



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

## A LOOK BACK AT WHAT'S BEEN DONE

BY COUNCILLOR SPIKE MAYHEW, MAYOR

As this council's term of office draws to a close it seems a good time to look back at some of the items Uckfield Town Council has been working on over the last few years. By 'Uckfield Town Council', I mean all the town councillors, officers, ground staff, restaurant staff, caretakers and cleaners. We have all worked together to make Uckfield a better place for its residents and visitors.

### Oyez, Oyez, Oyez



In March 2018, we advertised the position of Town Crier for Uckfield. This is a prestigious role within the town. Town Criers have historically played an important role within town centres by providing public announcements on behalf of the local council and key organisations. Mr Ian Bedwell pipped



his fellow applicants to the scroll with an incredibly loud cry! He can be heard regularly in the town.

### New CCTV in the town

In October 2018, we announced that, as part of an upgrade of Uckfield's CCTV system, six new cameras had been installed at locations across Uckfield. The Town Council funded five cameras with Uckfield Chamber of Commerce funding the sixth.

We are part of the Sussex iWitness CCTV partnership led by Sussex Police. This aims to work with local authorities to provide public safety, reassurance, crime detection and crime reduction. The footage captured will link directly to the CCTV control room in Sussex Police Headquarters

Contact us through:  
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk  
f @uckfieldtowncouncil

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# LOOKING BACK AT WHAT'S BEEN DONE

## Dog Fouling



We ran a successful anti dog fouling communications campaign in 2018 to encourage dog owners to clean up after man's best friend. Uckfield has a large number of litter bins sited across the town which can also be used for this purpose. We are also in the process of providing free dog poo bags from dispensers at various locations over the coming weeks.

## New Town Twinning signs



In 2017, we installed new town twinning signs at entrances to the town, highlighting and celebrating our connections with Quickborn and Arques-la-Bataille.

## Ridgewood Recreation Ground and Hughes Way Play area improvements

In 2016, we installed a new play area and multi-use games area at Ridgewood Recreation Ground. Work commenced on Hughes Way in February 2018 to upgrade that play area. All new items of equipment, surfacing and gates were installed. This play area is designed for children up to the age of 10.



©Ron Hill Photography

## Youth Engagement Programme

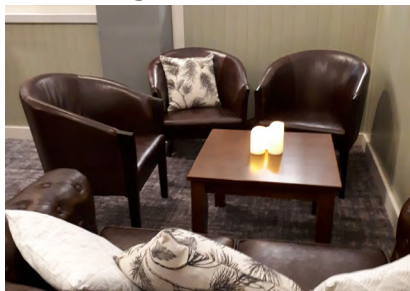
In 2017, we set up a youth engagement programme - co-opting A level Politics students from Uckfield College onto the Council to help them understand local level government. Three students attended Town Council meetings and one ended up becoming a town councillor in a recent by-election.

## Uckfield Dementia Forum

Uckfield Dementia Forum was set up in 2016 to help make Uckfield a dementia-friendly town. The Forum works with local businesses and charitable organisations to support this cause under the umbrella of Wealden Dementia Action Alliance.

# LOOKING BACK AT WHAT'S BEEN DONE

## Refurbishing Luxfords Restaurant



In October 2018 work began to refurbish Luxfords Restaurant in the Civic Centre. The new restaurant has a modern, contemporary feel while maintaining the warm and friendly ambience for which it is so popular.

## Community Grant Funding

Each year the Town Council provides community grant funding in the region of £40k to local community groups and organisations.

## Organising town events

We organise events in the town to celebrate or commemorate important occasions. These have included WW1 Battle's Over, the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations and the commemoration of Victory in Europe.



Some events are planned annually for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike, such as Weald on the Field and Uckfield Revival. We also organise a Road Safety Day for our local primary school children.

## Allotment Competition

We hold an allotment competition to recognise the work of our allotment holders. In 2018, the competition was organised in association with Staverton Nursery Limited who provided the judges and prizes.

## Supporting the town during change



The Town Council supported the town's residents and businesses during the High Street improvements with regular communications, ensuring any concerns were dealt with and rectified, as necessary.

The 'Uckfield is Open' campaign delivered a number of events and activities to bring people into the town. These weekly events helped to maintain the vibrant atmosphere in the High Street for which the town is well known.

## New website and e-newsletter for the Civic Centre

In October 2018, we launched a new Civic Centre website where you can find details of events, room hire and Luxfords restaurant. We are planning to trial an online event booking facility this year. In October 2017, we introduced a monthly e-newsletter which advertises our events. You can sign up for this at [www.civiccentreuckfield.com](http://www.civiccentreuckfield.com).

# LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

## Member allowances

Town Councillors agreed at their most recent Full Council meeting that they would not be taking any increase in their member allowance for 2019/20. Members felt that the allowance they received helped to cover their expenses and it would not be appropriate to increase their allowance during this time of austerity.

## Byelaws for Uckfield's Local Nature Reserves

Members agreed to liaise with the Local Nature Reserve Supporter Groups for Hempstead Meadows and West Park, to review the draft byelaws that are proposed and understand what issues were most relevant to each area. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had advised that any byelaws put in place should be evidence based and tailored to the issues relating to that area.

## Learning what we can all do to reduce our use of single-use plastic

The Town Council have previously stated their interest in reducing the town's use of single-use plastic and will be working in association with Brighter Uckfield and the Uckfield Chamber

of Commerce. We will be jointly hosting two information sessions on Wednesday 27 March 2019 at the Civic Centre in Uckfield, at 12.30pm and 5.30pm. Key information will be provided on campaigns undertaken elsewhere, the Water Refill Campaign and some handy tips on how we can all do our bit to **re-use, reduce and recycle**. Everyone is welcome to attend so please come along.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

Full Council agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library. If you wish to ask a question at a meeting, on items

on the agenda, it is advisable to submit your question beforehand to allow a full response to be given at the meeting.

MON 4 MAR	– PLANS
MON 25 MAR	– PLANS
MON 1 APRIL	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 8 APRIL	– FULL COUNCIL
TUES 9 APRIL	– ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MON 15 APRIL	– PLANS
TUES 23 APRIL	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk - [admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

## COMING NEXT MONTH

- Annual Town Meeting
- Don't forget to vote!

