

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

September 2017

Lower Thames Crossing Drop-In Session

Around 50 people attended Highways England's drop-in session at Shorne Village Hall on 25th July. Disappointingly, the maps of the proposed Western Southern Link on display were no different to those shown at the consultation publicity events in February 2016. They still showed the tunnel portals just south of Lower Higham Road in Chalk, the A226 junction and diversion junction, and the restricted junction on the A2. We had hoped to see evidence that the mitigation measures requested by the Parish Council and others were being taken into account in the development of the design, but Highways England representatives were unable to show us any progress on the design.

However, it was an opportunity for Highways England to hear at first hand the concerns expressed by residents most directly impacted by the proposals, and they undertook to report the concerns back to the design team.

It is understood that contractors for Highways England are due to start drilling boreholes to check ground conditions, initially at the Metropolitan Police Firing Range before moving to other areas. There will be a physical presence, with a drilling rig and support structures, but it is not the start of construction.

Police pounce in Park Pale

Residents in The Ridgeway and Bowesden Lane areas will be familiar with disturbances from motorists and motorcyclists using Park Pale for racing and other stunts.

On the evening of Wednesday 12th July, Police conducted an operation and stopped a group of bikers at the bottom of Park Pale. Police issued Traffic Offence Reports to seven bikers for breaching the vehicle prohibition in Park Pale, which should result in £50 fixed penalty notices unless any contest them and opt to be heard in court. The getaway footpath was blocked with a patrol car and one bike was caught trying to make off. He was also reported for driving on a footpath.

Hopefully the message will get through that the breach of the traffic prohibition will not be tolerated, and will help deter some of them from congregating there in future.

Parish Council Drop-In Session, Saturday 14th October

The Parish Council is arranging a drop-in session at Shorne Village Hall between 10.00 and 12 noon on Saturday 14th October. This will be an opportunity for parishioners to meet parish councillors and discuss any issues that they wish to raise.

CCTV

Earlier this year, the Parish Council reported that it was considering the installation of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the village. This followed a number of incidents over recent months. The Parish Council invited comments from parishioners, and six parishioners submitted comments, four broadly in favour and two expressed concerns.

At the Parish Council Meeting on the 6th July, it was decided to proceed with the proposal, and the CCTV system was installed and commissioned in August. Prior to proceeding with the installation, it was necessary to carry out a privacy impact assessment and to produce policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and other legislation, and to register the system with the Information Commissioner's Office. Comments received from parishioners were taken into account in the design of the system and the production of the procedures, and we are grateful for this input. A copy of the policy is published on the website, and further information can be obtained by writing to the Parish Council.

Parishioners can rest assured that the CCTV system in is purely intended to deter and reduce crime and anti-social activity in order to provide a safe and secure environment for members of the public, and to prevent loss or damage to property. The CCTV images may also be used to identify vehicles in breach of traffic control orders, such as width restrictions. It is not intended to actively monitor individual members of the public going about their normal lawful activities, and other than for routine testing purposes, CCTV recordings will not be monitored unless an incident occurs.

Volunteers' Litter Patrol, Saturday 21st October

The next volunteers' Litter Patrol is scheduled to take place between 10.00 and 12 noon on Saturday 21st October. As usual, we will meet at the Village Hall car park at 09.45 for a safety briefing, allocation of teams and patrol areas, and the issue of litter pickers, hi-viz waistcoats and rubbish sacks. If you would like to join us, please contact Bob Lane on 01474 822680 or by email at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk.

Parish Council Meetings in September

Thursday 7th September - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee
Thursday 21st September - Parish Council Meeting

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council