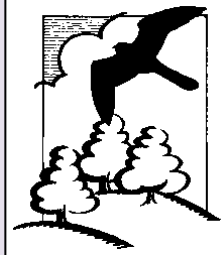


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Autumn Newsletter 2020



Hello!

Judging by the weather outside, Autumn really has well and truly arrived. As has been the case for so much of this year, we will have to continue to adapt to a different way of doing things over the coming months. Unfortunately, one of these changes means that we will need to find an alternative way of commemorating Remembrance Day. Cllr Taylor-Smith is leading on this and will represent the Parish Council at the wreath laying on Sunday 8th November. Only representatives of organisations should gather at the Royal Oak Car Park at 10:45 am, for a blessing by Father Rodney, 2-minute silence and the laying of the wreaths. As residents, maybe we should all take time to reflect at home at 11am. It is also 100 years since the current Cenotaph was completed.

In our Summer Newsletter, we reported that TWBC had identified the need for an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on the Cranbrook Road. See page 5 for details of how to take part in the consultation. Having reviewed the Air Quality reports, HPC and our Borough Councillors raised concerns about the absence of monitoring on the approaches to the crossroads along the High Street and the Rye Road. Whilst recognising that the modelling indicated that the levels of pollutants on these arms of the crossroads would be below the levels in the air quality objectives, HPC is grateful that TWBC has agreed to our requests for additional monitoring tubes to be installed so that the actual levels of air pollution can be measured on these roads as well.

As Parish Councillors, we are now getting used to working in different ways (although it was nice to actually see each other at our litter pick in September). We are continuing to make progress with the Community Centre project. As noted in the Summer Newsletter, the plans for the community centre were reviewed to take into account your feedback from the consultations in the spring. Since then, we have shared these amended plans with TWBC planning officers and had a very positive pre-application discussion. I would like to say thank you to everyone who responded to the playground consultation. Your ideas have given us a great deal to think about. Thank you, also, to HCT 2018 for their work on collating and reporting this information and their ongoing work in helping transform these ideas into reality!

You may remember from the Summer Newsletter that the Judicial Review into the White House planning application was due to be held in July. Richard, our Parish Clerk, and I spent two very long days attending the court hearing. We are still waiting for the judge's decision, which is likely to be within the next month or so. As we have always said, our aim in bringing the Judicial Review was to ensure that the traffic congestion in the village was given sufficient consideration when planning applications were decided. We had noticed positive signs that this was starting to happen in the summer, and I'm pleased to report that this trend has continued.

If you haven't already done so, please do download the NHS COVID app. We have QR codes for all of HPC's facilities, which you can scan.

Stay safe.

Clare Escombe

Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council

“Martin's musings” Strategy, Administration and Projects



COVID 19 has been a challenge for all of us and we have taken time to focus on getting our house in order.

- **Communications** This Parish Council Newsletter is one of the recommendations and at the same time we are updating our website and the use of social media – focusing on local neighbourhood links with Cllr Pyne to the fore.

All of our Council and committee meetings are now live streamed using the Zoom app so that residents can still play an active part during lockdown. In fact, if anything, more people are engaged in the Council meetings than when they were held at Copt Hall!

Budget review – we have worked hard to access Government Business Rate Relief and grants. This has allowed us to cover the extra costs of operating our facilities in this difficult time and we recently agreed to pass on the grants, by reducing the hire fees to support community groups, as some are struggling for numbers. The aim is that by working together, we, the community groups and all residents will have access to services, not only through these difficult times but when we emerge from the pandemic.

Hawkhurst Business Partnership – we are working with the emerging Hawkhurst Business Partnership to support local business – promote Christmas shopping and lights and broadband, among other things. If you run a local business and are interested in joining the Hawkhurst Business Partnership, email lisa@oohhowlovely.co.uk

Information Technology - Our recent annual audit, while good, highlighted that we are not compliant in the way we work with the requirements of the recent General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As a result, recommendations will be made at November's full council meeting to bring our systems and equipment into compliance. This will involve not only updating our financial and office applications but making certain all data is secure but easily accessible (if authorised) on Council controlled equipment and our website.

These reviews will lead to not only more efficient delivery of our services but a reduced cost of delivery and administration. It will also allow us to operate in an increasingly cashless society and as such we will be 'fit for the future'.

As always; "Listening to the voice that counts - Yours".

www.hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk

Facilities and Services Committee report

The last few months have been focused on supporting community groups to meet safely in our facilities. We have followed government guidance – reviewing our risk assessments as the guidance changes – throughout we have put safety and our customers first.

We have increased cleaning, focused on signage, restricted usage to no more than two sessions per day plus the numbers attending a session – depending on guidance for each activity.

We have recognised that some community groups are struggling for numbers in the current circumstances, so have reduced hall hire fees to try and support them through these difficult times. You can see a list of activities and contacts later on in the Parish Newsletter so why not contact them and see if an activity suits you.

We opened the Multi Use Games Area at the KGV this summer and it has been a roaring success with usage from dawn to dusk. If you are interested in hiring the Multi Use Games Area contact office@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk or phone 01580 752058

The allotments are full and with a waiting list – the new allotment agreements have gone out with updates in line with National guidance, including keeping bees and poultry. We have arranged a skip for allotment holders to ‘declutter’ their allotments after a busy summer.

We would like to remind allotment holders at Hensil that they cannot park but only drop off in the area adjacent to the allotment. We will be contacting people on the waiting list shortly.

The winter months are going to be challenging but we are keen to support the community groups to meet safely and provide a safe service to our community.

Finally, please do download the NHS COVID app. We have QR codes for all of HPC's facilities, which you can scan.

DRIVE CONSIDERATELY, SAFELY and THINK OF OTHERS

Since the closing of the Rye Road for several weeks last year for major road repairs, the back lanes such as Conghurst Lane, Water Lane, Delmonden Lane and Slip Mill Lane have become very popular short cuts for commercial vehicles which are far too large for lanes of this size. They are also used by the local farmers to access their fields with big machinery. These lanes are used by cyclists, joggers, dog walkers and the odd horse rider.

There are times when the traffic is all backed up because cars cannot get past these larger vehicles. People are driving far too fast. The skid marks on the roads prove this. There are so many blind bends, pot holes and very few passing places – some of which are dangerous - when you meet the oncoming traffic. This will only get worse through the winter

Please drive carefully, at a sensible speed and think of others

Nationwide Litter Pick September 12th 2020



The litter pick was a great success and about forty people including five children joined in with gusto to help clear the roads of a variety of rubbish. Cans to carpets to bottles, bar b q's and much more. It's amazing what comes back in the bags.

A big thank you to all who attended who did such a sterling job, sadly too many to mention. It was also a social occasion and friendships were made. It's surprising who you can meet over a dustbin bag!

The Parish Council has decided to purchase litter pickers and Hi Viz jackets so we can arrange more litter picks as required. The photo is of Rachel, Tim Fagg & Bramble, Paul Whittle (Parish Councillor) and Jane Pyne, who organised the litter pick.

Autumn

Before you light a bonfire could you please check that there is not a hedgehog hibernating, the same with a compost heap, before you poke with a fork, it's a nice warm place to hibernate for the winter. Help look after them as hedgehogs are important in the garden and sadly, they have declined due to slug pellets and traffic incidents.

If you want to leave food for the hedgehog, its advised that you use a meat-based dog or cat food or special hedgehog food plus some water.

The owls hoot is eerie as it echoes through the night which then goes to a screech. It's the right hunting weather with the moon so bright at night, Blue Moon is 31st October, Beaver Moon in November and Cold Moon in December.

The berries are early this year and the holly at the end of my garden has been full of bright red berries since mid-September. When it's the right time the birds will descend and polish off the berries in a day or two. The Hawthorn/Quickthorn/May are covered with hips and haws. The other day I was able to pick some sloes to make sloe gin. Damsons are also laden with fruit ideal for jam. Damson trees were planted as protection for soft fruit in Kent. The apples have been picked and the hops are in.

We are heading towards the rutting season and deer will be more active and will be crossing the roads again, in abundance. There are signs to tell you to slow down where deer are known to cross. These are black on yellow or vice versa.

There is always so much going on which makes up the colourful tapestry of our countryside.

We must continue to protect and nurture our wildlife for future generations, it is so important. Even the irritating wasp or blow fly have a reason, although it may be difficult to find one as they buzz round your head!



Air Quality Matters

Hawkhurst Air Quality Management Area – stage one consultation

In July 2020 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council declared an Air Quality Management Area in Hawkhurst, along the Cranbrook Rd as you approach the Highgate Crossroads.

Councillor Clare Escombe, Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council said: “For those living in the affect properties, TWBC have already written to you. This is the first opportunity to put forward your views on air quality in Hawkhurst.”

From a Parish point of view, we would like to see:

- HGV route through Hawkhurst diverted to stay on the A21 – this adds significant pollution in Hawkhurst
- Increase in electric vehicle charging points
- Provision of a local community bus, rather than funding to Kent County Council, to subsidise buses throughout Kent that have no positive impact on Hawkhurst
- Funding to support the improvement in cycling and walking opportunities

Clare concluded: "It is important that **all residents** take the opportunity to email sustainability@tunbridgewells.gov.uk by the end of October 2020. This is your opportunity to influence the future of the air we, and future generations breathe. Congestion in the centre of the village is significant and already adversely affects the quality of life for those who live, work and visit our Parish."

Your Voice Matters! Have your say. Be heard!

Hawkhurst Library

Due to Covid 19 Kent County Council advise that the Hawkhurst Library is closed until further notice. The closest library that is open is Cranbrook - which has limited opening times so make sure you contact them before visiting. The contact details are:

Phone 0300 041 3131

Email – cranbrooklibrary@kent.gov.uk

By the way, if you have a Kent Library Card you may be entitled to Free audio or E books

King George V Recreational Ground Dog Walkers

We are very lucky to have such a beautiful and well-kept area in Hawkhurst in which to walk our dogs. The only thing that is spoiling it, is the very few dog walkers that are not picking up their dog's poo.

Surely, this is not too much to ask? Poo bags are cheap enough to buy and the Parish Council do supply them free of charge in the dispenser at the entrance to KGV.

It has been mentioned to me by a footballer that they have had to remove dog poo off the pitch on more than on occasion.

On Monday, there was yet another huge poo on the pitch - not sure if it is Dog or a Donkey! Dog owners who do not pick up can fined –
www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/report-littering-or-dog-fouling

By the way, litter bins can be used for dog poo bags, so please pick up after your dog next time and use a litter bin!

May I ask fellow dog walkers at the KGV, and throughout the village, to adopt the following "Dog Poo Policy"

- Always take two poo bags
- Always pick up after your dog
- Always use the litter bins provided

Thank you for your support in this messy business.

Garden BONFIRES

Bonfires can be very anti-social and cause air pollution, affecting people with health conditions such COPD, asthma, heart conditions, bronchitis and many other things.

Please give a thought to the people who are recovering from Covid 19 and how difficult it is for them with their breathing problems and the long haul ahead of them to recovery.

Smoke and ash from bonfires can cause annoyance to your neighbours and prevent them from using their garden, hanging out washing and opening their windows. Something that was vital over the past few months, both day and night, during the very hot weather we have had.

We have an excellent garden waste collection and it is amazing how much you can get into the bin if you cut it up well.

Anything larger, can be taken to one of the rubbish tips by booking on line (up to four times per month) visit www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/visiting-a-hwrc-during-coronavirus

If you are suffering from neighbour's burning garden waste, you can contact www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/environment/pollution/bonfires-and-fireworks

Activities in Hawkhurst – at time of print

Day	Time	Venue	Activity	Contact details
Monday	9 - 12 noon	Copt Hall	Pilates	Body Act Pilates Evelyne Callens 07920 585834 Evelyne.callens@gmail.com
Monday	10am - 1pm	KGV	Post Office	
Tuesday	5 – 7pm	Copt Hall	Weight Watches	Weight Watchers Susan Mangold 07487 722785 Susan.mangold@ww.com
Tuesday	11- 1pm	KGV	Food 4 Families	
Tuesday	5 – 8pm	KGV	Youth Club 8 – 11year olds	Youth Club 8 - 12 years old Beth Kemp 07936948688 www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk
Wednesday	10:30am – 1pm	KGV	Baby message	Cocoon and Bloom Henrietta Ballard henrietta@cocoonandbloom.co.uk
Thursday	10am - 1pm	KGV	Post Office	
Friday	11am – 1pm	KGV	Food 4 Families	
Friday	9:30am – 1pm	Copt Hall	Pilates	Body Act Pilates Evelyne Callens 07920 585834 Evelyne.callens@gmail.com
Friday	6pm – 8pm	Copt Hall / MUGA	Taekwondo	Taekwondo Matt Hammond 0789 6847735 mathewha@yahoo.co.uk
Saturday	9am – 12noon	Copt Hall	Fencing	Fencing Chris Higginson chigginson1965@yahoo.com

If you are interested in booking the

[Copt Hall, KGV Sports Pavilion or the new MUGA at KGV](#)

contact: 01580 752058 or office@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Chairman	Ms	Clare	Escombe	clare.escombe@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Vice Chairman	Mr	Martin	Taylor-Smith	martin.taylor-smith@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	Brian	Fitzpatrick	brian.fitzpatrick@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	Paul	Whittle	paul.whittle@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	Mike	Appelbe	mike.appelbe@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	Phil	Jones	phil.jones@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	John	Hunt	john.hunt@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mrs	Ros	Cory	ros.cory@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mrs	Barbara	Weeden	barbara.weeden@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mrs	Jane	Pyne	jane.pyne@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	Richard	Lusty	richard.lusty@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	Paul	Green	paul.green@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Cllr	Mr	David	Blake	david.blake@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk

Parish Office - The staff are working from home

Parish Clerk	Mr	Richard	Griffiths	parish.clerk@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk
Deputy Clerk RFO	Ms	Anita	Maxwell	deputy.clerk@hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk

Office Phone 01580 752580 Mobile Phone 07907 022914

HCSG

For all local information on COVID 19 and volunteering
www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com or phone 01580 43015 or
 email hawkhurstcommunity@gmail.com

The Parish Council Newsletter is available in
 Tesco, Waitrose, Pharmacy, Doctors and local shops and pubs.

