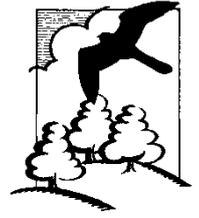


Hawkhurst Parish Council

Active Hawkhurst Strategy

- supporting active lifestyles through sport and recreation



January 2020

1 Background

This strategy combines the existing Youth, Recreation and Repair Strategies into one "Active Hawkhurst Strategy".

Whether people choose a sedentary or active lifestyle is up to them. However, an active lifestyle may improve residents physical and mental well-being. Therefore, supporting play, sport and an active lifestyle is important to the Parish Council.

2 Relationship to Parish Council's Strategic Plan

In March 2019 the Council adopted a five-year strategic plan. The third strategic aim is:

Working with stakeholders the Council will respond to the growing demand for quality leisure, sports and recreational facilities.

The Active Hawkhurst Strategy aims to deliver on this strategic aim.

3 Purpose of Active Hawkhurst

We want to enable residents of all ages to make sport and active lifestyles an easier choice.

Our aim is to: maintain or improve current facilities; create new ones; and, highlight the opportunities for residents to have an active lifestyle.

We recognise that not all activities can be catered for within the Parish and will signpost residents towards opportunities nearby. For some, an active lifestyle may be challenging and we will highlight opportunities for local organisations and activities for all abilities.

4 Delivering Active Hawkhurst

The Hawkhurst Parish Council will deliver greater opportunities and better facilities to promote active lifestyles. We will deliver 'Active Hawkhurst' through:

- ⇒ (a) the direct provision of services;
- ⇒ (b) signposting private or commercial organisations;
- ⇒ (c) support for local clubs and societies;
- ⇒ (d) promotion of walking and cycle routes in and around the Parish;
- ⇒ (e) signposting other local authority services; and,
- ⇒ (f) working with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC), Kent County Council (KCC), sporting bodies and developers we will seek contributions towards improving facilities.

a. Parish Council direct provision of services

The Kings George V (KGV) Playing Fields at The Moor are the focus for outdoor sports and recreation within the Parish. The field is marked for two mini and one senior football pitch. However, the area suffers from poor drainage.

At KGV there is a small Sports Pavilion with outdated changing and toilet facilities.

There is also a tennis court, which is planned to be modernised and upgraded to become a tennis and multi-use games area in 2020.

There is also a smaller playing field at Heartenoak Road, for “kick about’s” only. There is also a concrete kick about space in Fairview.

There are two children’s play areas in the village: one at KGV and one at Gunther’s Close, Heartenoak Road. The latter includes an area specifically designed for younger children.

An outdoor gym has been installed at Heartenoak funded by Tesco’s.

Ockley and Hensil allotments are provided for residents of the Parish. The Council owns Ockley allotments and rents the Hensil site.

b. Signposting private or commercial organisations

There is a number of private facilities located in the village:

- a private Golf and Squash Club in the village, although the current owners want to sell and develop the whole site,
- a private Bowls Club and a private Tennis Club at Four Throws,
- a members Cricket Club plays at Gills Green,
- a local gym in village; and,
- there are several small riding stables in the area.

c. Support for local clubs and societies

Note all of these and other clubs and societies can apply for Community Grants Awards offered by the Parish Council. The Parish Council website also has advice on grant opportunities.

Hawkhurst Junior Football Club

The junior football club is extremely popular with 150 members ranging from 3- 16 years old. The club currently has 25 children on its waiting list. It is limited by facilities. The junior football club needs a minimum of 2 x 5 a side pitches, 2 x 7 a side pitches, 1 x 9 a side pitches and 1 x adult pitch. Currently Hawkhurst is only able to provide 2 x 5 a side pitch and occasional usage of the adult pitch. The club uses pitches at a local school and in a farmer’s field - neither have any long-term agreements and this impacts the growth of the club.

Hawkhurst Football Club

The adult football club runs two successful club sides and the links between the junior and senior club helps keep young adults playing sport.

University of the Third Age

A University of the Third Age (U3A) group was formed in the village three years ago and has over 300 members. It includes such activities as Croquet, Table Tennis and two walking groups.

Other societies and activities

There are a range of societies in the village such as the Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Cadets, a range of environmental groups and Gardening Clubs.

Other activities

Personal trainers and local sports and activities groups (e.g. Pilates, dancing, Tai Chi, yoga) make use of the outdoor areas at KGV and the green at The Moor as well as using the KGV sports pavilion and village hall.

There is a Running Club at Bedgebury which has a 'Park Run' on Saturday mornings.

HCT 2018

HCT 2018 is a trust established for;

"The benefit of the residents of Hawkhurst, to advance such exclusively charitable purposes as the trustees from time to time see fit, in particular providing facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupation, including facilities for outdoor and indoor sport, education, drama and skills training and services for young, elderly and disabled people.

We are working closely with them in supporting a range of initiatives such as Play Days and the longer term goal of the new community centre. Further information can be found on their website.

<https://hawkhurstcommunitycentre.co.uk/>

d. Promotion of walking and cycle routes in and around the Parish

Walking

There is a network of footpaths around Hawkhurst. Local walks are popular with walking groups, visitors and dog owners.

Cycling

The local hilly topography limits people's enthusiasm for cycling. There are no designated cycle paths nor space to accommodate them on the narrow roads and rural lanes.

Cycling is very popular in Bedgebury forest using the numerous, graded and well-maintained cycle tracks.

There is an aspiration to include cycle ways in any new future developments – and seek to connect them across the Parish and to Bedgebury Pinetum.

As a Council we promote walking and cycling via the website, a local footpath map is on display in the village centre and individual footpath maps are available at the Library or the Parish Office.

e. Signposting other local authority's services

We recognise that many sports and recreation services are provided outside the Parish. For example, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) provide a large swimming pool and sports centre at Cranbrook, including large indoor gym and new all-weather athletics track at Paddock Wood (15 miles away).

Below we provide links to TWBC website which gives details of sport, leisure, parks and play areas, leisure centres and their overarching sports strategy. Their sport and recreation policy and list of services can be found on their website.

<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/sports-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure>

<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/parks-and-play-areas>

<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/sports-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure/sports-grounds-and-pitches>

<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/sports-leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure/leisure-centres>

http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/130074/Sports-Strategy-2016-final.pdf

In addition, we border Rother District Council who provide a range of leisure facilities and access to the coast for a wealth of active opportunities. For details see below

<http://www.rother.gov.uk/leisure>

f. Working with TWBC, KCC & sporting bodies and seeking developer contributions towards new or improved facilities

Where possible we will provide matched funding to attract external funding to help with the capital costs of facilities provision and improvement.

Funding requests will be submitted to national bodies for specific sports. Other possible funding sources include: Sport England; KCC; TWBC grants; developer contributions; fundraising by clubs, crowdfunder funding within the village community.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications and as part of that process it can make requests for developer contributions. These are called

Section 106 contributions, and we will request for contributions towards, play, sport, recreation and community facilities.

5 Proper upkeep

We will ensure Parish Council facilities are maintained to a high standard and are not allowed to fall into disrepair. This will include a proper maintenance programme and putting money aside for major repairs.

Play equipment will be regularly inspected and promptly repaired. The regime for the inspection and repair to play and exercise equipment is set out below.

Work	Defined as	Requirements for contractors / caretaker
General inspection, weekly, as per ROSPA sheet 24*	<i>Routine check of equipment and play areas. Informal report on any areas of concern to Parish Clerk. Carried out by external caretaker</i>	External-caretaker public liability insurance covered by HPC. Attend ROSPA training course.
General inspection every two months*	<i>More detailed checks to assess any possible risk from faulty equipment. Report to FAS committee</i>	Public liability insurance. ROSPA-accredited specialist.
General in-depth inspection yearly*	<i>Inspection resulting in a full report to HPC.</i>	Public liability insurance. ROSPA or ROSPA-accredited specialist.
Non safety specific repair / maintenance	<i>Work that does not involve play equipment apart from removal of broken items and items to be replaced.</i>	Public liability insurance. (External-caretaker public liability insurance covered by HPC).
Safety specific repair	<i>Work on equipment that, if incorrectly done, could result in injury to a member of the public or potential for harm.</i>	Public liability insurance. ROSPA-accredited specialist OR contractor with experience of working on play equipment for other local authorities; references to be provided and work to be inspected in depth as part of next bi-monthly inspection after completion.

6 ACTIVE HAWKHURST ACTION PLAN

	Not yet started			
	Completed			
	Progressing well			
	Un-satisfactory progress – in need of action			
Active Hawkhurst action plan – December 2019				
No	Issue	Action	Who	By When
Direct provision				
1	Upgrade changing rooms at KGV	Part of new community centre project	CCWG	March 2021
2	Seek to improve drainage	Work with Kent FA and link into new community centre project	CCWG	March 2021
3	Maintenance of KGV and Hearten oak open space	Deliver maintenance contract	FAS	Ongoing
4	Upgrade Tennis Court	Upgrade to MUGA, including tennis.	Council	March 2020
5	Well-equipped and maintained play areas	Formal checks process and replacement when required	FAS	Ongoing
Signposting				
6	Promote and support local clubs, societies and groups	Create and maintain an active Hawkhurst page on website	SAP	Jan 2020
7	Financial support of local clubs, societies and groups	Promote Hawkhurst Community Grant Awards and grant opportunities	SAP	Ongoing
8	Promote other facilities and services	Signpost to Local Authority facilities and neighbouring facilities	SAP	Jan 2020
Promote walking and cycling				
9	Promote local information	Provision of walking and cycling maps/website links	SAP	Ongoing
10	Report issues to KCC / TWBC for maintenance	Promote on website	SAP	Ongoing
11	Investigate safe cycling and provision of local cycling routes	Seek developer contributions	FAS	Sept 2020
Working with KCC, TWBC and other agencies				
12	Review and seeking funding to support Active Hawkhurst	Focused funding research on projects	Council	Ongoing
13	Play Days	Support HCT 2018 with organizing Play Days	Council	June 2018
14	Hawkhurst 10K	Support HCT 2018 with organizing Play Day	Council	August

15	Seek Developer contributions via S106	Submit S106 requests	PAG	Ongoing
Reporting and monitoring				
16	Reporting and monitoring	Quarterly to SAP and Council	SAP	Ongoing
17	Annual report	Annual Council Report	Council	May

7 Monitoring, reporting and measuring success

It is important to set measurable targets and monitor progress. Therefore, it is proposed, where practicable, to create performance indicators concerning the following:

- number of people using facilities / hits on Active Hawkhurst webpage;
- customer satisfaction / number of complaints;
- availability of services / speed of repair;
- absence of red measures on the action plan; and,
- successful grant applications and S106 contributions.

As this is year one, the exact measures will be developed over the coming months to ensure they can be properly and easily assessed and benchmarked. Targets will be set for next year.

Progress reports will be to SAP and then onto Council Quarterly. An annual summary will be included in the Council Annual Report each May.