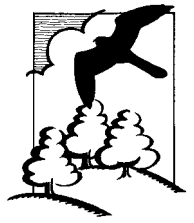


PARISH COUNCIL OF HAWKHURST CHAIRMANS LETTER – JULY 2019



Hello!

I would like say a huge thank you and well done to everyone involved in organising the Hawkhurst Summer Fête. Hopefully, you all got a well-earned drink at the end of what must have been a very hot and incredibly busy day!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to chat to us on the Parish Council stand. Improving communication is one of the key priorities in our five-year plan, and the stand at the fête, along with the Monday morning surgery at the library, increased use of social media and the new website are some of the actions we have undertaken to address this.

I believe that these are all steps in the right direction. Nevertheless, I still see too many comments expressing concerns over the lack of visibility of the Parish Council. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete our questionnaire at the fête, thank you. We are keen to get ideas from you as to how we can meet your needs better. So if any of you have any suggestions of ways in which we could improve this further, please do let Richard or Anita at the Parish Office know.

In my last letter, I promised to let you have a list of the Chairmen of the various Parish Council committees. **Facilities and Services:** Brian Fitzpatrick; **Strategy, Administration and Projects:** Martin Taylor-Smith; **Planning Advisory Group:** Clare Escombe; **Community Hall Working Group:** Paul Whittle. Full details of membership of the committees are on the Parish Council website.

By the time you read this, hopefully, the roadworks on the Rye Road should be nearly finished. This has been an incredibly difficult time for many residents and local businesses. Richard, our clerk, has been in constant contact with KCC Highways, TWBC and SGN trying to minimise the disruption and ensure the speedy resolution of issues as they arose. However, I know that people have been badly affected. And there is no doubt that local businesses will have lost out, so please continue to support them.

Despite the very real issues that people have faced, I was relieved that we did not experience the level of chaos at the crossroads that I feared we might. And, hopefully, the repairs to the potholes along the Rye Road and repainting of the lines will be some consolation. Water Lane will be completely resurfaced, which will rectify the damage caused by additional traffic. KCC will also be reviewing the condition of other roads that have had to cope with extra traffic, so do make sure you report any issues - this can be done through the "Report it" link on our website.

Until next month,

Clare Escombe

Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council

July 2019