

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

December 2018

Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Ends on 20th December 2018

The statutory consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing is currently in progress. The main changes to the route south of the river include the following:

The tunnel portal is now planned to emerge just to the south of the A226, and the 3-lane dual carriageway link road will be in deep cutting for much of the route. The A2/M2 will be widened to 12 lanes in total between the new A2 junction and junction 1 of the M2, with the addition of a 'local' A2 carriageway on either side of the main route. Brewers Road and Thong Lane flyovers will need to be replaced to accommodate the widened A2/M2 corridor.

Residents from Shorne will no longer have direct access to the A2 London-bound, and will instead need to use a new 2-way link road to be constructed between Halfpence Lane roundabout and Henhurst Road. Traffic from Gravesend East wishing to travel east on the A2 and M2 will need to use this same link road to access the A2 at Brewers Road. Although detailed traffic forecasts have not been published, Highways England's traffic flow maps show increases in traffic volumes in Pear Tree Lane, The Ridgeway, Brewers Road, and Thong Lane during peak periods.

The Information Events held at Cascades on 1st November and at Shorne Village Hall on 3rd November were well attended. For those who missed them, there will be another chance to visit one at Rochester Corn Exchange, between 2pm and 9pm on Wednesday 5th December.

In addition, Highways England's mobile exhibition vehicle will be calling at the following locations:

- Shorne Village Hall car park, between midday and 8pm on Monday, 26th November;
- Chalk Parish Hall car park, between 10am and 8pm on Wednesday, 28th November;
- Cascades Leisure Centre car park, between 11am and 7pm on Thursday, 6th December.

We should not underestimate the scale of disturbance that will be caused by this massive infrastructure project during its 7-year construction period. Nor should we be in any doubt that this will permanently change our environment, and impact on everybody's life in Shorne and the surrounding area.

Residents are therefore advised to familiarise themselves with the consultation material, including the maps, to get an understanding of the route and the potential impact before responding to the consultation. You can find information regarding this and a consultation form online at: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation/>. All residents are urged to respond to the consultation which closes on Thursday, 20th December.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

In conjunction with the Village Hall Management Committee, the Parish Council has decided to install an automated external defibrillator outside the village hall. This will ensure that it is readily available to users of the village hall, and also accessible to members of the public at times when the village hall is closed.

Gravesham Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 Consultation Survey

Gravesham Borough Council is consulting on its next Corporate Plan for the 2019-23 period, to help them prioritise their services to meet community need and expectation. Whether it is cleaning the streets or affordable housing, community safety or a thriving town centre, what are the most important services in your opinion? You can access the survey at:

<https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/corporate-plan-2019-23/overview>

All responses need to be submitted by 24 January 2019.

Parish Council Meetings in December

Thursday 6th December - Parish Council (short closing meeting)

Parish Council Meetings in January

Thursday 10th January - Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 24th January - Planning & Highways Committee

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

Since this is the last issue of the parish magazine until February 2019, we have published our meetings scheduled for January above. In the meantime, parishioners are invited to log on to our website at <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk> and to follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil to keep up to date with any important news and events affecting our parish. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish all our parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council