



RAILWAY SERVICES FOR UCKFIELD

The rail service from Uckfield to Lewes was originally withdrawn in 1969. How do you feel about reinstating this service?

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



BY CLLR. IAN SMITH

Uckfield Town Council has supported Wealden District Council's decision to protect the track bed of this former railway route from development. This has firmly kept open the option to reinstate the rail link.

Protecting the current service
The current Uckfield to London service also has, in the past, been under severe threat of closure due to the continued use of an outdated infrastructure and rolling stock. Uckfield Town Council has played its part in protecting the existing rail service and in seeking improvements. The Council helped to establish, and participates in, the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee which comprises representatives from councils along the route.

A modern fleet of diesel rolling stock was introduced, giving a faster and more comfortable

service. The ever-increasing population has led to a large growth in passenger numbers and this will increase as Uckfield expands. The pressure to take a more radical approach to the line's future has become impossible to resist.

Improvements for the future
The line, as it stands, needs to be run with electric traction and the single line sections returned to double track to improve the timetable performance.

Reinstatement of the route into Lewes, along with a direct connection into Brighton, will bring great benefits to the residents of Uckfield and the

surrounding area. The council has embraced the proposal for the Wealden Line Campaign's Brighton Main Line 2 (BML2) and will continue to push for a vibrant rail network to bring great economic benefits to our area and better travel arrangements for current and future users.

For more information visit <http://www.wealdenline.org.uk/>

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Date for the Town Meeting**
- **Travel update - Route 262**
- **Last month in your council**
- **Upcoming meetings**

TRY SOMEWHERE NEW ON ROUTE 262

If you want to check out the tourist hot spots on Ashdown Forest then the 262 WEALDLINK bus can take you there. The service runs every two hours on Saturdays starting at 9.00am from Forest Row travelling through the villages to Heathfield.

NEW FROM APRIL: THE DELIGHTS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

From April the route will change to start from Hartfield at 9:15am and then travel across the scenic Ashdown Forest to Nutley, Maresfield, Uckfield, Framfield, Blackboys, Cross in Hand and Heathfield before returning.

A VALUABLE SERVICE

The 262 WEALDLINK bus route service is provided by the North Wealden Community Transport Partnership (NWCTP) – a not-for-profit company, registered charity and approved provider of community transport for the North Wealden area. The Town Council provides financial support to NWCTP so that these services can continue. It is a public bus service (free to

"I am delighted that the Saturday 262 service, which is part of our "Take the Bus for a Walk" initiative will again this year be able to take passengers from Heathfield, Uckfield and surrounding areas, into the centre of the Ashdown Forest".

**Councillor Barry Marlowe
Chairman of Wealden Bus Alliance**



concessionary passholders) and is included in the South of England's 'Discovery ticket' scheme that offers one day's unlimited travel on all the main bus operators in the area.

WINNIE THE POOH WALKS

Along the route there are numerous places to visit including access to some wonderful walks on Ashdown Forest. For all you Winnie the Pooh lovers, stop off at Chuck Hatch to play Pooh Sticks on Pooh Bridge or at Gills Lap for a short walk taking in The Enchanted Place, Roo's sandy pit and the Heffalump trap. And if you feel like a longer walk you can visit Eeyore's gloomy place and the North Pole as well.

Further along the route across Ashdown Forest you can drop off to visit the Airman's grave – a memorial where, despite its name, no one is buried. It was

built to remember six young men, the crew of a Wellington bomber who were all killed when it crashed on the forest on 31 July 1941. Annual remembrance services are still held here.

SHOPPING AND ONWARD JOURNEYS

This is the perfect service to try out the local shopping at Uckfield if you live in the outlying villages. The 262 bus is also timed to coincide with the 291 bus service between Tunbridge Wells and East Grinstead giving customers more options for their shopping expeditions.

FREE TEA AND COFFEE

Enjoy a free tea or filter coffee at Luxfords Restaurant, Civic Centre Uckfield during April by showing your 262 bus ticket to a member of the waiting staff when placing your order.



THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This meeting will be held in the Ashdown Room
Civic Centre, Uckfield

on
TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018
at
7.00pm

**This is a meeting for residents of Uckfield
to ask questions of the Town Mayor
and the Chairmen of the Council Committees**

**If you have any questions it would be helpful if
you could let the Town Clerk know in advance**

at

Uckfield Town Council
Civic Centre, Uckfield TN22 1AE

or

Email: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Please join me and the other Councillors for coffee from 6.30pm

Councillor Louise Eastwood
Town Mayor

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Spring is around the corner and a new financial year on the horizon. As we near this financial year end, the council has been pulling together its annual reports for the Annual Town meeting in April and preparing its accounts for audit.

Members were pleased to see works start at Hughes Way Play Area in February. Despite the poor weather, contractors worked hard to remove the existing equipment and start installation. It is hoped that the new play area will be a great facility for residents in the surrounding roads and wider Church Coombe estate.

Grounds staff were asked to increase the frequency of path cleaning at the entrances to Holy Cross Church to weekly. In addition, councillors suggested the addition of a handrail to assist visitors when accessing the grounds of the Church.

It was also agreed to fund the addition of the 'Ridgewood Village' signs to the new town twinning signs located on Lewes Road and Eastbourne Road.

In light of the recent changes to the policing model, the council discussed community safety, requesting that the Town Clerk look into initiatives that had been introduced elsewhere to reduce the fear of crime and matters relating to community safety.

The annual reports of each committee would be published alongside the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting in April 2018.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Full Council agendas and minutes can also be seen at the Uckfield Library.

5 MARCH	– GENERAL PURPOSES
12 MARCH	– PLANS
26 MARCH	– ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
3 APRIL	– PLANS
9 APRIL	– FULL COUNCIL
10 APRIL	– ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
16 APRIL	– GENERAL PURPOSES
23 APRIL	– PLANS
30 APRIL	– ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

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. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk. Please email admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

WORKING TOGETHER IN 2018

The Town Council has embarked on a number of new initiatives and invites you as the reader to get involved in our campaigns – Creating a Dementia Friendly High Street, #GetactiveinUckfield and Dog Fouling.

Your support with all of these campaigns is encouraged and will help to improve the community. Members have recognised that new ways of working could undoubtedly bring change through cooperation with others. The council is looking forward to our new year and making progress on the things that matter to you, as our residents.

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Looking back on 2017/2018
- Allotment Competition
- Green tips for Spring

