



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

April 2021

EDITION 218

thevoice

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

### BY GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The year ahead sees Uckfield Town Council providing over £54,000 of financial support to local organisations. These funds will help keep voluntary and community groups afloat in these difficult times, and enable residents and service users to continue accessing support in Uckfield and the surrounding villages.

### Applications through the door

Uckfield Town Council had 23 applications for grant funding for the financial year 2021-22 as part of the Town Council's Community Grant Programme. These applications were considered in detail by the Finance Sub Committee at their February meeting and then reviewed by the General Purposes Committee on 8 March. All applicants were awarded some funding towards their stated projects. The committee also discussed the application from Wealden Citizen Advice.

### Total funding provided

Members approved the allocation of £27,500 of grant funding to local community groups and organisations under the General Power of Competence. The request for support from the Wealden Citizen's Advice for £18,900 was met under Section 142 of the Local Government Act and £8,000 was agreed as part of a service level agreement with the Uckfield Volunteer Centre.

### Successful applicants

The full list of grants awarded can be



**Bridge Cottage** - home to one of this year's grant awardees - The Uckfield and District Preservation Society

found on the UTC website at:

[www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/town-council-grants-2021-2022/](http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/town-council-grants-2021-2022/)

### A big thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the community, charitable and voluntary organisations in the Uckfield area who work incredibly hard and dedicate their time to support others. We really do appreciate it!

Contact us through:  
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk  
f @uckfieldtowncouncil

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Springwatch in Uckfield
- Last month in your council

# UCKFIELD'S OWN SPRINGWATCH

## What to look out for in April

Uckfield is lucky enough to be home to many areas of ancient woodland. Walkers can enjoy seeing dense carpets of bluebells from around mid-April into May as in Boothland Wood pictured below.



Walkers may also be able to see and enjoy Dog's Mercury, Wood Anemone, Celandine, and Spotted Orchids - all species associated with ancient woods.



## Moving into the work for spring

Now that the heavy winter's work of tree felling is over for the season, it is time to start planning the work that needs to be done during spring.

As part of that planning we are designing flora and fauna surveys to be undertaken in West Park Nature Reserve. We will also be monitoring the area within the reserve that has been newly planted with trees.



## UCKFIELD'S OWN SPRINGWATCH

Trees start moving into blossom, catkins ripen and discharge their pollen and the more precocious trees start to produce leaves.



Bird song and the ringing of woodpeckers can be enjoyed across the town. With the dense thickets of scrub at West Park and Hempstead Meadows nature reserves are especially busy.

### Getting ready for the summer season

Our grounds staff will also be starting to clear flower beds, undertaking the first grass cutting and preparing cricket pitches for reopening following the levelling which took place in 2019.



## Volunteers needed

Neal, the ranger, is planning to undertake a large-scale litter clean-up of Boothland wood on Wednesday 14 April when Covid-19 restrictions have eased. PPE and the necessary kit will be provided but places are limited. Please contact Neal if you would like to get involved. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

[ranger@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:ranger@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)



## LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Throughout the pandemic local councils (parish and town, district and county) were advised to stop holding any physical (face to face) meetings or gatherings.

### Remote vs face to face meetings

The change to online meetings was led by the introduction of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) Regulations 2020 and were brought into force on Saturday 4 April 2020; enabling local councils to hold remote meetings until 7 May 2021.

### Annual Town meeting of electors

Normally the Town Council would hold its Annual Town meeting in April. And, although we could hold the meeting online, it was felt that the meeting should be open to all.

### Face to face meeting preferred

Residents would prefer to meet their councillors face to face. The online option is not good, particularly if residents are not familiar with 'Zoom' or other online meeting software. Members agreed at Full Council on 1 March 2021 that they would postpone the Annual Town meeting and

reschedule the meeting, all being well, to September 2021, in the Weald Hall in tandem with the Allotment conference.

### Annual Statutory meeting of the Council - rescheduled

May is the end of one municipal year for the Town Council and the start of a new year. Local authorities are required to hold an annual statutory meeting and for Uckfield, the meeting sees the Town Council elect its Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the year ahead, plus appoint members to the council's committees and working groups.

### Public meeting

This meeting is a public meeting and as the legislation will have ended regarding online meetings we hope that the meeting can take place in a socially distanced manner in the Weald Hall of the Civic Centre. To ensure we have passed Step 3 of the UK Government's easing of the Covid lockdown the meeting has been rescheduled to Monday 24 May 2021.

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

[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

TUES 6 APR	– PLANS
MON 12 APR	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 19 APR	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 26 APR	– PLANS
TUES 4 MAY	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 17 MAY	– PLANS
MON 24 MAY	– FULL COUNCIL (ANNUAL STATUTORY) NEW DATE

### COMING NEXT MONTH

- End of year reports
- Invitations to town meetings

