



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

KEEPING THE TOWN VIBRANT

I'm almost through 2 years of my second term as Uckfield Town Mayor, but I have been a Town Councillor since 1999. I had young children then and wanted somewhere safe for them to play. I decided to make a difference and thought the best way to get decent play parks was to become a councillor – and I've not looked back!

I'm often asked what the Mayor actually does: I attend charitable events, meeting and greeting the High Sheriff, Mayors and Chairs of Parish Councils; I have a monthly radio interview with Uckfield FM and work with Holy Cross Church and the new rector, Father John Wall. I'm Chair of the Full Council and also sit on the General Purposes and Personnel committees.

I find working with the various charities around the town, and supporting their volunteers, to be the most rewarding part of my role. I am currently supporting the Phab Club, who provide a valuable service to people with and without disabilities, and I'm fighting to save the Youth Centre to allow them to continue to operate from there. I'm also helping the Girl Guides to find ways to keep Osborne Hall operational and to alleviate the flooding caused by car park run off.

The biggest challenge the Council currently has to deal with is the building of extra housing. I don't feel the infrastructure is in

place to deal with the influx of housing. The town needs extra GP and dental surgeries, a larger secondary school and improved transport facilities, including a better service from Southern Rail.

Something we face more and more, and the rise of social media contributes to this, is dealing with fabricated stories. When this happens it is challenging for us to get the real story out there. It is difficult, but it's important that the Council gets across its message, because we, at the end of the day, are passionate about the town, its residents and its traders.

We strive to keep Uckfield vibrant and to preserve its history. Our officers work hard behind the scenes and we couldn't achieve what we do without them.

Overall, it's a rewarding job working together to achieve great things for the town. Come along to the Annual Town Meeting on 11th April at 7pm and hear more about how we work, and how we achieve things together.

© Ron Hill



Town Mayor
Cllr Louise Eastwood

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LOOKING BACK ON 2016/17

As we say goodbye to the municipal year of 2016/17, let's look back on the work of the Town Council and hear about a few projects the Council has been involved in.

- Town Councillors worked together to review the feedback received from residents, businesses and community groups to identify a list of priorities for delivery in 2017/18 and thereafter. The Town Council used this information to form its budget and set the precept for the next financial year.
- The Town Council received a glowing report from external auditors advising that the Town Council's finances and processes were sound and well managed for 2015/16.
- Town Councillors reviewed and prioritised a 10 year maintenance programme of works for Town Council owned buildings and facilities.
- Town Councillors closely monitored the highway improvement works undertaken in the High Street; ensuring your queries and concerns were responded to. The project provided an opportunity to work with local businesses and community groups. Students from local primary schools were invited to meet the contractors and learn about highway maintenance.
- The 'Uckfield - The Future Group' was formed to organise a variety of events and activities to encourage a greater number of visitors to the town during the improvement works. Following the success of 'The Weald and the Field' and the 'Uckfield Revival' vehicle parade, the Town Council have agreed to repeat these two events in 2017 (The Weald on the Field - Saturday 5th August 2017 and Uckfield Revival - Saturday 7th October 2017).



- With key agencies, the Town Council explored options for upgrading the CCTV system within the town centre, and agreed to install a system connected to the Control Room at Sussex Police Headquarters.
- Councillors lobbied for changes in rail prices following a year of poor rail services, strikes and numerous cancellations.

More information will be provided within the full Annual Reports from Chairmen of the Town Council's Committees. These will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 11th April 2017 and available to view on the website:
<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

- The Town Council worked with local businesses and organisations to establish an Uckfield Dementia Forum and to collectively create a dementia friendly town for carers and those living with dementia.
- The Council strengthened its relationships with partner agencies by giving funding of up to £36,950 to local community organisations. It provided financial support to the running of the Saturday 262 Bus Service between Ashdown Forest and Uckfield, and supported the Farmers' Market's wish to move onto Luxford Field in the summer months.
- The play area at Ridgewood Recreation Ground was upgraded and expanded to provide new equipment for children and an adult fitness area. The Council has agreed that the Hughes Way play area will be the next to be improved.
- A new youth engagement initiative was set up; inviting students from Uckfield Community Technology College to become involved in the Town Council's decision-making.



THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, UCKFIELD ON TUESDAY 11TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 PM

THIS IS A MEETING FOR RESIDENTS OF UCKFIELD TO ASK QUESTIONS OF THE TOWN MAYOR AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

If you have any questions it would be helpful if you could let the Town Clerk know in advance of the meeting

at

Uckfield Town Council,
Civic Centre, Uckfield TN22 1AE

or

Fax: 01825 765757 or email: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

PLEASE JOIN ME AND OTHER COUNCILLORS FOR COFFEE FROM 6.30 PM

Cllr. Louise Eastwood

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Each month Councillors take part in a number of committee and other meetings, including a Full Council meeting every two months. Here are some of the decisions which have been taken by those committees during February 2017:

The Environment and Leisure Committee has agreed to start a 'no cold calling' campaign. Stickers will be available for residents to place in front doors or windows which instruct the uninvited caller to leave. Residents can report incidents to Trading Standards or Sussex Police as this can be legally enforced under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

The Committee agreed that, from 1 April, the Town Council will be responsible for maintaining the culvert at West Park, on behalf of Wealden District Council.

The Plans Committee, as a consultee to Wealden District Council, supported planning applications for extensions and improvements to properties at 25 Wilson Grove; 18 Baxendale Way; 82 The Drive; 15 Stumblewood Close; and 36 Keld Avenue. The Committee supported a retrospective application by Green DIY on Bell Lane for a unit extension.

The Full Council meeting saw a new non-voting youth member co-opted onto the council. Owen Coleman, a student at Uckfield Community

Technology College, will be involved in debating local issues and decision making through this joint initiative between the Council and the college.

The Council agreed to enter into the Sussex CCTV Partnership and install the latest modern camera technology as part of a review within the Town Centre.

Members agreed to provide funding towards speed surveys along Eastbourne Road, Framfield Road, Church Street and London Road between Budletts roundabout and Brown's Lane. These will provide the necessary data required to evidence the need for traffic calming in these areas.

Members provided input into a potential phase 4 of highway improvements to the five access routes leading into the town. Information on issues typically raised in these access corridors affecting vehicles and pedestrians were provided for traffic engineers to review.

New byelaws for the nature reserves at Hempstead Meadows and West Park were also approved.

APRIL

3rd	-	FULL COUNCIL
10th	-	PLANS
11th	-	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
18th	-	ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
24th	-	GENERAL PURPOSES

MAY

2nd	-	PLANS
8th	-	ANNUAL STATUTORY
22nd	-	PLANS
30th	-	ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

Agendas are posted on the Town Council website www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk in PDF format, and are also posted on notice boards throughout the Town.

Full Council agendas and minutes can also be seen at the Uckfield Library.

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber on the first floor of The Civic Centre, Uckfield and start at 7.00pm (unless otherwise stated). If you wish to ask a question at a meeting, on items on the agenda, it is advisable to submit your question beforehand to allow a full response to be given at the meeting. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk.

Please email admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk or call the Council offices tel: **01825 762774**.