

# Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



## THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

July 2018

### Gravesham Local Plan Review – Final Chance to Have Your Say!

The closing date for Gravesham Borough Council's public consultation on the Local Plan Review has been extended to 5pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

One of the key issues is the latest assessment of the volume of new housing required during the period 2011 to 2028, which has been increased from 6,170 to 8,000 new dwellings. The Borough Council considers that there is insufficient space to accommodate 2,000 of these additional dwellings in the existing urban area and villages, and that it will be necessary to look at other means of accommodating these properties, including building on land that is currently designated as Green Belt. The consultation seeks your views on a number of options, including settlement intensification, 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.

Full details of the consultation plus an online questionnaire can be found at <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/local-plan-review/overview>.

### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The much-publicised General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) took effect on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Regulation governs the protection, use, sharing, and disclosure of personal data. As a public authority, the Parish Council has access to names and addresses on the electoral roll, and also holds other contact details from parishioners who have contacted the Parish Council, or who have otherwise taken part or expressed an interest in voluntary activities, leaflet deliveries, etc. The Parish Council has decided to take a light touch on GDPR, since we do not share sensitive personal data or use it for purposes other than communication purposes. Our Data Privacy Notice is published on our website at <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/data-privacy-notice>.

### Conservation Area Article 4 Surveys, Summer 2018

During the coming months, Gravesham Borough Council) will be carrying out surveys of properties within the rural conservation areas in order to update the Article 4 Directions. This includes Thong, Shorne, Chestnut Green, and Queens Farm conservation areas.

The surveys will entail noting existing external elements; windows, doors and roofing materials etc. and taking external photographs of building elevations visible from the public highway, public footpath or open public space. The surveys will be carried out by an officer

from Gravesham Borough Council who will carry appropriate ID and will take place during our normal office hours Monday to Friday 9am – 5.30pm.

For further information, go online to: <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/heritage-and-conservation/article-4-directions>

## **Bonfires**

At this time of year, the Parish Council is sometimes asked to clarify the situation regarding bonfires. Contrary to popular belief, it is not an offence to have a bonfire in residential areas, and there are no time restrictions. However, bonfires create air pollution and often cause distress to neighbours, and there are laws against the nuisance they can cause.

Residents should therefore think very carefully before having a bonfire, and liaise with your neighbours to ensure that they have no objections before proceeding. The Parish Council strongly recommends that bonfires are avoided wherever possible, and that full use is made of the local waste recycling centres.

Complaints about frequent bonfires should be reported to Gravesham Borough Council on 01474 337334 or by email to [environmentalprotection.admin@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalprotection.admin@gravesham.gov.uk). The Borough Council has the power to serve an abatement notice on the offending party. If they continue to have bonfires, they are committing an offence for which they can be prosecuted and fined. If a bonfire is out of control or in a dangerous location, it should be reported to the Fire Service immediately on 999.

## **Park Pale Disturbances**

The perennial problem of motorbikers using Park Pale as a race track has made an unwelcome return to coincide with the warmer weather and lighter evenings, and there have been a number of complaints about the disturbance they create. The Parish Council has been in contact with the Police, who have attended to warn and disperse the offenders. Parishioners are encouraged to report any disturbances to the Police by telephoning 101 or using their online reporting facility at <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online>.

## **Parish Council Appointments**

At the Annual General Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, Bob Lane was elected to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council. Susan Lindley continues in her role as Chair of Planning & Highways, and Lisa McCluskey was elected as Chair of Footpaths, Properties & Greens. Our Borough Councillor Robin Theobald takes over as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

## **Parish Council Meetings in July**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July - Parish Council Meeting  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July - Planning & Highways Committee

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

There are no meetings scheduled in August.

Bob Lane  
Shorne Parish Council