

Shorne Parish Council

————— Borough of Gravesham —————



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

April 2021

As we move into Spring and the lighter evenings, and hopefully some relaxation in the COVID-19 restrictions, it is pleasing to be able to report some positive news for a change.

War Memorial Clean Up

The Parish Council has arranged for the war memorial in the churchyard to be steam cleaned, and this was carried out on 24th March. It was intended to have had this done in time to mark the centenary of the memorial last year, but the COVID-19 restrictions put a stop to it.

Supplementary Verge Cutting

The 'urban' grass verges alongside the kerbed main streets through the village are cut by KCC approximately once a month during the growing season. The exceptions to this are those verges where bulbs are planted, primarily Tanyard Hill, Post Office Green, and Chestnut Green, which they do not cut until June when the bulbs have died back. The Parish Council has once again arranged for these verges to receive supplementary cuts at approximately 3 weekly intervals between late March and the middle of June to make sure the village looks neat and tidy.

Spring Litter Patrol

Around 50 residents have volunteered to carry out a litter pick in Shorne on Saturday 27th March, weather permitting, with a number of others doing their bit in the days leading up to the main event or soon after. This will be a great help in making the village look its best for Spring. We will report on our achievements on Facebook and in next month's magazine.

Repainting the Railings in The Street

The Parish Council has arranged for the railings in The Street and at Post Office Green to have some minor repairs carried out and to be repainted dark green. It is anticipated that the work will start on or around 29th April, and should be completed within a few days. This should make the village centre look very smart.

Proposed Play Area Upgrade

We are pleased to be able to report that we have been successful in securing a £15,000 grant from Veolia Environmental Trust, in addition to the £5,000 grant from Kent County Council. The Veolia grant is conditional on payment of £1500, which Shorne Parish Council will need to fund if we are unable to find a Contributing Third Party. This means that we now have around 80% of the funding in place for the basic play equipment, and it is hoped that we will be in a position to place orders for this shortly.

We have also applied to Gravesham Borough Council for a financial contribution, and if this is forthcoming we will be able to make plans for an adventure trail and further improvements to the play area. We would like to thank residents for their support, particularly those who have kindly offered donations and help to maintain the site.

Yellow Lines in Forge Lane

The yellow lines have now been painted at the corners of Crown Lane, Cob Drive, and Malthouse Lane. This is to reduce inconsiderate parking on both sides of the road, particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times, as a safety measure for pedestrians and non-motorised road users, and to help ensure that vehicles can continue to get in and out of the village.

30mph Limit in Pear Tree Lane

We are pleased to report that our persistence has paid off, and the 30mph limit in Pear Tree Lane has been extended all the way to the traffic lights at the A226. Weather permitting, KCC were scheduled to carry out the work on 24th and 25th March.

Unfortunately, KCC will not agree to extending the 30mph limit in The Ridgeway towards Brewers Road, but we are continuing to talk to them regarding new road markings and village 'gateway' features to slow traffic down before it enters the residential area. There will also be some improved signage in Brewers Road to help reduce HGV traffic entering the village.

No Parking Bollards in Brewers Road

In conjunction with Shorne Woods Country Park, the Parish Council will be funding the installation of wooden posts alongside Brewers Road to discourage verge and footway parking outside the Country Park. In addition, we can also expect to see some new signage to discourage parking in Park Pale.

Shorne Parish Council – New Website

Kent County Council will no longer host the Parish Council website free of charge, and it has therefore been necessary to transfer to a new website provider. This means that our old website address (www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk) is no longer available to us and the website will no longer be maintained. For news and information about the Parish Council in future, please log into our new website at www.shorneparishcouncil.org.

Gloria Ashby

On a more sombre note, it is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Gloria Ashby. Gloria was Chair of Shorne Village Hall Management Committee for many years until handing over the baton last year. During this time, she provided a great service to the community, and the Parish Council was grateful for her support. She will be sadly missed.

Parish Council Meetings in April

Thursday 8th April - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 22nd April - Annual Parish Assembly

These meetings will be held by remote video conferencing on Zoom. If you wish to attend either of these meetings, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org for joining instructions. All parishioners are encouraged to attend the Annual Parish Assembly.

National Lockdown: Stay At Home

It is good news that the rate of COVID-19 infections continued to fall throughout March, as did the mortality rate. But although it is expected that there will be some easing of restrictions in April, the virus is still with us and we should continue to respect the rules and social distancing guidelines. Residents are advised to stay up to date and continue to follow the latest precautions published at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council