

Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

March 2020

Council Tax and Parish Precepts

At the Borough Council Meeting on 25th February 2020, Gravesham Borough Council met to approve the parish precepts for 2020/21. The annual property precept charges are as follows.

Parish	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cobham	£20.74	£24.20	£27.65	£31.11	£38.02	£44.94	£51.85	£62.22
Higham	£38.70	£45.15	£51.60	£58.05	£70.95	£83.85	£96.75	£116.10
Luddesdown	£41.71	£48.67	£55.62	£62.57	£76.47	£90.38	£104.28	£125.14
Meopham	£23.20	£27.07	£30.93	£34.80	£42.32	£50.27	£58.00	£69.60
Shorne	£21.99	£25.66	£29.32	£32.99	£40.32	£47.65	£54.98	£65.98
Vigo	£100.20	£116.90	£133.60	£150.30	£183.70	£217.10	£250.50	£300.60

As reported in the November 2019 issue of Parish Matters, and published in the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th December 2019, this represents a significant increase for Shorne. This is because Shorne had fallen behind other parishes, and was necessary to enable us to meet additional costs, and to continue to be able provide capital investments and prudent provisions for ongoing maintenance and replacement of assets. Nevertheless, Shorne precept continues to be amongst the lowest in Gravesham, and this year's precept increase for Band D properties equates to just 16 pence a week.

In addition to the parish precepts above, the following Council Taxes are expected to apply to all properties in Gravesham:

Council Tax	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Gravesham	£138.72	£161.84	£184.96	£208.08	£254.32	£300.56	£346.80	£416.16
KCC	£900.84	£1,050.98	£1,201.12	£1,351.26	£1,651.54	£1,951.82	£2,252.10	£2,702.52
Police	£135.43	£158.01	£180.58	£203.15	£248.29	£293.44	£338.58	£406.30
Fire & Rescue	£52.86	£61.67	£70.48	£79.29	£96.91	£114.53	£132.15	£158.58
Total	£1,227.85	£1,432.50	£1,637.14	£1,841.78	£2,251.06	£2,660.35	£3,069.63	£3,683.56

The total increase for Shorne, including the parish precept, Gravesham and Kent County Council taxes, Police & Crime Commissioner, and Fire & Rescue, amounts to just under 4.3%.

Lower Thames Crossing Consultation

Highways England is currently conducting a supplementary consultation on their latest proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing. We have produced a brief overview of this, which can be found separately in this month's magazine.

Mobile Phone Masts

The local consultation on the request to enter into negotiations with Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited to provide land for a mobile telecommunications mast at Shorne Common concluded on Friday 28th February. The Parish Council will now consider the responses before deciding whether to enter into negotiations for an agreement. Our preference is for the equipment to be installed in a less intrusive location. However, if we refuse to enter into negotiations, or fail to reach an agreement, the infrastructure company has the legal right to apply to a court to impose the agreement upon us, as provided for under Schedule 3A of The Electronic Communications Act 2003.

In the event of an agreement with the infrastructure company, whether consensual or imposed by the courts, they will still need to apply for planning consent from Gravesham Borough Council. GBC will then carry out a formal consultation before making a decision on whether to permit the mast.

We have now received a pre-planning application for another mobile telecommunications mast, again on behalf of Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited, this time in Shorne West. This is in addition to the Shorne Common proposal. This is on private land, so we are not required to enter into an agreement. Nevertheless, this is again in an insensitive location, being very close to residential properties, and we have responded accordingly.

Drop In Session 7th March

Shorne Parish Council's next drop in session will take place on Saturday 7th March, between 10.00 am and 12 noon in the Village Hall. Why not drop in to meet your local parish councillors to raise any issues you would like to discuss? Tea, coffee, and refreshments will be available.

Shorne Mead Level Crossing

Representatives of Shorne Parish Council will be meeting representatives of Network Rail and Kent County Council on 13th March to discuss the closure of the level crossing, and to gain a better understanding of how and when they intend to restore the link.

Litter Patrol 28th March

The next litter patrol in Shorne will take place on Saturday 28th March, weather permitting. As usual, we will meet up in Shorne Village Hall car park at 09.45am to collect our litter pickers, bags, and hi-viz vests, ready for a 10 o'clock start. We expect to finish by midday.

If you haven't done this before, why not give it a go? It's not hard work, you meet new people, and it is strangely satisfying! If you would like to join us or would like further information, please contact Bob on 01474 822680 or by email at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk.

Parish Council Meetings in March

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| Thursday 12 th March | - | Planning & Highways Committee |
| Thursday 26 th March | - | Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee |

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council

LOWER THAMES CROSSING CONSULTATION – HAVE YOUR SAY

Highways England is currently conducting a supplementary consultation on their latest proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing. They have made some changes to the location of the tunnel entrance, which has moved a further 350 metres south, and a number of changes to the A2/M2 junction arrangements.

Halfpence Lane exit will be closed off completely for westbound traffic, and a new exit created approximately 1.2km further west. London-bound traffic from Shorne will need to use the new link road to join the A2 at Gravesend East. Traffic will still be able to exit and join the A2 eastbound at Brewers Road, but there will no longer be direct access from Brewers Road to the M2. Access from Shorne to the M2 will be from the A289 via the A2 and A226.

It is planned to install traffic lights at Brewers Road to accommodate the extra volume of traffic wishing to join the A2 eastbound via the link road connection from Gravesend East. However, there will now be direct access from Gravesend East to the M2. During the construction work, Brewers Road overbridge will be subject to a “long-term closure”.

There will be major utility diversions around Thong, and alongside the A2. This is likely to have a considerable impact on woodland alongside the A2 at Shorne, including Shorne Woods Country Park, and could also potentially have a serious impact on Ashenbank Wood. Significant areas of land have been earmarked for environmental compensation at Shorne West, Thong, Shorne Ifield, and between Park Pale and Great Crabbles Wood.

Four buildings will be lost in Thong, including three residential properties. There will be a major electricity substation up to 50 metres square, located on the south side of the A226 somewhere between Chalk Church and Castle Lane.

Further information will be available at the main Public Information Events to be held at Cascades in Thong Lane between 2pm and 8pm on 27th February, and at the Civic Centre between midday and 6pm on 14th March. Mobile Information events will be held at Shorne Country Park between 11am and 4pm on 8th March, and at Shorne Village Hall car park between 10am and 7pm on 18th March.

Residents are strongly encouraged to review the documents and to respond to the consultation, as this is likely to be the final opportunity to influence their plans before they apply for a Development Consent Order later this year. The consultation documents can be found on their website at <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation-2020/>.

The consultation closes on 25th March 2020.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council