



DRAFT - Uckfield Town Council's Annual Priorities 2025/26

CONSERVATION

ROBUST APPROACH TO ARBORICULTURE

We will address the remainder of ash dieback, and continue to record and map the results of our rolling tree surveying programme to ensure the safety of the public. We will re-plant trees and restock areas of our woodlands, alongside new community orchards where trees have been removed and disease has had an impact.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HABITATS

We will commission ecological appraisals and wildlife monitoring of our ancient woodlands and local nature reserves, and seek to separate areas from the public to preserve the flora and fauna and protect key species.

EDUCATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We will host an Eco EXPO to promote alternative technologies to local residents, and continue to consider alternatives in our purchases and management of Town Council land, with a continued focus on conservation and tree planting.

UPGRADING OUR ASSETS

We will seek professional expertise to explore and deliver options for key buildings in the Town Council's portfolio – Osborn Hall/Signal Box. We will continue to improve the condition, safety and decoration of buildings we manage day to day – Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Victoria Pavilion.

UPGRADING OUR SPORTS PITCHES

We will arrange for and fund:

- the replacement of the artificial cricket wicket;
- undertake full pitch renovations of our football pitches between May and July;
- the installation of maneuverable goal posts for the football pitches at New Barn and Harlands;
- welfare facilities at Harlands Recreation Ground.

In addition we will also apply for grant funding to undertake more substantial improvements to the grounds and facilities, and explore options for a future upgrade of the Skate Park.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY GRANTS

We will award up to £xx,xxx of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2025/26, alongside the provision of funding to the Wealden Citizen's Advice and Wealden Volunteering.

UPGRADING PLAY AREA FACILITIES

We will see delivery of the upgrade to Victoria Play Area, and make mid-term upgrades to equipment at Hempstead Recreation Ground. Funding will also be put aside for future improvements to West Park.

PUBLIC EVENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN THE TOWN

We will organise and deliver one free public event – Weald on the Field, and support the organisation of the Remembrance Parade and Services.

FESTIVE LIGHTS

Work with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to review the festive lighting for the town centre, in preparation for Christmas 2025.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

We will utilise the assistance of professional expertise to project manage major projects and review the Town Council's policies and procedures.

FORWARD PLANNING

We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield, in regards to sport, leisure, recreation and community facilities and future impact on the Town Council's provision of allotment and cemetery space, and utilise this information to inform the finalisation of an Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan.