

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

September 2020

Extended 30mph Speed Limit in Pear Tree Lane

Following the completion of the consultation earlier this year, Kent County Council has now published an amendment to the speed limit order applicable to Pear Tree Lane, extending the 30 mph speed limit for the full length of Pear Tree Lane to the A226 Gravesend Road. The order takes effect from 24th August, and the speed limit signs will need to be changed. Details of the order can be found at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysconsultations>. This is the result of significant effort and pressure exerted by the Parish Council over a considerable period of time. We continue to press for further speed reduction measures.

Temporary Closure of Green Farm Lane

We are advised that Green Farm Lane will be closed from 7th September 2020 for up to 57 days between Longten's Cottages and Gravesend Road. The right turn from A226 Gravesend Road into Green Farm Lane will also be prohibited during this period, and the cycle lane on A226 Gravesend Road will be suspended eastbound between Keats House and Castlefields. The closure is to enable the 80-year old gas main to be renewed, working in 4 phases from Longten's Cottages south towards the junction with the A226.

The alternative route is Green Farm Lane, Lower Road, Lower Higham Road, Rochester Road, Chalk Road, Gravesend Road and vice versa. Traffic management plans showing the 4 phases can be found on our website at: <https://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/green-farm-lane-temporary-closure/>.

Notices on Land at Swillers Farm and Court Wood

It has been brought to our attention that notices have been erected on private land at Swillers Farm and also a section of Court Wood. In the case of the notices on Swillers Farm, we are aware that these have also been deposited with Kent County Council, and can be viewed at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/111079/13-20-Higham-Cliffe-and-Cliffe-Woods-Shorne-highways-and-landowner-statement.pdf. Similar notices were deposited in 2007. It would appear that these notices are intended to protect the landowner from the establishment of any new public rights of way under Section 31 of the Highways Act 1980. Depositing a map, statement and declaration does not remove any public rights of way that are already recorded legally, or that have already been established through past use by the public. Further information can be found at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/landowner-protection>.

Lower Thames Crossing Design Refinement Consultation

Highways England conducted a further consultation between 14th July and 12th August 2020. Shorne Parish Council's response to the consultation can be found on our website at: <https://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/2020-ltc-design-refinement-consultation-shorne-pc-response-final-20200812/>. It is expected that Highways England will submit its Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate later this year.

Shorne Litter Patrol, Saturday 3rd October

It is intended to organise the next Litter Patrol in Shorne on Saturday 3rd October, weather and COVID-19 restrictions permitting. In order to avoid any unnecessarily large gatherings of volunteers, it may be necessary to stagger starting times and locations. Our litter patrols are not hard work, in fact they are very rewarding. If you would like to join us, please let Bob know at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk or give him a call on 01474 822680.

Community Orchard at Crabbles Bottom – Pick Your Own!

The parish owns 27 acres of land known as Crabbles Bottom, which stretches from the far end of Bowesden Lane through to Crutches Lane. It includes a traditional orchard of Bramley apple trees. Residents are welcome to come down and pick some apples for your own personal enjoyment. Parking is available in the lay-by in Crutches Lane.

Date of Next Meeting by Video Conference

The next combined meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to take place by remote video conferencing on Thursday 10th September 2020. If you wish to attend the meeting, please contact The Clerk at clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org for joining instructions.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

Although restrictions have relaxed a little, the risk has not gone away, and residents are strongly advised to stay up to date and continue to follow the latest precautions published at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and the government advice published at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

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. If you require help, please contact: <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/coronavirus-guidance/help-and-support>. For urgent needs, Kent County Council's helpline is available 24 hours a day for vulnerable people, telephone 03000 41 92 92.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council