

KEY OBJECTIVES OF UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN: 2025-30

Our Strategic Priorities – Conservation

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| East Sussex County Council Corporate Priorities: | Making best use of resources now and for the future Driving Sustainable Economic Growth |
| Wealden District Council's Corporate Priorities: | Climate Change and our Environment: Protecting our environment and leading the district towards carbon neutrality. |
| Uckfield Town Council's Strategic Priority: | Environment and health |
| By 2030, the Town Council will have: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained a good standard of grounds maintenance to ensure Uckfield remains an attractive place to live; • Maintained good quality floral displays, to provide an attractive and inviting town centre; • Purchased suitable machinery and equipment to improve arrangements for managing the cutting of the Town Council's open spaces in-house; • Improved the facilities and surfacing of the Town Council's play areas with plans to upgrade at least two play areas (Victoria Pleasure Ground and West Park); • Undertaken full renovations for the Town Council's football pitches at least two-yearly; • Delivered short term plans to improve the Town Council's sport pitches, and identified medium and long term plans, using grant funding and investment (cricket and football); • Explored and agreed a plan to deliver improvements to the Town's skate park; • Designated areas of Town Council land, for the growth of wild flowers; • Continued working with Sussex Local Nature Partnership as part of their Green Spaces Project to understand the ecological benefits as well as the social and health benefits, in order to develop a longer term vision and set of objectives for these sites – particular focus will have been given to Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and Snatts Road Cemetery; • Commissioned ecological appraisals and specific/specialised wildlife surveys to fully understand the species within our woodlands and nature reserves; • Adopted an action plan for delivery to mitigate the findings of our carbon audit, and ensured a periodic review of the audit is undertaken; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced changes and new initiatives in line with the Town Council's Climate Change Policy and action plan to reduce the Town Council's carbon emissions through reviews of our contracts, buildings, energy sources and management of nature and waste disposal; • Hosted events such as the Eco EXPO to better inform residents of the various alternative technologies and services available to do their bit to tackle climate change; • Installed further solar panels on the roof of the Civic Centre in line with the Town Council's Climate Change Action Plan; • Recorded and mapped the findings of frequent tree surveying programmes to ensure safety from ash dieback, and other decay; • Continued to deliver important tree planting schemes so that for every tree that has been removed, another tree has been planted. We will have also identified suitable sites where additional trees can be planted to restock from felling or coppicing, or to create new community orchards; • Liated with landowners adjacent to the River Uck to investigate the purchase of land from the end of the footpath in Knights Meadow to Hempstead Lane by the mill, rugby field and Buxted Park and create the first section of a River Walk; • Continued to provide burial authority services with responsibility for the maintenance of the Cemetery at Snatts Road and Holy Cross churchyard; • Consecrated a new area of land within Snatts Road Cemetery, and explored the expansion or creation of new cemetery provision; • Continued to work with higher tier authorities to gradually review street lighting and replace existing stock with new columns and LED lighting where necessary; |
| <p>Lobbied for progress towards the town's community aspirations:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worked with our partner agencies to increase opportunities for residents of all ages to take part in activities within the town, which improve their health and wellbeing;</i> • <i>Worked with our partner agencies to have secured funding or land for the creation of further sport facilities;</i> • <i>Identified space for new allotment plots to meet demand from growth in population;</i> • <i>Contributed to the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies for our local area(s) and see the preservation or creation of wetlands, hedgerows, and sustainable management of woodlands;</i> • <i>Provided data and information for the Uckfield area; contributing to the ,Weald to Waves project, and creation of a 100 mile nature recovery corridor across Sussex.</i> |

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| East Sussex County Council Corporate Priorities: | Driving sustainable economic growth |
| Wealden District Council's Corporate Priorities: | Local Economy: A growing economy which enables people to live well |
| Uckfield Town Council's Strategic Priority: | Design and Development |
| By 2030, the Town Council will have: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked closely with the planning authority to understand and feed into the latest legislative updates and guidance; • Contributed to the planning authority's Local Plan development process; responding to consultations and raising issues relating to Uckfield; • Developed a Neighbourhood Plan to be utilised alongside the Wealden Local Plan; • As a member of Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Committee, worked with higher tier authorities to explore options for regeneration within the centre of the town, and the possibility of expanding the retail and business offer; • Worked with the relevant authority to ensure the Town Council is fully engaged in regulatory matters such as licensing; • Developed an annual process by which the Town Council reviews its assets and strategic asset management plan, which considers each of the Town Council's buildings to improve the efficiency and use of these properties; • Delivered an annual programme of maintenance and decoration to all of the Town Council's built assets through schemes of major and minor works; • Reviewed the condition of car parks adjacent to Town Council owned buildings and agreed a programme of repairs or resurfacing, with a particular focus given to drainage and repair at Hempstead Recreation Ground, Ridgewood Village Hall car parks and the staff Civic Centre parking area; |
| Lobbied for progress towards the town's community aspirations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promoted the need for affordable and key-worker housing within Uckfield, to support those in housing need and first time buyers;</i> • <i>Considered the infrastructure requirements for the town in terms of sport, leisure, recreation and community facilities through engagement with key stakeholders, local residents and businesses including future demand on Town Council services such as allotment and cemetery provision;</i> • <i>Held developers to account to ensure the conditions of planning permissions are met, and adjacent boundaries and wildlife are sensitively looked after;</i> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worked with the Chamber of Commerce to engage with High Street landlords (commercial and residential) to promote and secure improvements to street frontages;</i> • <i>Protected the green space between Uckfield town and surrounding villages;</i> • <i>Worked towards the 30 by 30“ United Nations target to designate 30 percent of land and ocean areas as protected areas by 2030 to aid nature recovery.</i> |
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| East Sussex County Council Corporate Priorities: | Driving sustainable economic growth |
| Wealden District Council’s Corporate Priorities: | Climate Change and our Environment: Protecting our environment and leading the district towards carbon neutrality. |
| Uckfield Town Council’s Strategic Priority: | Transport and Access |
| By 2030, the Town Council will have: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced speed reduction initiatives including community speedwatch and behaviour change campaigns, and explored the introduction of installing permanent speed indicator devices, in partnership with neighbouring parishes; • Created up to date street maps of the town, which highlight our open spaces and footways including the alleyways and twittens; • Continued to work with higher tier authorities to gradually review street lighting and replace older lights with new columns and LED lighting where necessary; • Worked with Uckfield Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to review festive lighting for the town centre in preparation for Christmas 2025 and beyond; |
| Lobbied for progress towards the town’s community aspirations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worked with partner agencies to identify and implement solutions for introducing parking controls within the town centre;</i> • <i>Worked with partner agencies to increase parking capacity within the town to meet existing demand and future growth;</i> • <i>Remain engaged in discussions to actively promote the electrification of the railway line, and the potential reopening of a line between Uckfield to Lewes railway line providing a direct route into Brighton;</i> • <i>Remain engaged in discussions to actively promote the reinstatement of a link between Uckfield/Lewes/Brighton and Tunbridge Wells railway lines;</i> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Contributed to an updated Sustrans study on proposals to develop the town's walking and cycling networks;</i>• <i>Worked with partner agencies and landowners to explore the possibility of improving footway links between Ridgewood Farm, the SANGs and the nature reserves, and explored the possibility of creating a riverside walk;</i>• <i>Identified potential areas within the town which required improvements to pedestrian safety and worked with the relevant agencies to lobby for enhancements; including investigating the possibility of repairing the footpaths on Manor Park to remove the risk of trips and falls;</i>• <i>Lobbied for improved bus services which support the community, enabling residents on the periphery of town to access the High Street and business park, and for residents in local villages to access Uckfield as their key service centre;</i>• <i>Worked with our partner agencies to identify highway issues within the access corridors into the town centre and utilised S106 developer contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy to improve the infrastructure and address matters relating to traffic congestion, traffic calming and road safety;</i>• <i>Worked with the relevant partner agencies to address the danger of speeding vehicles and the possibility of extending the 20mph town centre speed limit;</i>• <i>Worked with the relevant agencies to see the installation of more air quality monitoring units within the town centre;</i> |
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Our Strategic Priorities – Community

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| East Sussex County Council Corporate Priorities: | Driving sustainable economic growth Making best use of resources now and for the future |
| Wealden District Council’s Corporate Priorities: | Community Resilience and Wellbeing: Building strong, mutually supporting communities which are actively engaged in their own future. |
| Uckfield Town Council’s Strategic Priority: | Infrastructure and recreation |
| By 2030, the Town Council will have: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported local community and voluntary organisations and sought to assist them with their positive work; • Worked alongside the local business community and community groups to deliver a free public event within the town – Weald on the Field; • Supporting the organisation of the annual Remembrance Parade and Services; • Established a list of special and important dates or individuals within the town’s history and commemorated these on heritage plaques; • Investigated the viability of providing additional public convenience facilities within the town centre and sought to obtain a changing places facility using grant funding; • Explored the creation of an outside performance space on Town Council-owned land, for use by the town as part of the annual events calendar; • Supported the partnership work and continuation of the Uckfield Youth Trust; |
| Lobbied for progress towards the town’s community aspirations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supported the town with the promotion of its tourism offer, through liaison with Uckfield Heritage and our partner agencies;</i> • <i>Continued to maintain, improve and protect all of our natural areas to accommodate the demands of future growth of the town;</i> • <i>Worked with partner agencies, to identify future options for providing more community space within the town to meet the needs of local community groups and organisations;</i> • <i>Worked with partner agencies to understand more about our disadvantaged communities and explored ways to engage with these households;</i> • <i>Lobbied for a banking presence, and supported the creation of a banking hub to provide a face to face facility for local residents.</i> |

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| East Sussex County Council Corporate Priorities: | Making best use of resources now and for the future |
| Wealden District Council's Corporate Priorities: | Community Resilience and Wellbeing: Building strong, mutually supporting communities which are actively engaged in their own future. |
| Uckfield Town Council's Strategic Priority: | Infrastructure and recreation (Civic Centre and Community facilities) |
| By 2030, the Town Council will have: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made improvements to the decoration and flooring within the main corridors and meeting rooms; • Undertaken improvements to the venue's performance facilities (sound, lighting and staging); • Replaced the tables and table racks within the Civic Centre to ensure easier manoeuvrability for room set-ups; • Updated room facilities in line with the latest technologies, providing the facilities to enable hybrid meetings to be hosted within the Weald Hall and Council Chamber; • Introduced temporary air conditioning units within the Civic Centre for the summer months; • Developed and implemented a communications and marketing plan for the Civic Centre, in addition to an annual calendar of events; • Introduced a number of initiatives and increased takeaway options for customers in Luxfords Restaurant; • Built a good online and social media presence for both the Civic Centre and Luxfords Restaurant; |

Our Strategic Priorities – Continuous improvement

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| East Sussex County Council Corporate Priorities: | Making best use of resources now and for the future |
| Wealden District Council's Corporate Priorities: | Community Resilience and Wellbeing: Building strong, mutually supporting communities which are actively engaged in their own future. |
| Uckfield Town Council's Strategic Priority: | Internal process and procedures |
| <p>By 2030, the Town Council will have:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication with residents, businesses and visitors to the town through enhancements to the Town Council website and social media accounts; • Improved the condition and display of existing noticeboards, and undertaken a review of their location to ensure they are clear and visible; • Installed new parish noticeboards for residents living in new developments and areas of the town; • Improved accessibility to committee meetings by installing an additional hearing loop in the Council Chamber; • Increased promotion of the town's key facilities; • Encouraged applications from local traders and organisations in the Town Council's procurement procedures for contractual work within the town; • Undertaken a thorough review of our key policies in particular personnel and GDPR based policies to ensure they remain up to date with the latest guidance and best practice; • Reduced our use of paper within the Town Council office, by reviewing our working practices and procedures with regard to file retention, purchase orders and invoicing and record management; • Further reviewed our financial processes, and streamlined in line with Internal Auditor guidance • Placed more focus on searching and applying for suitable grant funding to fund key projects for the benefit of local residents; • Set up Councillor surgeries to enable residents to have more frequent face to face contact with their elected members; • Engaged with residents in a variety of means to understand their requirements and desires for the town, to better inform our annual business planning, neighbourhood planning and infrastructure planning. |