

REPORT TO FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL AGM 26TH MARCH 2020

I am delighted to be able to write a short report.

Firstly a belated thank you for showing your faith in me and electing me to represent the Fawkham and West Kingsdown Ward. A ward I work and have lived in for over 20 years.

I have been assigned by the District Council to sit on Health and Housing committee, Housing liaison group, Finance and Governance Committees. But more importantly locally I have been involved in helping residents in the past year with a pest problem and environmental problems, such as dog fouling, noise and disturbance from fireworks at inappropriate times throughout the year. I have been contacted by residents regarding lawful planning and enforcement matters which I have helped resolve or been able to put them in contact with the relevant officer. I am afraid that GDPR prevent me from going into too many specifics on individual cases.

I have worked with KCC to help improve roads and pot holes which are awful right through Fawkham, this will be a longer project and restricted by KCC budgets making fund available for major repairs which is very much needed road works. I have also helped families with school place matters.

One of the Fawkham resident's main concerns this year has been to limit large developments taking place and to keep Fawkham the pleasant small village it is. I have represented the views of Fawkham whilst working with the District Council in their work to produce a local plan in accordance with central Governments pressure for new homes. The District is 93% Greenbelt and is quite unique with such a high percentage Greenbelt. I will continue to work to keep any developments to a minimum in Fawkham.

This year one of the projects I have been involved in is the setting up of the Community Cupboard. Initially the search for a building had come to a dead end. But after I set up a meeting with KCC, Trustees and myself and then I wrote to the Councillors appealing to the neighbouring Parish Council to reconsider donating the use of a building in West Kingsdown to allow the trustees to set up a hub.

The project desperately needed the base and now the Community Cupboard has a building they can call home. The response and journey has been a positive one. From trustees, volunteers, people receiving to people giving. Understanding the hardships that residents are struggling with and the help that is available. This help has been received by residents in all surrounding villages Fawkham, West Kingsdown, New Ash Green and Hartley. I am very pleased to have to opportunity to be part of this team and their vision. Several Fawkham residents have kindly donated or have received a donation of much needed food and household products. Thank you to every one of you who has donated.

The Community cupboard for those that haven't heard of it is a foodbank but also a place where residents with other issues can find guidance and support. The Cupboard is currently supporting residents of Fawkham and neighbouring villages

We all need a little bit of help sometimes and in my role as a District Councillor I will work for the people I represent.

With the current coronavirus please do get in touch if you need anything or I can help or advise, if I don't know the answer I will certainly try to find out. To you all stay at home where possible and stay safe.

Cllr Lynda Harrison

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