

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

April 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

Shorne Parish Council has cancelled all scheduled Parish Council and Committee meetings until further notice, and will conduct its business remotely. With the exception of routine payments or emergency expenditure, notification of any proposals to incur significant or exceptional expenditure will be published on our website four clear days in advance in order to provide an opportunity for comments to be taken into account when making the decisions.

The Annual Parish Assembly scheduled for Thursday 23rd April has been deferred for the present, pending any relaxation to the mandatory requirement to hold the assembly by 1st June.

During this rapidly developing period of uncertainty, residents are strongly advised to follow the precautions published at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and government advice published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

If you are able to, please support those more vulnerable residents who may be housebound or unable to collect their prescriptions or get to the shops.

Lower Thames Crossing Consultation extended until 2nd April

The final four information events, including the mobile information event scheduled for Shorne Village Hall car park on 18th March, were cancelled due to the developing Coronavirus situation. As a result, the consultation period has been extended by 8 days to end at midnight on Thursday 2nd April. Details of the consultation can be found on the dedicated webpage at <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation-2020/>.

Forge Lane Proposed Parking Restrictions Consultation

Having taken advice from KCC Highways Department, we are consulting on a proposal to have double yellow lines on the corners of Forge Lane with Crown Lane, Cob Drive and Malthouse Lane. The aim of the proposal is to reduce inconsiderate parking which regularly obstructs pavements and crossing points, and damages pavement surfaces and kerbs. Further information about the proposal, including an indicative map and consultation response forms, can be found on our website at <https://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/parking-restrictions-consultation/>. If you would like to take part in this consultation, please complete and return the consultation form no later than Friday, 24th April 2020.

Mobile Telecommunications Mast

A meeting was held with Adam Holloway MP and a senior representative from Telefonica O2 in Westminster on 26th February, to discuss their proposal to acquire land for a mobile telecommunications base station at Shorne Common. At the meeting, we were informed that the proposed mast at Shorne Common is currently 'on hold' while discussions take place with another landowner regarding an alternative location. In view of this, the outcome of the local consultation will be held in abeyance. We thank Mr Holloway for arranging the meeting on our behalf.

Shornemead Level Crossing Update

Representatives of Shorne Parish Council met with representatives of Network Rail and KCC's Public Rights of Way team on 13th March to discuss the closure of Shornemead level crossing. The crossing was subject to a 21 day emergency closure last October due to misuse and safety issues, including the publicised incident where a youth on a motorbike narrowly escaped being struck by a train. The emergency closure was extended to a 6-month temporary closure, which was due to expire at the end of April 2020. At the meeting, Network Rail informed us that they propose to install a footbridge at the location. However, it is likely to take up to 18 months to obtain the necessary authorisation, consents, and to secure the £1+ million funding, and to arrange the possessions to construct the bridge. They will be seeking a further 18 months extension to the closure order to accommodate this.

Drop In Session

A number of residents attended our drop in session at the village hall on Saturday 7th March, to discuss various local issues with parish councillors. We would like to thank all those who dropped in, and we will be looking into the issues raised.

Litter Patrol cancelled

The group litter patrol scheduled for Saturday 28th March has had to be cancelled under the current circumstances. This was a disappointment, as 30 volunteers had expressed their intention to take part. Hopefully this will be rescheduled when the situation changes. In the meantime, and subject to the restrictions and guidelines prevailing at the time, if anyone wishes to carry out their own individual litter pick we would be pleased to provide bags and lend litter picking wands and hi-viz vests, and to let you know which areas have already been covered. Please contact Bob on 01474 822680 or by email at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council