

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

October 2018

Drop-In Session, Saturday 13 October

The next Parish Council drop-in session will be held between 10am and midday on Saturday 13th October in the Small Hall at the Village Hall. This is your opportunity to call in to discuss any local issues or concerns, or just to say hello to your local parish councillors. Hot drinks and muffins will be available!

Lower Thames Crossing

The statutory consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing is scheduled for this autumn, and it is likely that the consultation will begin sometime in October and run for ten weeks. This will be our opportunity to see the changes to the design, including which areas of land they have set aside for utility diversions, construction, operation, and environmental mitigation of the link.

The Parish Council and other parties have been pushing hard to have any lingering threat of the A226 junction removed, the tunnel extended to the south of the A226, and measures to mitigate the impact on Thong and Shorne West, including cuttings and tunnels either side of Thong Lane. Despite promises and official engagement meetings, the Parish Council is disappointed with the lack of openness and information that has been forthcoming from Highways England. We are aware that revised layout plans have been produced, but these have not been shared with us. This will be our opportunity to see whether our voices have been listened to.

We are still concerned with the design of the junction with the A2, and the creation of potential rat-runs through Thong and The Ridgeway, as well as other aspects of the link. There is also the strong possibility of further widening of the A2, and we await to see the impact of this on the countryside and on local access to and from the A2.

Highways England say: "We have continued to work on the design of the project to ensure we take the best possible design to consultation. The consultation will provide a wide range of information including visual materials to help people understand our proposals, including maps, photography and a fly-through of the project. There will be a number of events to provide people with sufficient time and information to understand and respond to our proposals."

It is expected that one of the information events will be held at Shorne Village Hall, and the Parish Council will publish details on its website and facebook page as soon as this becomes available, and consider whether to hold a public meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend at least one of the information events and to respond to the consultation.

Consultation to Charge for Disposal of Non-Household Waste

Kent County Council is carrying out a consultation on a proposal to charge householders to dispose of non-household waste such as soil, rubble, hardcore and plasterboard at the Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC). The anticipated costs would be:

Soil, rubble and hardcore	-	£4 per bag
Plasterboard	-	£6 per bag

The consultation runs until 1st November, and you can complete the online questionnaire at www.kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation.

Rural Housing Needs Survey

Residents still have time to respond to the Rural Housing Needs Survey which was delivered to all households in Shorne during September. The return date is Wednesday 3rd October 2018.

Fence in Burdett Avenue

We are pleased to report that the fence that a resident erected across the end of Burdett Avenue was finally removed during the week beginning 10th September, thereby reopening access between Burdett Avenue and footpath NS156. KCC Landscape Team is to review the condition of the verge at the end of the roadway and of a tree which has been damaged, to decide what remedial action is still needed. Discussions are also on-going about restoring the field boundary fence, which disappeared a long time ago, to include some kind of public entrance. The Parish Council is also taking action to try to get the pedestrian access between Burdett Avenue and footpath NS156 officially recognised.

Litter Patrols

Readers may have noticed the mistake in last month's magazine article, which said the litter pick would be on 29th September. I hope no-one turns up on the day, because the litter patrol was actually scheduled for 22nd September! We will report on how we got on in next month's magazine.

Lisa McCluskey is arranging another Litter Patrol in Shorne West on Sunday 14th October, meeting at 09.30am at the entrance to Michael Gardens play area.

Parish Council Meetings in October

Thursday 4 th October	-	Planning & Highways Committee
Thursday 25 th October	-	Finance & Budget Meeting

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council