



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

## DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

BY CLLR. KAREN BEDWELL

The new Wealden Local Plan will this year replace the current local plan, which was adopted back in 1998. The Plan will provide policies for Wealden District Council to shape where we live, plan and manage growth in the district and guide developments over the next 15 to 20 years.

The Local Plan is the document by which decisions on planning applications are made.

At an extraordinary full council meeting at Wealden District Council on 8 February, the Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 document was passed for consultation.

### How long is the consultation?

The consultation process will continue until Friday, 10 May and Uckfield Town Council, along with other Town and Parish Councils, will have their opportunity to feed back comments on the Draft Local Plan before it goes to Regulation 19 and the government inspector for approval.



Residents will also have their opportunity to look at the Draft Local Plan and respond to Wealden District Council,



either directly to the Planning Department or via Uckfield Town Council.

Feedback should be given online via Wealden District Council's consultation page: <https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/>, but if needed can be sent by email to [townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk) to pass on.

### Showcase in Uckfield

The suggested sites for development in Wealden can be viewed and questions asked of the planning team when Wealden District Council's Planning Department showcase the Local Plan at various towns and villages across the district from late March to early May.

The Civic Centre Uckfield will be hosting one such event on Saturday, 13 April. This will be held from 10am to 4pm, and all residents are welcome to attend and give their views.

*Cllr. Karen Bedwell*

Contact us through:  
[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)  
[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)



## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Annual Priorities for 2024/25
- Draft Local Transport Plan
- Upcoming Meetings



## OUR ANNUAL PRIORITIES 2024/25

At the end of each calendar year, the Town Council is required to set its priorities and budget for the next financial year.

The Strategic Plan 2024-29, Annual Plan

2024/25, and Annual Budget 2024/25 were adopted by Uckfield Town Council at their meeting of the full Council on 15 January 2024.

Our Annual Plan for the next 12 months outlined the following commitments:



### Town Council Grants

#### Community Grants

We will award up to £52,000 of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2024/25 (£25,000 to community groups, and £27,000 through service level agreements).



#### Public Events and Anniversaries in the Town

We will work alongside local businesses and community groups to deliver two free public events within the town; a D-Day Anniversary Beacon Lighting, and Weald on the Field.



#### Upgrading Play Area Facilities

We will undertake a full upgrade of Victoria Play Area, and replace pieces of equipment that have reached their end of life in Hempstead Recreation Ground and Oakwood Drive Play Area.



#### Festive Lights

We will work with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to review the festive lighting for the town centre, in preparation for Christmas 2024.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

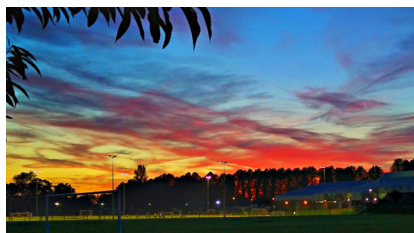
We will prepare a draft Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan ready for submission to the local planning authority.

## OUR ANNUAL PRIORITIES 2024/25



### Protecting Natural Habitats

We will place greater focus on wildlife monitoring in our woodlands and local nature reserves, and protect areas from the public to preserve flora and fauna. We will hold developers to account to ensure they meet planning conditions and have consideration for adjacent land.



### Infrastructure Planning

We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield. This will comprise sport, leisure, recreation, community facilities, and the provision of allotment and cemetery space.



### Improvements to Town Council Buildings

We will continue to improve the standard of our buildings and ensure efficient use of utilities and the health and safety of our service users, staff and leaseholders. Works will commence to the Signal Box, to enable this to be returned to use.



### Grass Verge Cutting

We will continue to contribute to the costs of East Sussex County Council's grass verge cutting contract to retain a good standard of service, and ensure visibility is maintained.



### Woodland Management Plan

We will undertake a third year of works within our Woodland Management Plan to address ash dieback. We will re-plant trees and restock areas of our woodlands where trees have been removed.



### Climate Change

We will host an educational activity with primary schools. We will consider alternative fuel supplies in our wider building portfolio, and review the equipment we purchase, using local suppliers. We will also manage our land for nature with a continued focus on conservation and tree planting.

# DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

BY CLLR. CHRIS MACVE

The recently published East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Draft Local Transport Plan, covering the period of 2024-2050, was the subject of a public consultation which closed on February 25, 2024.

This plan, which is a constituent part of the overall plan prepared by Transport for the South East, looks at all modes of transport throughout East Sussex and how they relate to the overall scheme.

## Looking to the future

ESCC state that the objective of the plan is to look ahead until 2050 and set out how it will connect people to places around the county and beyond by walking, cycling, using public transport, travelling by car or any other means for residents, businesses and visitors.



The plan sets out proposals to show how to achieve the objectives of:



- Enabling safer and more accessible journeys;
- Developing healthy places to enable people to live well;
- Decarbonising transport to help achieve net zero targets by 2050 at the latest;
- Maintaining and strengthening our transport networks so they are resilient, and;
- Supporting a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable economy within our towns and villages.

## Impact on Uckfield

The content of the plan with regard to Uckfield shows improved and extended walking and cycling paths in and around the town.

It also suggests connections to longer-distance routes, improvements to bus services, upgrades to the A22 and A26, and the dualling and electrification of the Uckfield to Hurst Green railway line.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be viewed on the Town Council website at <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>. Meetings are held in person

either in the Weald Hall or Council Chamber at The Civic Centre and all start at 7pm. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

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

MON 8 APRIL	- FULL COUNCIL
MON 15 APRIL	- ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 22 APRIL	- PLANS
MON 29 APRIL	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 13 MAY	- PLANS

## COMING NEXT MONTH

- Volunteering in Uckfield
- Police & Crime Commissioner Elections
- Improvements to Town Centre CCTV
- New Wealden DC Councillor

