Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

November 2024

Lower Thames Crossing

The decision by the Secretary of State on whether or not to go ahead with the Lower Thames Crossing was originally scheduled for June 2024. Due to the calling of a General Election, this was rescheduled to 4th October. After waiting with bated breath for a further three days, the Secretary of State announced a new deadline for the decision which will now be delayed until 23rd May 2025. From our Annual Reports, as far back as 2011 we reported that 200 people attended a meeting in Shorne to protest against the threat of the Lower Thames Crossing. It is over 8 years since Option C East of Gravesend was announced as the preferred option, and over 7 years since the preferred route was selected, and yet we still have to wait a further 8 months before a decision is made.

Shornemead Crossing

In last month's report we expressed concern at the continuing lack of progress with the erection of the new footbridge across the railway at Shorne Crossroads. This was an error, we meant at Shornemead Crossing of course. Network Rail has now submitted a further planning application for changes to the design of the proposed footbridge originally approved in November 2022. Whilst the changes do not materially impact the appearance of the structure and should not present a planning problem, it may require changes to the work that has already been carried out for the foundations. It is frustrating that completion of the footbridge has been delayed by 2 years.

Lorry Watch Volunteers

Shorne Parish Council has operated a passive Lorry Watch scheme since 2017, in which residents are invited to tell us details of any oversized lorry they see during the course of their normal day-to-day activities. On receipt of the required information, we contact the vehicle operator to find out why they were in the restricted area, and if they have no valid reason, what measures they intend to take to avoid a repetition. In general, the scheme works quite well.

The Parish Council would now like to set up an active Lorry Watch scheme, where volunteers will be empowered to carry out active roadside sessions at approved locations to record the details of any large vehicles observed using roads with a weight or width restriction. There must be a minimum of 2 volunteers at each session, and all volunteers must be over 18 and physically capable of road side participation. If you are interested in volunteering to take part in active roadside Lorry Watch sessions, please email Lorrywatch@shorneparishcouncil.org for further details.

Surface Water on Tanyard Hill

The perennial problem of water running across the road and along the verge and pathway in Tanyard Hill continues to be a matter of concern, and has been raised yet again with Kent County Council. It is not helped by their latest policy of only attending to blocked gulleys when

it is causing damage to property. We have little confidence that the problem will be satisfactorily resolved in the near future – in fact from our Annual Reports, it is clear that it was a longstanding problem as far back as 2010! But as the winter approaches, the likelihood of ice on the road and pathway presents a risk to health and safety. Please be aware of the potential hazard when walking or driving in Tanyard Hill during the winter months, and take extra care.

Keep Safe on Dark Nights

With British Summer Time ending at 02.00 on 27th October and the clocks going back one hour, this is our regular reminder to residents 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.

Remembrance Sunday

The Parish Council will be laying a wreath at Shorne War Memorial at 11am on Sunday 10th November. Why not come along at 10.45am to pay your respects to the residents of Shorne who gave their lives in two World Wars?

Parish Council Meetings in November

Thursday 14th November - Planning & Highways Committee

Thursday 28th November - Parish Council Meeting

The meetings will commence at 7.30pm in the conference room at Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council