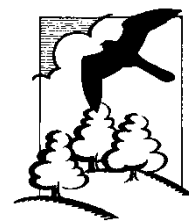


Happy New Year!

I hope that 2020 turns out to be a positive year for all of us. I don't know about you, but the new year has proved to be especially busy for the Parish Council. We have big plans for this year.



This spring, the tennis courts on the King George V field will be replaced with a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). As the name suggests, a MUGA is an all-weather court that can be used for a variety of sports and activities such as basketball and tennis, as well as football. No doubt, Hawkhurst's football clubs will find it a welcome addition to our notoriously muddy pitches. Keep an eye out for the launch event, which is planned for March.

Looking ahead to the summer, Hawkhurst will be taking part in the "in Bloom" competition this year. I would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who braved the dreadful weather to attend our first meeting. We were very fortunate to have Jean Griffin (from BBC Radio Kent's Sunday Gardening and a judge for the competition) share her knowledge and advice on how to get started.

Entries are judged on three main areas: horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. This will be a genuine community project and I cannot wait to see the fruits of everyone's efforts. Jean's parting advice was to start small and build from there. Given the level of enthusiasm at the meeting, I am not sure how easy it will be to limit our ambitions.

And now for the longer term, the start of a new decade feels like a particularly appropriate time to consult on the plans for the new Community Centre. The consultation period runs from 20th January to 1st March. During this time, the plans will be available in the library, the Parish Office and on the Parish Council website.

We are building a community facility that has to meet the needs of the village for the rest of this century! That is quite daunting. We know there is a demand for the community centre - over 90% of respondents wanted a new community hall in our last survey. Now, we need to ensure it works for everyone. Please take a look at the plans and think about how it would work in practice for you, your family and your interests. Let us know what works for you and what doesn't. Tell us what changes you would like to see. This is our chance to make sure the community centre meet's the village's needs. Please help us to achieve this. Thank you.

Clare Escombe
Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council
January 2020