



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

## FAREWELL FROM THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR LOUISE EASTWOOD

It only seems like yesterday when I was elected to the position of mayor, a role that has allowed me, over the last three years, to have the honour of leading a team that works tirelessly on behalf of the residents of Uckfield.

Amongst my many duties, I have:-

- had the pleasure of working with local volunteers, charities and businesses who make such a difference to our community
- strived to achieve a better environment for the people who live here to set into motion ideas that will hopefully allow the town to flourish and remain true to its origins as a market town
- supported our local schools and college and welcomed a youth member to the council
- seen the dementia forum set up, to create a safer and more welcoming environment for people who live with this condition
- seen the town's CCTV system upgrade instigated
- worked with Uckfield-the Future group which organised a variety of events and activities (some small, some large) which brought people into Uckfield during the roadworks. Following the success of Weald on the Field and the Revival vehicle parade, the Town Council has established a new working group to organise these two events in the future.



I would like to thank all of the councillors, officers and staff who have worked hard on behalf of the residents to make the town a better place. I wish the new mayor every success in the future.

Finally I look forward to welcoming you to the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 7.00pm.

Contact us through:

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

 @uckfieldtowncouncil

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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## ALLOTMENT COMPETITION



The Town Council is pleased to announce that Staverton Nursery at Halland has agreed to sponsor the allotment competition this year.

### STAVERTON NURSERY

Staverton Nursery began in 1966 by Mr Cecil Cottingham selling produce and plants by the roadside to local and passing trade. Since then it has developed into a thriving nursery with a vast range of plants, produce and other stock. Growing many plants themselves, the nursery staff are knowledgeable and experienced and will be the perfect judges for the allotment competition.

### ALLOTMENT SITES AROUND UCKFIELD

We have five allotment sites around the town at West Park, Bell Lane, Ridgewood, Framfield Road and Bird in Eye. The sites are very popular and most of them have waiting lists. We run the allotment competition to recognise the efforts and devotion of the allotment gardeners and, hopefully, encourage the younger generation to have a go. The competition will be judged in July 2018.

## THE UCKFIELD ALLOTMENT AND COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

By Vic Oliver, Chairman

This is a busy time of year for gardens and allotments; planting seeds, digging and getting ready for spring. In the society we like to see allotments at least half planted and clear. We have a trading hut open on Sunday mornings at Framfield Road where you can

buy garden sundries to help you - all at a very competitive price. Please come and meet us and have a chat. We can usually help with most garden problems that you may have or know someone who can help. It is only £6 per year to join the society.

## ALLOTMENT COMPETITION CATEGORIES

### BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT

This year there is to be a best kept allotment winner for each site, who will receive a prize of gardening vouchers provided by Staverton Nursery. In addition, there will be one overall winner chosen, who will have their name added to a plaque at the Town Council offices.

### CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

There will also be a children's competition, details of which will be announced shortly.

### NEW CREATIVE PRIZE

We are also hoping to introduce a new prize for the most creative allotment. This will be judged on imaginative and creative use of allotment space, alongside the use of sustainable and innovative growing techniques.



Full details of all these categories and their prizes will be announced shortly on the Uckfield Town Council website (<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/Allotments.aspx>), on Facebook, Twitter and in the local media.

### TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER ON YOUR ALLOTMENT OR IN YOUR GARDEN

#### MULCHING

Adding a layer of mulch to your garden or allotment helps retain the moisture content of your soil and improves the quality of your soil at the same time.



#### RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Use water butts to collect water from your sheds and greenhouses. If we have a hot summer this water will be invaluable.

#### CHOOSE YOUR PLANTS WISELY

Try to choose your plants so they will survive any possible drought conditions or select varieties that require less watering.

## THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This meeting will be held in the  
Ashdown Room  
Civic Centre, Uckfield  
on  
**TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018**  
at  
**7.00pm**  
(coffee available from 6.30pm)

This is a meeting for residents of Uckfield to ask questions of the Town Mayor and the Chairmen of the Council Committees - see our website for Agenda and Reports  
[www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk](http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

## LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

*In preparation for April's Annual Town Meeting, Chairmen of Uckfield Town Council's committees have been preparing their annual reports.*

At Full Council, members adopted a draft asset management plan. This will assist with guiding councillors on how to manage its buildings and open spaces to make sure any maintenance undertaken aligns with the strategic decisions of the council.

### HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Members responded to a number of consultations, which included Wealden District Council's homelessness strategy. New legislation in April 2018 will see longer timeframes given to the district authority to assist people with finding accommodation. Members were aware that there was a limited supply of temporary housing. The only realistic way of finding accommodation was through the private rented sector and high rents could pose difficulties to some individuals and families. Members therefore asked whether the district authority could consider a longer-term solution to reduce dependence on the private rented sector.

### GRASS VERGE CUTTING

Members were presented with an update from East Sussex County Council which highlighted that, as a result of financial pressures, the number of cuts to the grass verges in urban areas would reduce in 2018/19. The Town Council were asked if they wished to pay for more cuts in the next financial year. This led to a lengthy debate and difficult decision as the council's precept had already been agreed in January. After voting on the options available members agreed to retain the status quo and for grass verge cutting to remain

the responsibility of the county council in the next year. The town council would monitor the cutting undertaken and safety risk and report any matters of concern onto the county council if required.

### MILLENNIUM GREEN

A licence was also signed between Uckfield Town Council and Millennium Green Trust for the new gate access due to be created between Ridgewood Recreation Ground and the Millennium Green. Works will commence in the coming weeks.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

3 APRIL	– PLANS
9 APRIL	– FULL COUNCIL
10 APRIL	– ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
16 APRIL	– GENERAL PURPOSES
23 APRIL	– PLANS
30 APRIL	– ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
8 MAY	– ANNUAL STATUTORY COUNCIL
14 MAY	– PLANS
29 MAY	– GENERAL PURPOSES

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](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

### COMING NEXT MONTH

- Dementia Awareness
- Health and Wellbeing
- Hughes Way play area

