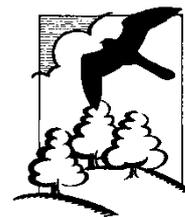


Hello!



As you can probably imagine, we have spent a lot of time over the past month working on the Parish Council's response to TWBC's draft Local Plan - there was a huge amount to read and digest. It certainly was not the easiest consultation to respond to, so I hope that you managed to find a way to make your views known. Thank you to everyone who shared their comments, advice and experience to help other residents respond. By working together, we have a much stronger voice. Hopefully, TWBC will listen to Hawkhurst's views.

I truly hope that by the time you are reading this all of the issues with our bin collections will have been resolved. Last week, I received an email from Paul Taylor, the Director of Change and Community at TWBC, apologising for the poor service and outlining the steps being taken to address this. In summary, TWBC has required Urbaser (the company who has the waste contract) to produce and implement an Improvement Plan. This involves the existing crews working overtime and weekends, plus seven additional trucks and 30 extra staff to ensure the backlog is cleared.

Hopefully, this has worked, but if not, keep reporting your missed bins through the website, which I have been assured is the quickest way of getting your bin collected.

A quick update on sewage: it could just be a coincidence but following Greg Clark's adjournment debate about the sewage problems in Paddock Wood and Hawkhurst, we have finally managed to get Southern Water to set a date for a meeting. It's only taken eight months! Thank you to everyone who shared information on the problems they've been experiencing for us to share with Greg Clark. It will also be really valuable in our meeting with Southern Water to be able to refer to specific examples.

Don't forget that the Hawkhurst Christmas Festival will be on Saturday 7th December between 12 and 5 pm. This year it will take place along the Colonnade and in the new Green Shop. Hope to see you there.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Clare Escombe
Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council
November 2019