

Shorne Parish Council

————— Borough of Gravesham —————



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

May 2018

Gravesham Local Plan Strategy Consultation – Have Your Say

As part of the development of the Local Plan, Gravesham Borough Council is planning to carry out a public consultation on their Site Allocations and Development Policy. This will include their latest assessment of the volume of new housing required during the period 2011 to 2028, and their settlement strategy to determine where these new dwellings should be built.

The key issue is the increase in the volume of housing required. The current core strategy was based on a requirement for 6,170 additional dwellings between 2011 and 2028. However, the latest assessment has a headline figure of 7,905 dwellings, an increase of 28% over the same period.

The documents state that the reason for this is that the population of Gravesham has grown by 11,000 since 2001. This is largely driven by natural change resulting from births exceeding deaths by 6,160, plus 6,900 from nett inward international migration, less 2,600 from nett domestic migration to other parts of the UK. Projecting these trends forward produces a growing population, and hence a larger requirement for new homes.

In terms of where the additional dwellings will be built, the first place of search is the Gravesend and Northfleet urban area and the villages inset from the Green Belt, namely Shorne, Higham, Cobham, Hook Green Meopham, Meopham Green, Culverstone Green, and Vigo.

However, given the latest increased housing requirement assessment, the Borough Council considers that around 2,000 dwellings will not be able to be accommodated in the urban area or inset villages, and that it will be necessary to look at development opportunities elsewhere, which means looking at land in the Green Belt. The consultation will be seeking views on a number of options, including expanding villages, merging villages to create larger settlements, or creating a new self-contained settlement which could contain 5,000 to 7,000 new homes.

The consultation is expected to run from **25th April** until **20th June 2018**, and a simplified consultation booklet will be sent to all households in Gravesham.

The Street Resurfacing

We would like to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation during the resurfacing work in The Street, which was finally carried out by KCC over the weekend of 7th / 8th April. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation to those parishioners who had to move their vehicles, or who had access to their homes, businesses, or social activities disrupted during these essential works.

Litter Patrols

Following the successful Litter Patrol in March, a small team of volunteers tackled the A2 slip roads at Brewers Road on Sunday 8th April, collecting another 25 sacks of litter. Although maintenance of the slip roads is officially Highways England's responsibility, Gravesham Borough Council kindly collected and removed the bags the following morning.

In addition to this, our newly-appointed councillor Lisa McCluskey is organising a fly-tipping clearance operation and volunteers' litter patrol in Claylane Woods and other parts of Shorne West on 28th and 29th April.

Our next 'official' litter patrol will be in late September or early October, so if you want to get involved, please contact Bob at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk.

Annual Parish Assembly, 7.30 pm on Thursday 17th May.

Under the Local Government Act 1972, Parish Councils are required to hold an Annual Parish meeting, which must take place after 6pm between 1st March and the 1st June inclusive. This year's Annual Parish Assembly will take place in the small hall at Shorne Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th May.

All parishioners from Shorne are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity for you to hear reports from Parish, Borough, and County Councillors on issues, achievements and activities over the past year, and an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions, make suggestions, and comment on matters affecting Shorne. We will also hear reports from other organisations and societies from Shorne.

Parish Council Meetings in May

In addition to the Parish Assembly on 17th May, the following meetings will take place in May.

- Thursday 3rd May - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee
- Thursday 31st May - Parish Council Annual General Meeting

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council