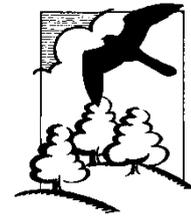


Chairman's Letter

September 2018



Hello Everyone

This is the second Chairman's Letter! Each month, a week after the full council meeting, I will place a letter on the web site, FACEBOOK page and notice boards.

It has been an unusually hot summer – so far. I recall the summer of 1976 but I think this one has been hotter. Our gardens have suffered from the dry conditions and welcomed some rain in the last couple of weeks. Animals have suffered too, whether pets or wildlife. If, as forecast, it gets hot again please think of them too and leave some water out for wildlife in your gardens.

On a hot Saturday 4 August lots of enthusiastic walkers met up at the Royal Oak car park for the second "Walkfest" event. It may have been hot but the walks were much enjoyed by all who took part.

Don't forget to give your views on *The Draft Public Rights of Way (PROW) - Improvement Plan* which is "in consultation" until midnight on 12 September. The PROW is referred to in our Neighbourhood Development Plan, so the parish council is responding. You can too on this link www.kent.gov.uk/rightsofwayimprovementplan

Our shadow "Silent Soldier" is in place on the small green area in front of St Lawrence Church. Give a thought to our brave soldiers of the first world war as you walk or drive past, this year is the centenary of its end.

The war memorial outside The Royal Oak has been cleaned and the adjacent tree will be trimmed, new names are being added to the memorial, including one who gave his life in the Afghan War, in preparation for the commemoration of the end of the war later this year.

We continue to press for traffic improvements in the village, in particular we are seeking some way of reducing the number of HGVs that go through the Highgate crossroads daily. You may recall that our traffic survey in June 2015 showed 969 HGVs passing through the junction each day.

Each month the Parish Council gives our views to Tunbridge Wells Planning Officers on various planning applications, last month we had 11 to consider. You can see which ones we will be looking at in the Full Council Agenda which is published a week ahead of the meeting on our website <http://hpc.visithawkhurst.org.uk/agendas/>

If you are thinking about it after my last letter, we are still short of a parish councillor and hope to co-opt someone at our September meeting. If you are willing to get involved please contact the Parish Clerk 01580 752058 before 3 September and have a chat about what is involved, then put yourself forward and get stuck in - you'll be very welcome.

Julia Newman
Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council
20 August 2018