



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

by Cllr. Paul Meakin

Today, there are a great many ways in which we keep in touch with each other and find out what is happening in our community and the wider world. These include printed materials, notice boards, websites, email and the whole range of social media. This applies to your Town Council as well, so it is helpful to give you an outline of the different ways that the Council lets you know what is happening in Uckfield. Equally, you need to know how you can contact the Town Council with any issues and your views and comments.

“The Voice” is specifically about Town Council news and activities. It is written by Town Councillors and the Town Clerk and each month’s content is edited by a small group of three Councillors, the editorial panel, co-ordinated by a member of the Council team.

The role of the panel is to ensure that the content is informative and covers the current activities of the Town Council in a clear and readable style. Your views and comments about ‘The Voice’ are welcomed.

The Town Council is also very aware of the importance and value of the Internet and Social Media to a great many of our residents. It gives you the opportunity to see the very latest Council news and a quick way to inform the Town Council of issues and comments. Modern technology can change very quickly which is why the Town Council’s website, for example, is going to have a complete make-over early this year to make it more interesting and user friendly for you.



The editorial panel: - Tracy Atchison, Cllr. Chris Macve, Linda Lewis, Cllr. Donna French, Cllr. Paul Meakin

To ensure any issue and problems you find are dealt with as quickly as possible these are the best ways to keep in touch with the Town Council;

**Issues needing immediate attention:**  
01825 762774

Office Hours Mon – Fri 9.00 -5.00 (4.00 Fri)

**All other issues:**

01825 762774

Office Hours Mon – Fri

OR email: [admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

**Comments/Views** [admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

**Facebook** [Facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil/)

**Twitter** [www.twitter.com/uckfieldtc](https://www.twitter.com/uckfieldtc)

**Website** [www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk](http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

The Town Council is committed to being a responsive, friendly and supportive organisation. Talking to each other makes this possible.

# THE HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS SPARKLE!

By Cllr. Chris Macve

'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow' could not be more appropriate than to the Christmas lights in Uckfield High Street.

In the early seventies a group of local traders, businesses and Councillors got together to decorate the High Street for Christmas. They would assemble early on Sunday mornings for 6 weeks in all weathers, armed with over a mile of cables, thousands of bulbs, ladders and tools then set about stringing the lights to all the shop fronts. The electricity was supplied by various premises through time clocks. It didn't end there; the time clocks were prone to failure and needed to be reset, the bulbs would fail and needed replacing and sometimes they would overload the electricity supply and cause a power failure in the premises.

After some twenty-five to thirty years the equipment had reached the end of its life and the Town Council came to the rescue.

Since those early days the Town Council has, with the improvements of LED lights, provided a dazzling display to the High Street, Church Street and Bell Lane.

This year lights adorn thirty columns and these are complemented by six across the road displays. We are lucky enough to have a choice of different displays each year and hope they are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

We are always grateful to the Chamber of Commerce for their generous donation each year towards the lights. We hope this partnership will continue in future years to ensure the continuation of these displays and the pleasure they bring to this and future generations.



# HEALTHY LIVING AND A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

By Cllr. Chris Macve

A major objective of the Town Council for 2018 is the promotion of healthy living and a healthy lifestyle for both the residents of our town and for visitors alike.

Each year the Town Council prepares a draft Strategic Plan covering a five-year time frame which is updated annually and becomes the Annual Plan for Council activity. It breaks down the broad aims into more detail and prioritises them into short, medium and long-term objectives.

Amongst these aims the Council places health and wellbeing as a high priority and endeavours to support them in various ways. These include the provision of adequate recreational grounds and facilities, which are maintained by our ground staff and contractors. They cover all forms of sport, the provision, upkeep and improvement of children's playgrounds, including adult exercise equipment at our most recently updated playgrounds.

For walkers and joggers there are our two nature reserves and extensive public green spaces that can be enjoyed, with interconnecting twittens and footpaths linking all areas of our town. Part of the promotion of healthy living will be to provide a map of all these different walk ways to encourage their use for getting about the Town.

In addition we can enjoy the facilities in surrounding parishes such as Views Wood, Lake Wood, Buxted



Park, Ashdown Forest and the nearby available SANG; Owlsbury Park, in Little Horsted now being developed.

The continuing provision of all the Town Council facilities was discussed and agreed in draft at the Full Council meeting held on the 4th December 2017. They will be ratified at the January Full Council meeting, so please make use of and enjoy them and in so doing continue to improve your health.



# LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Members sat down to a long but productive meeting of Full Council in December, where they considered the draft priorities and budget papers for 2018-19 and reviewed a number of matters relating to road safety.

It was agreed to place the Town Council's draft priorities and budget papers out for consultation before the next meeting in January. Any feedback received would then be considered in January and priorities agreed, for 2018-19 and beyond.

As a statutory consultee, members were asked to consider proposals for highway alterations in Lewes Road to meet the needs of the two new access points which would lead into phases 1A and 1B of the Ridgewood Farm development. Members were pleased to see that improvements would be made as far as the Highlands roundabout, but raised their concerns of the positioning of the most northern access point and its proximity to the bend near to New Road.

Members noted the proposals submitted by East Sussex Highways to submit a Traffic Regulation Order and formalise the 20mph speed limit within Uckfield High Street and surrounding roads. The reduction in speed limit forms part of the new scheme improvements introduced in the High Street in 2016.

Speed survey data was presented from four access corridors into Uckfield town; Church Street, Eastbourne Road, Framfield Road and Ringles Cross (London Road). Members were concerned to read some of the statistics recorded in London Road (traffic heading north towards Budletts roundabout) and Eastbourne Road (traffic heading south out of town) where a number of vehicles were recorded as travelling well in excess of the speed limits for these areas. Members had previously agreed to work with East Sussex Highways to explore options for these access corridors into the town, and establish a phase four of highway improvements.

## Uckfield Town Council Calendar Competition 2019



**Calling amateur photographers of Uckfield!**

Uckfield Town Council's annual photographic calendar competition for 2019 is now open for entries which capture the theme **'The Spirit of Uckfield'**.

**For further information and to download an application form visit the 'Community' tab on our web site:  
[www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk](http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk)**

**The closing date of the competition is the  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### JANUARY

2nd	-	ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
8th	-	PLANS
15th	-	FULL COUNCIL
22rd	-	GENERAL PURPOSES
29th	-	PLANS

### FEBRUARY

12th	-	ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
19th	-	PLANS
26th	-	FULL COUNCIL