

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

June 2022

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is almost upon us, and with it the four day bank holiday weekend lasting from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. It seems incredible that The Queen has been our monarch for over 70 years.

Beacon, Thursday 2nd June: There will be a special Jubilee Beacon lighting event on Shorne Common in Mill Hill Lane. The gathering will start at 8pm, and a bar service will be provided by the Rose & Crown. The beacon itself will be lit at dusk which will be at 9.45pm.

Friday 3rd June Celebrations: Unfortunately the charity dinner & dance originally planned will not now take place, but the Rose & Crown will be holding a barbeque and mini beer festival from 1pm, with music from Gold between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Street Party, Saturday 4th June: We will be holding a traditional Street Party in The Street between 12 noon and 2pm on Saturday 4th June, where we will be providing food for children and parishioners. All children at the party will receive goody bags. Commemorative mugs are being provided free to all children attending Shorne School, and other resident children aged 11 years and under who have applied for one. There will be a few more commemorative mugs available to purchase at £5 each and additional orders can be placed. There will also be a range of activities for children inside the Village Hall (50p entry charge), and outside there will be cash payment stalls including cakes, plants, a glass stall, Kent Wildlife Trust, and even a Prosecco bar. And of course No.3 Coffee, the Rose & Crown, and the Village Store will be open for business as usual.

The Street will be closed to through traffic between 11am and 3pm, and additional parking has kindly been provided at the Doctors Surgery in Crown Lane.

The Big Lunch, Sunday 5th June: We invite you to join us for The Big Lunch, a gathering of family picnics adjacent to the children's play area on Shorne Common in Mill Hill Lane. This will run from 11am to 4pm, and everyone is welcome to come along and join in. You can bring your own food and drink, but it is also planned to have a Fish & Chip van on site.

All in all, it looks as though it will be a good Jubilee weekend, and we look forward to seeing you and celebrating The Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Lower Thames Crossing Local Refinement Consultation

The Lower Thames Crossing has embarked on its latest, and hopefully its last consultation before they submit their application for Development Consent Order later this year. Locally, the main changes are the newly-introduced proposals to acquire additional land for "nitrogen deposition" mitigation, including:

- a) Land south of Swillers Lane, east of Warren View, between The Warren, Court Wood, Cole Wood, and Starmore Wood. This is currently farmland;
- b) Land north of Shorne Woods Country Park, between Woodlands Lane, Fenn Wood, and The Scammels. This is currently grazing land;

- c) Land west and east of Crutches Lane, Higham, currently part of Gads Hill Farm;
- d) Land west of Henhurst Road, opposite Jeskyns park, currently farmland.

There is also an extensive area of farmland south of the M2, east of Bluebell Hill. These areas of land are intended to be planted with trees to create wildlife habitats to offset the potentially adverse impacts of nitrogen deposition resulting from increased traffic.

Separately from nitrogen deposition, the remaining part of Southern Valley Golf Course (east of the tunnel entrance) will also be acquired to become an extension of Chalk Park open space. Previously designated mitigation land to the north of Shorne Ifield Road (west of Muggins Lane) has been removed from order limits, and will be replaced by land to the south of Shorne Ifield Road, to link up with Shorne Woods Country Park. This is to avoid disturbance to a mediaeval settlement archaeological site. In addition, the Thong Lane overbridge across the A2 will be widened by a further 10 metres to provide additional screening and to improve wildlife connectivity.

The footpath/cycle path at Hever Court Road at Gravesend East will be re-designated as a bridleway, as will footpath NG8 between NG7/NG9 and the A226 near Chalk Church. NS169 through Michael Gardens park will revert to a footpath/cycle track, and not a bridleway as previously proposed.

The consultation will run until 23.59 on Monday 20th June. An Information drop-in event will be held at Shorne Village Hall between 2pm and 8pm on Friday 10th June, and further information is available online at <https://ltccconsultation2022.nationalhighways.co.uk/>.

Annual Parish Assembly

An audience of 36 people attended this year's Annual Parish Assembly at the Village Hall on 27th April, to hear reports from the Parish Council, and from the clubs and organisations in the parish, before enjoying refreshments and a chance to catch up. This was the first proper Assembly to be held since 2019 before the pandemic interrupted proceedings, so it was very pleasing to have such a good attendance and the opportunity to get together to discuss matters.

Ward Boundary Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission has completed its review of the electoral arrangements for Gravesham Borough Council and published its final recommendations. From May 2023, the number of Councillors will be reduced from 44 to 39, and as a consequence all the ward boundaries will change. This is mainly to ensure electoral equality, so that each person's vote carries the same weight as others. Locally, this means that the current "Shorne, Cobham & Luddesdown" ward, represented by two councillors, will no longer exist. From May 2023, Shorne will join Higham to form a new three-councillor "Higham & Shorne" ward, whilst Cobham & Luddesdown will join Istead Rise to form a new two-councillor "Istead Rise, Cobham & Luddesdown" ward.

This has no impact on the Parish Councils – the parish councils' boundaries will not change, nor will the number of parish councillors.

Parish Council Meetings in June

Thursday 9th June - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee
Thursday 23rd June - Parish Council Meeting

All meetings will commence at 7.30pm in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council