



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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EDITION 200

thevoice

FAREWELL TO CHRISTINE

BY CLLR CHRIS MACVE

Christine Wheatley, Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, will be retiring at the end of August. Uckfield Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her 30 years of wonderful service.

During her time at Uckfield, Christine has worked with three Town Clerks and covered the periods of vacancy between them as Acting Town Clerk, whilst still fulfilling her duties as Responsible Financial Officer. Not only has she maintained the immaculate financial records but consistently received commendations from the auditors and guided all the Councillors that have served during her tenure.

Not just finance

But Christine, being Christine, was not satisfied with just dealing with the council's finances, she also looks after the recreation grounds and cemetery,



together with all of the grounds staff, the floral displays in the town and the Christmas lights. Christine also clerks the Environment and Leisure Committee which includes resolving all matters within that committee and countless other general issues to ensure the continued smooth running of the council.

Hard act to follow

Her attention to detail, high standards of accuracy, care towards members of staff and attitude to the public will be very difficult to replace. Alongside all of this, the various Councillors that have served during these years have all benefited from her clear and concise advice, guidance and help. She will be greatly missed by us all and we wish her all the best for a very long and happy retirement!

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



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Ron Hill Photographs

Christine's efforts on the Hughes Way play area upgrade resulted in a successful project delivery

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Community Grants
- Allotment Competition
- Last month in your council

SUPPORTING WITH COMMUNITY GRANTS

One of the ways that the Town Council supports the local community is by awarding grants to local organisations every financial year. The intention is to support groups and charities that provide a service or benefit to primarily Uckfield residents. A total of £43,367 will be paid in Community Grant Funding for the financial period 2019/20 where shared between 24 local voluntary groups and organisations.

BY CLLR PAUL SPARKS

In the past awards have been made to groups that provide major events for the town such as Uckfield Festival and the Bonfire & Carnival Society and also including smaller amounts to the Royal British Legion and New Town Action Group. In addition these grants have supported the development of Uckfield FM, Brighter Uckfield, Twinning Association together with many charities that care for the elderly and disabled.

Now open for applications

Applications are currently welcomed for this years' funding with Grant Forms available from the Town Council and via www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk which must be returned with relevant documents by



"Helping us by maintaining our mower keeps this community garden tidy and attractive"
Velda Reed, Chair, New Town Action Group

Friday 23 August 2019. All applications will be considered by a finance meeting of the Town Council, held in public, during September. Representatives of applicant organisations are invited to attend so that they can answer any queries Town Councillors may have. After this meeting, recommendations for grant payments will be made and those successful will have the funds paid at the start of the following financial year in April/May 2020.

Great benefit to the town

There is no doubt that this grant scheme has been extremely beneficial to many groups and organisations within our town and some of our big events and valuable local services would struggle without this important financial support.



"To achieve high class community radio output you need to use top quality studio equipment together with top class presenters. At Uckfield FM all this is achieved thanks to the considerable support of the Town Council's grants system." Ian Smith, Chairman

ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2019

The Town Council is delighted to announce that Staverton Nursery, at Halland, has again agreed to sponsor this year's allotment competition. There is a new category for children which we hope will prove popular. Judging will take place during the week beginning 19 August 2019.

Best kept allotment

£25 in garden vouchers for the person with the best kept allotment on each of the five sites. The category will be judged on:-

- Condition of plot
- Good workmanship
- Water conservation
- Encouragement of wildlife
- Use of recycled materials
- Quality of crops, flowers, fruit and vegetable and plants
- Condition of paths, garden buildings



Overall winner

There will be an overall winner chosen from the five best kept allotments winners whose name will be added to the plaque held at the Civic Centre.

The most creative allotment

£25 in garden vouchers for the most imaginative and creative use of allotment space and the use of sustainable and innovative growing techniques.

The best runner bean wigwam

This category is open to children under 16 and also offers a prize of £25 in garden vouchers.

Prize Presentation

The winners will be presented with their prizes at the Allotment Conference held at the Civic Centre on 11 September.



Erratum

Last month the wrong councillors were listed against the Nature Reserves in Outside Bodies Representatives table. The correct representation is as follows:

Environment and Leisure Committee	
Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve	Cllr D. French and Cllr J. Edwards
West Park Local Nature Reserve	Cllr J. Love and Cllr A. Smith

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Access is the theme this month...

Improved Wi-Fi in your local Civic Centre and Luxfords Restaurant



We have recently upgraded our WI-FI system to improve online access for our customers and service users during their visit to the Civic Centre and Luxfords Restaurant. Previously the system would struggle with large numbers. Only last week we recorded 90 users on the system at one time, and the system was coping well with the demand and range of sites being accessed or downloaded.

Looking at East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way

Members were informed that the County Council would be carrying

out a review of their Rights of Way Improvement Plan over the next 12 months and they were keen to receive initial feedback from the local parishes, on what currently worked well and what they needed to consider in their future improvement plan.

Replacing and repairing

Members suggested repairing or replacing a number of the stiles in the local area and that accessibility and the surface materials used be improved where possible for those with reduced mobility and pushchairs. Members also said that accessibility could be improved for dog walkers (a number of the current access points were blocked).

Celebrating our green open spaces

Members felt that Uckfield was very fortunate to have a number of rights of way that cross into or travel adjacent to the town boundary and that East Sussex County Council should continue to widely promote our beautiful countryside and support residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Full Council agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library. If you wish

to ask a question at a meeting, on items on the agenda, it is advisable to submit

MON 5 AUG	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 12 AUG	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 19 AUG	– PLANS
TUES 27 AUG	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 9 SEP	– PLANS
WED 11 SEP	– FINANCE SUB
MON 16 SEP	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 23 SEP	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 30 SEP	– PLANS

your question beforehand to allow a full response to be given at the meeting. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Uckfield Revival
- New Councillors

