Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

February 2026

Shornemead Railway Crossing Footbridge Open

After repeated delays, we are pleased to report that the new footbridge across the railway at the northern end of Queens Farm Road was finally opened to the public on 1st December 2025. This is the culmination of a great deal of pressure from Shorne Parish Council. But there is little doubt that we would not have got a footbridge without the work done by Shorne Parish Council, notably Robin Theobald and Susan Lindley, when Network Rail first closed the crossing in 2009. Through their efforts, the route across the railway was finally established as a public right of way on appeal by the Parish Council to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2015, following an earlier refusal by Kent County Council.

Church Services at St Katherine's Chapel

A number of residents have raised concerns about inconsiderate parking by people attending the Romanian Orthodox Church functions at St Katherine's Chapel in Malthouse Lane. Although there is no law preventing anyone from parking their car anywhere on the public highway, provided the vehicle is taxed and insured, is not in breach of a traffic regulation (ie on yellow lines), and does not block access to a driveway, the church has agreed to request their members to park responsibly, and to consider car-sharing or public transport to help ease the situation. We have also requested the Police and Gravesham parking enforcement officers to monitor the situation and to take action against any illegal parking. Gravesham Borough Council has advised that there is no breach in planning regulations, and that the church is permitted to use the chapel. However, the church has advised us that they are aware of the limitations of the site, particularly in relation to parking, and they are actively exploring longer-term alternative options with better facilities.

Speed Indicator Device Update

The Parish Council has had the Speed Indicator Device for almost 6 years now. It is periodically located in Thong Lane, Pear Tree Lane, and Tanyard Hill, and rotated to record traffic data in each direction, and has recorded data on over 1.8 million vehicle movements during this time. We are pleased to report that the SID has had a significant and positive educational effect on reducing vehicle speeds.

Since the SID was obtained, the recorded data demonstrates that the proportion of vehicles exceeding the 35mph enforcement threshold has halved. In Thong Lane northbound towards Riverview Park, the proportion of speeders has reduced from 2.5% to 1.1%, and the 85th percentile speed (the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles travel) has reduced from 31.3mph to 29.6mph. For southbound traffic heading towards the Inn On The Lake, the proportion of speeders has fallen from 9.2% to 4.0%, whilst the 85th percentile speed has dropped from 33.9mph to 31.9mph. In Pear Tree Lane, the proportion of speeders heading eastbound towards Higham has fallen from 1.2% to 0.7%, and the 85th percentile speed has reduced from 29.1mph to 28.4mph. For traffic heading westbound towards Brewers Road and the A2, the proportion of speeders has dropped from 7.5% to 3.7%, and the 85th percentile speed has fallen from 33.4mph to 31.3mph. For traffic heading down Tanyard Hill towards the village, the proportion of vehicles exceeding the threshold has fallen from 9.5% to 4.7%, and the 85th percentile speed has dropped from 34.1mph to 32.3mph. Very few vehicles (less than

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one in a thousand) heading uphill away from the village are speeders, and our local Speedwatch volunteers rarely carry out sessions in this direction, since offending vehicles are seldom observed. Average speeds are well below 30mph at all locations, ranging from around 25mph to 27mph in Thong Lane, 23mph to 26mph in Pear Tree Lane, and 24mph to 27mph in Tanyard Hill.

In November, the Police carried out two speed enforcement sessions in Tanyard Hill, one at the top end and one at the bottom of the hill. No offenders were observed.

Parish Precept

At the Parish Council meeting on 27th November 2025, it was agreed to increase the parish precept by 3.8% for 2026/27, from £46,000 to a total of £47,750. Details of how this will impact individual households will be provided in due course, once the taxbase (the number of properties eligible) is confirmed, but it is expected that the amount payable per property in Shorne will continue to be the lowest of all the parishes in Gravesham.

Parish Council Meetings in February

The meetings scheduled for February are:

Thursday 12th February - Footpaths, Land & Properties Committee

Thursday 26th February - Parish Council Meeting

The meetings will commence at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Shorne Village Hall. Access to the Committee Room is via the rear entrance from The Street..

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council