

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 13

24th July 2020

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the HCSG Newsletter.

Due to summer holidays, there will only be one newsletter produced in August.

The newsletter is also published on our website:

www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/hcsg-newsletter



A word from the Chair.....

As you are probably aware, Astrid has stepped down from the Volunteer Manager role. Astrid was instrumental in setting up all of our wonderful volunteers, and I am sure you would all like to join me in wishing her a heartfelt thank you for her hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. Just before she left, Astrid organised the joint Hands of Hope and HCSG project, which commenced last week. I'm glad to hear that the first parcels were well-received.

Thanks also go to Felicity March for stepping up as our Hands of Hope Co-ordinator. Without Felicity, we just wouldn't have been able to take this project forward.

I am delighted that Ruth Saunders has taken up the role of Volunteer Manager. She has already made a huge contribution to HCSG through her work as our phone line co-ordinator and establishing the Food4Families project. Thank you, Ruth.

A quick reminder that we need to wear face coverings when we visit shops from this Friday. Please remember that face coverings are mainly intended to protect other people, so you still need to take care to keep your distance and wash your hands regularly. It's very important to use hand sanitiser or wash your hands thoroughly before putting a face covering on and after taking it off. When taking it off, avoid touching the front of the face covering or the part that's been in contact with your mouth and nose, and put it straight into a plastic bag until you can wash it or dispose of it. Let's all work together to keep each other safe.

Clare

Volunteer & Client numbers:

We currently have 137 volunteers and 187 clients registered with HCSG.

Welcome to our new Volunteer Manager

We are delighted to have appointed a replacement Volunteer Manager to take over from Astrid - the wonderful **Ruth Saunders** - whom many of you will know already.

Ruth says "I have been involved with HCSG since the early days, initially as co-ordinator for the central phone line and more recently in setting up the Food4Families project. A resident of Hawkhurst for twenty years, but a commuter for many of them, I am now retired from the City and embracing village and community life. I am actively involved in the running of the RVS Hawkhurst Friendship Club and Cranbrook Film Society and I volunteer at Sissinghurst Castle Garden; all of which I am missing right now. I also love travel, reading, the theatre and gardening."

Hawkhurst Community Fridge

Have you noticed the large fridge and larder section outside the Green Shop? The Hawkhurst Community Fridge is part of Hubbub's UK-wide Community Fridge Network, redistributing food that would otherwise go to waste. According to Hubbub, the average UK family wastes £810 a year by throwing away food and drink which could have been eaten, and £3 billion is wasted by food sectors. So far, Community Fridges have helped thousands connect to their communities, access nutritious food, save money and reduce waste.



Our fridge is supported by **Hawkhurst Community Trust** and run entirely by volunteers. Anyone is welcome to come and take what they wish from the fridge and shelves - it's not a food bank but a *community project* for all to share and reduce waste. There is also a box called 'Hens of Hawkhurst' containing bread that has gone over for chickens, ducks or pigs! Open 9.30am - 4pm Monday to Saturday.

Food is donated by individuals and local retailers such as Eggs to Apples, Tesco and Sandhurst Farm Shop. If you have any surplus food that's still good to eat, you can donate it via the donation box inside the Green Shop.



A message from the Campaign to Protect Hawkhurst Village - *objections to be lodged no later than **Monday 27th July***:

URGENT CALL FOR ACTION

Don't let developers build on Hawkhurst Golf Course!

A revised application has been submitted by Cedar Drive to build 340 new houses on the 49 acres of green space that is currently Hawkhurst Golf Club, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is totally unsuitable for the following reasons:

- **significant and irreparable harm** to the AONB
- **unsustainable location** – Hawkhurst does NOT have the infrastructure to support this increase in population. Residents will be dependant on their cars, on already severely congested roads and against all climate change concerns
- **highways safety** – KCC and the developer's own safety audit have identified significant safety concerns with the proposed roundabout and layout in a location already suffering from acknowledged speeding issues
- **impact on Hawkhurst crossroads** – the developer's own figures predict a 100% increase in traffic on the High Street, over 8,000 car movements per day and a daily average queue length of 125 cars (600m) on the High Street side of the crossroads
- **impact on Flimwell junction** – even greater delays are predicted
- **impact on the village's smaller roads** – Slip Mill Road, Delmonden Lane and North Hill Road will become rat runs as motorists seek to avoid the crossroads
- **increased pollution levels** - the village's air quality is currently running *above the danger level* of 40 micrograms per cubic metre; it is already almost double that figure
- **increased noise levels** – inevitable from 8,000 additional car movements per day
- **impact on sewage system** – this is overloaded and cannot cope with current volumes, already representing a danger to health
- **ecology** – even the revised application will cause the loss of a huge number of trees and impact upon numerous important habitats. The alleged bio-diversity net gain is unsubstantiated.

What you can do as soon as possible:

Make your objections clear on the TWBC planning website:

www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-application-search and enter
19/02025/HYBRID

or email the Case Officer Kevin Hope: kevin.hope@tunbridgewells.gov.uk and
planning@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

or write to: Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Mount Pleasant Road,
Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS quoting application 19/02025/HYBRID

If you have any questions, please email us at: protecthawkhurstvillage@gmail.com and follow us on

Facebook: Hawkhurst – SAVE OUR VILLAGE

STOP THIS UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



HCSG Co-ordinator at Hands of Hope

HCSG and Hands of Hope were thrilled that **Felicity March** recently stepped forward to be the HCSG Hands of Hope Co-ordinator.

Hands of Hope is a local charity dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is transforming the heritage walled garden off Moor Hill into a productive market garden and has now kindly offered to provide fresh, organically grown vegetables, free of charge, to HCSG's clients. The vegetables will be available as they come into season over the coming months.



Felicity's role is to manage this scheme, working in conjunction with Hands of Hope and our volunteer distributors.

Thank you Felicity!

Meet the HCSG Team

We continue with introductions to our Volunteers.
This week it's the turn of **Tabitha and Jane Pengelly** and **Felicity March**.



**Tabitha & Jane Pengelly
Volunteers**

Tabitha and Jane Pengelly have been shopping for neighbours who have been in quarantine. Jane is a teaching assistant at Dulwich Prep School so has been working throughout the majority of lockdown. Tabitha is a student going to university next year and has enjoyed using her spare time in lockdown volunteering for the community.



**Felicity March
HCSG Hands of
Hope Co-ordinator**

"I returned home from university and joined HCSG to do something useful with all my free time during lockdown. I loved walking my client's beautiful dog but sadly had to give this up when I managed to break both my wrists coming off my bike! However, I now have a new role coordinating HCSG volunteers to work with Hands of Hope charity to provide fresh vegetable packs straight from their community garden to our clients. I'm really looking forward to seeing the results of this project!"