

# Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham



## Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

In accordance with the Annual Governance & Accountability Report guidance, the Parish Council is required to provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'NO' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified.

The Parish Council has responded 'NO' to the following:

<b>Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023 Actions Taken.</b>		<b>Response</b>
4	We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	NO
<p><b>REASON FOR OUR 'NO' RESPONSE:</b></p> <p>During our internal audit for 2021/22, it was found that we had included incorrect dates in the notice of the period for the exercise of public rights published on our website on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022. This gave the impression that electors were not provided with the 30 working days required. It does not appear that Section 1 and Section 2 were included with the notice.</p> <p>In addition, it appears that Section 3 External Audit Report and Certificate was not published on our website until some time after the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Again, it does not appear that Sections 1 and 2 were included.</p> <p>In both cases, the notices were not easily identifiable on our website once the initial notification had passed, as they were filed under a general menu category entitled "Information".</p> <p><b>ACTIONS TAKEN:</b></p> <p>The omitted Sections 1 &amp; 2 have now been included with the notice for the exercise of public rights published for 2021/22. The website has now been amended to provide a separate, clearly identifiable menu category entitled "AGAR Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Returns".</p> <p>The Parish Council will ensure that the publication requirements and relevant dates are clearly understood and adhered to in future. These will be circulated in advance, and the website will be checked to ensure that the requirements have been met.</p>		