

Shorne Parish Council

————— Borough of Gravesham —————



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

March 2018

Litter Patrol, Saturday 3rd March

There is still time to join the Shorne Volunteers' Litter Patrol, which will take place on Saturday morning, 3rd March, to coincide with the national spring clean-up weekend.

As usual, we will focus on the main through roads in Shorne, paying particular attention to the roads with soft verges which seem to attract more than their fair share of discarded cans, bottles, and other litter. Volunteers will also be tackling fly tipping in Shorne Ifield Road.

This time, we also hope to tackle Shorne Common Rough, which is heavily contaminated with litter. This is quite hilly and slippery, with a variety of trip hazards, so extra care and agility will be needed. Let us know if you are interested in tackling this area.

We will meet at Shorne Village Hall Car Park at 09.45am, to issue equipment and a safety briefing, in readiness for a 10.00am start. We expect to finish by midday or so. Litter pickers, hi-viz vests, and rubbish sacks will be provided, but please bring your own gloves!

If you would like to join us, it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance so that we have an idea of numbers to expect, and can provisionally organise the teams and areas in readiness. Please email Bob Lane at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk or give him a call on 01474 822680.

In the event that the litter patrol has to be cancelled due to adverse weather, we will postpone until the following Saturday, 10th March.

Parish Council Drop-in Session, Saturday 17th March.

The Parish Council will be holding our next drop-in session on Saturday morning 17th March, in the small hall at Shorne Village Hall. This is an opportunity for parishioners to meet your local parish councillors, ask questions, discuss local concerns, and to let us know about any issues you wish to raise.

Tea, coffee, and light refreshments will be available.

Please feel free to drop-in any time between 10.00am and 12 noon.

We look forward to seeing you.

A Reminder to Check Your Trees and Hedges

With the coming of March, the days are beginning to get longer, and we can start to look forward to seeing spring growth and (hopefully) warmer weather. This is an opportune time

to check and cut back any garden hedges, trees, or other vegetation that overhangs or otherwise obstructs roads, pavements, or footpaths.

It is worth noting that property owners are legally obliged to ensure that their garden vegetation is kept trimmed so that it does not obstruct the passage of pedestrians or vehicles, or interfere with the view of drivers of vehicles.

We do receive complaints about garden vegetation obstructing pathways and sightlines from time to time. In these circumstances, we have the right to report this to Kent County Council, who have the power to serve a legal notice requiring the owner to cut back the offending vegetation within 14 days. KCC's interpretation is very strict, requiring that the full width of any adjacent footpath is available for use by pedestrians, that there is a minimum of 2.4 metres (8ft) clearance above any footpaths, and that there is a minimum of 5.2 metres (17ft) clearance above any roadways where trees overhang.

However, in most cases we write a polite note to the property occupier in the first instance, asking them to trim back their vegetation so that we do not have to report it to KCC.

We don't want to have to write to you, so if your property has hedges, bushes, or trees adjacent to a footpath, pavement, or roadway, please ensure that they are kept trimmed back so that they do not cause any obstruction.

Parish Council Meetings in March

Thursday 8th March - Planning & Highways Committee

Thursday 22nd March - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

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

There will also be the drop-in session for parishioners from 10.00 to 12.00 on Saturday, 17th March.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council