



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

June 2020

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thevoice

A HUGE THANK YOU

We would like to start with a huge thank you to every single resident of this beautiful town we live in for their patience, kindness and compliance with the new regulations we are currently living under to help save lives and protect the NHS. You have all been incredible and it shows how amazing we are as a town and community.

End of the Council year

We have come to the end of the Council year and prepare to start another. It was hugely disappointing to have to cancel our Annual Town Meeting in April due to COVID-19, but we are hoping to rearrange for a date later in the year when things start getting back to normal.

Annual Statutory Meeting cancelled

A decision was made at Full Council in April (using Zoom) that we would cancel the Annual Statutory Meeting. For continuity during these unusual times, members agreed that we would continue in our roles as Mayor and Deputy Mayor as will the chairs and members on all committees, sub committees and outside working groups remain unchanged.

You can still contact us

Although we are all working from home, we can still be contacted directly; our contact details are displayed on the website. We have the support of the office staff led by Holly Goring, our Town Clerk, who are monitoring phone calls and emails that go through the office.



Tough decisions ahead

We are faced with tough decisions going forward and will still need to follow government guidelines to protect our families, friends and key workers. Remember, as we look ahead beyond lockdown, we will continue to need to support our town and businesses. Please keep safe and all take care. Kind regards
Cllr Spike Mayhew. Mayor of Uckfield
Cllr Jackie Love. Deputy Mayor of Uckfield.

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



@uckfieldtowncouncil

WHAT'S INSIDE

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THE STORY OF THE OUTREACH BOX

BY CLLR KAREN BEDWELL

Eight weeks ago, I had never heard of Zoom, furlough or social distancing, Coronavirus was a bad flu and the Outreach Box was not a thing.

Then the world turned upside down!

It is hard to remember now that supermarkets were stripped bare, people were fighting for toilet rolls and nurses sat in their cars sobbing because they couldn't get food.

The birth of the Outreach Box

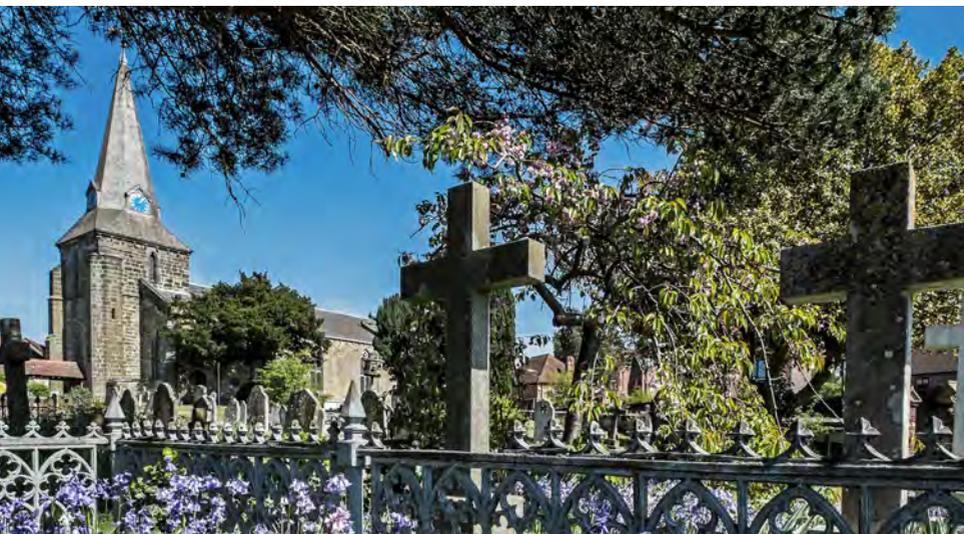
At the beginning of March, Jennifer Elliott set up a Facebook group named 'Uckfield Coronavirus Volunteers'. The aim being to bring the community of Uckfield together to find ways of helping one another as the news started to create a surge of panic amongst us. It became immediately obvious from feedback to the group and the worry expressed by my elderly patients who were told to stay indoors; getting food supplies out to people very quickly was going to be a priority. The Outreach Box was born.

Great help and support

With the support and help of Holy

Cross Church, together with Lynne and Paul Ireland, we set up a base to distribute food boxes at The Belmont Centre on a not-for-profit basis. We decided that an essential food supply to anyone self-isolating, who didn't have friends or neighbours on hand to shop for them, was the emergency response required. We needed to create a stop gap until a supermarket shop could be done. Within a week we had a fantastic bunch of volunteers manning phones throughout Uckfield: Natasha coordinating box orders, Jenni on admin, and Lynne and I sourcing food and packing the boxes.

From the very start we were lucky enough to have Jon and Sue at Ridgewood Post Office getting us supplies of bread and milk, fresh eggs from Pat at Highbrook Farm and fresh fruit and vegetables from James at Oast Farm Buxted. Tesco, with the incredible support of Robert and Kelly,



THE STORY OF THE OUTREACH BOX



donated £300 of dry stock and all of the above have continued to supply us with food throughout. Our very first order went out on March 18.

So humbling

The generous community support we have received for the Outreach Box Service has been humbling. We have had financial aid from Manor Park Residents Association, Scanlan Trust, Uckfield Lions, Uckfield Rotary, Founding Fathers at Uckfield Rugby club and personal donations from local residents. This has allowed us to supply and deliver a box of essential foods for a nominal charge of £9.

Throughout March and April, boxes were delivered daily to anyone who needs one in Uckfield and the surrounding villages. As I write this at the end of April we have given out over 215 boxes. Whilst nothing to be celebrated, as it is at a time when thousands have lost their lives and many are struggling behind closed doors, it goes to show what a coordinated effort by a community coming together can bring. We have made a difference to many at such a

difficult time.

Still continuing in May

Things now are settling down as we are all accepting a new normal. The supermarkets have more delivery slots available, the shelves are full, and social distancing allows many to get the food they need. However, the Outreach Box will continue. From May, a once a week delivery will be available for anyone who needs it and orders by Thursday at 3pm for delivery on Friday. We will continue to be in the background and if we get another peak, another lockdown, and we need to increase deliveries, we will endeavour to until Covid-19 is under control, however far into the future that may be.

Facebook page

To keep those of us on social media up to date, we are setting up a page on Facebook named 'Uckfield Coronavirus Support' with details on how to order an Outreach box and other help available. We are also distributing leaflets to every household in Uckfield.

Take Care and Stay Safe

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Luxfords Play Area Upgrade

At the meeting of Environment and Leisure Committee in May, members reviewed a number of potential additions to the design for the upgraded Luxfords Play Area which is based on a Castle theme.

Being a central facility within the town, and widely used play area by local families and visitors to the area, members were keen to ensure that the play area was widely accessible and not only supported different ages, but also different abilities.

Members agreed to use earmarked reserves set aside from recent developer contributions and savings from previous recreational projects to install a number of additional features into the new design. This would include a ramp into the Uckfield Castle, which would act like a bridge over the moat. There would be a flat section at the end like a fort, with play panel type features.

Wheelchair users

A sensory path would be added to the main footpath to enable wheelchair users to travel through and feel

different textures, along with interactive play panels and musical equipment. An additional flat seat swing would be installed along with another inclusive seat, so a variety of seating and swings would be available for different ages and abilities.

Members were pleased to see such a fantastic and varied design, and were hopeful that the upgrade would be undertaken in 2020 despite the impact of Covid-19.

Allotment Competition 2020

Allotment holders have been busy working away on their allotments in the recent sunshine and lockdown period. It would be really lovely if we could celebrate your hard work. The Town Council is very pleased that Staverton's Nursery have offered to sponsor this year's competition.

Some changes have been introduced to the categories and some great prizes could be won. To find out more, you can download the information from our website at: <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/council-services/allotments/>

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 is advisable to submit your question beforehand to allow a full response to

MON 1 JUNE	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 8 JUNE	– PLANS
MON 15 JUNE	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 22 JUNE	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 29 JUNE	– PLANS
MON 13 JULY	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 20 JULY	– PLANS
MON 27 JULY	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

be given at the meeting. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

* meeting dates may change or be held remotely see website for latest details

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Achievements of the Town Council over the past year

