Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

May 2026

Local Plan

Gravesham Borough Council has commenced its Regulation 19 consultation on the proposed Local Plan for the period to 2042. It calls for a minimum of 11,492 additional dwellings between now and 2042, a growth of 25% above the current 45,000 households in the Borough. They cannot achieve this number from within the urban area alone, and it will therefore be necessary to release Green Belt land for development. Fortunately, Shorne is not significantly impacted directly, but other villages, particularly Higham and Meopham, will see significant development in their parishes, including a proposal for almost 2,000 new homes on Chapter Farm, between Gads Hill and Three Crutches. The consultation is open until 5pm on 29th May, and you can find the documents and have your say at https://localplan.gravesham.gov.uk/Reg19/consultationHome.

Dropped Kerbs in Manor Field

Kent County Council installed the mobility dropped kerbs in Manor Field at the end of March as requested, followed shortly after by the yellow bus stop cage markings in The Street. The dropped kerbs are intended to facilitate wheelchair and mobility scooters to cross the road, together with pedestrians with push chairs and reduced mobility, and the yellow bus cage markings are intended to keep the bus stop clear of parked vehicles. However, within 24 hours, vehicles were parked across the dropped kerbs and obstructing the bus stop. Please keep these areas clear for their intended purposes. Gravesham Parking Enforcement have been requested to include these areas in their patrols, and they will issue fixed penalty notices to the owners of vehicles ignoring parking restrictions.

St Katherine's Chapel

Many parishioners will be aware that St Katherine's Chapel in Malthouse Lane is currently being used by the Romanian Orthodox Church. They have a large congregation, which has resulted in considerable numbers of cars parked in Shorne, including some on pavements in the immediate locality. We have been in contact with the Church to raise residents' concerns, and to encourage attendees to car-share or use public transport. The Church has advised us that the use of St Katherine's Chapel is intended to be a temporary measure, and they are actively exploring alternative premises with better parking facilities. They have also undertaken to raise the matter of irresponsible parking with their congregation. The Police and Gravesham Parking Enforcement are aware of the situation and will deal with any parking infringements, but please take care with the increased volumes of parking in Forge Lane.

Lower Thames Crossing

The Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) held well-attended information events at Cascades on 11th and 25th March, and representatives of the Parish Council continue to have meetings with LTC representatives. The environmental landscaping works at Thong are now virtually complete, and the next stage will be more intrusive works in preparation for utility diversions, including the construction of a new bell-mouth junction in Thong Lane. Representations by

parish councillors have resulted in less disruptive diversions to PROWs between Thong and Shorne West.

Crabbles Bottom

Just to let parishioners know that the friendly sheep have been moved away. We hope to see some more sheep in due course, courtesy of Shorne Young Farmers.

Parish Council Meetings in May

The meetings scheduled for May are:

Thursday 14th May	-	Annual Council Meeting (AGM)
Thursday 28th May	-	Planning & Highways Committee

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