



Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

February 2017

Telephone Line Problems

A significant number of properties in Shorne lost their telephone connections sometime between the evening of 12th January and the morning of 13th January, which coincided with the first significant snowfall of the winter. The majority of the properties affected were spread over a wide area from The Warren as far as Bowesden Lane and Park Pale.

Information provided by BT Openreach and other service providers was vague and conflicting, and the Parish Council escalated the matter within Openreach and with Ofcom, to complement efforts made by parishioners.

It is understood that the defective cable could not be readily replaced due to a blocked underground duct in Crown Lane, which required excavating over a distance of 100 metres to enable it to be replaced. Services were finally restored on Saturday 21st January.

Telephone Kiosk at Post Office Green

The Parish Council has objected to BT's proposal to remove the public telephone box at Post Office Green in The Street, citing the reasons why it should be retained. At the same time, the Parish Council has pointed out that the consultation process was not carried out correctly, since the Parish Council was not notified or consulted on the proposal. It was only fortuitous that the Parish Council became aware of the proposal, by which time 4 weeks of the 6 week consultation period had elapsed.

The Parish Council considers that the telephone kiosk is an integral part of the fabric of the village, and that the public telephone itself provides an essential service. However, in the event that the proposal to remove the public telephone goes ahead, the Parish Council will seek to adopt the kiosk for other purposes.

Speed Watch

Residents may be aware that there is a small team of community volunteers who carry out Speed Watch activities on their own initiative, using equipment owned by the Parish Council. The objective is to monitor and discourage vehicles speeding through the village, and focuses primarily on known 'hot-spots' for excessive speed.

Speed Watch volunteers are required to undertake an on-line theoretical training session, which takes around an hour, followed by an on-line multi-choice test. After passing the theory test, arrangements are made for volunteers to attend a practical training session run by the Police, before joining the team at the roadside.

The Speed Watch team would welcome 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 email your name and contact details to shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk.

Shorne Volunteers Litter Patrol

The next Litter Patrol will take place on **Saturday 4th March**, to coincide with the national GB Spring Clean. Working in small teams, our litter patrols last about 2 hours and are not hard work - in fact most volunteers find them quite enjoyable. Litter pickers, black bags, and hi-viz waistcoats are provided, but you are expected to bring your own gloves.

As usual, we will meet up at the Village Hall car park at 09.45 to sort out the teams and equipment, ready for a 10 o'clock start. If you would like to join us, or would like further information, please contact shorne.volunteers@gmx.co.uk or give Bob a call on 01474 822680.

Lower Thames Crossing

At the time of writing, the Government has not yet announced its chosen option for the Lower Thames Crossing, despite expectations that we would have informed by now. If nothing else, it suggests that the Government is at least taking time to consider the options in some detail.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation, and will keep the Parish Council website and Facebook page up to date with any developments. The website can be found at <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk>, and you can visit and leave comments on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil.

Parish Council Meetings in December and January

The Parish Council Meeting planned for Thursday 12th January had to be cancelled at short notice due to hazardous driving conditions in the snow. Meetings planned for February are as follows.

Thursday 2nd February - Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee

Thursday 16th February - Parish Council Meeting.

The meetings will start at 7.45pm in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council