

TO ALL ELECTORS OF HAWKINGE TOWN

**You are invited to take part in the
Annual Town Meeting
to be held virtually**

**ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021
AT 6.00PM**

Under the Chairmanship of Councillor Philip Martin
(Town Mayor)

Please use this link to access the meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94220960980?pwd=K3U0OFdJT0RiRlc1WWp6dDJGZ3o2QT09>
This meeting will be recorded for publication.

The Town Meeting may by law discuss all town affairs and pass resolutions about them. The matters listed below have been placed on the agenda.

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes
4. Report of Town Mayor of Hawkinge Town Council
5. Report of Kent County Councillor
6. Report of Folkestone and Hythe District Councillors
7. Any other item of information
8. Opportunity to network with community groups

Tina Wiles
Town Clerk

HAWKINGE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 19 March 2019

Minutes of the Hawkinge Annual Town Meeting held on 19 March 2019, at Hawkinge Community Centre, Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge.

Councillor G Hibbert, Town Mayor, was in the Chair.

Present: Councillors D Godfrey, G Hibbert, P Martin, S Peall, L Palliser

In attendance: Mrs T Wiles, Town Clerk; Mrs S Wills, Financial & Project Officer and Miss L Cook, Administration Officer.

There were 40 members of the public present.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the guests and members of the local community.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: D Callahan, A Csiszar, J Heasman, T Hutt, D Pascoe, S Manion, D Monk, G Ward.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 10 April 2018, were submitted and approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR OF HAWKINGE

The Town Mayor presented his report, copy attached at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT OF KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kent County Councillor Susan Carey delivered her annual report, and copies were distributed to those present, copy attached at **Appendix 2**.

REPORT OF FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Report of the District Councillors was presented by District Councillor Stuart Peall, copies were distributed to those present copy attached at **Appendix 3**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Questions raised to Councillor G Hibbert, Mayor of Hawkinge Town Council:

Q. How long does it take to decide on the land behind Hawkinge Community Centre?

A. Councillor D Godfrey responded: There are currently legal restraints that Hawkinge Town Council are looking at resolving. There is an issue with funding, and there land is known for flooding, so all these elements need to be taken into consideration. The Town Council are not just thinking about the Land, they are currently working to resolve the restraining issues.

Questions raised to Councillor Susan Carey, Kent County Councillor:

Q. Why is youth crime such an issue in this area?

A. There is an issue with youth crime in the whole country, there has been an injection of money into helping with these issues. Kent County Council and Kent Police are working together.

There are KCC youth workers who are involving youths within the community, and the youth groups are reaching out to the youths.

Questions raised to Councillor Stuart Peall, Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor:

Q. Are there plans to increase the amount of dog waste bins in the Town?

A. The allocation for the supply of new bins has been utilized this year. If the dog waste is bagged, it can be put into any of the bins, bag it and bin it.

Q. Who is responsible for the emptying of the bins, as they always appear to be full?

A. The bins are emptied on a schedule, Veolia are contracted to complete this. If the bins required emptying on a different schedule, if you contact FHDC then they will be able to monitor the collection rota and ensure the best one is selected. Last year in the Lower Leas Coastal Park, we installed the Big Belly Bins, that crush/compact the rubbish inside. The bins should not be used for household waste.

Q. How will the proposed dog run at Underwood Open Space work?

A. The dog run will be accessible from Transfer Road, there will be two gates for pedestrian access. There will be no access from the remaining open space into the dog run. The dog run will be placed on the right-hand side of the gate, looking down from the Underwood Access.

Q. The bus uses the proposed location for parking to access the dog run as a turning point, will this be affected?

A. There is ample room at the Transfer Road gate for the parking of 3 cars and the turning of the bus.

Q. Will there be dog waste bins placed within the dog run at Underwood?

A. At each pedestrian access there will be a dog waste bin. Those who do not pick up their dogs waste, if caught are liable for £100 fine.

Q. What methods have been considered to prevent the Travellers from Returning?

A. Both HTC and FHDC are looking at ways to Target Harden site that are vulnerable to Traveller Incursions. As a member of the Cabinet Member of FHDC I was awarded £1000.00, I have chosen to spend this money target hardening the three local Open Spaces, Harvest Way, Uphill and Haven Drive Open Space.

Note:

The Chairman presented awards in respect of Hawkinge Hero Award Scheme. In receipt of the Hawkinge Hero Awards 2019, were:

- Lorna Wilks -
- Danielle Harper Hague -

After the meeting the Chairman opened the meeting to the networking session for those local organisations in attendance.

APPENDIX ONE

Town Mayor's Report to the Hawkinge Annual Town Meeting

Held: Tuesday 19 March 2019

I was elected as Mayor in May 2018; the past ten months have been a productive and busy time. I have attended many functions, these were both here in Hawkinge and within the local area. We have been able to promote Hawkinge and all the wonderful things the town has to offer.

We have held numerous charity fundraising events during the past year and I would like to thank all those who have supported me. I would also like to thank the Village Hall Committee for the assistance towards the quiz night on Saturday.

The land behind Hawkinge Community Centre belongs to the Town Council, the Council has a master planning working group, which is considering use for developing the land. The Town Council continues to support Hawkinge Community Centre.

The Town Council continues to work closely with its different partners, the Hawkinge Allotment Society, Hawkinge Community Centre, Hawkinge Baptist Church, Hawkinge Village Hall and many others. These provide recreational facilities for the residents of Hawkinge.

Hawkinge Town Council has installed a new play area in St Luke's walk. The local children are thoroughly enjoying the new equipment they had chosen. Kent County Councillor Susan Carey helped fund this project with a grant.

As part of the WW1 celebrations, the Council have installed a WW1 commemoration bench and litter bin at Siskin Way for the residents to enjoy. This location was chosen as it formed part of the airfield.

The flagpole outside Hawkinge Community Centre was partly funded from the WW1 celebrations, I would like to thank Councillor Les Palliser for his kind donation to the flagpole.

We are working closely with our local PSCOs Dan Mills and Nick Hazel, and the Community Warden Andy Hawkins. They are all here with us tonight.

The Annual Carol Concert organised with the Hawkinge Baptist Church and supported by the Shepway Brass Band, our three local primary schools was a great success. The event was well supported by the local community. Our thanks to Reverend Ali Boddington for working with us to organise the Carol Concert and we are looking forward to this year's concert. I would also like to thank Reverend Ali Boddington and Ann Usher for their assistance with the Christmas Tree lighting.

I would like to thank the Mayoress, my fellow Town Councillors, our County Councillor Susan Carey and our District Councillors: David Godfrey, Stuart Peall and Phillip Martin for all the hard work on behalf of the Council over the past twelve months. This is much appreciated.

The Town Council currently employs three officers to undertake the work of the Council. The Council has recently welcomed Sam to the team.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town Clerk, Tina Wiles and her Assistants Sam and Laura for their support during the year.

Thank You

Cllr Glyn Hibbert

Hawkinge Annual Town Meeting – 19th March 2019

District Councillor's report – from Stuart Peall, David Godfrey & Philip Martin

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Town Council on the activities of the District Council and North Downs East Councillors over the last year. NDE covers Hawkinge, Swingfield & Densole, and stretches to Elham.

As you know, Shepway District Council changed its name to Folkestone & Hythe District Council with effect from April 2018. That positive change has set the scene for the rest of the year, which has been the foundation for change.

FHDC is currently going through a major transformation process at the moment, refocusing services so that they are more proactive – our Area Officers initiative is a perfect example.

FHDC is undertaking significant projects to deliver for the future. Prince's Parade, the provision of a new swimming pool and leisure facilities for Hythe and surrounding area, may seem contentious but will improve an area of disused waste ground, give superb facilities and revitalise the seafront.

Otterpool Park is a major, long term project to help provide housing for the ever growing population of the District. Plans have been submitted and are going through the validation process. 8,500 homes are planned, over 30 to 40 years, with a significant proportion of the area being given over to green space. Carefully planned as a new garden town, the government is supportive, having provided £2.8m funding to date to help the project. Otterpool will help deliver much needed homes, and in turn, go towards protecting Hawkinge from further significant development.

Whilst planning new homes, FHDC are bringing back empty properties back into use. Our No Use Empty plus scheme has helped bring over 160 old buildings back into use. Further to that, we are currently working hard on saving the Leas Pavilion, having given formal notice to the owners to make repairs and improvements, or be forced to sell.

The District Council has launched a long term campaign to help the homeless in our District – Small Change, Big Difference.

FHDC supported Morrisons following their devastating fire last year. We turned around their planning app incredibly quickly to ensure they could get up and running again in their temporary facility, and we continue to work with them as they plan a new building.

FHDC look to support a variety of initiatives and one such was the recent "Safety in Action" campaign, aimed at helping children understand the perils of the big bad world. We contributed £3,000 to an event held at The Three Hills sports ground where year 6 children benefited from a variety of workshops.

We have improved our Enforcement team's capabilities and continue to grow our activities. The last year has been very frustrating with an ongoing issue with Travellers, with a number of incursions in and around Hawkinge. We have several successes around fly-tipping, as well as fly posting, with several high value fines being issued to offenders across the District. Just a reminder, if you are using someone to remove your rubbish, make sure you keep a copy of their Waste Carrier license, because if your rubbish is dumped, you could be liable.

Funding for Independent Living has been an important development over the last couple of years. The council has allocated approx £400,000 to improve 50 homes with specialist equipment such as stair lifts, ramps, level access showers, and an additional £134,000 from the Government will help more people remain in their own homes.

As you know, waste and recycling is an important part of the work that FHDC undertakes. The District produced 22kg less general waste per household in 2017/18 than the previous year, the lowest amount in any year in the past decade. This has a big impact on the costs of waste and recycling. However, we still suffer from too many individuals dropping their litter. We have installed CCTV cameras in many of our council vehicles to catch drivers in the act. If you have footage, or evidence of a perpetrator spoiling our beautiful district, please let us know so that we can take the matter further. We will always look to prosecute where we can. In order to help improve our recycling rates, we recently launched a recycling campaign to give greater clarity for residents – hopefully you will have received your information sticker and seen details in the recent District Today.

In support of the work above, we are also reviewing our part in accepting people's rubbish. In the summer, we introduced Big Belly bins in the Coastal Park. These have proven to be immensely effective – their compacting capabilities mean the bin is always "open for business", and they communicate to the officers when they are approaching capacity. This means we have less frequent collections, saving officers time so that they can work on other projects. We will be reviewing the outcomes in the summer and considering further investment in other areas of the District. In addition to these hi-tech initiatives, we have worked hard to ensure capacity at our key areas such as beaches over the summer – this year has been highly successful.

FHDC has done all of this, and more, and still managed to balance the books. This year, FHDC will be raising their proportion of council tax by 1.92% - a real term cut.

Coming closer to home, we have been focusing on the following:

Area Officers – as part of our proactive delivery, we introduced Area Officers, with the mandate of "See it, Do it". These officers are mobile, targeting the problems that crop up and need a quick response – such as graffiti, litter and fly posting for example. These officers recently won a Silver Award in the iESE Public Sector Awards. If you need help addressing problems like graffiti, contact your Ward councillor or go via the council website.

Area Officers have also supported us for the monthly litter picks – third Saturday of every month. We now regularly have 15 or more volunteers going out litter picking around the town. More volunteers always welcome.

FHDC has recently undertaken a deep clean of SpitFire Way and White Horse Hill. These are major routes and unfortunately suffer from mindless individuals throwing their rubbish from their cars, or from lorries that haven't been covered properly. We will continue to monitor these routes which need to be speed controlled and professionally cleared.

As I mentioned previously, we did suffer from Traveller incursions last year. One particular family has been causing problems across the District for some time now so we have consulted on various solutions – we will soon be introducing new Public Space Protection Orders to help protect our green spaces. Further to that, we have also secured funding for protecting these spaces. Cllr Stuart Peall has invested nearly £10,000 on protecting the three main parks across the Town. Webster Way, Heron Forstal and Haven Drive.

Your councillors have also supported the following from their ward grants specifically in Hawkinge:

£1,000 – Hawkinge Community Centre

£1,392 for youth provision

£1,000 – Hawkinge Cricket & Social Club

Cllrs Peall & Godfrey have invested £17,000 for protecting the parks in Hawkinge and a new Dog Run at Cricketers Close



Dear Resident,

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

This is my Annual Report for the town and parish councils in the Elham Valley division which I have the honour to represent at Kent County Council. It is my view that Elham Valley is one of the very best parts of Kent for beauty, heritage and of course the people.

Your County Council has continued to deliver essential services for residents and this report includes an update from Kent County Council Leader Paul Carter. Also in this report is a full list of the KCC Member Grants I have allocated in the last year and a summary of the work I do as your County Councillor.

I keep residents in touch year-round through village newsletters, attendance at local events and stories in the excellent Hawkinge Gazette an online news site at www.localrags.co.uk You can also follow what I'm doing through my twitter account @susanjcarey



Matthew Scott, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner with Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee

Damian Collins MP has also been helpful in the efforts to get better mobile phone coverage in our area and to get Post Office services restored in Lyminge and has joined me on the doorstep to meet residents. It's not just at election time we call.

Our local parish and town councils also do a grand job in serving their communities and I'd like to thank both councillors and clerks for their efforts. My District Council colleagues, Jenny Hollingsbee, David Godfrey, Stuart Peall and Philip Martin complete the picture. Working together means we can get more done for our residents.

I'm grateful to Matthew Scott our excellent Police and Crime Commissioner who launched his 'Meet the Commissioner' events with a morning of discussion with residents from across my division at Stelling Minnis on 07 January. Matthew has ensured that Kent Police report on 'Speedwatch' results and what they are doing to deal with the minority of drivers who try to blight our communities by flouting the speed limits.



Damian Collins with Susan Carey & Jenny Hollingsbee

A message from Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council

Kent County Council has three clear ambitions for Kent which were agreed in 2015 and remain our priorities. We want –

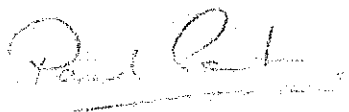
- **children and young people in Kent get the best start in life**
- **Kent communities to feel the benefits of economic growth by being in-work, healthy and enjoying a good quality of life**
- **older and vulnerable residents to be safe and supported with choices to live independently**

Each of these aims has measurable targets and, for the majority of measures, I am pleased to report our performance continues to be maintained or improved. This has been achieved despite rising demand for services and reduced Government funding and is a great tribute to the hard work, dedication and creativeness of our KCC staff most of who are themselves Kent residents. We will continue to invest in new technology and streamline services so that we can save money but we are also lobbying hard for a more sustainable funding system for local government that properly meets local needs.

At a time when many other councils are reducing services to the statutory minimum, Kent still boasts 99 libraries, continues to fund Community Wardens, subsidise the Young Persons Travel Pass by over £8 million a year and support communities through the KCC Member Grants. It's a record of which we can all be proud.

Our investment in highways maintenance rose to £89m in 2018/19 and will rise to £96m in 2019/20. This is in addition to the £28m recently received from the Department of Transport for improvements to highways as part of Brexit Preparedness. I am also pleased that KCC has played a leading role in the Kent Resilience Forum which has brought together public bodies to plan for a variety of scenarios of disruption. Kent has always faced disruption when Cross Channel Services are interrupted by bad weather industrial action or Tunnel closures so this work will stand us in good stead whatever happens with Brexit.

Whatever the future holds for us all you can be sure that Kent County Council will stay true to its commitment to a better Kent for all our residents.



Paul Carter Leader, Kent County Council

PS from Susan

I am delighted that following a review of library hours across all Kent, all libraries will be open on Saturdays and Lyminge library will increase its opening hours from 21 to 28 hours a week.

Susan Carey - My work for you and for Kent

At Kent County Council I am Cabinet Member for Customers, Communications and Performance which includes responsibility for our call centre, website, consultations, internal audit, risk and performance management.

www.kent.gov.uk has over 3,000 webpages covering over 300 KCC services. It receives over 1,000,000 page views a month from over 220,000 people. Our Contact Point deals with phone calls, correspondence and email and receives over 600,000 calls a year. Both the website and Contact Point are highly rated and we benchmark our services against the best in the public and private sector.

As well as the Cabinet meetings I am involved with Policy & Resources Cabinet Committee, Governance & Audit Committee and the full County Council meetings which are all webcast. I also chair the Youth Advisory Group for the Folkestone & Hythe and am a member of the Joint Transportation Board. As the County Member for Elham Valley I am a trustee of both the Sir John Williams charity in Elham and the Robert Thompson Charity in Saltwood.

One of the most important parts of my role is helping residents with individual problems and I am easily contactable by emails or phone. I am also pleased to help many local projects through my KCC Member Grant. Here are the projects I supported in 2018/19.

KCC Member Grants

The largest grant was £5,000 to Hawkinge Town Council for help with essential repairs to the Community Centre roof.

£3,878 to Age UK Lyminge towards chairs for the new Dementia Wing.

£2,000 to Sellindge Sports & Social Club towards the resurfacing of the car park.

£1,000 to Hawkinge Town Council towards the cost of new play equipment for the St Lukes playground.

£1,000 to Stelling Minnis Village Hall towards the cost of a new boiler.

£1,000 to Lyminge PCC for the Pathways to the Past project.

£764 to Monks Horton Parish Meeting for a defibrillator and First Aid training.

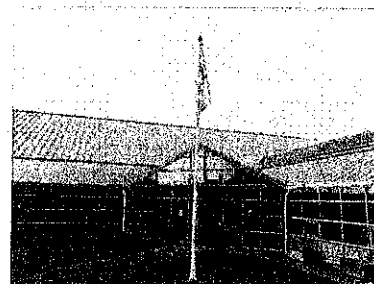
£700 to Elham Parish Council for 'Bark for the Park.' (Not anything to do with dogs but replenishing the bark covering around the equipment.)

£500 to Hawkinge Baptist Church towards the cost of their new lift for disabled access to their services.

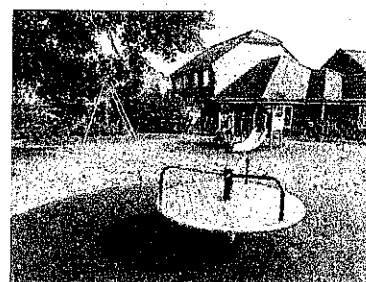
£500 to Evington Village Hall in Elmsted towards lighting for the car park.

£500 to the Pilgrims Hospice towards the cost of furniture for their 'Quiet Lounge'.

£500 to Rhodes Minnis village hall towards the cost of their kitchen refurbishment.



Hawkinge Community Centre



Play equipment in Hawkinge



The defibrillator at Stowting

£500 to Hawkinge Town Council towards the cost of their World War I commemoration events.

£300 to Sellindge Parish Council for traffic cones to deter anti-social parking by HGVs.

£195 to Elham Parish Council for Infant Defibrillator electrodes.

I already have a queue of projects seeking support for the year ahead but do please let me know if you have a local project you'd like me to consider.

Community Litterpicks - It's great when the community gets together to tackle a problem which is why I have supported litterpicking by using my ward grant to pay for equipment and by taking part in many events myself in Etchinghill, Hawkinge, Lyminge and Stowting.

The **Streamcleans** of the Nailbourne in both Lyminge and Elham are also important for keeping the water free from obstruction and reducing flood risk. Last summer I was also able to arrange a beach clean involving nearly 100 Army Cadets. If you'd like to get involved either at the group events or as an individual volunteer then do please contact me. Families are particularly welcome.

Another community initiative that's close to my heart is **Speedwatch**. It's a small minority who choose to ignore the speed limit but they cause much distress. Speedwatch volunteers are there to remind drivers to respect the communities they drive through. Speeding vehicles are reported to Kent Police who follow up with warning letters or visits. The data also helps Kent Police plan their own speed enforcement patrols.

I also serve as a councillor on the Folkestone & Hythe District Council where, together with Jenny Hollingsbee, I represent North Downs West. The North Downs West and North Downs East wards form the Elham Valley Division. Serving at both KCC and the District Council means I work closely with my colleagues to help our residents.



District Councillors for North Downs West and East



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Councillor for Elham Valley**
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