

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

February 2019

Increases in the Parish Precept

Gravesham Borough Council has informed the Parish Council that the parish precept will need to be increased by approximately 1.89% for the year 2019/20, irrespective of any increases requested by the Parish Council. This is due to changes in the tax base, resulting from an increase in the number of residents in receipt of Council Tax Relief, and a shortfall in the increased number of new dwellings in the parish in comparison to GBC's forecast. This 1.89% increase will be in addition to the 2.65% increase requested by the Parish Council. It is expected that full details of this year's precept will be included in the Parish Council Matters article published in the April edition of the magazine.

In addition, GBC has informed the Parish Council that they will be passing through the costs associated with the forthcoming Parish Council elections on 2nd May 2019. In the past, GBC has absorbed these costs within the costs of the Borough Council elections which take place at the same time, but they have informed us that they will no longer do so. GBC is unable to tell us precise costs at this time, as costs will vary depending on, for example, whether the election is contested or not. However if all seats are contested, GBC advise us that an election could potentially cost a parish between £2,000 and £7,000, depending on its size and factors such as whether it is warded or not.

As we had not been forewarned of the pass-through of these additional costs, this has not been factored into the 2019/20 budget or precept. However, the actual costs imposed by GBC will need to be included in the budget and precept for 2020/21.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

The new automated external defibrillator has been installed outside the village hall, and was brought into service in December. The AED is simple to use, with clear audio and visual instructions. It is accessible 24 hours a day via a code which is provided by the 999 operator in an emergency.

The AED was jointly funded by Shorne Parish Council and the Village Hall and its regular patrons, supported by a generous Member's Grant from KCC, sponsored by our local Kent County Councillor Bryan Sweetland.

Lower Thames Crossing

The statutory consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing ended on 20th December 2018. The Parish Council submitted a comprehensive response, prepared by Cllr Susan Lindley and

endorsed by all parish councillors. This can be viewed on the Parish Council's website at: <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/statutory-consultation-response/>

A total of 26,000 responses were submitted to the consultation. The next stage of the project's development will be for Highways England to work through the consultation responses and use them to produce an updated design which will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for planning consent. The application and examination process will offer a further opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Crabbles Bottom

Crabbles Bottom is the name given to 27 acres of meadows, woodland, and ancient orchards owned by the Parish Council. This is a pleasant, easily walkable amenity for the parish, which can be readily accessed on foot from the bottom of Bowesden Lane, and by motorists from the layby in Crutches Lane. Signposts have now been installed in Bowesden Lane and off Crutches Lane, marking out the entrances to the footpaths through Crabbles Bottom and the bridleway along the boundary.

At the same time, a new signpost has been installed at Shorne Common Rough at the junction of Woodlands Lane and Brewers Road, to replace the old one which had decayed, fallen over and broken.

Litter Patrol

The next Litter Patrol in Shorne is provisionally scheduled for Saturday morning, 16th March, weather permitting. It is likely that the Shorne West Litter Patrol will take place the following weekend.

Parish Council Meetings in February

Thursday 7 th February	-	Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee
Thursday 21 st February	-	Parish Council Meeting

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council