Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

October 2026

Vehicle Activated 30mph Sign in The Ridgeway

The solar-powered vehicle activated 30mph sign in The Ridgeway was funded by Shorne Parish Council with the aid of a KCC Member's grant, and installed by Kent County Council in 2014. In July this year, the Parish Council was informed that it was not working. We were not aware of this, since it only illuminates if you drive over 30mph. The fault was reported to KCC, and they promptly removed the unit for repair.

Unfortunately, KCC has concluded that the sign is beyond economic repair, and that it will not be replaced. The Parish Council will now need to enter into dialogue with KCC to determine whether any other actions can be taken to try to reduce the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit in The Ridgeway. In the meantime, we have requested speed monitoring to be carried out to ascertain the volume of traffic and vehicle speeds, and for the road markings to be refreshed near the gateway feature at the entry to the 30mph speed limit.

Residents need to be aware that any traffic calming is at the sole discretion of Kent County Council as the Highways Authority. Physical interventions such as give-way chicanes are only permissible where there is adequate street lighting in place, as set out in Department for Transport guidelines. Unless there is a history of speed-related accidents, KCC invariably requires the cost of any permitted improvements to be met by the Parish Council.

Portable Speedwatch Speed Indicator

Our local Community Speedwatch volunteers periodically carry out speed monitoring sessions at various Police-approved locations in Shorne, but they had discontinued sessions in The Ridgeway recently because during their previous two sessions they had recorded no vehicles whatsoever exceeding the enforcement threshold. However, since the vehicle activated sign was out of action, they agreed to resume monitoring sessions in The Ridgeway.

During the first of these, they recorded 3 vehicles exceeding the enforcement threshold out of the 100 vehicles which drove through in one direction in an hour - one at 35mph, one at 36mph, and one at 37mph. However, during their second session, the portable speed indicator device failed. This has had to be sent away for diagnosis and repair. This is a matter for concern, as the equipment is quite old – the Parish Council purchased it second-hand in 2015 – and we may find that this is also beyond economic repair.

County Councillor News

We were pleased to welcome County Councillor Diane Morton to our recent Parish Council meeting. Diane provided an update on her work within Kent County Council (KCC) and shared information on some of the issues and activities she has been involved with.

Diane also took the opportunity to remind residents that seasonal vaccinations are now available, encouraging everyone who is eligible to arrange their vaccination.

Crabbles Bottom Apple Baking Competition

Entries are already starting to arrive for our Crabbles Bottom Apple Baking Competition! Residents of all ages are invited to come and pick apples from the orchard in Crabbles Bottom, and to take part in the competition. Entry is free - the Junior competition is open to all children under 12 years old, and the Adult competition is open to anyone 12 years old and over. There's still plenty of time to take part. Just visit the Orchard and submit pictures of your culinary creation via email to clerk@shorneparishcouncil.gov.uk before 31st October 2026. Full details are shown separately in the Parish Magazine – good luck!

Lower Thames Crossing Drop-In Sessions

The Lower Thames Crossing team hold informal drop-in sessions at Cascades, to provide an update on upcoming works, and to discuss any issues about the work in progress that may be causing concerns for local residents. The next session is scheduled to take place between 4.30pm and 6.30pm on Thursday 15th October.

Parish Council Meetings in October

The meetings scheduled in October are:

Thursday 8th October	-	Footpaths, Land & Property Committee
Thursday 22nd October	-	Finance & Budget Meeting

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

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council