Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

December 2023

Car Park Closed for Resurfacing

The Parish Council is arranging for the car park next to the village hall in The Street to be resurfaced, and the car park is scheduled to be closed on 7th and 8th December to allow the work to take place. If all goes to plan, the work is expected to take 2 days to complete, but there is always the chance of adverse weather or unforeseen problems affecting the programme.

Separately, the Parish Council is looking for a contractor to renew the borders around the edge of the car park. Currently, the borders consist of pebbles and concrete, but this is breaking up in places. It is planned that the concrete and pebbles will be removed and replaced with block paving. This will also involve full or partial closure of the car park, and the scheduled dates will be advised in due course.

Bus Shelters

Our contractor is expected to carry out refurbishment work on the bus shelters either side of Shorne Crossroads over the next few weeks. The work will include vegetation removal, roof repairs, new facias and guttering, and blocking off the internal alcoves to reduce opportunities for misuse. We also intend to fit convex mirrors so that people waiting inside the shelters can see buses approaching. We are also looking into the cost of internal lighting.

20 mph Zone

It took longer than we would have liked, but the carriageway markings and roundels have now been installed, and the 20 mph zone is now complete. We can all do our bit by setting a good example and limiting our speed when we drive through the village, so that it becomes accepted as normal.

KCC advise that the existing 'SLOW' carriageway markings are due to be refreshed in the near future, and this will be carried out during a road closure to coincide with other planned carriageway works.

Shornemead Level Crossing

Work on the new footbridge across the railway at Shornemead level crossing is well underway, and the foundations are now in place. It is understood that there will be an official opening ceremony when the footbridge is complete.

Green Farm Lane

Comprehensive traffic surveys have been carried out in Green Farm Lane to determine the speed and volume of traffic, and to provide information on the number of HGVs that use the road. Recorded data indicates that there is very good compliance with the speed limit, with average speeds of around 21 mph, but there is continued concern with the volume of HGVs illegally using the road as a cut through. Shorne Parish Council has sent Lorry Watch letters to 12 companies identified as disregarding the weight restriction, and continues to press KCC and the Police for effective measures to address the issue.

Lower Thames Crossing

Susan Lindley continues to attend virtual meetings and make comprehensive representations in connection with the National Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate's Examination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing, to ensure that the Examination Authority is fully aware of our concerns and that they are taken into account when determining whether to permit or refuse the DCO. The examination process is now drawing to a close, and we thank Susan for the extraordinary amount of work she has undertaken this year, and the exceptional quality of her submissions. Whatever the final decision, we can rest assured that Susan has done everything that can be done to make sure the parish interests are taken into consideration.

Parish Council Meetings in January

There are no meetings planned for December. The meetings scheduled for January are:

Thursday 11th January - Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 25th January - Planning & Highways Committee

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

As this is the last issue of the parish magazine until February 2024, parishioners are invited to visit our website at https://shorneparishcouncil.org/ and to follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil to keep up to date with any important news and events affecting our parish. On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish all our parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council