



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK

2018 flew by, but we managed to accomplish a great deal. This included installing the new CCTV system, upgrading Hughes Way Play area, organising Weald on the Field and Uckfield Revival and refurbishing Luxfords Restaurant. The improvements to our Civic Centre will bring you a broad variety of events right on your doorstep.

As Town Clerk, most of my time involves bringing people together and making sure the views of our residents are taken on board by others. When someone mentions a potential project, I'm there to remind them of what they need to think about and who they should liaise with. It's about connecting people and starting conversations.

In a time of austerity and public sector cuts (unfortunately despite the national media advising that it's over), local government is still impacted by this. Partnership working is critical to ensure we progress, but retain service levels.

Financially sound


Uckfield Town Council's external audit report confirmed that we are financially sound, by making prudent decisions, such as saving for future equipment replacements or maintenance works, we intend to stay that way.

The higher tiers of local government (the



County Council and District Council) will see their central government grant disappear by 2020/21. This has placed a great deal of pressure on those authorities to review the services they provide. This forces us to do more with less in order to retain the services you expect to receive. I'm a great believer in continuous improvement and despite these financial restraints, we must not stand still.

Uckfield is a fantastic town, full of community spirit, so let's work together this year, and help Uckfield remain the beautiful town that it is.

Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
 [@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

WHAT'S INSIDE

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CALENDAR COMPETITION 2019 - WINNERS

On Monday 26 November 2018 a presentation took place in the Council Chamber to showcase the winning entries for the Uckfield Town Council Calendar Competition. All the winners were invited to attend.

The first and third places were awarded to Jonathan Close who was presented with the first prize of a £50 One4All voucher. The second prize went to Mike Skinner who received a £35 One4All voucher. As each winning entrant is restricted to one prize only, this year a special award was presented to Sue Garland with her entry of 'Christmas Tree Festival' for which she received a One4All £20 voucher.



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(L to R) Cllr Spike Mayhew, Cllr Jackie Love, Sue Garland, Mike Skinner and Jonathan Close

Get Snapping

The theme for the 2020 Calendar was announced as 'Uckfield at Work, Rest and Play'. The competition for 2020 calendar begins in January 2019 and details will be added to the Uckfield Town Council website and social media.



First Place - Uckfield Festival Children's Parade by Jonathan Close



Second Place - The Town Crier Spreading the News by Mike Skinner



Third Place - Can't those ducks read! by Jonathan Close



Commendation Award - Christmas Tree Festival by Sue Garland

COMMUNITY CONCERNS TO BE HEARD

BY TOWN CLERK

In the last few months our town has unfortunately experienced a series of incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

These incidents are not unique to Uckfield. Other towns in Wealden such as Crowborough have also been experiencing similar incidents. British Transport Police and Sussex Police are working together where there are connections between the two towns, as those engaged in these activities often use public transport.

There are a number of initiatives in place to capture and report concerns you may have.

Operation Blitz

Sussex Police and Wealden's Policing team conduct 'Operation Blitz' in Wealden on Fridays and Saturdays from 6.00pm until Midnight to target anti-social behaviour. Concerned residents are able to contact a single police number to report any suspicious activity each week. The number is sent to residents registered with the 'In the Know' community via email. (See opposite for how to register with 'In the Know'.)

This has had positive results.

Mobile Police Station

November saw the first deployment in Wealden of a 'mobile police station'. The exercise, in Uckfield's Tesco car park on the 14 November, enabled a large number of people to speak to the police on a wide range of issues. These primarily concerned crime prevention measures and allowed the police to distribute guidance leaflets and information in response to questions and concerns from the public.

The mobile police station will be coming to Uckfield again in the New Year, so watch out for notices.

In the Know

Messages and updates featuring Wealden Police are posted regularly on 'In the Know'. You can sign up to this forum at: <https://www.intheknow.community/>.



COMMUNITY MEETING

Uckfield Town Council and Sussex Police
Wednesday 9 January 2019 at 6.30pm
The Civic Centre, Uckfield

Please come along to meet the Police to discuss any problems and learn what actions they are taking.

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

The December meeting of Full Council had a full and packed agenda.

Saturday 262 Bus Service

Members agreed to contribute towards the costs of running the Saturday 262 bus service during 2019/20.

The service is run by North Wealden Community Transport Partnership and makes three round trips from Hartfield (Ashdown Forest) to Heathfield on Saturdays via Nutley, Maresfield, Uckfield (bus station) and Framfield. It's an excellent service which provides access to Uckfield for shopping and other facilities.

It also provides affordable public transport onto the forest, to enjoy the scenery and tourist attractions.



Uckfield Parkrun

Uckfield Town Council were very pleased to be able to support Uckfield College's plans to set up a Parkrun in Uckfield. It is working closely with the Uckfield runners, Uckfield Rugby Club, and Buxted Park, to develop a 5k route which can be enjoyed by all the family on Saturday mornings. Keen to support initiatives in the town which encourage good health and wellbeing, the Town Council agreed to contribute a sum of £1,000 towards their set-up costs. Uckfield College is liaising with a number of businesses in the town to explore potential funding opportunities. It will also involve the wider population as they move forward with their preparations to seek the help of volunteers and most importantly encourage you to take part!

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

WED 2 JAN	– PLANS
MON 7 JAN	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 14 JAN	– FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET)
MON 21 JAN	– PLANS
MON 28 JAN	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 11 FEB	– PLANS
MON 18 FEB	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 25 FEB	– FULL COUNCIL
TUES 26 FEB	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

your question beforehand to allow a full response to be given at the meeting.

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk - admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- New Wards for May 2019 elections
- Calendar Competition 2020
- Budget initiatives 2019/20

