Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

November 2022

Lower Thames Crossing

By the time this is published, it is quite possible that National Highways will have submitted their Development Consent Order application to proceed with the construction of the Lower Thames Crossing. The Planning Inspectorate will then have 28 days to decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

If it is accepted, we will enter the Pre-examination stage. At this stage, the public will be able to register to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. This usually lasts approximately three months.

The Planning Inspectorate then has up to six months to carry out the Examination. During this stage, Interested Parties who have registered by making a Relevant Representation will be invited to provide more details of their views in writing.

The Planning Inspectorate will then 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.

This means that we could be just 18 months away from the start of work on the Lower Thames Crossing. If it goes ahead, this will be a massive construction project lasting up to six years, changing our environment (and traffic volumes) forever.

Shornemead Level Crossing

Network Rail has submitted an application for prior approval for the construction of a footbridge across the railway at the northern end of Queens Farm Road. If granted, this will replace the pedestrian level crossing which has been closed for the last three years following misuse and a series of near misses, and will once again restore access for pedestrians and cyclists to the marshes and riverside.

Litter Patrol Saturday 8th October

17 intrepid volunteers took part in a litter pick in Shorne on Saturday 8th October, collecting over 25 sacks of litter, two bike wheels, and a can of petrol! Together with three more volunteers who couldn't join us on the day, they tidied up the whole of Shorne village from Gravesend Road in the north to Brewers Road in the south, and from Pear Tree Lane in the east to the Crematorium in the west. The next day, residents tackled the fly tipping along the Shorne Ifield Road, leaving it stacked up ready for collection by Gravesham Borough Council.

This was a smaller turn-out than usual, but it is clear that these efforts are making a difference, as there was much less litter than we used to see, but we need to keep at it or we could end

up back where we started. Thank you to all those who took part, and to the unsung heroes who just get on and do their bit when they can to help keep our neighbourhood clean.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor in the Shorne West Ward of Shorne Parish Council.

Shorne West includes Astra Drive (odd numbers only), Davys Place, Gabriel Gardens, Gazelle Glade, Genesta Glade, Glenrosa Gardens, Judeth Gardens, Marling Way (up to numbers 60 & 63), the Michael Gardens development, 344 to 356 Thong Lane, and 1 – 15 (odd numbers) Vigilant Way, a total of just over 370 households.

The Parish Council meets at Shorne Village Hall eight times a year, normally on a Thursday evening. In addition, the Planning & Highways Committee meets six times a year, and the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meets five times a year, again on Thursday evenings.

In accordance with the Electoral Commission requirements, the vacancy is open to anyone who meets the necessary residential qualifications and other parameters, which includes applicants from other parts of Shorne. Nevertheless, it is important that all communities in Shorne 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.

We have received expressions of interest from three people so far, but it is important to follow this up with a brief resumé, telling us why you are interested and why you think you would be suitable for the role, and outlining any relevant skills or experience you may have. Please send your application by email to vacancy@shorneparishcouncil.org, or by post to: The Clerk, Shorne Parish Council, c/o Shorne Village Hall, The Street, Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3EA, to reach us no later than Wednesday 26th October. This date may be extended if necessary.

Keep Safe on Dark Nights

Now that British Summer Time has officially ended and the clocks have gone back, residents are reminded to take a torch with them if they venture out late in the day, and where possible to wear something bright or reflective. Where there are no pavements, you should walk facing oncoming traffic if it's safe to do so. Drivers are requested to take extra care when driving at night through streets and lanes without pavements, and to be aware that pedestrians may be walking in the roadway.

Parish Council Meetings in November

Thursday 10th November	-	Planning & Highways Committee
Thursday 24th November	-	Parish Council Meeting (abridged)

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council