

Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

May 2023

Lower Thames Crossing

As most of you will know, the Government has announced that the construction of the Lower Thames Crossing will be put on hold for two years even if it receives permission to go ahead. National Highways are expected to hold yet another “mini consultation” shortly regarding changes to their proposals. We understand that the main changes are north of the river, but they may include changes to the method of boring the tunnels using one machine rather than two. We await to see how this will impact the locality.

Church Clock

After being let down by our previous long-standing contractor, the Parish Council is pleased to have been able to arrange for the church clock to be repaired using a new specialist contractor from Edenbridge. A number of parishioners have expressed their pleasure in hearing the clock chime on the hour once again. The Parish Council will engage the new contractor to carry out annual maintenance visits in future.

Parking and Driving in the Parish

There have been further reports of inconsiderate parking in the parish, especially in the village at school drop-off and collection times, but also in Shorne West close to the former Southern Valley Golf Course. We would respectfully request drivers to park responsibly, do not obstruct traffic or park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction (Highway Code Rule 243), and you must not park on the yellow lines. Parking enforcement officers will issue penalty notices.

When driving through the streets and lanes, please keep a look out for horse riders and slow down, giving them a wide berth. Please be considerate and do not enter the narrow lane outside Hayes Terrace at the junction of Crown Lane unless the exit is clear. The residents of the almshouses in Hayes Terrace need to be given consideration when they are unloading shopping or being picked up or dropped off outside their homes.

20 mph Zone

The establishment of the 20 mph zone in Shorne village has been slightly delayed whilst the Parish Council and KCC finalise the boundaries. The 20 mph zone will stretch from the bottom of Tanyard Hill to a point just north of St Katherine’s Cottages in Forge Lane where the current speed limit changes from 30 mph to the national speed limit. It will include Mill Hill Lane and all roads leading off The Street and Forge Lane. The northern part of Forge Lane which is currently limited to the national speed limit will be reduced to 30 mph down to the crossroads.

Parish Council Meetings in May

Thursday 11 th May	-	Annual Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 25 th May	-	Planning & Highways Committee

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

Parish Council Vacancy

The number of candidates for election to the Parish Council was lower than the number of seats available, so the existing members were re-elected for a further four-year term. This means that we still have a vacancy in Shorne West. The vacancy will be open to anyone who meets the necessary residential qualifications and other legal parameters, which includes applicants from other parts of Shorne. Nevertheless, it is important that all communities are properly represented within the Parish Council, and we would particularly welcome applicants who live in Shorne West, or from ethnic backgrounds not currently represented on the Parish Council. If you think you might be interested in applying, please contact our Clerk at clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org.

Borough Council Elections 4th May

The local Borough Council elections will take place on Thursday 4th May. For the first time, voters will need to produce photo identification at the Polling Stations. This can include your passport, driving licence, official bus pass, blue badge, etc. This will also be the first Borough Council elections under the new Ward Boundaries. The current 2-member Shorne, Cobham & Luddesdown Ward will cease to exist, and Shorne will become part of a new 3-member Higham & Shorne Ward. Voters in Shorne will be able to vote for up to three candidates.

I will not be re-standing for election to the Borough Council, but will continue to serve as a member of the Parish Council.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council