

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

November 2019

Lower Thames Crossing

Highways England will shortly be undertaking Ground Penetrating Radar surveys (GPR) along the route of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. The works themselves are not noisy or intrusive, although some of the surveys will require traffic management plans. South of the river, the GPR will be carried out as follows:

Phase 1: 28th October to 15th November 2019:

Lower Higham Road: Mobile GPR survey van escorted by a traffic management vehicle. Some temporary road signage. Maximum one day or one night.

Brewers Road: Mobile GPR survey van escorted by a traffic management vehicle. Some temporary road signage. Maximum one day or one night.

Phase 2: 11th November to 20th December 2019:

A226/Gravesend Road: Mobile GPR survey van and lane closures. Temporary traffic lights or stop/go boards will be used. Night time only.

Thong Lane: GPR equipment trolley pushed on foot. Traffic escorted. Night time only.

A2/M2: Approximately five or six traffic management vehicles will be deployed at intervals, diverting traffic across lanes safely, while the mobile GPR van carries out the survey. Night time only.

There is a section about GPR surveys, including a map and frequently asked questions, on their website at <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/ground-penetration-radar-lower-thames-crossing/>

Shorne Litter Patrols

A total of 29 volunteers turned out for the Shorne Volunteers' Litter Patrol on Saturday 28th September, collecting over 40 bags of litter. As usual, residents in Shorne Ifield Road cleared up fly tipped rubbish for collection by Gravesham Council, and other volunteers who couldn't make it on the Saturday did their bit in the days leading up to or after the 28th. On Saturday 12th October, Shorne Scouts group, led by Chris Zgoda and supported by Lisa Hofford, Suzanne Patrick and others, cleared a huge amount of litter and rubbish from Shornemead Fort. And to round things off, Lisa McCluskey led a team of volunteers from Shorne West to clear up litter from Michael Gardens to Claylane Woods.

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part!

Pop Up Café, Monday 4th November

We are pleased to hear that the landlord of the Rose & Crown has kindly offered to accommodate Rural Kent's Pop-up cafés and information hub events inside the premises through the winter months. The next event will take place from 10.30am and midday on Monday 4th November. All residents of Shorne are welcome to drop by, to have a chat with fellow residents, pick up information, or just enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake.

Finance and Budget

On 24th October, Shorne Parish Council met to review the forecast expenditure for this financial year, and to prepare the budget for 2020/21. Expenditure for this year is up on previous years, partly due to payments associated with the changeover of Clerks this year, election charges, and also the decision to invest in a Speed Indicator Device. However, underlying expenditure is broadly in line with expectations.

Over the past few years, Shorne Parish Council's expenditure and precept has slipped behind other parish councils in Gravesham. At the same time, there is a tendency for the Borough and County Councils to charge the parish councils for costs that they have previously been able to absorb. It was therefore decided to apply for an above-inflation increase to the precept for 2020/21, to enable the parish council to cover these increased and additional costs whilst continuing to invest in modest capital expenditure in the parish, and to make prudent provisions for ongoing maintenance and replacements of existing assets.

As an example of unexpected costs, on 25th October, the day after the 2020/21 budget was set, KCC informed us that there will be a £995 charge for website hosting in 2020/21, a service that has previously been provided at no cost to the parish.

Keep Safe on Dark Nights

Now that British Summer Time has officially ended and the clocks have gone back, residents are reminded to take a torch with them if they venture out late in the day, and where possible to wear something bright. Drivers are requested to take extra care when driving at night through streets and lanes without pavements, and to be aware that pedestrians may be walking in the roadway.

Parish Council Meetings in November

- Thursday 7th November - Planning & Highways Committee
- Thursday 21st November - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

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

Bob Lane
Chairman
Shorne Parish Council