



# The Uckfield Voice

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'd like to wish all of our residents, local businesses and customers a Happy New Year!

© Ron Hill

Looking back, 2016 was a year full of activity. We saw the town come together during the transformation of the High Street to promote that Uckfield was open for business and celebrate the wide ranging facilities available within the town.

During the year Uckfield surpassed itself with a calendar of fantastic events, including the Queen's Birthday Celebrations, Uckfield Festival, Weald and the Field, Uckfield Carnival and Torch Procession and Holy Cross Church Christmas Tree Festival, to name just a few!

The amount of work carried out by our voluntary and community groups to raise money for charity, support those in need and provide local residents with regular support and entertainment was truly commendable. Thank you for your hard work – Uckfield's community spirit makes this such a great place to live and work!

Looking forward, we are excited about the year ahead. The Town Council has been busy setting its Vision 'Preserving heritage, providing for the future' within its Strategic Plan (2017-2022) and has identified a list of priorities for 2017/18, including a number of new initiatives. You can view the annual priorities in this month's edition of the Voice.

2017 is about improving communication and strengthening our partnerships to help us achieve results for the town.

We look forward to the year ahead and to working with you!



Town Mayor  
Cllr Louise Eastwood

Like Us On   
**facebook**

If you are dedicated follower of Facebook, why not follow the Town Council by 'liking' us, this will keep you up to date on Town Council news.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017/18

Each year, the Town Council is required to review its priorities and set its budget (precept) for the following financial year. The budget needs to take account of general running costs of Town Council services, maintenance of facilities, and new initiatives which have been identified for delivery.

On 9th January 2017, Uckfield Town Council set its precept for 2017/18. Wealden District Council is responsible for collecting your Council Tax which is spent on a wide range of services delivered by your County, District and Town Councils, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority.

## SO, WHAT'S PLANNED?

Uckfield Town Council is planning a productive year ahead and has put together a list of priorities for delivery. It will be working closely with its partner agencies (including the County Council, District Council and Sussex Police) to bring about these positive improvements. The Town Council remains focused on ensuring Uckfield remains a great place to live and work!

1. Support local groups and charities through the provision of community grant funding.
2. Support initiatives within the town to encourage good health and wellbeing amongst our residents.
3. Work with local businesses and organisations to create a Dementia Friendly town, starting with the creation of an Uckfield Forum.

© Ron Hill



© Ron Hill



4. Increase signposting of existing facilities and explore the provision of additional public conveniences.
5. Support an increase in the provision of events and activities for the town.
6. Continue to implement the Town Council's litter bin policy.
7. Work with our partner agencies to lobby for a reduction in the amount of litter on public highways.
8. Implement improvements to the operation of CCTV in Uckfield Town Centre.

- 9. Work with our partner agencies to continue to educate school pupils about road safety.
- 10. Work with partner agencies to identify further improvements to accessibility and safety on our pavements and highways.
- 11. Promote the town's green spaces and allotments to encourage greater leisure and recreation.
- 12. Improve communication and engagement with residents through increased use of noticeboards and social media.
- 13. Increase communication with local community groups to enable greater sharing of information and support.
- 14. Strengthen partnership opportunities with local service providers to ensure delivery of good quality services to our residents.



Photo: Adrian Hayes

# UPCOMING COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## FEBRUARY

6th	-	PLANS
20th	-	FULL COUNCIL
27th	-	PLANS

## MARCH

6th	-	GENERAL PURPOSES
13th	-	ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
20th	-	PLANS

## APRIL

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

Agendas are posted on the Town Council website [www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk](http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk) in PDF format, and are also posted on notice boards throughout the Town. Minutes of all meetings will be available as "draft" copies until ratified by the relevant committee at their next meeting.

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

All Council and committee meetings are open to members of the public, who are allowed to speak on the items on the agenda, at the discretion of the Chairman.

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 in the first instance.

If you would like to be sent copies of agendas or minutes for Council or committee meetings or to submit a question please email [admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk) or call the Council offices **tel: 01825 762774**.

# DID YOU KNOW?

*With pressures being placed on local government finances, and tough decisions being made by all public services, the Town Council has reviewed its finances at length to ensure it can manage its ongoing costs whilst preparing for the future.*

The Town Council is pleased to have a strong record of financial management and both internal and external audits have found the Town Council to have appropriate accounting records; receiving a clean audit year on year.

Your County Council looks after:	Your District Council looks after:	Your Town Council looks after:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways maintenance (road repairs, verge cutting, pavements, most street lighting);</li> <li>• Highway emergencies;</li> <li>• Winter gritting;</li> <li>• Rights of Way;</li> <li>• Public transport;</li> <li>• Adult Social Care (carers, services for older people, learning disabilities, physical/sensory impairments);</li> <li>• Children's services (child protection, support for families);</li> <li>• Education;</li> <li>• Leisure and culture;</li> <li>• Libraries;</li> <li>• Trading standards;</li> <li>• Registration of births and deaths;</li> <li>• Waste disposal (including household waste recycling centres).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Tax collection;</li> <li>• Planning as your local planning authority;</li> <li>• Development control;</li> <li>• Building control;</li> <li>• Waste collection and street cleansing;</li> <li>• Environmental health (including licensing, environmental protection – air quality, noise, food safety, health and safety);</li> <li>• Housing advice;</li> <li>• Homelessness;</li> <li>• Benefits;</li> <li>• Leisure Centres;</li> <li>• Wealden car parks;</li> <li>• Supporting economic development, local businesses and tourism;</li> <li>• Community toilet scheme;</li> <li>• Community and capital grants scheme;</li> <li>• Conserving biodiversity assets, conservation areas and designated sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of Uckfield's green parks and open spaces;</li> <li>• Snatts Road Cemetery;</li> <li>• Upgrades and maintenance of Uckfield's play areas, sports pitches and skate park;</li> <li>• Maintenance and management of Allotments;</li> <li>• Conservation of our nature reserves and protected areas;</li> <li>• Floral displays and hanging baskets;</li> <li>• Christmas lights;</li> <li>• Town Centre CCTV;</li> <li>• Community grants;</li> <li>• Some street lighting;</li> <li>• Hire of rooms and events at the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Sport Pavilions;</li> <li>• Events held within the town to educate, mark special occasions, and celebrate Uckfield.</li> </ul>



# THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD 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

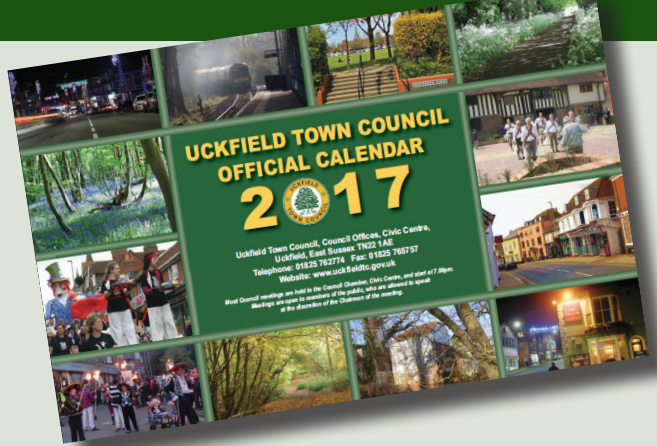
or  
E-mail: [townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

**PLEASE JOIN ME AND OTHER COUNCILLORS FOR COFFEE  
FROM 6.30 PM**

Cllr. Louise Eastwood



# UCKFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC CALENDAR COMPETITION WINNERS



The Mayor presented Uckfield Town Council's Photographic Calendar Competition winners with their prize of a £10 book token, a certificate and a 2017 Calendar at the Civic Centre.

© Ron Hill



Jan	Paul Shepperd	Winter illuminations	Jul	Jean Chamberlain-Hare	Spiritus
Feb	Mike Skinner	Uckfield Station at dawn	Aug	Julie Eiloart	Colours of Uckfield
Mar	Gavin Rainbow	Quickborn Walk in blossom	Sept	Sue Garland	Uckfield heads the procession
Apr	Mary Ford	Morning light, Lime Tree Avenue	Oct	Sonia Harriyott	Hempstead Lane in Autumn
May	Mike Morton	Bluebells, Boothland Wood	Nov	Christine Skinner	Hempstead Mill in Winter
Jun	Jean Chamberlain-Hare	Restoring the past	Dec	Mike Morton	The Station Pub

Photographic entries for the competition, themed 'Our Uckfield' were judged earlier this year by Cllr. Louise Eastwood; The Mayor, Judith Stewart who is; Sussex Photographic Federation Judge, a member of Uckfield Camera Club and a local Professional Photographer and also Ron Hill of Hill Photographic.

Residents of Uckfield received a copy of the calendar through their letterbox at the beginning of December. All the winners attended the presentation, during which the theme for the 2018 Photographic Calendar was announced as 'Celebrate Uckfield.' Throughout the town and throughout the year, Uckfield celebrates many activities, tributes, achievements and national events which we are looking for amateur photographers to capture. Be imaginative with your ideas!

Entry forms for the 2018 'Celebrate Uckfield' Calendar will be available from January 2017 with the closing date for entries being 31st July 2017. Happy snapping!

# THE KINGS OF ROCK N ROLL AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

by Cllr Ian Smith

A full house audience in the Civic Centre Weald Hall had a rocking-good evening of 1950's and 1960's music on Friday 2nd December. They were entertained by "tribute" artists performing hit songs by Billy Fury (Gavin Stanley), Buddy Holly (Marc Robinson) and Elvis Presley (Steve Halliday).

© Ron Hill

Together with a fantastic live backing band they faithfully reproduced the sounds and ensured they dressed and looked like the real thing. The audience sang along to the many familiar songs, and some made it to the front of the hall to jump and jive. We were very lucky to get three different acts on the one evening.

The show looked and sounded great as a result of the new lighting, sound and acoustic systems that have been installed as part of the Uckfield Town Council's investment in our Civic Centre.



Elvis Presley is returning, with his own backing band, to the Weald Hall on Saturday 6 May. His act was very popular and it could well be a sell-out concert again.

*Make sure you book your tickets early!*

© Ron Hill



© Ron Hill



# GREAT THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO !

by Cllr Donna French

*The team that brought you many fantastic events during the 'Uckfield is Open' campaign in 2016 have reformed! The new events working group will be putting all our efforts into repeating the two most popular events from last year, and we plan to make them bigger and better!*

On Saturday 5th August we will be hosting 'Weald on the Field'. This popular event will again showcase local produce (food and crafts) and celebrate with live music on Luxford Field. We aim to extend the entertainment into the evening as that is what you've asked for!

On Saturday 7th October we will hold another vintage/classic car show. Almost 100 vehicles joined the Revival Parade last year and we hope to have at least as many again. This will culminate in a display of vehicles on Luxford Field and we aim to add extra car related stalls and activities.

Further details of both days will follow, but in the meantime if you'd like to register your interest in either event, or if you would like to offer help or sponsorship, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Exciting times ahead!

**Cllr Donna French**

Events working Group (Chairperson)

Email [donna.trustuckfield@gmail.com](mailto:donna.trustuckfield@gmail.com)

Please include 'EVENT 2017' in the email header.

## COMING SOON

### TRAVELIN' MAN

**Ricky Nelson Rock n Roll**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - 7.30pm**

**Tickets: £16 (Concessions £15)**



### ELVIS

**Starring Steve Halliday**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - 7.30pm**

**Tickets: £17 (Concessions £16)**



# CIVIC CENTRE

**FOR TICKET ENQUIRIES CALL: 01825 762774**