



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO A MEETING OF UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

on

**Monday 2 August 2021 at 7.00pm
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield**

AGENDA

Under The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public are able to film or record during a committee meeting.

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 MAYOR'S DISCRETION

3.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5.0 MINUTES

5.1 To **RESOLVE** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting on 21 June 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

5.2 Action list – For information only
(Attached)

6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 6.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| (a) Plans Committees | 28 June 2021 |
| (b) Environment and Leisure Committee | 26 July 2021 |
| (c) General Purposes Committee | 12 July 2021 |

7.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee
(nothing to report at this time)
- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
(nothing to report at this time)
- (iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Group
(nothing to report at this time)

8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- (i) Civic Centre Working Group
(nothing to report at this time)
- (ii) Uckfield – Events Working Group
(Attached)
- (iii) Uckfield Dementia Forum
(nothing to report)

9.0 TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO ESCC's CONSULTATION ON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE A22 AND A2290 (Attached)

10.0 TO CONSIDER A DRAFT LETTER TO BE SENT TO QUICKBORN, GERMANY IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT FLOODING (Attached)

11.0 TO CONSIDER A MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR B. COX (Attached)

12.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS (Attached)

13.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT

14.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

15.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

16.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS



Town Clerk
27 July 2021

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held
on Monday 21 June 2021 at 7.00 pm
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. K. Bedwell	Cllr. J. Love (Town Mayor)
Cllr. D. Bennett	Cllr. C. Macve
Cllr. B. Cox	Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. J. Edwards	Cllr. A. Smith
Cllr. H. Firth	Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. D. French (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr. D. Ward
Cllr. G. Johnson	Emily McHale (Youth Member)

IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public
1 member of the press (recording)
County Councillor Chris Dowling

Holly Goring Town Clerk
Sarah D'Alessio Assistant Town Clerk & RFO

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. They were advised that notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration and that the nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest became apparent.

No interests were declared.

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

None received.

3.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FC.19.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to enable updates to be provided by District and County Councillors.

Councillor Chris Dowling advised that he had been in a meeting earlier that day with UKPN and the Town Council. All parties had expressed quite clearly their

dissatisfaction with the changes to the works – temporary traffic lights, then road closures etc. It was understood that all plans were being thoroughly reviewed and their intentions would be communicated the next day. He was therefore waiting on the latest information to understand their proposals going forward. The overall goal was to get the works completed and finalised in the most accurate but also safe manner, but with minimal disruption to the town. It was UKPN's project and for them to manage with their contractors and sub contractors.

Councillor H. Firth advised that meetings at Wealden DC were starting to get back to normal. A meeting had recently taken place with the Leader of Wealden DC with three local MPs regarding the overdevelopment of Wealden District. Councillor Firth expressed the need to do something during this meeting. All three MPs – MP Maria Caulfield, MP Nusrat Ghani and MP Huw Merriman understood the challenges facing the more rural districts within the South East and it was hoped that they would have constructive meetings with ministers about this subject.

Councillor G. Johnson advised that he had attended the same meeting. The MPs were very supportive, and currently looking at the planning bill coming through. They wished to propose some changes. Discussions also centred around sites where planning permission had been granted but no development was visible. Councillor G. Johnson advised that since the annual statutory meeting of the Council, Planning Committee North had seen a bit of a reshuffle in appointed members, some of Uckfield's allies were no longer on the committee, and some had resigned from their position. Councillor G. Johnson updated members to explain that he had now been appointed as Vice Chair of Planning Committee North. He stressed that committee members always viewed each application with an open mind and each application was considered on its own merits. Councillor G. Johnson also advised that he had previously been a Board member of Sussex Weald Homes. He has since resigned after learning that the site with approved planning permission on Eastbourne Road, Uckfield was now up for sale and Sussex Weald Homes were one of a number of interested parties, in the land. Therefore it could pose a conflict of interest.

Councillor P. Sparks attended a Covid response grants payment meeting. Wealden DC had paid out £78,500 in test and trace payments and in the region of 9,500 businesses had been issued with a total of £61.5million pounds over the course of the 12-15 months with covid grant funding. Wealden DC had also instigated the additional £50 payment for claimants, as part of the council tax hardship fund. Wealden DC was one of the only local authorities doing this within the South East. They recognised the importance of helping people in financial difficulty. Wealden DC's council tax team were also managing council tax arrears more sensitively at present – sending texts, emails or making contact by telephone, as they understood the greater pressure households were under as a result of the pandemic.

FC.20.06.21 Councillors were thanked for their input and updates, and subsequently **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors J. Beesley, C. Snelgrove and Youth Member Miss Ikeson. Apologies were also received from County and

District Councillor Claire Dowling.

5.0 MINUTES

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 24 May 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

FC.21.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

5.2 Action List

Members requested that the following actions be removed:
FC18.05.21 – Review options for installing Covid memorial bench
Members subsequently noted the action list.

6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES

6.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-

(a) Plans Committee of the 7 June 2021

FC.22.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committee of the 7 June 2021.

(b) Environment & Leisure Committee of the 14 June 2021

FC.23.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment & Leisure Committees of the 14 June 2021.

(c) General Purposes Committee of the 1 June 2021

FC.24.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committees of the 1 June 2021.

7.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee

Nothing to report at present.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Nothing to report at present.

(iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Panel

Nothing to report at present.

8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

(i) Civic Centre Working Group

Nothing to report at present.

(ii) Uckfield – Events Working Group

Members noted the report.

(iii) Uckfield Dementia Forum

Councillor P. Sparks advised that much of the update was within the report, and reminded members that the Uckfield Dementia Forum would be having a stand at the Uckfield Festival, so encouraged members to drop by and support the stand by helping to share information. Members noted the report.

9.0 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND NOTE THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

Members were directed to the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21 as contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and the contents of this paper.

The Internal Auditor had carried out their full year end review and advised staff within written correspondence that there were no issues to report. The full detailed Internal Audit report undertaken by Auditing Solutions Ltd for 2020/21 would be circulated to members in due course.

Members received, considered and noted the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21 within the AGAR, and wished to thank officers for all of their hard work.

10.0 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND APPROVE SECTION 1 – THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

Members reviewed the Annual Governance Statement for the period 2020/21 which formed part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) on page four of six.

FC.25.06.21 Members reviewed the contents of Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement 2020/21) and **RESOLVED** to receive, consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21, and authorised the Town Mayor as Chairman of the meeting and the Town Clerk to sign and date this statement on behalf of the Town Council.

11.0 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND APPROVE SECTION 2 – THE TOWN COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

Members reviewed a summary of the Town Council's accounting statements, as presented on page five of six, in the draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return ending 31 March 2021, and financial statements prepared by the Town Council's accountants at the end of March 2021.

The Assistant Town Clerk & RFO advised that it was important to ensure it was noted that we were working in a pandemic and when setting the budget for last year no-one could have predicted this would be the case.

The accounts reflected this with little income received for room hire, restaurant, events or the hiring of sports facilities. However, cemetery income did increase. Expenditure continued as predicted and the time of lockdown was used to bring forward a number of projects which were included within the year's priority projects and earmarked within the council's reserves.

Due to the pandemic, there were a number of grants available through Wealden DC which the council was fortunate to be successful with, so with this and claims through the Furlough scheme the council was able to help boost income.

When working with the accountant to finalise the year-end financial statements, the Town Council made sure that the pandemic was reflected and a detailed breakdown was included to show the additional income of Furlough and Grants

received. Also an explanation of variances between budget and actual would be recorded for the external auditor.

The Assistant Town Clerk and RFO hoped that the accounts demonstrated that despite the difficulties of last year the Town Council had finished the year better than anticipated.

Councillor D. Ward wished to offer her thanks to the Assistant Town Clerk & RFO and Town Clerk, and their team, to get the accounts to this position. Next year's budget setting would be challenging.

Councillor. B. Cox wished to echo this point – events might have to be smaller than usual this autumn/winter if covid restrictions continued.

FC.26.06.21 Members **RESOLVED** to receive, consider and approve the draft annual governance and accountability return, and financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021, and authorised for the Town Mayor as Chairman of the meeting to sign and date this return, on behalf of the Town Council.

12.0 TO SIGN AND SEAL THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE SOURCE BETWEEN UCKFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH AND UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Members were provided with a draft copy of the lease agreement and advised that an amendment was currently being made to the Trustees listed on the agreement for the Uckfield Baptist Church. The Town Clerk requested that if members were happy with the contents of the draft lease agreement, could two members be nominated to digest the contents of the final version and sign and seal the lease, once received.

FC.27.06.21 Members **RESOLVED** to provide authority for two members to review the documentation and execute the final deed of dedication between Uckfield Town Council and Uckfield Baptist Church for the Source, once ready.

13.0 TO CONSIDER IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE USE OF THE TRADITIONAL RED TELEPHONE BOX

Members were presented with a report which reminded them of the need to restore and relocate the red traditional telephone box. Previous suggestions in past years had included relocating the telephone box to the High Street and looking at options from elsewhere such as a defibrillator, tourist information office, library etc to name a few.

Councillor K. Bedwell expressed that she liked the idea of the children's library but was not sure about the location. She referred to the lovely oak tree which had been felled at the entrance to the Persimmons Homes development off Mallard Drive, and whether the wood could be used to build the bench for Harlands Primary School, to sit next to the community library initiative. Councillor K. Bedwell also questioned whether the traditional telephone box could be relocated to Harlands Playing fields.

Councillor H. Firth thought the idea suggested by Harlands Primary School was an excellent idea, and it was incredibly important to encourage reading.

Councillor J. Edwards spoke in support of the idea put forward by Harlands

Primary School. The suggested location of Harlands Playing fields would be lovely and such a project would be a good idea, to help cultivate further relationships with schools in the town.

Miss McHale advised that near to where she lived, a traditional telephone box had been converted into defibrillator and it was fantastic to see the transformation of the box previously left redundant to now being of great use within the community.

Councillor B. Cox suggested a more hybrid approach. He referred to the damage that some of the books obtained in Framfield Road, and also thought that more than one use could be obtained from the telephone box – perhaps also with an information centre type service or defibrillator.

Councillor D. Bennett also supported the potential for hybrid use with books in the lower section to help children reach them easily, and the defib placed higher up perhaps.

Councillor K. Bedwell stated that there was no defibrillator on the Harlands estate and now Harlands Playing fields were being used more for football training etc, it would be particularly helpful. The primary school had stated that if it were located near the school that they would help with looking after the children's library.

Councillor D. French advised that she had always envisaged the centre of the town being the new location for the telephone box but the idea from Harlands school had made them rethink. Consideration needed to be given towards payment for the defibrillator, and perhaps the primary school would know parents or volunteers who would be keen to help restore and repaint the telephone box.

Councillor B. Cox thought that if the telephone box was located on the football pitch, that the Sussex FA may help with funding for the defibrillator etc.

Councillor J. Edwards put forward a proposal which was carried to a full resolution:

FC.28.06.21 Members **RESOLVED** to pursue a collaboration with Harlands Primary School to restore and relocate the traditional red telephone box to Harlands Playing field, with hybrid use of a community children's library and defibrillator. Members also wished for the developers (Persimmon Homes) to be contacted to see if the oak from the oak tree that had recently been felled at the entrance to the site, could be used to create the bench adjacent to the telephone box.

14.0 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CIVIC CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Members considered a report previously circulated which provided background to the working group and advised that a minimum of three members and maximum of five would need to be appointed to the working group for 2021/22.

FC.29.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** that the following members be appointed to the Civic Centre Working Group:-
Councillors. D. Bennett, H. Firth, D. French, S. Mayhew, and D. Ward.

15.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Members noted the engagements listed.

16.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT

Two deed of grants had been received:

Mr Barney Robert Crook

Kim Cuthbert

FC.30.06.21 It was **RESOLVED** for three councillors to sign the above deeds of grant.

17.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

None received.

18.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The only item the Town Clerk wished to raise was the recent correspondence received to advise that the Town Council had been successful in its application for grant funding as part of the discretionary ARG (restart grant funding) for the council's hospitality businesses. Only one application could be made for the Civic Centre building, but this funding would provide excellent support for the first three months of the financial year.

19.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor, Councillor J. Love hoped that the town's events during the summer months could go ahead within covid restrictions and UK government guidance and hoped that such events would start bringing people back together.

The meeting closed at 7.31pm.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

FULL COUNCIL

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<p><u>FC.105.02.17</u></p> <p><u>FC.95.01.20</u></p>	<p><u>14.0 To sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve</u> Members RESOLVED to sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows and West Park Local Nature Reserves.</p> <p><u>18.0 To sign and seal the Town Council’s byelaws for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve</u> Members RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) authorise the affixing of the common seal to the byelaws for both Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve and signing by two named councilors, and; (ii) authorise the Town Clerk for Uckfield Town Council to carry out the necessary procedures and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation.</p>	<p>20.02.17</p> <p>20.01.20</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>The Council will be advertising its intention to apply for confirmation once covid restrictions have eased. The byelaws must then be held for at least one month at the offices for inspection by the public, before any representations are reported back as part of the package of information, to DEFRA.</p>
<p><u>FC115.04.19</u></p>	<p><u>9.0 To consider a motion submitted by Councillor Donna French</u> It was RESOLVED to support the motion put forward, and; “reinvestigate the possibility of part funding a traffic warden; entering into a discussion with Hailsham, Crowborough and Polegate, with a view to joint funding a shared traffic warden, employed via Sussex Police.”</p>	<p>08.04.19</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>This matter has been raised with the Wealden Inspector of Sussex Police. It is understood that Sussex Police and Wealden DC were due to hold discussions once again. UTC will await the outcome of these.</p>

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date Raised</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Date Complete</u>
<u>FC32.06.19</u> <u>FC46.08.19</u>	<u>13.0 To consider a motion from Councillor Spike Mayhew</u> Members unanimously RESOLVED to (i) ask the Town Clerk to look into civil orders such as Public Space Protection Orders, and; (ii) for the Town Council to reconsider the role of a Community Warden <u>13.0 To report back to Full Council on Public Space Protection Orders</u> Members RESOLVED to ask the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with Sussex Police and Wealden District Council.	24.06.19/ 05.08.19	HG	Members considered research into Public Space Protection Orders at the meeting on 9 th December 2019. It was agreed to defer this item until further work had been undertaken on reporting and the new PCSO's had started.
<u>FC57.09.19</u>	<u>10.0 To consider a motion from Councillor Ben Cox</u> With eleven members voting in favour, and one abstaining, it was RESOLVED to accept the report from Councillor Ben Cox in relation to youth food poverty, and take up the recommendations outlined in the above motion, with a caveat that the investigations undertaken at this stage would be at no cost to the Town Council.	16.09.19	HG/ BC	Since this motion was put forward, the Community Fridge initiative has set itself up as a CIC. Further research is however required into food poverty.
<u>FC.96.01.20</u>	<u>21.0 Questions by members previously notified</u> Members RESOLVED to request that the Town Clerk investigate the matters detailed in the letter from Uckfield Community Hospital to Wealden District Council.	20.01.20	HG	Matters have moved on in recent months. The Town Clerk still ensures that Persimmons Homes maintain engagement with Uckfield Hospital when works are underway, as communication has been limited. NFA.
<u>FC.30.09.20</u>	<u>12.0 To review a report by Councillor A. Smith on the need for affordable homes in Uckfield</u> After a detailed discussion, it was RESOLVED to request that the Town Clerk write to the Housing Minister Rt Hon Robert Jenrick with a copy of this report and advise Wealden DC's planning department of these discussions along with neighbouring parish councils.	14.09.20	HG	A letter is being drafted and will be circulated to members for approval before sending.

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date Raised</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Date Complete</u>
<u>FC18.05.21</u>	<p>13.0 TO CONSIDER IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE USE OF THE TRADITIONAL RED TELEPHONE BOX</p> <p>Members RESOLVED to pursue a collaboration with Harlands Primary School to restore and relocate the traditional red telephone box to Harlands Playing field, with hybrid use of a community children’s library and defibrillator. Members also wished for the developers (Persimmon Homes) to be contacted to see if the oak from the oak tree that had recently been felled at the entrance to the site, could be used to create the bench adjacent to the telephone box.</p>	21.06.21	MF/HG	<p>An update was provided to Harlands Primary School on 23 June 2021 and a meeting was arranged between staff on 21 July 2021. Work is now underway to understand the best location nearest to a power supply (for the defib), to engage with East Sussex Highways regarding the obtaining of a license to install/excavate on their land if required. The Uckfield & District Lions Club have also offered the use of the defibrillator that is being removed from outside of the station for use in this location. Focus will initially concentrate on the restoration of the telephone box, rather than the bench due to costs involved etc.</p>

Meeting of the Full Council

Monday 2 August 2021

Agenda Item 8.0 (ii)

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS: UCKFIELD – EVENTS WORKING GROUP

The working group are busy getting ready for Weald on the Field 2021. Marketing and communication has gradually increased in previous weeks, with a push on promotion of the event within the town and online planned from wk beg 2 August 2021. Weald on the Field will take place on Saturday 21 August 2021 (11am until 7pm) on Luxford Field, Uckfield (TN22 1AL).

The working group are organising a safe, but enjoyable day of great street food, drink, local produce and craft stalls and music. We have a great selection of pop up bars, street food, and there are children activities and entertainment throughout the day. Live music will commence from 12noon with a great line up of acts including Rick Bonner, the Management Duo, The Tar Babies and the fabulous 'Into the Blue' as our headline act. Further details on timings will follow via social media and the Town Council's website.

If businesses are interested in booking a stall/pitch for the day, please visit:
<https://foodrockssouth.co.uk/weald-on-the-field/>

If businesses are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact
townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

WEALD ON THE FIELD **FREE ENTRY** **WEALD ON THE FIELD** **SAT 21 AUGUST 2021**
11.00am - 7.00pm
UCKFIELD

LUXFORD FIELD UCKFIELD **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

SATURDAY 21 AUGUST 2021 11AM - 7PM

LIVE MUSIC ON THE AIRSTREAM STAGE

***STREET FOOD *ARTISAN PRODUCE *POP UP BARS**
***LOCAL CRAFTS *FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**

PREMIER SPONSORSHIP
£500 - SPONSOR HEADLINE ACT
(includes banner space and numerous mentions on stage)

GOLD SPONSORSHIP
£250 - SPONSOR A BAND
(includes banner space and two mentions on stage before and after performance)

SILVER SPONSORSHIP
£100 - PUT A BANNER ON THE HERAS FENCING
(banner not included)

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES MAY BE AVAILABLE. CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE

WWW.FOODROCKSSOUTH.CO.UK **EMAIL: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk**

Meeting of the Full Council

Monday 2 August 2021

Agenda Item 9.0

TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO ESCC'S CONSULTATION ON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE A22 AND A2290

1.0 Background

- 1.1 East Sussex County Council are currently seeking comments on proposed improvements to the A22 and A2290 road network.
- 1.2 Traffic is already heavy on the A22 and A2290 at peak times, with the proposed developments for South Wealden and Eastbourne this will increase the amount of traffic and congestion in the area. Without improvements this congestion will increase impacting on the local economy and reducing access to key locations.
- 1.3 ESCC have put forward a package of improvements along the two routes for consultation.
- 1.4 We are being asked for our feedback on these proposals to help inform the business case for the works. ESCC are currently seeking Major Road Network funding from Central Government which will be supported with financial contributions from Wealden District Council from housing developments in the area.
- 1.5 More information is available on the ESCC Consultation Hub webpage eastsussex.gov.uk/A22-A2290-Improvements
- 1.6 A copy of the consultation is also available in appendix A. A copy of the full brochure of the proposed improvements is available in appendix B. Uckfield Town Council has until 20 August 2021 to respond.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to respond to the consultation from ESCC on the A22 and A2290.

Contact Officers: Holly Goring

Appendix A – Consultation questions

1. I understand that any information I provide is confidential and that no information that I disclose will lead to the identification of any individual in the reports on the project, either by ESCC or any other party.

Yes No

2. I consent to the processing of my personal information and data for the purposes of this scheme proposal. I understand that such information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Yes No

3. I understand that my participation is voluntary, that I can choose not to participate in part or all of the survey, and that I can withdraw at any stage of the questionnaire without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.

Yes No

4. I agree to take part in the survey below.

Yes No

5. Are you a resident in East Sussex? If so, please complete questions 7-23

Yes No

6. Are you answering on behalf of a business in East Sussex? If so, please answer question 24 onwards.

Yes No

7. What is your main mode of transport when travelling to/from/through the scheme area? (Note: Travel behaviour prior to the Covid-19 pandemic)

Private Car Bus Walk Bicycle Good vehicle Rail Other

8. Please indicate how often do you travel through the proposed scheme area? Please tick one box.

Monthly Weekly Daily Never

9. When travelling through the A22/A2290 area what is the purpose of your trip? Please tick all that apply.

Commute to or from work Leisure/Social Business use Travelling through

10. How strongly do you agree/disagree with the following statement "Transport infrastructure should reduce pollution"?

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree
 Don't Know

11. How strongly do you agree/disagree with the importance of improving public transport for people?

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree
 Don't Know

12. How strongly do you agree/disagree with the importance of improving measures for people walking?

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree
 Don't Know

A22 Northern Section A22 Questions

13. How strongly do you agree/disagree with each of the junction proposals below?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
A22 Boship Roundabout improvements to enlarge and signalise the roundabout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A22 Hempstead Lane change in layout from a priority left in left out junction to a roundabout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A22/A295 Eagles Roundabout introduction of a left slip lane from the A295 arm onto the A22 southbound	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The enlargement of the roundabout between the A22 and A27, known as Golden Jubilee Roundabout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A22 Dittons Road Roundabout conversion to a signalised crossroads junction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Is there anything else you would like to share with us? Please provide any further comments.

Southern Section A22/A2290 Questions

15. How strongly do you agree with proposals to improve facilities for cyclists and pedestrians?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Shinewater Roundabout full signalisation with additional approach lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lottbridge Roundabout full signalisation with additional approach lane on Lottbridge Drove westbound	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Birch Roundabout addition of Toucan crossings on the Lottbridge Drove north-western arm and the south-western retail access arm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seaside Roundabout conversion to a signalised crossroads with additional capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Is there anything else you would like to share with us? Please provide any further comments.

Cycle, Pedestrian and Public Transport Improvements

17. How strongly do you agree/disagree with each of the below?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
How strongly do you agree/disagree with the proposals to improve connectivity?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How strongly do you agree/disagree with the proposals to improve safety for cyclists in Eastbourne	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
through the cycling initiatives?					
How strongly do you agree/disagree with the proposals to provide bus priority at junctions on the route?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How strongly do you agree/disagree with the priority proposals to reduce bus journey times in Eastbourne?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How strongly do you agree/disagree with the priority proposals to improve air quality in Eastbourne?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Is there anything else you would like to share with us? Please provide any further comments.
Comments

Meeting of the Full Council

Monday 2 August 2021

Agenda Item No. 10.0

TO CONSIDER A DRAFT LETTER TO BE SENT TO QUICKBORN, GERMANY IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT FLOODING

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members have been concerned to hear of the terrible events of flooding in Germany which began with heavy rainfall on 13 July. Severe storms saw 15 centimetres of rain fall in 24 hours, with watercourses unable to cope, it washed away properties and vehicles, and in some areas resulted in further landslides. On 20 July, it was reported that at least 196 people had died—165 in Germany and 31 in Belgium—with the number is expected to rise.
- 1.2 Quickborn, Germany is twinned with Uckfield and resides in the district of Pinneberg, in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. The town is located north of Hamburg. Schleswig-Holstein was impacted in some areas by the flooding. Emergency services from the district of Pinneberg including those from Quickborn travelled across Germany to provide the necessary technical equipment and expertise to support those areas declaring a state of emergency in the west and southern areas of Germany.
- 1.3 The Town Mayor has prepared the following draft letter to send to the Mayor of Quickborn in light of these recent events:

Proposed letter

Dear Mayor, (add in name),

We have been deeply saddened by the images and stories of the serious flooding in Germany. On behalf of myself and the people of Uckfield, we wish to send our sincerest condolences to all those in your region and wider communities which have been so badly affected by this terrible natural disaster. We have seen how supportive your emergency services have been to provide the technical equipment and expertise needed to the areas declaring a state of emergency.

Uckfield and Quickborn share a history of flood events, but ours pale into insignificance in comparison to the events suffered in Germany in the past two weeks. We have seen that further rainfall and storms are expected in your town and region this week.

Our council cannot ignore the effects that climate change appears to be having upon the increasing incidence of extreme weather events and we believe that we have a responsibility to do what we can, no matter how small, to try to alleviate the problems brought about by climate change and have therefore endeavoured to enshrine environmentally beneficial policies into our statutes over recent years.

We believe that if everyone were to do such small things, the overall result would help upon a global level.

The thoughts of our community are sent in fraternal solidarity to the people of Quickborn and wider district of Pinneberg and we hope that a quick recovery brings a restoration of normality as soon as possible to those affected.

With this awful event on top of the global pandemic our world is living with we will keep you all in our hearts and prayers.

*Cllr Jackie Love
Mayor of Uckfield*

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the above report;
- (ii) approve the above draft letter to be sent to the Mayor of Quickborn, and;
- (iii) consider if the Town Council wishes to provide any further support.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Meeting of the Full Council

Monday 2 August 2021

Agenda Item No. 11.0

TO CONSIDER A MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BEN COX

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the motion submitted by Councillor Cox in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders.

2.0 Motion for consideration

2.1 Councillor Cox has given written notice of the following motion which was received on 24 June 2021 and before the required deadline:-

Background:

With the lack of a Local Plan for Wealden district, Uckfield South is seeing a number of housing/development applications be submitted to the local planning authority (Wealden DC) for early consideration (known as screening proposals) or full outline applications for planning permission.

Planning permission has already been granted for development off Mallard Drive in the field next to Uckfield Community Hospital for 119 homes. This development is east of Uckfield Town Centre and up-stream from the river that runs through the town, and flows adjacent to a business park, town centre businesses, housing and a care home.

To mitigate flood risk, the developers commission drainage expertise to design a system to manage surface run off. This often results in the development of a system based on attenuation ponds. The development off Mallards Drive will utilise this system, filtering into Framfield Road stream – a key tributary of the River Uck.

A recent consultation website was set up by developers seeking to explore ideas for the site known as Bird in Eye South (incorporating Bird in Eye Farm), just off the B2102. The initial proposals for this site seek to develop up to 290 homes and intend to utilise a similar attenuation pond drainage system, which would also filter water off into the Framfield stream.

The development off Mallard Drive was predicted to release water from the attenuation ponds at a rate of 57.7 litres per second into the stream and if both developments were to go ahead, we could see upwards of 115 litres per second if not more. This would be before we take into consideration the effects of surface water and the reduction in vegetation that absorbs water in times of heavy rain.

This is also not without the impact that other proposed developments in the south of the town would have on the Ridgewood stream, which is another key tributary of the River Uck.

Throughout the winter of 2019/20, Uckfield experienced had three incidents with regard to flooding, with three very near misses from the River Uck into the High Street, but on each occasion Mill Lane was flooded. In particular, 5 March 2020 saw localised flooding in the Uckfield South area. This resulted in the River Uck reaching its peak at 8:30pm. The flooding impacted businesses in The Roller Mill and also came dangerously close to flooding out Millington Court (a care home). Local flood defences stopped the flood being any worse for the town, protecting businesses in the southern end of the High Street and local properties.

Several indicators in the latest State of the UK Climate report show that the UK's climate is becoming wetter. For example the highest rainfall totals over a five day period are 4% higher during the most recent decade (2008-2017) compared to 1961-1990. Furthermore, the amount of rain from extremely wet days has increased by 17% when comparing the same time periods. In addition, there is a slight increase in the longest sequence of consecutive wet days for the UK.

The impact of climate change and concern with regard to flood risk has increased year on year. The town's flood defence was designed before the future growth that the town is anticipating, which has potential to further increase surface water run-off. The recent storms have also highlighted the risks involved, with areas such as Crowborough, Cross in Hand/Blackboys and Mayfield struggling wk beg 19 July. It was reported in the media on 26 July that the rain fall experienced in London and parts of the South East on 25 July was the equivalent of one month's rainfall in 24 hours.

Uckfield's Flood plan Version 5 was designed in 2016 without these anticipated developments taken into consideration. It is also detailed within the front pages of the plan, that a review should be timetabled for 2019.

This council notes that:

Due to anticipated growth within the town, with large scale sites being proposed for development, the effects of flooding in the UK and Uckfield's history of flooding, it would be prudent to review our flood mitigation measures and current flood defence system. This would enable the cumulative impact of these developments to be considered in more detail.

We as a Town Council have to take the safety and livelihoods of our community very seriously and we fear without a flood review and upgrade of our defence, our town and its businesses could be placed at risk as a result of future growth.

We believe it is both a moral duty and a legal duty of the relevant agencies – such as Environment Agency, East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council and relevant emergency services to come back together and review current mitigation measures. We as a Council would like to see all recommendations implemented before building takes place. We believe failing to do so could result in some of the relevant authorities being liable for damage to businesses and residential properties; be that physical damage or commercial.

Motion

- For this motion to be shared with East Sussex CC and Wealden DC for their attention;
- Call for a full review of Uckfield's Flood Plan (2016- v5) taking into consideration all sites with either initial proposals for development or granted planning permission on the periphery of Uckfield;
- Request that this review be carried out before construction starts on developments in Uckfield South.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to consider the motion and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Meeting of the Full Council

Monday 2 August 2021

Agenda Item 12.0

TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the engagements of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- 1.2 Please note that the new Mayor, Councillor J. Love and Deputy Mayor, Councillor D. French were elected on 24 May 2021.
- 1.3 Also, due to Covid-19 restrictions, some engagements have been postponed or altered in the way they are usually run.

TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

- 26 June 2021 – Attendance at Sponsored Walk, Horsted Green Park.
- 06 July 2021 - Gathering Linden Cottage Care Home, following residents sponsored walk.
- 10 July 2021 - Official Opening Uckfield Festival, Luxford's Field, Uckfield.
- 17 July 2021 – Uckfield Concert Brass, Uckfield Rugby Club, Uckfield.
- 19 July 2021 – Summer Reception, Hendall Manor Barns, Herons Ghyll.
- 21 July 2021 – Cream Tea, CPJ Field, Rose Cottage, Uckfield.

TO NOTE THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

- 17 July 2021 – Uckfield Concert Brass, Uckfield Rugby Club, Uckfield.
- 21 July 2021 – Cream Tea, CPJ Field, Rose Cottage, Uckfield.