

Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

December 2022

Lower Thames Crossing

On 31st October, National Highways submitted their application for Development Consent Order to proceed with the construction of the Lower Thames Crossing. On 28th November, the Planning Inspectorate announced that the application meets the required standard to be accepted for examination.

The application has been published at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing/>

It is a tremendously large submission, consisting of 556 documents, some of which are very large indeed. Cllr Susan Lindley has been heavily involved in this from day one, and her determination and attention to detail in defending the interests of Shorne and the surrounding area has been outstanding. Just a small example of her input can be found in the 84 page document ref. 5.4.5.4 Statement of Common Ground between National Highways and Shorne Parish Council.

We will now enter the Pre-examination stage of the process, which normally lasts around three months. It is at the pre-examination stage that members of the public are able to register to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. Shorne Parish Council will register as an Interested Party.

The Planning Inspectorate then has up to six months to carry out the Examination. During this stage, those Interested Parties who registered at the pre-examination stage will be invited to provide more details of their views in writing.

Following this, the Planning Inspectorate will have three months in which to prepare a report and recommendation to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State will then have a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent. Once a decision has been issued by the Secretary of State, there is a six week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court.

20 mph Zone Update

A further meeting has been held with KCC Highways to discuss progress with the design of the proposed 20 mph zone. KCC propose to extend the zone to include all or part of Mill Hill Lane, and to extend it further down Forge Lane to just beyond St Katherine's Cottages. The Parish Council supports these extensions. However, it may be necessary to introduce some form of traffic calming feature at the 20 mph threshold in Forge Lane which could require lighting. KCC Highways will look into this and report back to the Parish Council in due course.

Shornemead Level Crossing

The pedestrian crossing has been closed since October 2019, following a highly publicised incident in which a youth on an off-road motorbike narrowly escaped being struck by a train. This was one of a number of near misses resulting from misuse of the pedestrian crossing. We are pleased to report that Network Rail has now been given planning approval to erect a footbridge across the railway adjacent to the crossing. This moves us one step closer to permanently restoring pedestrian and cyclist access from Shorne to Shornemead Fort and the Saxon Shore Way.

Parish Council Meetings in January

There are no meetings planned for December. The meetings scheduled for January are:

Thursday 12th January - Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 26th January - Planning & Highways Committee

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

As this is the last issue of the parish magazine until February 2023, parishioners are invited to visit our website at <https://shorneparishcouncil.org/> and to follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil to keep up to date with any important news and events affecting our parish. On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish all our parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council