

Hawkhurst Annual Parish Assembly – 30th April 2012

Held at Hawkhurst Primary School.

1. There were representatives from the following organisations in attendance: Women's Institute, KCC Make Kent Faster broadband campaign, Horticultural Society, Friendship Club, Bowls Club and Cottage Hospital League of Friends.
2. Also in attendance were seven Parish Councillors, KCC Local Member and three TWBC Ward Members. Parish Cllrs Brown and Fitzpatrick were unable to attend due to other commitments.
3. There were about 50 members of the public in attendance.
4. The meeting was chaired by Cllr John Hunt, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.
5. Leonie Harrington from KCC gave a short presentation about the KCC led Make Kent Quicker campaign seeking support via website registration (www.makekentquicker.com) to gain funds from government and service provider to improve the speed of internet access in different parts of the county. The deadline for registration is 21st June 2012.
6. The Chairman's annual statement was made available to those attending and Cllr Hunt invited questions and comments from the floor.
7. Cllr Ron Weeden sought clarification over the comments about poor responses from KCC. Cllr Hunt said that there have been occasions when it was felt that KCC were poor in consulting or listening to the views and comments of the council.
8. Cllr John Cunningham gave an update on TWBC's Core Strategy review and how it affected the town/village debate. It was felt that the analytical process used by KCC to classify Highgate as a Rural Service Centre may be inappropriate and should be improved.
9. Cllr Mike Appelbe informed the meeting about the events being planned to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. These include a fun fair, farmers market, village picnic and fireworks at The Moor. There will be a dance at the British Legion and the St Pauls service will be relayed onto a big screen in St Laurence Church. The Fete Committee will be seeking donations towards the cost of providing these events and will be contacting local businesses and societies.
10. The main concerns raised by residents were around traffic and highway conditions. These include speeding and anti-social driving and parking. KCC Highways and the police will be advised of these issues and their responses sought.
11. Cllr Hunt thanked all for attending and invited people to partake in the refreshments provided.
12. The Parish Council would like to thank the Governors and staff of the primary school for the use of the school's facilities.