



Hawkhurst Parish Council

Five-year Strategy 2019-2024



Priorities October 2021

This strategy has been prepared as part of the Council's commitment to provide Best Value and Quality Service. This means continuously reviewing the needs of the parish and improving the services provided and the way they are delivered. This plan will run from April 2019 – March 2024 and will be reviewed and updated annually.

Vision

To improve the quality of life for the people of Hawkhurst.

Mission

To establish community pride, to provide quality services and continuous improvement.

Aims

Key Aims

1. To be open, accessible and responsive.
2. To seek continuous improvement and best value in all services.
3. To work in partnership with all stakeholders for the benefit of all.
4. To protect the environment.

Objectives

A Communications

Take a proactive approach to communicating using all media available with local residents and stakeholders and provide easy to use feedback. To do this the Council will:

- i) Develop and implement a communications plan.
- ii) Actively seek the views of residents and stakeholders.
- iii) Actively promote the work of the Council.
- iv) Develop new council website.
- v) Improve social media presence.

Priority	Who / What	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Community engagement and participation - review and improve communications - both internally and with residents	SAP – Review update Communications plan			
	Implement improved Communications Plan			

B. Leisure, Sports & Recreation.

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

- i.) Review the leisure and recreation provision to establish what current facilities the public use and what improvements they would wish to see.
- ii.) Annually review and maintain the play equipment. Replace and upgrade damaged and worn out equipment.
- iii.) Seek to enhance cycle ways and footpaths.
- iv.) Seek to upgrade the tennis courts to a Multi-Use Games Area.
- v.) Manage the allotments to meet local need.

Priority	Who / What	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Improve our facilities to a good standard (Copt Hall, KGV Sports Pavilion, Cemetery, Allotments, King George V Playing Field, MUGA, War Memorial, Heartenoak Playing Field, Fowlers Wood, Street lights, Bus Shelters, Parish Office and Playgrounds at KGV and Heartenoak)	FAS – surveys, update / repair as required			
Maintain our facilities to a good standard, by developing a planned maintenance programme (Copt Hall, KGV Sports Pavilion, Cemetery, Allotments, King George V Playing Field, MUGA, War Memorial, Heartenoak Playing Field, Fowlers Wood, Street lights, Bus Shelters, Parish Office and Playgrounds at KGV and Heartenoak)	FAS – need planned maintenance programme and budget to maintain moving forward			

C. Community Facilities.

Modern communities require modern facilities. Working with stakeholders the Council

will:

- i) Review the current suitability of the existing halls and the requirements for future users.
- ii) Build a new community hall at King George V Playing Field.
- iii) Work closely with the Hawkhurst Community Trust 2018 to develop a business plan to operate the new community centre and achieve the object of the Trust.
- iv) Manage the Cemetery to meet local need.
- v) Seek to improve community facilities such as Medical Centre, Library, ICT infrastructure and utility services.
- vi) Seek to increase public car parking in Highgate area.

Priority	Who	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Review and upgrade Heartenoak Playground	FAS review with residents and bring forward project			
	SAP deliver – project using £36,133,44 Section 106 funding			
Obtain Planning permission	Council submit planning application			
Deliver the football pitch improvements at KGV	CSCC – focus on football, work with local clubs, funding			
Deliver the playground KGV	CSCC focus on delivery of football and playground – design and build tender process			
Deliver Community and Sports Centre at KGV	Focus on building CSC, need budget for Technical Design stage in 2022/23 to progress as planned			
Deliver the initial Cemetery Restoration Project and plan for the future	SAP deliver initial improvements			
	Review further improvements, extension etc			

D. Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Council recognises the community's desire to have more say in local planning decisions. To do this the Council will:

- i.) Maintain and annually review Hawkhurst's Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- ii.) Check and comment on every planning application to ensure the Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan is appropriately applied.
- iii.) Monitor TWBC planning decisions in relation to the Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- iv.) Undertake a major review when the TWBC Local Plan 2016 – 2033 is consulted upon.

Priority	Who	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Review the Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan	Form a NDP Planning Steering Group – Review / consult and update NDP			
	Use updated NDP in planning application consultations etc			

Note: NDP to consider Affordable Housing, Public Transport and Highways.

Voluntary Groups to be encouraged to apply for grants.

Approved by Council at meeting held on **18th October 2021**