



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

CAR PARKING IN UCKFIELD

BY CLLR. PETER SELBY

Uckfield is fortunate to have many free car parks, some of course with restricted hours such as Tesco, Waitrose, Bell Walk and the station, but there are also enough free spaces in the town for an average shop. Wealden District Council are currently responsible for the management of the free off-street car parks - Luxfords 3hr, 10hr and Regency Close - and until the point at which they decriminalise parking, on-street public parking enforcement is the responsibility of Sussex Police. At certain times of day, finding a space might take a while but this does not excuse poor and illegal parking; on double yellow lines, parking on pavements, parking in disabled bays without a permit or restricting visibility at junctions. Even when car parks are quieter, vehicles still park illegally and without any regard.



Drivers blocking entrances

Recently, during the early evening, cars were partially blocking the two access roads to Luxford Field Car Park, where within 10 metres ample spaces were



available. This behaviour is common in our town and in many other places.

What can you do to help?

We need to work together to make a positive change to driver behaviour. We need you to help us, and ask that:

- If you have to park on a pavement, ensure enough space is left for pushchairs or wheelchairs to pass by;
- Only park in High Street parking bays for temporary periods. Do not block a bay for shoppers by parking in these all day;
- If a vehicle is seen to persistently park inconsiderately, please report to Operation Crackdown - <https://operationcrackdown.org/> - under 'anti-social driving';
- If the vehicle is seen to cause a serious obstruction, and would restrict access for emergency vehicles or refuse collections, report it to Sussex Police.

Cllr. Peter Selby

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

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



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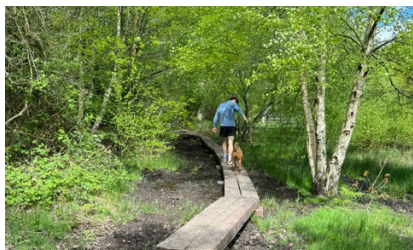
FOOTWAY IMPROVEMENTS AROUND TOWN

A number of improvements have recently been undertaken to footways in Uckfield's nature reserves and ancient woodlands to improve access for walkers by our Countryside Ranger and the support of local volunteers and grounds staff.

Uckfield Town Council was successful in obtaining match funding through Wealden District Council's Community Spaces Programme earlier this year. The funding was made available to local authorities like Wealden District Council through the UK Government Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Where does the money come from?

The Prosperity Fund is a two-year capital programme from the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and supports the delivery of projects in rural areas.



The Town Council applied for funding to support a scheme of footway improvements, which would see sleeper bridges being created over particularly muddy or boggy areas in the nature reserves and woodlands, and the provision of steps on steeper inclines to ensure more safety for walkers.

How did the project work?

Railway sleepers were used for the project and with the project costing in the region of £2.5k, Wealden District Council were able to contribute to half of

the costs through this important capital programme.

We hope local residents and visitors to Uckfield will find the installation of these sleeper bridges and steps helpful on their movement through the reserves and woodlands, and that the upgrades improve access for all.



Where can I see the upgrades?

Several upgrades have taken place at West Park Local Nature Reserve (left), with the paths that were prone to becoming boggy in the winter now able to be explored throughout the year.

In addition, improvements were made at Boothland Wood (above and below), as well as Hempstead Meadow Local Nature Reserve and Bridge Farm Wood.



ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2024

We are delighted to announce that the Uckfield Town Council Allotment Competition is returning for 2024 to celebrate the amazing efforts of allotment holders across the town. We are also thrilled to welcome our friends at Staverton Nursery back once again as sponsors and judges of the competition.

We have worked with the judges to introduce some changes to the categories this year, and we are retaining the entry form for the Children's Award and Scarecrow Competition, as well as introducing a new category with entries by nomination; Funniest Vegetable! These three categories all require entry by nomination, and forms can be found on the Town Council website for this. Meanwhile, the Competition's other three



categories – Best Kept Allotment, the Ecological Award and Overall Winner – will be open to all allotment holders with automatic entry.

We are hoping that the judging will be able to take place during early July.

Winners will be notified shortly afterwards and prizes will be awarded at the Allotment Conference in 2024, which will take place on 18 September.

WEALD ON THE FIELD 2024

A promotional poster for 'Weald on the Field 2024'. The background is a bright blue sky with a grassy field at the bottom. The text is arranged vertically: 'WEALD ON THE FIELD' in white on a green background, 'A GREAT DAY OUT IN UCKFIELD' in green, '10 AUGUST 2024' in large orange letters, '11 AM TO 7 PM' in smaller orange letters, 'LUXFORD FIELD UCKFIELD' in yellow, and 'LOCAL PRODUCE', 'LIVE MUSIC', 'POP UP BARS', and 'STREET FOOD' in red and green.

Weald on the Field is BACK for 2024, and is set to be an even bigger and better day than before!

We are delighted to announce that Uckfield's largest community festival will return for another year, and can confirm that this will be on **Saturday 10 August 2024**.

Plenty of details about live music acts, street food stands, pop-up drinks bars, local craftspeople, family entertainment, and much, much more will follow in the coming weeks as we continue to build the excitement.

For now, pop the date in your diaries, tell a friend, and get yourself ready for an amazing celebration of local producers, artists and entertainment!

We look forward to seeing you all in August for an action-packed day on the grass, where all are welcome.

RESPONDING TO THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

Between 15 March and 10 May, the Wealden District Council area's population was given the chance to respond to the latest Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan.

This included statutory agencies, parish and town councils, chambers of commerce and local businesses as well as the general public.

All groups had an opportunity to review the contents of the Draft Local Plan and to provide feedback to Wealden DC on whether they agreed with the policies, if they thought changes were required and to identify anything missing.



What does the Plan do?

The Local Plan sets out a clear vision for the district up to 2040 and shapes how it evolves and develops in that time. The main document consists of a number of policies, focused on spatial strategy, climate change, natural and historic environment, housing, infrastructure and design, the economy, and town centres.



Why our response is important

Planning officers will refer to these policies alongside the National Planning Policy Framework when considering planning applications, so it is important that the policies accurately reflect what the evidence base tells us.

Particularly, the policies need to accurately reflect issues of housing need, economic growth, landscape characteristics and design.

An infrastructure delivery plan sits alongside the Local Plan, as well as a site allocations document. The Plan proposes an increase of approximately 1,993 homes over the course of the next 16 years in Uckfield, with some of these homes already approved and committed.

Uckfield Town Council has published a detailed response to the consultation. A copy of this can be found on our website at: <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/have-your-say/>

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

MON 10 JUNE	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 24 JUNE	- PLANS
WED 26 JUNE	- FULL COUNCIL (ACCOUNTS)
MON 8 JULY	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 15 JULY	- PLANS

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- New Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- Renovated Cricket Nets
- Weald on the Field 2024
- Last Month in Your Council

