



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A YOUTH MEMBER

BY LEWIS WESTWOOD FLOOD

Since May, when I joined the Town Council as a youth member, I have had the very exciting opportunity to take part in local government, seeing (and taking part in) decisions which affect the local community. From parking, to security wardens, to planning problems, the day-to-day workings of the Town Council may seem dull to some, but the vital task undertaken by the Councillors and staff in the Civic Centre shows why local government is so integral to the maintenance of a healthy democracy.

Local decision making

For me, being involved with local decision making has shown me why it is so important to keep this local, where local councillors who understand local concerns and who are involved with the town, are able to take the actions which suit the town, rather than the whims of some Westminster minister.

Raising the youth voice

At the same time, I have found the ability to contribute to Town Council discussions and debates highly enriching, and I am very thankful for the chance to do so. Raising the youth voice in matters affecting both residents and commuters to Uckfield has been an important component in ensuring that the Council reflects the increasingly young demographic of Uckfield. In addition, the experience shown by



many of the longer-serving members of the Council has been invaluable in understanding the deep history of governance within the Wealden area, whether for harmonious decision making or otherwise.

Looking forward

I have greatly enjoyed my time so far as a youth member of the Town Council, and look forward to the coming months.

Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- A food and community story
- Annual Town Meeting
- Last month in your council

A FOOD AND COMMUNITY STORY

BY CLLR BEN COX

In the first few months of being a new Town Councillor, I presented a motion on youth food poverty to the Town Council which my fellow Councillors passed.

The council resolved to:

- investigate the size of youth food poverty in Uckfield primary and secondary schools and, to our best abilities, try to reduce it within the life of this council;
- work with external bodies (Foodcycle and Chomp) to assist in tackling food poverty in young people;
- run an information campaign to inform the public on how to deal with food poverty using local charities and government aids. This could include advising councillors in order to enable them to spread the word;
- work closely with schools to see what assistance is needed to help reduce the effects of food poverty in their students (i.e. breakfast and after school clubs).

According to Uckfield Foodbank, 24 per cent of households in Uckfield live in poverty. For these households an unexpected bill, a delay in receiving wages or benefits, a long-term illness or no access to free school meals during school holidays could easily mean families need help from a foodbank.

Community Fridge

In the weeks following the motion, I met Amy Fieldhouse, a local mother with a passion for this cause. Amy was looking into setting up a community fridge; a simple way of sharing good food that would otherwise go to waste. The idea is to cut food waste around



town as well as lower the food mile. This is a little way the community can ease the effects of climate change as well as enjoy local produce from friends and neighbours. Investigations into the size of food poverty in our schools are about to begin, as well as conversation with the Brighton-based charity Chomp in the hope of opening out-of-term-time food clubs. We have other plans in the pipeline including community herb gardens and share shelves at the allotments.

Early Stages

We are still in the early stages, but we look forward to announcing more on the community fridge in the near future and giving you an update on our progress later this year. We are looking for any help we can get from the public along the way, so please follow us on social media if you can, or feel free to drop me an email.

<https://www.facebook.com/UckfieldCommunityFridgeCampaign/ben.cox@uckfieldtc.gov.uk>



THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This meeting will be held in the Weald Hall
Civic Centre, Uckfield

on

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2020

at

7.00pm

**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**

at

Uckfield Town Council
Civic Centre, Uckfield TN22 1AE

or

Email: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

**Please join me and the other Councillors for coffee from
6.30pm**

Councillor Spike Mayhew
Town Mayor

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Creating Local Nature Reserve Byelaws

The Town Council has responsibility for the management of two nature reserves in Uckfield – Hempstead Meadows and West Park Local Nature Reserves. These are beautiful green open spaces and require the council to find a balance between protecting the local wildlife and biodiversity, whilst enabling local residents and visitors to enjoy the attractive views and environment.

Working with DEFRA

The Town Council has been working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for some time now, to create suitable byelaws for our local nature reserves. We have to ensure that they are clear, reasonable and proportionate and do not conflict with any existing legislation. Byelaws can help to stop people damaging the nature reserves, by setting restrictions on certain activities or movement in certain areas, and these byelaws can be enforced.

Sealing of the byelaws

On 20 January 2020, the Town Council resolved to authorise the sealing of the byelaws, and requested that the Town Clerk carry out the next steps and procedures. The Town Council has now advertised its intention for applying for confirmation of the byelaws and made these available for inspection by the public in the Town Council office. The Town Council office is based in the Civic Centre, Uckfield and open between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday, 9.00am to 4.00pm on Friday.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library and on the town council

website. If you wish to ask a question at a meeting, on items on the agenda, it

MON 2 MAR	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 9 MAR	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 16 MAR	– PLANS
MON 30 MAR	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 6 APR	– PLANS
TUES 14 APR	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 20 APR	– GENERAL PURPOSES
TUES 21 APR	– ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MON 27 APR	– PLANS

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 at:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Allotment Competition
- New office staff
- Luxford Play Area update

