Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

September 2019

End of Walk-In Surgery at Shorne from 2nd September

Downs Way Medical Practice has announced that they will be discontinuing the walk-in surgery at Shorne Surgery with effect from Monday 2nd September. This will be replaced by an online and telephone appointments booking service. On 1st August, around 80 patients attended a public meeting at Shorne Village Hall to ask questions and express their concerns, and to hear Dr Payne and other practice staff explain the new arrangements. The surgery has assured patients that there will be no reduction in the number of appointments available, and that the new system 'will provide equivalent access to patients'.

Speed Indicator Device Consultation – Have Your Say

On 28th July, the Parish Council published a consultation on our proposals to invest in a community Speed Indicator Device (SID), which will be periodically moved between fixed locations in Tanyard Hill, Pear Tree Lane, and Thong Lane, Thong. The SID, which is similar to the one used in Cobham and Sole Street, displays the speed of approaching vehicles, with the aim of educating drivers and encouraging them to drive within the 30 mph speed limit. The SID also provides valuable data regarding traffic volumes, average speeds, maximum speeds, etc.

We have delivered details to the occupiers of properties up to 100 metres either side of the proposed SID locations to seek their views, but there is still time for all residents of Shorne to have their say, as the consultation does not end until midnight on Friday 13th September.

You can find out more information and download a consultation form from our website at: https://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/consultation-speed-indicator-device/

Lower Thames Crossing

On 22nd July, Highways England published a project update and an interim summary report on the results of the statutory consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing carried out in 2018. Disappointingly, the full details of the consultation responses will not be published until Highways England submit their Development Consent Order (DCO) planning application, now put back until summer 2020.

In the meantime, ground investigation work for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing has commenced between Thong Lane and Shorne West. Highways England's contractors will be drilling boreholes at approximately 100 locations along the route south of the river, including the A2, using a range of drilling equipment.

Pop Up Café, Monday 9th September

Rural Kent's Pop-up café and information hub will be making its next visit to Shorne on Monday 9th September, between 10.30am and 12.30pm at the Rose & Crown car park. They have all sorts of local information available, or you can just come and have a chat with other residents, have a cup of tea or coffee, and a delicious slice of cake.

Shorne Litter Patrol, Saturday 28th September

The next Litter Patrol in Shorne will take place on Saturday 28th September, weather permitting. As usual, we will meet at 09.45 in Shorne Village Hall car park for a safety briefing and to collect bags, hi-visibility waistcoats, and litter pickers, ready for a 10.00 start. We aim to finish around midday. Our litter patrols are not hard work, in fact they are very rewarding. Why not give it a go? At our previous one in March, we had the highest number of volunteers ever taking part, and we managed to clean up Shorne from top to bottom. If you would like to join us, please let Bob know at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk or give him a call on 01474 822680.

Community Orchard at Crabbles Bottom – Pick Your Own!

The parish owns 27 acres of land known as Crabbles Bottom, which stretches from Crutches Lane to the pathway at the far end of Bowesden Lane. It includes a traditional orchard of Bramley apple trees. Residents are welcome to come down and pick some apples for your own personal enjoyment. Parking is available in the lay-by in Crutches Lane.

Annual Parish Report Deliveries

The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers who kindly gave up an hour of their time to help deliver this year's Annual Report to every residential property in Shorne during July. We had an excellent response to our appeal for volunteers, and we are also grateful to those who volunteered but weren't needed in the end. If we have left anyone out and you haven't received your copy of the report, please let us know and we will make sure you get one.

Parish Council Meetings in September

Thursday 5th September - Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 19th September - Planning & Highways Committee

The meetings will commence at 7.45pm in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Chairman
Shorne Parish Council