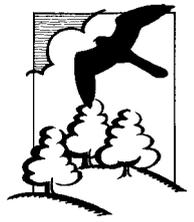


PARISH COUNCIL OF HAWKHURST

CHAIRMANS LETTER – JUNE 2019



Hello!

Well, May turned out to be a very busy month thanks to the proposal to close the Rye Road for 11 weeks! First and foremost, I want to thank Seán Holden, our KCC Councillor, for his determination to minimise the impact on local residents and businesses. In addition to arguing a very strong case himself, he ensured that the voices of the Parish Councils and local businesses were heard. Thanks also to Godfrey Bland, one of our TWBC councillors, who was also very vocal in his support of our community.

As a result, there have been significant alterations to these works. Two key changes are that the Rye Road will now be closed for just over 5 weeks (half the time originally proposed) and the diversion route for light vehicles is now about one-third of the distance. Even with these concessions, we know there will still be severe disruption. However, replacing the gas main is essential, so there really was no way to avoid this. We have added a section on our new website (www.hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk) to keep you updated as we receive information. Also, we put all of your questions to SGN and KCC. You'll find their answers in the Frequently Asked Questions document.

As of 1st June, our new website went live. This is a BETA version, so please do have a look and let us know what you think. Personally, I think it is a huge improvement. Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work on this. I would also like to thank those of you who have already got in touch with feedback. Your comments will help us continue to make improvements.

I am really grateful to have been re-elected as Chairman at our AGM in May. I truly appreciate the support from my fellow councillors. When I originally stood for chairman in February, I did so with the desire to heal some of the divisions that were appearing in the Parish Council and encourage a more positive, open and effective way of working.

Over the past few months, we have reviewed the way in which the Parish Council works, resulting in the introduction of a new committee structure in May. Details of the committees can be found on our website. Next month, once all of the committees have met, I will let you know who the Chairmen of the committees are. However, in the meantime, I am really pleased to let you know that Martin Taylor-Smith has been re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

I am proud of the progress that we have made over the past few months. I believe we have worked well together, and I hope that you are starting to feel the benefits of our efforts to improve both communication and the services we deliver.

This year, we'll have a stand at the Summer Fête on Saturday 29th June, so why don't you drop in on us and let us know your thoughts? As always, the organisers have been incredibly busy, so here's hoping for a sunny day and fantastic turnout.

Clare Escombe

Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council

June 2019