

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



Parish Council Matters for September 2015

Co-options

Shorne Parish Council is pleased to report that the Council is now back up to full strength following the decision to co-opt Pauline Clifton of The Ridgeway and Martin Redfern of Pear Tree Lane to the Council.

The Lower Thames Crossing

On 15 July the Secretary of State for Transport announced that Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) has been tasked with developing and assessing route options at each of the two remaining locations, Option A at Dartford and Option C east of Gravesend, before choosing the site of a new crossing. The work will show the possible routes at either location and identify their economic, environmental and social impacts, as well as costs. Highways England will be reporting their recommendations to the Department for Transport in late 2015, and there will be a full public consultation on the preferred option before any decision is made.

Our opposition to Option C has not been helped by Kent County Council, Essex County Council, the Freight Association, and now senior figures from Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, all expressing their strong preference for the new crossing to be located east of Gravesend.

Shornemead Level Crossing

The Council has been informed by the Inspectorate that the exchange of correspondence on the appeal against the closure of the level crossing is now complete, and the file has been passed to an inspector for a decision. The decision is expected in a few weeks.

Footpaths Vegetation Clearance

Ten intrepid volunteers, armed with a variety of shears, scythes, loppers, and secateurs, gathered in Crown Lane on Sunday 2nd August to tackle the overgrown vegetation which was obstructing footpath NS163. KCC Rights of Way Team were unable to attend until September, so Shorne Volunteers stepped into the breach. Led by former parish councillor Roy Dinnis, and supported by Mike Hickmott from the Ramblers, who brought a petrol strimmer with him,

the team hacked their way through 200 metres of brambles, nettles, and bushes, opening the way to the chalk pits and Shorne lfield.

We still need more volunteers for future footpath clearance outings, so if you would like to join the team, or would like further information, please contact Bob Lane on 01474 822680, or email shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk.

Speed Watch

Following previous successful Speed Watch activities by volunteers, the Council has purchased its own Speed Watch equipment with the aid of a grant from KCC. The equipment will be used to monitor and discourage vehicles speeding through the village, and will focus initially on The Ridgeway, Tanyard Hill, and Forge Lane. The Speed Watch team would welcome any new volunteers - there's no obligation to do any fixed times, it's just whenever somebody has an hour or so free. If you're interested, please contact shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk.

HGV Parking on the A2

The Council has written to Highways England expressing its concern regarding the increasing numbers of HGVs now parking on either side of the A2 between Shorne and Gravesend East. Up to 75 lorries have been witnessed on occasions, with up to 25 vehicles obstructing the footpath on the southern side, and over 30 vehicles parked on the hard shoulder on either side of the highway. This is not only illegal, but the Council considers that this presents a serious risk to other road users. The Police have also been made aware, but it appears that both the Police and Highways England are prepared to tolerate the situation.

Volunteer Litter Patrol, Saturday 10th October

Following the successful voluntary clean up on National Clear Up Day on 21st March, the Parish Council has purchased a number of litter-picking 'wands' to aid future clean ups. The next litter picking patrol is scheduled for **Saturday 10th October**. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, or would like further information, please contact Bob Lane on 01474 822680, or email shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk.

Facebook

Shorne Parish Council now has its own Facebook Page on:-

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shorne-Parish-Council/940269369347567>

Please visit our page, and 'Like', 'Share' and 'Follow' us on Facebook, so we can keep you up to date with what's happening. Please feel free to post on to the page, so the Council is aware of the key topics which interest or concern our parishioners!

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council