish Council, the volunteers split into five teams and tackled Pear Tree Lane, The Ridgeway, Brewers Road, Woodlands Lane, Tanyard Hill, The Street, Forge Lane, Green Farm Lane, and Shorne Ifield Road, and collected over 40 sacks of litter.

Last time out, we found that the residential cul-de-sacs were quite well maintained. This time we focussed on the 'soft-verge' roads through the village, which suffer from inconsiderate drivers and others who discard their empty cans, bottles, and wrappers onto the side of the road. It was very pleasing to see such a good turn-out of residents prepared to tackle the litter and to help keep our village looking neat and tidy.

If any residents would like to join our volunteers on future litter patrols, please email shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk, or give Bob Lane a call on 01474 822680.

Review of Electoral Boundaries in Kent

Shorne Parishioners may recall that we reported in July that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is carrying out a review of the electoral divisions in Kent.

One of its recommendations is to remove Lower Shorne from the KCC Gravesham Rural division, together with Higham and all the area north of the A226, and to put them in a new “Gravesham North” division which would also include Chalk, Denton, and all of Gravesend riverside as far west as Asda. The proposal also recommends the removal of Lower Shorne from the “Shorne Village” ward of the Parish Council and the creation of a new “Shorne North” ward to cover Lower Shorne and the area north of the A226. The current “Shorne West” ward would be discontinued and merged with the remaining part of the Shorne Village ward.

The Parish Council believes that the proposed changes to the county divisional boundaries and to the parish electoral wards are flawed and misguided, and made its views known to LGBCE during the consultation period, and encouraged parishioners to make their own submissions. The period for consultation on the recommendations closed on 6th July 2015.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has now announced that publication of its final recommendations will be delayed until 19th January 2016 rather than 29th September 2015 as originally planned. This is to allow further limited consultations on changes to their recommendations for the Sevenoaks area, as a result of submissions received.

KCC Street Lighting Consultation.

Kent County Council has secured funding to convert all its street lighting to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. The work will involve changing the lanterns on existing columns and will start early next year and will take around three years. When complete, these changes could reduce energy costs and carbon emission by 60%, saving around £5.2m each year.

As well as using much less energy, LED lights are more reliable and require less maintenance. When combined with a Central Management System (CMS), KCC will be able to monitor energy use, detect faults, dim lights, and control the time that the lights turn on and off.

As the new LED / CMS technology is more flexible, KCC has the opportunity to review the way that they provide street lighting. KCC wants to hear your views regarding which of the following options you would prefer:

- Part-night lighting – ie, the current level of service
- All-night lighting

Along with these options KCC is also seeking views on the dimming of street lights when roads are less busy. Full details of the consultation can be accessed from our website at: www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

You can have your say by responding on the online questionnaire or by downloading a hard copy of the questionnaire and returning it to: Freepost, KCC Street Light Consultation. The deadline for all responses is Sunday 29th November 2015.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council