

Shorne Parish Council

————— Borough of Gravesham —————



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

June 2018

Gravesham Local Plan Review – Have Your Say!

Gravesham Borough Council is currently carrying out a public consultation on the Local Plan Review. This includes the latest assessment of the volume of new housing required during the period 2011 to 2028, and the Borough Council's settlement strategy to determine where these new dwellings should be built.

The key issue is the increase in the number of dwellings 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 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 increased housing 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 seeks your 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.

A simplified consultation booklet and questionnaire has been sent to all households in Gravesham, but unfortunately the printed questionnaire contains some errors. Full details of the consultation plus an online questionnaire can be found at www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/local-plan-review/overview. The consultation closes at 5pm on Wednesday 20th June 2018.

Fence at Burdett Avenue

The Parish Council is aware that a resident has erected a 6 foot close-boarded fence across the end of Burdett Avenue, blocking off access between Burdett Avenue and Footpath NS156, and has also erected fences on adjacent fields. Discussions have taken place with KCC

Highways and KCC Public Rights of Way, and we are advised that Kent County Council will be taking enforcement action to have the fence across the roadway removed. Gravesham Planning Enforcement are also investigating possible planning infringements, and we understand that the Landowners of the two affected fields are considering appropriate action.

Litter Patrols

Lisa McCluskey, one of our Parish Councillor in Shorne West, organised a very successful fly tipping clearance operation and litter pick in Claylane Woods and the pathway leading up to Michael Gardens play area during the weekend of 28/29 April, collecting 41 sacks of rubbish.

The next Litter Patrol in Shorne village is provisionally scheduled for Saturday 22 September.

Speedwatch Volunteers Wanted in Shorne!

Speedwatch is a national initiative where members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection equipment. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating the drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is recorded, enforcement and prosecution may follow.

The aims of Speedwatch are to:

- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities

Shorne's team of volunteers has dwindled to the absolute minimum needed to remain viable, and in order to safeguard the future of Shorne Speedwatch, we need more volunteers. If you could spare an hour every so often, then why not volunteer? It's not difficult – volunteers receive appropriate training, and Speedwatch sessions are arranged to suit your availability.

If you are interested, please contact Shorne Parish Council at shorne.parish@yahoo.co.uk or call us on 01474 320824, and our local co-ordinator will advise you.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Thursday 31 st May	-	Parish Council Annual General Meeting
Thursday 14 th June	-	Planning & Highways Committee
Thursday 28 th June	-	Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council