



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

A Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.00pm
in
The Council Chamber, Civic Centre

AGENDA

1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda. Should any Member consider that they require a dispensation in relation to any prejudicial interest that they may have, they are asked to make a written application to the Clerk well in advance of the meeting.

Notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration. The nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.0. MINUTES

- 4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 18th November 2019
- 4.2. Action list – For information only
(Attached)
- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only
(nothing to report – all projects completed)

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
- 5.2. To note the income and expenditure report
(Attached)

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 To consider the renewal of the licence for Selby Meadow
(Attached)

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates (Attached)
- 7.2 To receive an update on the ecological report on the Town Council's land at Bellbrook (Attached)

8.0. LEISURE

- 8.1 To receive an update on Luxfords Play Area (Attached)

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1 Children Stay Safe Day (nothing to report at this time)
- 9.2 Speed Indication Device (SID) Working Group (nothing to report at this time)
- 9.3 Climate Change Working Group (Attached)
- 9.4 2020 VE Anniversary Working Group (nothing to report at this time)

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1. Active Uckfield (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.2 Age Concern (Attached)
- 10.3 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee (Attached)
- 10.5 Uckfield and District Twinning Association (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.6 Uckfield Parkrun Board (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.7 Uckfield Plastic Free Working Group (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.8 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee (Attached)
- 10.9 Uckfield Youth Club Board (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.10 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link (nothing to report at this time)
- 10.11 All Weather Pitch Operational Group (Attached)

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

To consider whether to **RESOLVE** to exclude the press and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted: -

- 12.1 To consider a report on the Marketing programme (Attached)



Town Clerk

24th December 2019

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list and is for information only.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.28.09.16</u>	<p><u>To consider revised byelaws for the Town Council's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)</u> Members reviewed the amendments to the byelaws which still require Natural England and DEFRA's approval. It was RESOLVED to accept the revised byelaws.</p>	05.09.16	CW	<p>After many months of waiting, we received an email from DEFRA regarding the draft byelaws.</p> <p>They proposed some very minor changes to the wording in a couple of places and requested our permission to proceed with the process, to which the Town Clerk gave permission. We await further information in the New Year.</p>
<u>EL.26.01.19</u>	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Supporter Groups for both reserves be consulted with a view to shorten the byelaws in accordance with DEFRA's comments and report back to the Environment & Leisure committee.</p>	28.01.19		
	<p><u>Harlands Farm Pond</u> The Ranger is to be asked for ideas to captivate children's interest whilst at the pond.</p>	18.4.17	CW	<p>Passed to Ranger 19.4.17 Nothing planned at this moment in time</p>
	<p>Harlands Farm Pond, VCT and Sussex Wildlife Trust are to be contacted to establish if they can assist with ideas etc. regarding children involvement in the pond.</p>	30.4.18	CW	<p>Email sent but no response.</p>

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL 85.10.17</u>	<u>Request to rent allotment land to the rear of 155 Framfield Road</u> Following further discussion, it was RESOLVED that the new owner be asked to remove the fence back to their boundary in accordance with clause 4 of the license agreement. A license agreement could then be granted for the use of the land for garden use only, to grown vegetables etc, and that this land remains unfenced at all times.	02.10.17	CW	4/2/19 Letter sent to Solicitors 15/4/19 Solicitors advised if no response happy for us to proceed and re-charge costs. Resident has since been in touch with the Town Council and liaised with Assistant Town Clerk. Work is in progress to remove all items, and new shed has been erected behind boundary line.
<u>EL.30.01.19</u>	<u>Bird in Eye Allotment boundary fence rear of 155 Framfield Road</u> It was RESOLVED to give notice to remove all items, failure to do so would result in the Town Council removing the items and recharging costs.	28.01.19		
<u>EL07.06.19</u>	<u>Historical plaques</u> It was RESOLVED in order to try and move the scheme forward, that this be advertised to the wider audience.	03.06.19	TA	At a previous meeting of Full Council, one member suggested involving Memories of Uckfield in this initiative, to help build up interest.
<u>EL09.06.19</u>	<u>Town Council's involvement in commemorating VE Day 75</u> It was RESOLVED that: (a) the Town Council takes part in the commemoration and celebrations; (b) that a working group be set up to organise the event; (c) that the Committee decide how much to set aside for the event at the 2020/21 budget setting meeting.	03.06.19	WG	The Town Council office await an update from the VE Working Group on the plans for May 2020. The Civic Centre has already booked an event in for the afternoon of Thursday 7 th May 2020. Further information to follow.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.14.07.19</u>	<p><u>7.2 To consider a 'Bagged Dog Poo' sticker scheme</u> It was RESOLVED that we place details regarding the scheme on Facebook and The Voice to gain initial public response. Further costings for stickers are to be sought. The Committee will discuss the item further when this information has been collated.</p>	15.07.19	TA/HG	To be actioned.
	<p><u>Report from Working Group – Children Stay Safe Day</u> It was suggested that the following be investigated before a decision is made on next year's event: - attendance by First Responders or St. John's Ambulance - put out feelers to see who would be available with different skill sets - members of PTA's to be asked if they wished to sit on the group Further information to be obtained regarding Wealden DC's event to establish if there could be a joint venture.</p>	15.07.19	WG	Please note update from the Climate Change Working Group and their proposal for June 2020.
<u>EL26.10.19</u>	<p><u>7.2 – Review sheltered seating area in Ridgewood Play Area</u> It was RESOLVED to: (i) note the report; (ii) work with Sussex Police to run a campaign focused on encouraging the reporting of incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime; (iii) further investigate the statistics and evidence available and present this information to the next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee.</p>	07.10.19	HG	Work to be carried out with Sussex Police.
<u>EL27.10.19</u>	<p><u>7.3 Initially consider the costs of adding permanent CCTV cameras to Ridgewood Village Hall and Ridgewood Recreation Ground</u> Seven members voted in support and RESOLVED to further investigate the provision of CCTV in New Road (Ridgewood Village Hall and Ridgewood Recreation Ground) and open up this investigation to include other areas of the town.</p>	07.10.19	HG	Members agreed to NOT proceed with the installation of CCTV cameras in the open spaces of Uckfield, at this time, until such evidence or intelligence advises otherwise.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL28.10.19</u>	7.4 Note the initial investigations into the addition of a <u>gate/security on Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park</u> Members RESOLVED to further explore the costs associated with installing an entry system on the entrance to the Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park.	07.10.19	HG	This item is on hold until the works on the car park are due to take place, and the impact of the new PCSOs and their work using local intelligence is visible.

Environment Leisure Committee at 30 Nov 2019

	Apr 19 Actuals £	May 19 Actuals £	Jun 19 Actuals £	Jul 19 Actuals £	Aug 19 Actuals £	Sep 19 Actuals £	Oct 19 Actuals £	Nov 19 Actuals £	Actuals to date	Budgets to date	Dec 19 Revised Budget £	Jan 20 Revised Budget £	Feb 20 Revised Budget £	Mar 20 Revised Budget £	Total £	2019/ 2020 Budgets
Sales																
Contribution to Town Centre Security	183	0	0	575	0	0	0	0	758	650	0	0	0	0	758	650
Weald Hall Events	1,266	546	1,220	841	540	1,479	1,869	2,789	10,550	23,800	2,975	2,975	2,975	2,975	22,450	35,700
Allotments	17	81	174	0	0	0	110	5,053	5,435	3,132	392	392	392	392	7,003	4,700
Allotment Deposit	0	200	350	0	175	50	150	0	925	300	0	0	0	0	925	300
Playing Fields & Pitches, Sport Income	330	1,647	162	73	224	60	0	0	2,496	3,500	7,000	0	0	0	9,496	10,500
Playing Fields & Pitches, Event Income	496	114	289	3,562	70	503	0	0	5,034	4,700	0	0	0	0	5,034	4,700
WDC - West Park Culverts Agreement	0	0	360	0	0	0	0	0	360	350	0	0	0	0	360	350
Cemetery - Interments	2,149	2,782	508	2,182	2,909	730	127	4,424	15,811	15,966	1,996	1,996	1,996	1,996	23,795	23,950
Cemetery - Memorials	495	159	620	155	53	208	293	983	2,966	3,668	458	458	458	458	4,798	5,500
Cemetery - Sundry income	0	84	0	0	0	0	0	42	126	298	38	38	38	38	278	450
Cemetery Maintenance Charge	380	286	95	190	285	0	95	380	1,711	1,732	217	217	217	217	2,579	2,600
Env. Sundry Income	126	0	0	0	0	83	67	0	276	100	0	0	0	0	276	100
Litter/bus station	0	0	331	0	0	0	0	0	331	640	320	0	0	320	971	1,280
Roundabout income	864	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	864	440	0	0	0	0	864	440
Total Sales	6,306	5,899	4,109	7,578	4,256	3,113	2,736	13,671	47,643	59,276	13,396	6,076	6,076	6,396	79,612	91,220
Weald on the Field & Revival Income	0	100	0	2,500	1,809	110	0	0	4,519	4,469	0	0	0	0	4,469	4,469
Purchases																
Clothing - Corp/Prot, Outdoor staff	0	30	37	53	0	0	748	0	868	250	250	0	0	0	1,118	500
Weald on the Field & Revival	492	724	874	3,754	495	1,516	300	0	8,155	3,000	0	0	0	0	8,155	3,000
Street Lights, Supply & Maintenance	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	8,950	0	9,000	9,000
Street Light Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	1,200	0	0	1,200	3,200
Bus Shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	100
Allotments	723	(874)	50	123	50	300	0	(315)	57	1,332	167	167	167	167	725	2,000
Playing Fields and Pitches	248	6,507	314	62	94	1,161	1,042	1,127	10,555	14,125	0	0	0	1,875	12,430	16,000
Play Areas	215	567	735	616	5	0	0	478	2,616	2,675	0	250	0	75	2,941	3,000
Cemetery, rates	127	124	124	124	124	176	124	124	1,047	901	113	113	113	0	1,386	1,240
Grave digging	0	0	0	1,600	0	0	640	0	2,240	3,383	423	423	423	423	3,932	5,075
Cemetery, litter	167	117	142	158	92	117	205	108	1,106	1,068	133	133	133	133	1,638	1,600
Cemetery Maintenance	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	268	33	33	33	33	232	400
General Equipment Repairs	6	7	19	220	20	185	243	358	1,058	1,332	167	167	167	167	1,726	2,000
New Equipment	20	127	536	309	0	58	146	76	1,272	1,500	0	0	0	0	1,272	1,500
Grounds Maintenance Contract	1,888	1,888	1,888	1,699	1,888	1,888	1,888	0	13,027	13,500	0	0	0	0	13,027	13,500
Grounds Maintenance general	1	119	284	141	168	571	259	43	1,586	1,132	142	142	142	142	2,154	1,700
Hire of Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	100
LNRS & Sites of Interest - Ranger	2,383	2,379	2,379	2,379	2,379	3,090	2,379	2,376	19,744	19,651	2,456	2,456	2,456	2,456	29,568	29,475
LNRS & Sites of Interest - Working budge	3	165	0	4	39	378	1,239	58	1,886	1,668	208	208	208	208	2,718	2,500
Transit	0	0	154	0	545	85	84	0	868	1,332	167	167	167	167	1,536	2,000
Ford Ranger	85	66	67	88	394	335	65	60	1,160	1,332	167	167	167	167	1,828	2,000
Tractor maintenance & running costs	0	48	0	50	53	48	0	0	199	1,068	133	133	133	133	731	1,600
Movano Vehicle	119	89	87	84	85	245	87	88	884	1,468	183	183	183	183	1,616	2,200
Fencing	0	205	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	668	83	83	83	83	537	1,000
Trees	700	0	0	0	0	480	0	0	1,180	1,000	500	500	500	500	3,180	3,000
Graffiti Removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50	50
Litter Bins	0	0	781	0	0	0	0	0	781	900	0	0	0	0	781	900
Litter Collection, Open spaces	247	261	321	247	462	132	308	299	2,277	3,068	383	383	383	383	3,809	4,600
Horticulture	0	0	150	0	0	0	210	0	360	300	0	0	0	0	360	300
Weald Hall Events	0	0	1,250	128	0	2,540	1,868	3,091	8,877	13,500	9,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	22,877	27,500
Corp Dev - Signage outside areas	0	0	0	0	0	142	0	0	142	250	0	0	0	0	142	250
Groundsmen - Salaries	5,626	6,668	7,131	7,131	7,131	7,131	7,131	7,131	55,080	51,272	6,409	6,409	6,409	6,409	80,716	76,908
Groundsmen - National Insurance	479	523	587	587	587	587	587	587	4,524	3,975	497	497	497	497	6,512	5,963
Groundsmen - Pension	711	955	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,026	7,872	11,589	1,448	1,448	1,448	1,448	13,664	17,381
Town Security/CCTV	1,171	71	71	70	71	71	70	157	1,752	2,000	250	250	250	250	2,752	3,000
Road Safety Week	9	545	571	0	0	0	0	0	1,125	1,600	0	0	0	0	1,125	1,600
Floral Displays	0	0	1,724	450	450	450	0	0	3,074	3,500	0	0	0	0	3,074	3,500
Repair & Replacement street furniture	0	919	0	0	0	0	0	0	919	920	1,080	0	0	0	1,999	2,000

Environment Leisure Committee at 30 Nov 2019

	Apr 19 Actuals £	May 19 Actuals £	Jun 19 Actuals £	Jul 19 Actuals £	Aug 19 Actuals £	Sep 19 Actuals £	Oct 19 Actuals £	Nov 19 Actuals £	Actuals to date	Budgets to date	Dec 19 Revised Budget £	Jan 20 Revised Budget £	Feb 20 Revised Budget £	Mar 20 Revised Budget £	Total £	2019/ 2020 Budgets
Cleaning Materials	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31	60	0	60	0	0	91	120
Performing Rights	0	0	0	0	0	403	0	131	534	0	1,300	0	0	0	1,834	1,300
Event Advertising Marketing	510	733	144	270	499	416	374	489	3,435	2,668	333	333	333	333	4,767	4,000
HMLNR & WPLNR	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	500	0	0	0	0	1,000	500
Total Purchases	15,930	23,113	21,456	21,383	17,865	23,541	21,033	17,492	161,646	170,805	26,725	17,405	24,895	17,732	248,570	257,562
New Initiatives																
Safety Surface Hempstead Lane Play Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,938	0	5,938	12,500	0	0	0	0	5,938	12,500
To Promote Single Plastcs	205	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	200	0	0	0	0	205	200
Dog Bag Dispenser Advertising	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Adult Equipment Signs Hempstead/Ridgewood	0	1,397	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,397	1,340	0	0	0	0	1,397	1,340
West Park LNR Boardwalk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
Additional Grass Cutting ESCC	6,009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,009	6,500	0	0	0	0	6,009	6,500
Total New Initiatives	7,214	1,397	0	0	0	0	5,938	0	14,549	21,540	0	0	0	2,000	16,549	23,540

£847.58 is available in earmarked reserves to cover the £636.00 difference between income, Town Council funds of £3k and expenditure.

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 6.1

TO CONSIDER THE RENEWAL OF THE LICENCE FOR SELBY MEADOW

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee in September 2014, it was resolved to:

EL.034.09.14 Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to agree to renew the licence to the New Town Action Group for a 5 year period under the current terms and conditions when it expires on the 28th February 2015.

- 1.2 As a result, a new licence was drawn up between Newtown Action Group and Uckfield Town Council. The Town Clerk signed on behalf of the Town Council, a new licence for a further five years. The new licence commenced from 1 March 2015, and was signed on 20th April 2015 by both parties.

2.0 Renewal of Licence

- 2.1 At the time of the previous renewal, there was planning permission on the site for six dwellings and it sat adjacent to land designated for housing development (Mallards development). The Newtown Action Group were advised at the time that the Town Council retained its options on the land and would continue to actively seek an access onto this land via the adjacent development.
- 2.2 The Newtown Action Group nominated Selby Meadow as an Asset of Community Value in 2015, and Wealden District Council confirmed on 22nd May 2015 that the nominated land was listable as an asset of community value under the regulations - *provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012*. This means that there is a restriction on the land that no transfer or lease is to be registered without a certificate signed by a conveyancer that the transfer or lease did not contravene section 95(1) of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.3 Five years has passed and the circumstances have since changed with regards to the planning permission on the site, and members are asked to consider in the current situation, whether the Town Council wishes to renew the licence with the Newtown Action Group.
- 2.4 A copy of the existing licence has been attached in appendix A for reference.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officers: Holly Goring

Appendices: Appendix A: Copy of licence with Newtown Action Group

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 7.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE COUNCIL'S ESTATES

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the current position with the Council's Estates.

Victoria Skatepark

Investigation required in dealing with drainage issues.

Hempstead Lane Play Area

Repairs carried out following vandalism.

Hempstead Meadows

The Estates & Facilities Manager is currently looking at various areas across the meadows to plant additional trees.

Rocks Park Play Area

Quotes are being obtained to replace the existing fencing surrounding the play area with new bow top fencing.

West Park Recreation ground

One large Oak tree has been cut down due to being dangerous. A new 10 year old Oak tree has been ordered to plant nearby to the tree that was cut down.

Boothland Wood

Good Progress has been made with Harlands Primary School in setting up a "Forest School" in the wood.

Equipment & Vehicles

Some minor repairs have been carried out to the Movano Flatbed van.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

The condition of the safety surface at Ridgewood play area is being assessed as the ground level has become undulating in places. Quotes are being sought to repair the issues, as the play area has now passed its three-year warranty.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 7.2

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ECOLOGY REPORT ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S LAND AT BELLBROOK

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 7th October 2019, the Estates & Facilities Manager put forward a proposal to set up a new initiative called 'Tree for a Tree' scheme.
- 1.2 Members were reminded that at that time, Uckfield Town Council did not have a policy which included the planting of new trees when dead, dying or decayed trees were cut down within the town.

It was advised that the re-planting would not have to occur in the same location, but it was initially proposed that existing land covered in overgrown brambles and owned by the Uckfield Town Council, on the Bellbrook Industrial Estate could be cleared and for English species of trees to be planted in this location.

- 1.3 The only caveat that members had with this proposal, was to suggest that an environmental assessment be undertaken to assess the biodiversity of the site before any brambles or vegetation was cleared.

2.0 Feedback from Ecological Study

- 2.1 Uckfield Town Council commissioned an ecological study of the ground owned by the Town Council at the back of Bellbrook Industrial Estate in November 2019.
- 2.2 The ecological study noted that the brambles are covering young trees such as willow and birch. It has been advised that the area is currently in a succession phase of repopulation with sparse but effective growth of some tree species.
- 2.3 Recommendations following the study include –
 - allow natural succession to regenerate the woodland;
 - do not plant anything or clear the site;
 - consider installing an otter holt at the base of the riverbank in consultation with Sussex Wildlife Trust;
 - rename the site to "Riverside Wood" to give this piece of land an identity.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to
 - (i) note the report;
 - (ii) consider installing an otter holt at the base of the riverbank of BellBrook open space;
 - (iii) rename Bellbrook open space to "Riverside Wood" to give it an identity.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 8.1

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON LUXFORDS PLAY AREA

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to update members of Environment & Leisure Committee on the work taking place to upgrade Luxfords Play Area.
- 1.2 The Estates & Facilities Manager has commenced the formal tender process and invited play area companies to submit their proposals for the project. The deadline for their proposals has been set as Friday 17th January 2020.
- 1.3 A date has also been set for the play area companies to attend an open day in the Weald Hall of the Civic Centre, in Uckfield on Saturday 8th February 2020 to present their designs and proposals.
- 1.4 In terms of public consultation, an online and paper-based survey has been created which will be shared via social media, the Town Council website and copies made available in our Civic Centre for users of the play area and residents within the town, to respond to. This will be circulated in January 2020 and a deadline for responses has been set as midnight on Sunday 9th February 2020.
- 1.5 Local primary schools within Uckfield have also been approached. An email has been sent to local primary schools advising that we are looking for the children to come up with their favourite theme for a play area and then ask them to draw a ride that could be part of it. The rides could be as fantastic as they like. The themes could be anything for example, space, pirates, castles, jungles, animals or anything else the children come up with. The artwork they create will be displayed at the Open Day on Saturday 8th February 2020 in the Civic Centre.
- 1.6 The feedback received through the public consultation, the open day and schools will be presented to Environment & Leisure Committee on Monday 17th February 2020.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 9.3

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS: CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

The last meeting of the Climate Change Working Group met on 14th November 2019. The working group continued to focus on their key objectives and agreed to look at these specific issues to recommend to Uckfield Town Council:

- (i) trees and rewilding;
- (ii) liaison with local schools;
- (iii) holding an Environmental EXPO;
- (iv) Civic Centre operations
- (v) public transport;

(i) Trees and rewilding

Working group members had researched and found that the recommended trees to plant were Oak, Fig, Horse Chestnut, Birch, Apple. The Woodland Trust were currently offering free trees to communities and schools but it was important that any trees planted needed to have ongoing maintenance. It was recommended that tree wardens were appointed to survey the trees going forward and then reports could be put forward to the Town Council when trees needed topping/trimming.

The group considered potential locations for tree planting, such as waste land along the river bank which could be used to plant willow trees. This would help with environmental issues, help with flooding, and also improve the area for general public. Businesses could be asked to sponsor a Willow tree.

Whilst encouraging residents to plant trees in their gardens, the working group felt that a leaflet should be sent out to all residents recommending the type of trees to plant, how to plant them and how to maintain them.

Local businesses would also be approached to see if they would donate fruit trees and to look at potential planting schemes with local schools.

The working group thought about potential areas to rewild, and wondered whether the area behind the station car park, up to the Yeowart Steel Building, and the river bank could be investigated for this purpose. This would reduce carbon emissions from traffic in the High Street and business park.

(ii) liaison with local schools

It was recommended that Town Councillors visit local primary schools and meet representatives from each year group (school councils) and listen to the young people's ideas on how we should be making Uckfield more environmentally friendly and make a difference to climate change.

(iii) holding an environmental EXPO

This ties in with the recommendation from the working group that the annual Road Safety/Children Stay Safe Day, which normally takes place in June each year, be replaced in

June 2020 with an Environmental EXPO day. Contact would be made with local companies to display their environmentally friendly products suitable for domestic use. e.g. ground source heat pumps, grey water recycling, solar panels, wind turbines and insulation companies.

(iv) Civic Centre operations

The working group agreed to be paperless, and wished to recommend that Uckfield Town Council become paperless, by supplying more of its information by digital means. Any essential information that needs to be printed would only be printed on recycled paper.

They had reviewed elements of the Civic Centre operations such as the menu for Luxfords Restaurant. This was currently being reviewed anyhow for the new year, but it was suggested that more vegan and vegetarian options be added.

(v) Commuter Bus

Longer term, the group looked at public transport options, such as exploring the potential of a commuter bus, either electric or environmentally friendly e.g. Lemon buses in Brighton charged a small nominal fee for commuters, which worked out less than car parking charges for one day. The scheme could be expanded to Hailsham and Crowborough in the future.

Further work would be undertaken to look into the costs and potential grant funding opportunities to run such a scheme. This would reduce emissions, traffic in the town and car parking issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Members are asked to note the report;
- (ii) Members are asked to consider the proposed change to the annual road safety day with local primary schools and request that Uckfield Town Council look to hold an Environmental EXPO day in it's place, focusing on how schools, residents, businesses can reduce their impact on climate change.

Councillor K. Bedwell

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 10.2

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: AGE CONCERN

The annual General Meeting for the Uckfield District Age Concern Group was held on 29th November 2019 at the Civic Centre.

At the meeting, the minutes for 2018 were approved and the Chair, Officers and Committee were all re-elected with the exception of Mrs Joan Pointing who wished to retire after many years of dedicated service to the group.

The financial report by Treasurer, John Gilbert, was accepted and approved to year end 30th September 2019 which showed a reduction in the bank balance held to £5464.19.

A report by the Joint Transport Co-ordinator showed a continuing demand from service users with location appointments ranging from Uckfield GP's to Maidstone Hospital in total 95 trips in the last three months.

Ian Jaffray's report concentrated on his efforts to receive grant funding to enable the continuation of the service. He reported that there were now twelve volunteer drivers and that they covered 14,000 miles in the past year on 300 trips at a total cost of £6104.96.

Attendees were informed that the donation cards and radio slots had been well received and two glowing testimonials had been received.

The meeting concluded with tea and biscuits.

Councillor C. Macve
December 2019

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 10.4

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: LUXFORD CENTRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The House Committee representations in the absence of the Chairman reported that membership numbers were still increasing and that outings and events were generally well supported. It was agreed that the club was progressing well.

Thanks, were noted for the continuing work of the House Committee and the progress in improving the wellbeing of the club. A member had raised a query regarding the upper age limit of 85 for insurance purposes and it was agreed this would be queried with the Brokers for an answer.

The Secretary and Treasurer had an appointment with HSBC Bank to seek a new account for transfer of the funds for the new account.

The Treasurer reported slightly improved balances at the bank and that the problem with business stream had finally been resolved and a credit received so that she would now combine the waste water account with that of the supply to simplify things in future.

All general administrative matters were progressing smoothly at present with no major problems.

Councillor. C. Macve
December 2019

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 10.8

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINE PARISHES COMMITTEE

Members of the URLPC meeting held on 13th November 2019 spent a large part of the meeting discussing the proposals and effects of the Transport Strategy for the South East document. This document consisted of over 100 pages and set out suggestions for consultation covering the next 30 years. Members were concerned there was very little coverage relating to the future of the Uckfield line.

The Chairman asked members to respond before the deadline of 10th January 2020 and to encourage their respective councils or organisations to do likewise.

Discussions on the use of the Passenger Benefit Fund were still ongoing with G.T.R at present, with no government in place, railway matters were on hold but prior to the dissolution of Parliament, the Transport Secretary had favoured opening some of the Beeching closures but unfortunately this would not benefit Uckfield as the line was not a Beeching closure.

The current service was generally felt to be satisfactory but there were still instances of lack of communication when delays or cancellations were experienced due to track problems, breakdowns or other issues. There were still areas when the ticket machines on board could not take credit cards through lack of a signal which was being investigated by Southern.

The replacement footbridge at Eridge was now scheduled for February 2020 and G.T.R would be invited to the January meeting to discuss any potential impact.

Councillor C. Macve
December 2019

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 6th January 2020

Agenda Item 10.11

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD COLLEGE - ALL WEATHER PITCH ADVISORY GROUP

At the meeting held on 11th November 2019 at Uckfield College, the Chair; Mrs Young from East Sussex County Council, introduced members from Freedom Leisure, the managing operators County Development Manager, Sussex County Football Association Ltd, Grasshoppers Football Clubs, Uckfield Town Council, Uckfield College and the local residents' representative.

During the discussions which followed much of the content revolved around the impact of the pitch facilities on local residents. There were three main areas of concern being lighting, flooding and noise.

The matter of lighting, it was agreed, had been dealt with as far as possible by altering the lamp column heads and provision of blinds to some property windows.

Discussions between Uckfield College, local residents and East Sussex County Councillor. C. Dowling had taken place on the road flooding in the Hempstead Lane area.

East Sussex Highways were investigating the cause and finding a solution as this seemed to be as a result of run off from the all-weather pitch and the inability of the drainage system to cope.

A new reporting/record system had been proposed to deal with complaints relating to noise issues. Mrs Young described the new system that would be in operation in conjunction with Freedom Leisure. It was hoped that this would address the problem by highlighting areas of concern and enable both the users of the pitch and residents to reduce this ongoing problem.

Other items that were discussed included a report confirming that the finances of the pitch continued to be satisfactory. The Uckfield Grasshoppers had, for the third year running, received a Grass Roots Club Award and they were experiencing an increase in girls' participation of the sport. The use of the pitch continued to run at near capacity providing a useful facility for both Uckfield College and the community.

Councillor C. Macve