



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

July 2024

EDITION 257

thevoice

NEW TOWN MAYOR ELECTED

BY CLLR. KAREN BEDWELL

It is a huge honour and privilege to be elected by fellow Town Councillors as Uckfield Town Mayor for 2024-2025. Town Mayor is a civic role, chairing full council meetings and representing Uckfield Town Council alongside the Deputy Mayor at events. The roles do not bring more power than any other Councillor, but it does allow 'facilitation'. Being Mayor enables networking at civic events, opens doors for conversations, and gives the opportunity to engage with a wide range of people.

My background in Uckfield

I have lived in Uckfield for 30 years in October. It has become my home; my children were born and grew up here, and I have been involved in many areas of the town from primary to secondary schools and in many areas of volunteering, especially with Ridgewood Village Hall. I have been a Town Councillor for five years and Chair of the Plans Committee for three years, representing residents at two government inquiries and an appeal. I believe the Town Council plays a vital role in every aspect of the local government system. We provide the local knowledge that others 'further up the food chain' do not know, and we support businesses and residents to influence how these changes are implemented.

My aims as Mayor

I can only promise to put my heart and soul into representing our voices in Uckfield over the next year. In this, I will continue to support our Plans Committee



and push back and shape development, engage with local businesses to find out how best to support them, and work with our amazing volunteers to ensure Uckfield's wonderful community events and support groups continue long-term. I very much look forward to being Uckfield Town Mayor this year and getting to know our wonderful town even better.

Deputy Mayor - Cllr. Spike Mayhew:

"Having served as a Town Councillor for 10 years in various capacities, I feel honoured to now serve as Deputy Mayor.

"Having served three years as Town Mayor including a year of Covid where we were affectionately known as 'Zoom Mayors', I know the importance of having a supportive Deputy Mayor.

"I will do my best to pass on my experiences and support to Cllr Bedwell, who I believe will be a brilliant Mayor."

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Improvements to Cricket Nets
- Pipers Field
- Weald on the Field 2024
- Last Month in Your Council
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NEW CRICKET NETS BOWL US OVER!

Over the last 12-18 months, Uckfield Town Council has been working with Sport & Play (an Uckfield-based sports equipment and maintenance company) and Anderida Cricket Club to improve the facilities for cricket practice at Victoria Pleasure Ground. In 2023, the practice area matting was removed, re-levelled and re-surfaced, completing the first stage of the works. This was followed by the full replacement of the nets to the practice



area, which took place this May. Sport & Play have done a fantastic job installing brand-new side and roof nets alongside existing netting, as well as introducing weighted vermin skirting along the bottom to hold the netting in place.

Further work took place in June to replace the bowler end mats. We hope these improvements will be a welcome upgrade to existing facilities, assisting Anderida Cricket Club and other users to help support cricket in the town.



VOLUNTEERS WORK WONDERS IN TOWN

Uckfield has been looking that extra bit better this summer due to the hard work of volunteers all around the town. Brighter Uckfield have been as busy as usual, ensuring the planters on the entrance to the town are filled to the brim with colourful and eye-catching blooms. This work has been joined with their amazing litter-picking around town, which was mirrored by the town's Scouts, helping tidy up Bridge Farm Wood with the Ranger. In addition, residents of the Pipers Field and Highview Lane area were hard at work clearing overgrown green areas between the two roads in Ridgewood, and have seen fantastic results from their work. Lisa Eagle, one of the key organisers, said: "It was my husband (Daniel Eagle) and I that started clearing the bank last summer. "[With several neighbours] we cleared the whole of the bank and the left side of



the entrance to Pipers Field, [and] lots of passers-by would say how lovely it looked and how much safer they felt walking along the pathway," Lisa added. "We have had a considerable amount of kind people taking part and it has been so heartwarming to see so many people get involved in this project. "Matt Cottingham at Staverton has also kindly donated two magnolia trees and grass seed to cover the top of the bank."

FREE FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 2024

Weald on the Field is BACK for 2024, and is set to be an even bigger and better day than before on Luxford Field. Uckfield Town Council are delighted to announce that the town's largest FREE community festival, in partnership with Food Rocks, will return for another year on **Saturday 10 August 2024**.

Town Councillors and Town Council staff have been hard at work in the preparation of the event throughout this year, and we are looking forward to delivering an amazing event in August.

What's on offer this year?

We have an excellent music line-up to bring you this year, and can reveal that your 2024 WOTF headliners are the fantastic **Fat Freddie & The Queens**. The band performed at Weald on the Field 2022, and after such great feedback, we cannot wait to welcome them back. As always, expect to see many brilliant local street food vendors and pop-up bars stocking the best in local, fresh and creative food and drink options at Weald on the Field.



Food Rocks have been taking countless bookings over the last few months ahead of the day itself in August, and there is still time for stallholders to get in touch with them about claiming a place. Their email for all enquiries is: info@foodrockssouth.co.uk
Full details about live music acts, local

craftspeople, family entertainment, and much, much more will be released very soon on the Town Council and Civic Centre Uckfield websites and social media pages as we build the excitement ahead of the big day.

Sponsorship opportunities

Do you own a local business?

Weald on the Field could be the perfect opportunity for you to reach a wider audience.

A range of sponsorship packages are available for this year's event:

- **Silver Sponsorship - £100** (including heras fencing banner)
- **Gold Sponsorship - £250** (including sponsorship of one live music act)

For more details about what the packages include and how to secure them, please visit the Town Council or Civic Centre Uckfield websites, or get in touch via admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Weald to Waves

The Weald to Waves initiative seeks to create a 100-mile corridor of nature recovery across Sussex, from the Ashdown Forest in the High Weald to the coastline of West Sussex. The initiative seeks to map and record key natural habitats and to do so they wish to engage farmers, businesses, local authorities, charities and community organisations. The end goal is to preserve existing important habitats, and forge connections between these habitats in order to boost biodiversity.



At Full Council, Uckfield's Town Councillors resolved to pledge to support the Weald to Waves initiative and assist the organisers with mapping local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and woodland areas in the Uckfield area, which is in the heart of a crucial corridor. To find out more, visit: <https://www.wealdtowaves.co.uk/>

Wealden Local Plan Consultation

Uckfield Town Council prepared a comprehensive response to the public consultation run by Wealden District Council on their draft Local Plan for Wealden, up until 2040.



The plan provides a vision for the district, and will be heavily used by planning officers alongside the National Planning Policy Framework when considering planning applications.

This consultation was an important stage within the plan-making process meeting Regulation 18. The plan will be finalised utilising the feedback received, and prepared for Regulation 19, where the pre-submission version will be produced and later submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

To view the full response submitted by Uckfield Town Council, scroll to the bottom of the following webpage: <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 8 JULY	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 15 JULY	- PLANS
MON 22 JULY	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 5 AUG	- PLANS
TUE 27 AUG	- PLANS

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- New Member of Parliament
- Waste and Litter
- Weald on the Field 2024
- Last Month in Your Council

