

Hawkwell Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Diane Scrivener

e-mail: info@hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01702 207710

**Parish Office
Hawkwell Village Hall
Main Road
Hawkwell
Essex
SS5 4EH**

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Mr Matt Critchell
Email. matt.critchell@newsquest.co.uk
Reporter, Echo Newspaper

Dear Mr Critchell

This is the official response from Hawkwell Parish Council to your email earlier today.

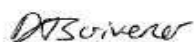
The information you have been given is unfortunately false and misleading. The Parish Council recently agreed its budgets for 2021-22 and allocated £7k for the potential use of a private security company to help add additional security to the Hawkwell Parish, which includes parks and open spaces such as Magnolia Nature Reserve.

Council has unfortunately had repeated damage to its playground equipment at Magnolia Park, along with continual graffiti, reports of drug taking and the discovery of drugs paraphernalia. Also there have been numerous reports of ASB in and around other areas of the Parish. Patrol guards have also been asked to inform users of the Nature Reserve of the rules which are set out on the signs at each end of the bridlepaths. This includes the requirement to have dogs on leads, predominately in force to ensure the Nature Reserve's habitat and wildlife are protected and to encourage a harmonious environment for all types of users.

Recently, Council agreed to 3-month trial run with a security company. Following consultation with residents and thorough review of the company, Council will then decide whether or not to pursue an annual contract. It is worth noting that if Council was to pursue a contract, the maximum total cost would be approximately £7k per annum which equates to an average cost of £0.12p a month per household.

The Parish Council will shortly be launching its own Facebook Page and it will be engaging with residents to gauge feedback on this trial initiative.

Yours sincerely



Diane Scrivener
Clerk to the Council