Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

October 2023

20 mph Zone Goes Live

Kent County Council has installed the new speed limit signs, and the 20 mph zone through Shorne village centre is finally in place. This covers all the main amenities in the village, including the primary school, children's play area, the shops, surgery, church, and village hall. This is the culmination of nearly 4 years of persuasion and pressure, after the zone was first proposed to KCC. After initially firmly rejecting the proposal, KCC finally agreed to fully fund the project. Our thanks go to Cllr Bryan Sweetland for his support in this matter.

Traffic Monitoring in Green Farm Lane

Unfortunately KCC has again rejected our request for "Unsuitable for HGVs" signage in Green Farm Lane. Their reasoning is that "Unsuitable for HGVs" signs are purely advisory, whereas the existing 7.5 tonne weight limit signs are mandatory, and if the drivers are disregarding the mandatory signs, they are unlikely to take any notice of advisory signs. However, KCC has agreed to carry out automatic traffic monitoring in Green Farm Lane, which will provide a clear picture of traffic volumes, vehicle types, and vehicle speeds in the lane.

Litter Patrol Rescheduled to Saturday 7th October

The next volunteers' litter patrol has been rescheduled to take place on Saturday 7th October to avoid clashing with the 'flu jab morning taking place at Istead Rise surgery on 30th September. 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, and we aim to finish around midday. However, if the weather is bad or we do not get enough volunteers, it will be called off. 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.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Update

Shorne's speed indicator device is periodically deployed in approved locations in Tanyard Hill, Thong Lane, and Pear Tree Lane, where it is periodically rotated to face in either direction. In addition to displaying the speed of vehicles travelling at 27mph and above, it records data on all vehicles approaching the SID, including speed, time, and traffic volumes. During the 42 months that the SID has been in use, it has recorded data on one million vehicle movements. It demonstrates that the vast majority of vehicles stay within or close to the 30mph limit, with just a very small percentage of drivers exceeding the enforcement threshold. Encouragingly, it also shows that vehicle speeds and the number of offenders has consistently shown a marked decrease over the 42 month period.

Bus Shelters Refurbishment

The Parish Council has engaged a contractor to carry out repairs and alterations to the two 60+ year old brick-built bus shelters at Shorne Crossroads. In addition to repairs to the roofs, gutters, and facias, the internal recesses will be bricked up and blocked off. This will make the shelters slightly smaller inside, but less susceptible to the antisocial activities that sometimes take place hidden from view.

Asian Hornet Watch

There have been increasing reports of Asian hornets in Kent. DEFRA says that while Asian hornets pose no greater risk to human health than a bee, they are a threat to our native honey bees, which is why it is important to quickly contain them. If you see an Asian hornet (as opposed to the more common native European hornet) you can report it by email to kent@asianhornetalert.org.uk or by using the Asian Hornet Watch app.

Coronation Commemoration Coins and Mugs

We still have some Charles III coronation commemorative coins and mugs available to purchase at £5 each. To order yours, please email clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org.

Parish Council Meetings in October

Thursday 12th October	-	Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee
Thursday 26th October	-	Budget & Finance Meeting

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council