



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Monday 21 February 2022 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 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 10 January 2022 (Attached)
- 4.2. Action list – For information only (Attached)
- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only (Attached)

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid (Attached)
- 5.2. To note the Income and Expenditure report (provisional to end of January 2022) (Attached)

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

(nothing to report at this time)

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates (Attached)
- 7.2. To consider hedge laying in Luxford Field – Winter 2022 (Attached)

- 7.3 Proposals for tree planting and the natural regeneration of Boothland Wood (Attached)

8.0 SPORT AND LEISURE

- 8.1 To consider a proposal by the Uckfield & District Lions Club for benches on Luxford Field (Attached)
- 8.2 To consider costs to repair cricket nets at Victoria Pleasure Ground (Attached)
- 8.3 To consider fencing along the north end of Harlands Farm Playing Field (Attached)

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1 Climate Change Working Group update (Attached)
- 9.2 Queen's Jubilee Working Group update (Attached)

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1. Active Uckfield
- 10.2. Age Concern
- 10.3. All Weather Pitch Operational Group
- 10.4. Conservators of Ashdown Forest
- 10.5. West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group
- 10.6. Luxford Centre Management Committee
- 10.7. Uckfield and District Twinning Association
- 10.8. Uckfield Festival Association (Attached)
- 10.9. Uckfield Parkrun Board
- 10.10. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee (Attached)
- 10.11. Uckfield Youth Club Board
- 10.12. Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link

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

15 February 2022

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.00pm
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Mayhew (Chairman)
Cllr. D. Bennett
Cllr. D. French

Cllr. J. Beesley
Cllr. J. Edwards

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the press (recorded meeting)
One member of the public
Councillor C. Macve

Holly Goring – Town Clerk
Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

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. No declarations of interest were announced.

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

None received.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received in advance from Cllr. K. Bedwell, Cllr. A. Smith and Cllr. B. Cox.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 15th November 2021

EL.49.01.22 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 15th November 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members considered the action list which had been previously circulated and agreed to remove the following item which had been completed:

EL.29.09.21 – To consider installing a new litter bin along Streatfield Road
The ES Highways Licensing Team had been contacted to request a new licence for this bin to be placed next to the bench. In progress. No further action.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only

Members noted the report and agreed to remove the following items:

FC.64.01.21 – Ridgewood Play Area patch resurfacing

Ridgewood play area patch repairs had been completed at a cost of £11,975. No further action.

FC.64.01.21 – Tree planting programme

Trees have been ordered at a cost of £974 for the planting season during Winter 2021/22. No further action.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the report.

5.2. To note the Income and Expenditure report ending 31 December 2021

Members noted the report – no comments.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Nothing to report at this time.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates

Members noted the report.

7.2 To consider a street lamp outside 21 Mount Pleasant

Since this was an unadopted road, one member asked if it would be necessary for the purpose of repair on this lamp to meet the new criteria for East Sussex Highways. It was pointed out that this lamp did not meet the required specifications and would therefore need to be replaced, or taken away.

Members had already been informed in a previous meeting that any lamp installation would now require a new lighting design and the Town Council would need to meet those costs which could result in the need for three to five further replacements within this vicinity.

Although this was an unadopted road, this stock was managed by East Sussex Highways (ESH) and so in terms of reducing risk with liability, with a new lighting design they would have to treat this lamp as any other and would be responsible if anything were to happen.

ESH had recently advised however that there could be issues with increasing the number of columns in this area due to permissions and restrictions of space. The difficulty could be that this particular residential area was a very small area behind the main road, although it was near to the footpath off Framfield Road so there could be a concern for residents' safety going to their cars after dark.

Members agreed that the preseding factor must be residents' safety against the cost of a new lighting survey. Also, it was argued that if the light were to be taken down and nothing considered in its place, liability would come back to the Town Council, although ultimately it was a shame that the lamp could not be replaced like for like.

Members proposed that since we had a duty of care, we should consult with the residents first with a local survey to asked for any suggestions before any decision is made. It was also highlighted however that residents needed to be

made aware that if a lighting survey were to be carried out, we may be legally bound to then apply that lighting so they could end up with more lighting that we were obligated to provide which might not be the wishes of all residents to have community LED lighting, for example. If residents were against this then perhaps something outside of the norm could be discussed instead.

Other suggestions included maybe finding out if there was any room to remove and replace the lamp with some kind of art installation such as a Victorian style lamp, or, maybe working with that particular resident who resides on that gable end and having some kind of sensor light and asking them to pay something towards the electricity.

The Town Clerk pointed out that so far, two different households had reported the lights out with concern that this was taking a long time to be remedied and had been advised that the procedures had changed with ESH and we had to take this further. One property backed on to the light and the other was nearby.

The Chairman concluded that the report had provided the basis of what was being asked and so this could be used to inform local residents why we were contacting them and to ask them for a reply.

EL.50.01.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

(i) agree to a local survey being sent to residents who live at Mount Pleasant in the first instance (with a set deadline) asking if they can provide any thoughts and suggestions on the street lighting in this area.

7.3 To consider enquiry relating to litter left at the Ridgewood MUGA

The report mentioned that potential litterers could be members of clubs in the town so whilst we could contact Uckfield College, one member said that local sports clubs such as the Uckfield Grasshoppers may have a code of conduct that also included behaviour outside of the club which could be impressed upon for social misbehaviour. Although this kind of threat would be a last resort it was thought that this may help to increase the pressure on social responsibility.

Another member said that he had been a football coach for both Grasshoppers and Maresfield football clubs and that both clubs would have had their own code of conduct but did not necessarily stretch to make use of areas that were not particular training grounds, although he agreed that it might be worth just reminding club members to be aware of their surrounding areas and take their litter home if no bin was provided.

Members also asked if other social media platforms such as Active Uckfield could be invited to remind their members to use the town's facilities across the town (not just Ridgewood) including assistance from local press coverage in The Voice asking people to either take their rubbish home or use a bin provided.

With regard to the request for signage at the Ridgewood play area and timber shelter, members discussed whether this would be enforceable and that residents could not be asked to leave play parks at certain times. There was no byelaw to suggest that this would even be enforceable and we did not have park attendants like in some other areas of the country.

One member suggested it might be better just to ask users to be mindful and considerate to local residents on all of our open spaces since the Town Council had spent a lot of money on our local parks.

Another member highlighted said that we would have to consider fairness to all our residents and that trying to stop teenagers congregating in local parks on a summer's evening would not be at all fair to their sector of the community.

The cost of signage was considered a bit of an overkill in the first instance by one council member who proposed placing a memo instead to local primary and secondary schools asking them to pass on the local Town Council's concerns and wishes that users treat the parks with respect and be considerate of its neighbours.

The Chairman agreed and pointed out that it largely came down to respect for others which is something that seemed to have been lost since the days of the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign and that we did not seem to have a problem in some parks and more others.

Members also requested for officers to find out the cost of having two signs (at Ridgewood) and to decide this at a later date.

EL.51.01.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) agree to apply for a licence for a bin to be installed at the Ridgewood MUGA, and;
- (ii) ask local sports clubs and schools to ask their members to be mindful and respectful of litter and to either take their rubbish home or use the bins provided in the town, and;
- (iii) request officers to find out the cost of signage for Ridgewood play area.

7.4 **To consider a request for a litter bin from the Scarlett's Close Residents' Association**

One member said he often went on walks in this area and did not recall there being much litter around although another member said that it might be wise to reinstate a bin here for dog walkers.

Members agreed on balance that we could not just keep installing extra bins around the town as we had to be mindful of the increased collections and costs involved. Also, given that this bin had been removed previously, we may be provided with reasons for this whilst applying for a new bin in this location.

EL.52.01.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) agree to seek costs for the installation and emptying of a new bin on the ESH verge adjacent to the Bell Lane allotments, provided that permission was sought.

8.0 **LEISURE**

8.1 **Revised proposals for changes to the Allotment fees and charges from 1 April 2023**

One council member, Cllr D. Bennett, declared an interest as an allotment holder and so he was excluded from taking part in these discussions.

Having reviewed the contents of the report and accompanying powerpoint presentation from the allotment conference on 10th November 2021, these recommendations had highlighted the true costs of managing the allotments which had been heavily subsidised by the Town Council over the past few years. Members agreed that this was not sustainable.

Although there had been one or two concerns received from tenants, overall the response from tenants about the new proposals had been more positive with a

clear view of the problems being faced by the Town Council whilst trying to cover its various running costs.

A member of the Allotment Working Group explained that they had recognised that better communication was needed with our allotment tenants going forward and that lessons had been learnt.

Members were in support of the new set of proposals. There would be a fee for each plot based on plot size and separate water charge (as it is now) but the new structure would include an additional administration charge of £15 per plot (per annum), regardless of size. This would come into effect on 1 April 2023 and run for that financial year, with invoices then being sent out every April. This would include an interim charging period between October 2022 and 1 April 2023 (with no administrative charge).

EL.53.01.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

(i) agree to the proposed changes for fees and charges for allotments from 1 April 2023 as set at the Allotment Conference on 10th November 2021.

8.2 To consider if Uckfield Town Council wishes to hold an event which can be incorporated within Uckfield Festival week 2022

The Chairman announced that as he was the Town Council representative on the Festival Committee, although he liked the idea of getting involved with the festival, he felt that this year was not the right time as the Town Council had committed to two events already; Weald On The Field and Uckfield Revival. He said that unfortunately it would be difficult to fully commit to this taking into account starting issues and the budget and suggested for members to perhaps revisit this next year instead once they were in a better position.

Members agreed that this was a sensible suggestion as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was set for this year, although this did not prevent them thinking about ideas and proposals in September in time for the budget setting.

The only issue raised was that Uckfield Festival committee would have their AGM committee in November when new members might join up and decide not to go ahead, although this was stipulated to be too late now to provide any new ideas for this year.

The Chairman proposed that he would report back to the Festival Committee this week and re-look at this in September with the understanding that if they wanted some proposals that members would have ideas in mind by then.

EL.54.01.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

(i) agree to the Chairman's proposal to re-look at ideas and come up with any proposals this September for Uckfield Festival Week 2023.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

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

Members noted the report.

- 10.3 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.4 Conservators of Ashdown Forest
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.5 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.6 Luxford Centre Management Committee
Members noted the report.
- 10.7 Uckfield and District Twinning Association
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.8 Uckfield Festival Association
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.9 Uckfield Parkrun Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.10 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Members noted the report.
- 10.11 Uckfield Youth Club Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.12 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link
Nothing to report at this time.

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked for residents to bear in mind that council officers were still under a lot of pressure with the effects of the pandemic still very much with us, especially with staff shortages. He added that if anything needed to be clarified or discussed prior to meetings, members could approach him first in order to deal with any issues and he also asked for members to send in their apologies prior to any upcoming meetings.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.55.01.22 It was **RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

- 12.1 To consider a report on the Marketing programme
Members noted the report.

The meeting finished at 20:52pm

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>	<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.	05.09.16	HG	The Town Council has sealed and signed the byelaws. A public notice will be published soon to provide the public with an opportunity to view the byelaws, prior to their submission to the Secretary of State.
<u>EL.26.01.19</u>	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.	28.01.19		
	<u>Harlands Farm Pond</u> The Ranger is to be asked for ideas to captivate children's interest whilst at the pond.	18.04.17	NM	These initiatives can be reviewed, by the new Ranger once they have settled in post.
	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.	30.04.18		
<u>EL.43.01.20</u>	<u>7.2 To receive an update on the ecological report on the Town Council's Land at Bellbrook</u> Members RESOLVED to: (i) note the report; (ii) investigate the costs involved of 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.	06.01.20	MF/HG	Work in progress to explore these matters. Town Council Solicitors have been asked to arrange an update with land registry.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.03.06.20</u>	<p><u>7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates</u> <u>The Town Council had been offered a gingko tree from a resident who knew Councillor C. Macve; an 8-foot tall non-native tree</u> Members agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to liaise with Councillor A. Smith for further guidance on the best area to place the ginkgo tree.</p>	15.06.20	MF	<p>The gingko tree has been planted. NFA</p>
<u>EL.11.07.20</u>	<p><u>7.3 To consider installing electric charging points at the council buildings</u> Members noted the report and discussed various areas for charging points and agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to look in to liaising with Wealden DC and proposals for installation of electric car parking points at various sites.</p>	27.07.20	MF	<p>This will require some timely investigative work to consider the future options and to understand the work already underway by WDC and ESCC. The Climate Change working group will remain engaged.</p>
<u>EL.18.09.20</u>	<p><u>7.3 To consider - Sharing boxes idea from local resident</u> This idea was submitted on behalf of a local resident by a council member who wished to add that this idea would be down to residents to design, implement and deliver with one person to look after a sharing box each. Councillors would decide on the best places to put them. Various suggestions were given at the meeting, one being to approach community groups such as the Men's Shed to make them or the Lions Club to monitor and maybe propagate a little bit of advertising at the same time. One member mentioned that this was raised in a previous meeting maybe last year and asked for the Senior Administration Officer to look at previous minutes to see if there was any action taken.</p>	07.09.20	RN	<p>The Senior Administrative Officer had previously spoken with the publisher of the Uckfield Allotments Association Newspaper to ask if anyone would like to take on this initiative. An email has also been sent to the Lions and Men's Shed recently to see if anyone is interested in harnessing this idea. The Men's Shed said they will present this idea at their next committee meeting.</p>

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL27.11.20</u>	<u>7.3 To note the current position with the Town Council's Grounds vehicles</u> Members agree to go down the fully electric route and for a Gator type vehicle and requested an update on what was currently available on the UK market at the next E&L meeting.	16.11.20	RN	The outcomes of the Carbon Audit highlighted that vehicle emissions were lower than that of utilities. This work will therefore remain on hold until an action plan has been agreed for a way forward.
<u>EL.49.05.21</u>	<u>To consider an allotment demand and understanding the legislation if there is demand</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) re-establish the allotment working group at the next meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 14 June 2021, and (ii) look at the issues and comments raised specifically about fees and charges and to explore options for allotment land in the future.	04.05.21	RN/MF/ SD/HG	The outcomes of the working group's more recent work were reported to E&L Committee on 10 January 2022. Any further issues can will be raised at the next working group meeting. NFA
<u>EL18.07.21</u>	<u>To consider options to review the gate access to Ridgewood Recreation Ground off New Road</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree to Option 2 – to replace the gate at Ridgewood Recreational Grounds off New Road, Ridgewood (opposite the old terrace of cottages in New Road, specifically numbers 17 to 19) with a stile	26.07.21	MF	Uckfield Town Council has experienced staffing shortages in recent weeks/months. Work has not yet been carried out as a result.
<u>EL.27.09.21</u>	<u>To consider resident parking on council land at West Park Local Nature Reserve (WPLNR)</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree that a letter be sent to the resident requesting the vehicle be moved and fence reinstated and that no rubbish bins be placed there either.		RN	A letter was sent to resident on 16.9.21 - polite notice was sent asking for them to please stop parking in this area or putting bins here as it is council land and part of our nature reserve. A hedge border has been re-instated. NFA

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL31.09.21</u>	<u>To consider opportunities to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) set up a working group after showing interest in activities to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, led by Cllr. Bedwell including (so far) Cllrs. French and Firth.	06.09.21	HG	A working group has been set-up. A request was also made at Full Council requesting more volunteers. Planning ongoing for event on 2 nd June 2022. Work underway in preparation for arrangements on Thursday 2 June 2022. Report attached.
<u>EL35.10.21</u>	<u>To review fees and charges for Snatts Road Cemetery for 2022/23</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree to increase the fees and charges for Snatts Road Cemetery in 2022/23 by 1.5%, and; (ii) set up a working group to discuss the pricing structure, the rules and regulations and the future progress of the cemetery provision. Member volunteers included Cllr H. Firth, Cllr B. Cox and Cllr A. Smith	18.10.21	RN/HG	Working group will be set up in 2022.
<u>EL38.10.21</u>	<u>To consider costs for moving the traditional red telephone box</u> Members noted the report and (if additional funding was sought) RESOLVED to: (i) agree to the relocation of the telephone box from its current location and to create a new space for it and place into position at the cost of £3,225.00 (including the Town Council's earmarked reserves of £1,000 and Harlands Primary School donation of £1,500), and; (ii) source the additional funding of £750 from elsewhere (preferably from the developers or by asking UKPN/Kier contractors for a contribution).	18.10.21	MF	The red telephone box has been transferred to a site just outside of Harlands Primary School. The school will be restoring the telephone box and the details provided by BT on paint colours and fixtures and fittings have been sent to the school for reference. Works have been completed. NFA

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL44.11.21</u>	<p><u>To review fees and charges for our sports facilities in 2022/23</u></p> <p>(i) agree to increase the fees and charges for the hire of sports facilities in 2022/23 by 4%, and;</p> <p>(ii) agree to set up a working group to discuss the pricing structure and the provision of sports facilities (member volunteers to be re-dressed about this at the Environment and Leisure meeting on 16 May 2022).</p>	15.11.21	RN	To be progressed in the New Year.
<u>EL50.01.22</u>	<p><u>To consider a street lamp outside 21 Mount Pleasant</u></p> <p>Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) agree to a local survey being sent to residents who live at Mount Pleasant in the first instance (with a set deadline) asking if they can provide any thoughts and suggestions on the street lighting in this area.</p>	10.01.22	RN	Survey to go out to Mount Pleasant residents in the coming weeks.
<u>EL51.01.22</u>	<p><u>To consider enquiry relating to litter left at the Ridgewood MUGA</u></p> <p>Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) agree to apply for a licence for a bin to be installed at the Ridgewood MUGA, and;</p> <p>(ii) ask local sports clubs and schools to ask their members to be mindful and respectful of litter and to either take their rubbish home or use the bins provided in the town, and;</p> <p>(iii) request officers to find out the cost of signage for Ridgewood play area.</p>	10.01.22	RN	<p>The litter bin policy was last updated Oct 2016 – report to follow at next E&L meeting.</p> <p>Re: litter bin scoring system - any bin would need to be assessed first before any decision is made.</p>
<u>EL52.01.22</u>	<p><u>To consider a request for a litter bin from the Scarlett's Close Residents' Association</u></p> <p>Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) agree to seek costs for the installation and emptying of a new bin on the ESH verge adjacent to the Bell Lane allotments, provided that permission was sought.</p>	10.01.22	RN	Contact to be made with ES Highways.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL54.01.22</u>	<p><u>To consider if Uckfield Town Council wishes to hold an event which can be incorporated within Uckfield Festival week 2022</u></p> <p>Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) agree to the Chairman's proposal to re-look at ideas and come up with any proposals this September for Uckfield Festival Week 2023.</p>	10.01.22	RN	Ideas/proposals to be looked at before September 2022.

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2021/22**

Projects in 2020/21 Budget – Outstanding projects

The funding for the following two projects was agreed at Full Council on 12 April 2021 to be reallocated to install a Covid memorial (bench(es) and tree). Initial investigations were reported to members at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 24 May 2021:

The Town Clerk confirmed that there were two projects from 2020/21 already closely aligned which had not yet been completed (memorial/art project - £1,500 and the bench at London Road £1,000).

FC.86.04.21 Based on the report and discussions that had taken place, members **RESOLVED** to request that staff explore the costings and potential location ideas for a tree and Covid memorial bench(es), and for the investigations to be reported back to Environment & Leisure Committee or Full Council.

FC18.05.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:
(i) note the report, and;
(ii) agreed to proceed with the first design but request that the Estates & Facilities Manager enquire as to whether the first design (East Grinstead) could be purchased but with a more rounded style of bench for comfort.

The Covid memorial bench has now been installed on Luxford Field. NFA.

Project Name	Bench on London Road (by Southview Drive)		Project Number	53
<u>FC92.01.20</u>	£1,000	27.04.20	The covid bench has now been installed on Luxford field with a standard bench going on London Road due to delays with Highways. A licence request has been sent, awaiting ES Highways update.	

Project Name	Memorial Plaque/Art Project		Project Number	55
<u>FC92.01.20</u>	£1,500	27.04.20	-	

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2021/22**

Projects in 2021/22 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Green Projects plus £5,000 in earmarked reserves		Project Number	58
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£18,000 minus £1,800 =£16,200	18.01.21	Carbon footprint audit carried out £1,800.	

Project Name	Speed reduction initiative (already have £3,700 in earmarked reserves)		Project Number	62
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	Minus £500.36 =£3,199.64	08.05.21	<p>Starter kit 3 with the up to date speed monitoring device (bushnell) as recommended by Sussex Police has been purchased at a cost of £500.36 plus VAT as agreed by Environment & Leisure Committee on 22 March 2021. New recruits are currently being trained and registered on the system.</p> <p>Further correspondence will follow with Town Councillors to take a decision on what is purchased in terms of monitoring equipment and speed indicator devices at the roadside.</p>	

Project Name	Covid contingency fund for play area spraying (until end June 2021)		Project Number	63
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£2,500 minus April - £630 May - £630 Jun - £630 = £610.00	18.01.21	<p>This was taken to Full Council on 6 December 2021 and members asked to monitor situation.</p> <p>Spraying was undertaken at the end of April, May and June 2021 at a cost of £630.00 per occasion. Plus, swab tests were undertaken in September and November 2021 to check readings.</p>	

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2021/22**

Project Name	Tree planting programme (plus carry forward of £700 from 2020/21 budget – now in earmarked reserves)		Project Number	64
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£1,000 -£974.00 =£26.00	18.01.21	Trees have been ordered at a cost of £974.00 for the planting season during Winter 2021/22. Nb. see attached tree planting report. NFA.	

Environment Leisure Committee as at 31 January 2022

	Apr 21 Actuals £	May 21 Actuals £	Jun 21 Actuals £	Jul 21 Actuals £	Aug 21 Actuals £	Sep 21 Actuals £	Oct 21 Actuals £	Nov 21 Actuals £	Dec 21 Actuals £	Jan 22 Actuals £	Prov actuals at 31 Jan 22	Budgeted at 31 Jan 22	Feb 22 Budget £	Mar 22 Budget £	Total 2021/22	2021/22 Budgets
Sales																
Contribution to Town Centre Security	0	0	0	575	0	0	0	0	0	45	620	650	0	0	620	650
Weald Hall Events	516	194	267	375	260	987	21	2,633	1,015	68	6,334	14,455	1,545	1,545	9,424	17,500
Allotments	37	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	4,956	5,078	5,000	1,740	0	6,818	6,000
Allotment Deposits	104	0	0	56	0	(100)	(52)	0	(102)	366	272	667	67	67	405	800
Playing Fields & Pitches, Sport Income	232	32	(95)	97	500	136	73	0	10,668	(874)	10,769	9,000	0	1,500	12,269	10,500
Playing Fields & Pitches, Event Income	24	103	258	3,963	91	291	(8)	0	0	0	4,721	3,000	0	0	4,721	3,000
WDC- WPark Culverts Agreement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	0	360	360
Cemetery - Interments	7,063	6,029	4,473	3,597	6,371	2,785	1,726	3,960	1,934	532	38,469	24,167	2,417	2,417	43,302	29,000
Cemetery - Memorials	471	691	214	746	471	214	168	979	43	0	3,998	5,000	500	500	4,998	6,000
Cemetery - Sundry income	0	0	0	0	131	0	0	0	43	0	174	0	0	126	300	300
Cemetery Maintenance Charge	490	588	392	392	686	294	392	392	196	98	3,920	2,500	250	250	4,420	3,000
Env Sundry Income	46	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	0	200	255	200
Litter/bus station	331	0	0	0	331	0	0	331	0	0	994	994	331	0	1,325	1,325
Roundabout income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	864	0	864	864	0	0	864	850
Total Sales	9,313	7,636	5,510	9,894	8,841	4,607	2,319	8,295	14,662	5,191	76,267	66,296	7,210	6,604	90,081	79,485

Highlighted expenditure is to be covered by new initiative or earmarked projects within earmarked reserves. For example £6,341 streetlighting will be covered by CIL earmarked reserves, £2,979 of the allotment budget is expenditure for allotment hedgerow to be taken from allotment fencing earmarked reserves, £1,890 from Playing fields and pitches will be covered by contingency play area spraying new initiatives, £11,975 will be covered by the Ridgewood play area resurfacing new initiative 2021. New equipment expenditure is also to be covered by earmarked reserves (£5,849) along with £9k brought forward from 2022-23 budget and income from the sale of the old chipper (£6k). £935 of LNR expenditure is covered by earmarked reserves (HMLNR donation), £842 of the litter bin expenditure is the new initiative over the page for animal friendly bins purchases. Play area/corporate signage to the amount of £1,600 will be covered by new initiative 2021. And the works to the oak tree in the cemetery were approved by Town Councillors as part of the tree expenditure. This means that £36,732 of the highlighted funds, plus earmarked reserves specifically for the purchase of new equipment and tree works have been funded outside of the revenue budget.

Purchases																
Clothing - Corp & Prot - Indoor staff	0	273	0	0	0	240	0	0	70	40	623	650	0	0	623	650
Street lights, New	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Street lights, supply & maintenance	16,291	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	16,341	10,000	0	0	16,341	10,000
Street light repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	2,500
Bus shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
Allotments	133	0	0	67	0	0	37	0	0	2,979	3,216	2,030	0	0	3,216	2,030
Playing fields and pitches	1,374	766	20,187	575	244	(337)	24	497	493	40	23,861	21,000	0	0	23,861	21,000
Play Areas	0	200	0	0	0	275	685	275	11,975	989	14,399	3,000	0	0	14,399	3,000
Cemetery, grave digging	0	2,560	0	640	1,490	0	0	1,600	320	0	6,610	3,900	0	1,300	7,910	5,200
Cemetery, rates & water	168	167	167	167	167	197	167	167	167	167	1,700	1,500	150	150	2,000	1,800
Cemetery, litter	143	122	194	143	224	173	284	234	173	216	1,906	1,333	133	133	2,173	1,600
Cemetery, maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	400	400
General equipment repairs	0	137	145	0	0	213	0	402	0	0	897	1,000	0	1,000	1,897	2,000
New Equipment	379	46	0	0	131	786	632	87	0	10,170	12,231	2,500	0	0	12,231	2,500
Ground Maintenance Contract	0	0	0	0	0	16,023	0	0	0	0	16,023	16,500	0	0	16,023	16,500
Ground Maintenance General	103	93	213	136	118	717	147	36	0	0	1,563	1,350	0	450	2,013	1,800
Hire of Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Ranger)	1,881	1,900	1,881	1,881	1,881	1,881	1,881	1,881	1,881	1,881	18,826	22,217	2,222	2,222	23,269	26,660
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Working budget)	123	339	85	187	112	1,267	127	66	935	0	3,240	2,500	0	0	3,240	2,500
Transit	81	849	54	514	0	79	82	0	0	0	1,659	1,667	167	167	1,992	2,000
Ford Ranger	196	44	95	84	515	110	100	0	67	0	1,211	1,250	125	125	1,461	1,500
Tractor maintenance & running costs	47	24	0	52	18	55	450	17	0	0	663	1,250	125	125	913	1,500
Movana Vehicle	90	87	583	83	133	136	547	48	183	0	1,889	1,667	167	167	2,222	2,000
Fencing	178	0	0	0	452	75	0	0	0	0	705	750	0	0	705	750
Trees	922	314	1,598	728	3	550	36	975	175	3,650	8,951	4,000	0	0	8,951	4,000
Graffiti removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50
Litter bins	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	0	56	842	971	1,000	0	2,000	2,971	3,000
Litter collection, open spaces	683	561	607	665	699	689	630	703	781	771	6,789	3,700	0	0	6,789	3,700
Horticulture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	150	150	300
Roundabout expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
Weald Hall Events	0	250	75	0	70	750	1,500	75	1,650	0	4,370	5,000	0	8,500	12,870	13,500
Corp dev- signage outside areas	0	212	0	0	0	0	1,600	0	0	0	1,812	250	0	0	1,812	250
Groundsmen - salaries	5,813	7,370	7,360	7,360	7,360	7,360	7,360	8,060	7,619	7,128	72,792	66,803	6,680	6,680	86,152	80,163
Groundsmen - National insurance	497	611	609	609	609	609	609	705	680	580	6,117	5,199	520	520	7,157	6,239
Groundsmen - Pension	1,853	1,377	1,371	1,208	1,208	1,425	1,117	2,063	1,488	1,499	14,610	14,368	1,437	1,437	17,483	17,241
Town Security/CCTV	1,143	44	38	40	43	40	40	41	40	45	1,514	2,250	0	750	2,264	3,000
Floral displays	0	0	1,710	469	469	469	0	0	0	0	3,115	3,500	0	0	3,115	3,500
Repair and replace street furniture	0	0	0	1,250	0	0	0	0	0	500	1,750	1,500	0	0	1,750	1,500
Cleaning materials	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	24	75	0	75	99	150
Performing rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	0	89	500	0	0	89	500
Event Advertising Marketing	50	160	0	0	80	160	0	380	120	80	1,030	3,000	0	1,000	2,030	4,000

Environment Leisure Committee as at 31 January 2022

	Apr 21 Actuals £	May 21 Actuals £	Jun 21 Actuals £	Jul 21 Actuals £	Aug 21 Actuals £	Sep 21 Actuals £	Oct 21 Actuals £	Nov 21 Actuals £	Dec 21 Actuals £	Jan 22 Actuals £	Prov actuals at 31 Jan 22	Budgeted at 31 Jan 22	Feb 22 Budget £	Mar 22 Budget £	Total 2021/22	2021/22 Budgets
HMLNR & WPLNR	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	0	500	500
Total Purchases	32,160	18,506	36,971	16,856	16,526	33,939	18,128	18,320	29,011	31,577	251,995	207,858	11,725	30,200	293,920	249,783

New initiatives 2021/22

Additional tree planting	0	0	21	0	(500)	0	0	1,267	186	41	1,016	N/A	0	0	974	1,700
Covid Memorial Bench on London Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	2,500
ESCC Grass Verge cutting	4,271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,271	N/A	0	0	4,271	4,300
Ridgewood Play Area Patch surfacing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,975	0	11,975	N/A	0	0	11,975	13,500
West Park LNR Boardwalk	0	0	0	0	0	25,900	0	0	0	0	25,900	N/A	0	0	25,900	26,470
Green Projects	0	0	0	1,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,800	N/A	0	0	1,800	23,000
Animal friendly bins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	842	842	N/A	0	0	1,000	1,000
New signage for play areas/recs	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,600	0	0	0	1,600	N/A	0	0	1,600	1,600
Total New Initiatives 2020/21	4,271	0	21	1,800	(500)	25,900	1,600	1,267	12,161	883	47,404	N/A	0	0	47,520	74,070

Weald on the Field Sponsorship and 50% pitch fee income	0	0	0	0	3,090	0	0	0	0	0	3,090	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A
Weald on the Field Expenditure	0	0	42	2,658	4,627	1,021	175	0	0	0	8,522	N/A	0	0	N/A	3,000

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

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 Pleasure Ground

Town bin collections have increased significantly since the Easter bank holiday, resulting in an additional collection to keep up with demand, on a weekly basis. Temporary second additional collection booked until further notice, this will increase the overall bin collection budget and will be overspent by year end. Extra budget has been included for 2022/23 to cover additional service.

Victoria Skatepark

Investigation required in dealing with drainage issues, awaiting outcome of meeting with developers at Ridgewood site.

Hempstead Lane Play Area

Awaiting repair to crossbar of basket swing.

Hempstead Meadows

Minor work was carried out to the footpath however works have been postponed due to weather conditions.

Rocks Park Play Area

Nothing new to report.

Snatts Road Cemetery

- Works to Oak tree carried out in January.
- Management plan in conjunction with an ecological report is due to be written.

West Park Recreation ground

Nothing new to report.

Boothland Wood

Tree works carried out in February.

Equipment & Vehicles

New ride on lawnmower and chipper have been ordered.

Street Furniture & Lighting

- Covid-19 memorial bench has been installed on Luxford Field.
- New bench and licence to be ordered for London Road bus stop.
- Refer to Bin Policy prior to agreeing any new placement of bins.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Nothing new to report.

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing new to report.

Selby Meadows

Small number of hedging plants have been donated to Selby Meadows for planting.

West Park Local Nature Reserve.

Nothing new to report.

Luxford Field and play area.

Nothing new to report.

Trees

Following a programme of tree surveys across the town, it is becoming very evident that the Town Council is starting to have to deal with a number of trees with Ash die back.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER HEDGE LAYING IN LUXFORD FIELD - WINTER 2022

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report proposes more hedge planting on the boundaries of Luxford Field.

2.0 Overview

2.1 To enhance the biodiversity of Luxford Field, in line with Uckfield Town Council's climate change policy and enclosing the field slightly will help in creating a park like atmosphere. This proposal is to plant a hedge row on the Western edge from Holy Cross Primary School path up to the play area along the existing fence line.

2.2 The Northern boundary will also be included between the play area and north eastern footpath. This will create a natural boundary between the field and car park.

2.3 It is proposed that the Eastern boundary be planted between the two vehicle gates along the existing fence, between the trees.

3.0 Expenditure

3.1 Pre-planned planting is costing £2,979 + VAT for Framfield West Road allotments. The additional planting at Luxford field would be £2,081 + VAT. The total in the budget for allotment fencing in Earmarked reserves is £6,803. This would leave £898 remaining in this budget.

4.0 Map highlighting proposed areas for planting hedges:

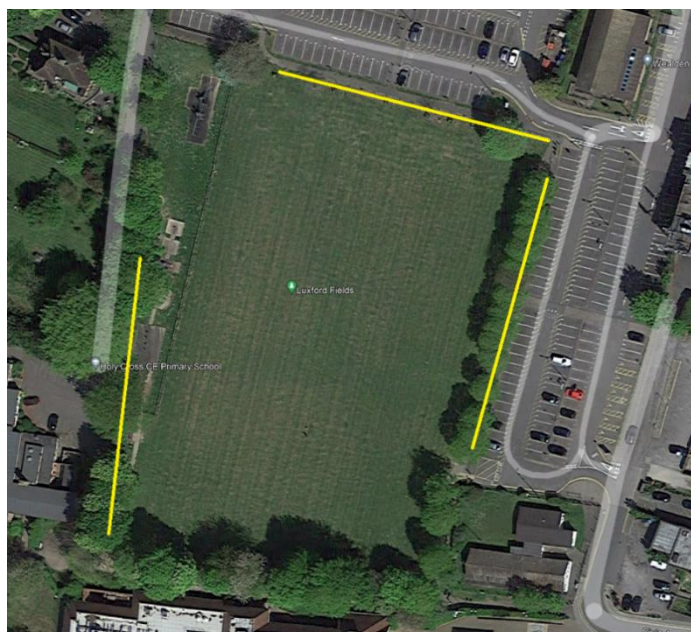


Diagram 1: Luxford Field

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 Members are asked to note the report and advise the clerk if they agree to these proposals.

Contact Officer: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 7.3

PROPOSALS FOR TREE PLANTING AND THE NATURAL REGENERATION OF BOOTHLAND WOOD

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary from our Ranger regarding tree planting at Boothland Wood. The intent is to increase the range and diversity of tree stock owned by Uckfield Town Council giving improvements to residents in terms of amenity aesthetics and the host of environmental services trees provide.

2.0 Site one: Ridgewood recreation ground

- 2.1 Much of the recreation ground is regenerating naturally where it is uncut. However, one particular area remains free of saplings. This is possibly because this area is some distance from existing trees however, the area is exceedingly wet. The area has been planted with transplanted trees at no cost to the council. It is thought that the addition of some wet ground specialists will help with the hydrology of the site and future flooding episodes especially in light of proposed developments.
- 2.2 Two swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), a deciduous conifer absolutely ideal for the wet conditions encountered on the recreation ground. The tree grows between 10-40m and is a native of the South Eastern United States. The tree is adapted to waterlogging being able to grow in standing water for many months.
- 2.3 One alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), a native deciduous tree, a good pioneer and regenerator of brownfield sites. This is a riparian species that tolerates waterlogged conditions well.
- 2.4 Alternatively, we could plant a Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) these grow to 20m on moist urban sites. This tree is endangered in its home territory and is another deciduous conifer.
- 2.5 This site with stakes and soil amendments would cost between £205 and £210 to plant. Conifers are favoured over the alder. Alder is a fine tree with many wildlife associations but is also subject to phytophthora diseases and is considered “under threat” by the Woodland Trust. Conifers would fit within the local area which features many specimen conifers. Alder would likely have a foreign provenance unlike conifers.

3.0 Site two: Victoria pleasure ground - skate park and MUGA

3.1 Trees have been selected to provide shade, shelter and to dampen noise from these popular recreation areas.

3.2 Vandalism

Despite the attraction for young people the area is rarely vandalised, perhaps being too exposed. However, trees at this site would be protected with tree guards.

3.3 Victoria Pleasure Ground boasts a fantastic array of specimen trees, the following aims to create diversity to the range of conifers already present. Conifers have been chosen as there are presently a range of young and semi mature broadleaf trees on site but no succession is evident for conifers.

3.4 One deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) A conical cedar reaching 25m in height and hardy.

3.5 One blue atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*). A striking blue cedar up to 30m with a 15m spread.

3.6 Two giant redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). A tree which is oddly common in Uckfield, fast growing and fire resistant. Soil conditions may necessitate a change in species selection.

3.7 One western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). A very hardy tree which reaches 15m.

3.8 With amendments these can be planted for £420 not including support as these will be constructed along with the tree guards. It is calculated that this would cost around £100. The total cost for these plantings would reach approximately £1132 though species are subject to change.

4.0 Budget overview

4.1 There is a budget remaining of £1,226 towards tree planting, which these funds can be allocated towards.

4.2 diagram below to show tree planting budget:

New Trees	Budget	Remaining	Comments
2021.22	1000	26	£974 Spent
2021.22		500	Donation
2020.21		700	Earmarked reserves
		1226	Total remaining

5.0 Regenerating Boothland wood

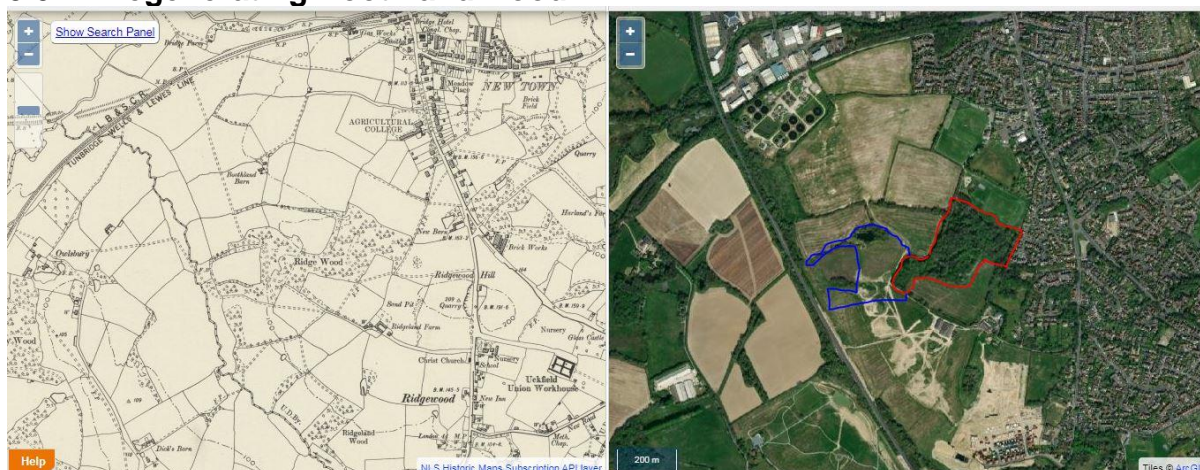


Image 1: Boothland Wood in 1888

- 5.1 As can be seen in the above image in 1888, Boothland wood extended considerably further than it does now. Boothland wood is ancient semi natural woodland and as such is one of the rarest environments in the United Kingdom with only 2.5% of the UK being ancient woodlands.
- 5.2 I propose allowing the grass strip which is left long on New Barn field to fully regenerate into woodland. This will need signage to inform park users as to what is happening. The areas on Fin field where this is happening have been brought to my attention as being “rough” and “untidy”.
- 5.3 I understand that the developers to the south of the wood are proposing planting up areas around the wood. I suggest that we ask them to allow any “buffer zones” to regenerate naturally and allow the seedbank that already exists and colonisation from the existing wood to slowly turn the areas left into climax woodland. As can be seen the existing planting schemes of uniform rows of imported low quality whips would be entirely inappropriate around and ancient and complex eco system. If they insist on planting it would be good if the Town Council could take this project from them (*still funded by them of course*) to ensure that it is conducted according to the needs of the site and in the interests of the continuation of Uckfield’s natural heritage.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Speaking to English Woodlands they recommend planting in late February as the soil conditions are both drier and warmer. They were sceptical about giant redwoods taking on Wealden clay as they prefer drier conditions. It might therefore be an idea to just go with one of those and monitor its growth.

Neal Matheson
Countryside Ranger

7.0 Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the report and advise the Clerk if they agree to these proposals.

Contact Officer: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda item 8.1

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL BY THE UCKFIELD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB FOR TWO BENCHES ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF LUXFORD FIELD

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At the beginning of this year, Uckfield Town Council were approached by the Uckfield & District Lions Club to enquire about the possibility of placing two new benches on the western side of Luxford Field to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee this year.

2.0 The Queen's Jubilee commemoration

- 2.1 To mark this important occasion, Uckfield & District Lions Club had a meeting where a number of ideas were considered and discussed, and they decided that they would like to gift the benches to the popular and central open green space in the town, Luxford Field.
- 2.2 The Lions would be interested in placing two benches that would either be the same design as the existing benches or, if the company have designed one, something to go with the Jubilee theme, although they would still need to look at this part.
- 2.3 The Lions have recognised that it would not have been a sensible suggestion when the playground was in need of updating and also, since the new playground has been installed towards the north end of the field, having seating on this side nearest the park would benefit those who visit the park frequently such as grandparents to oversee their grandchildren playing in the park.
- 2.4 They have noticed that there is one of the old benches on the Holy Cross School fence and wondered if another bench on that side would be beneficial, and so propose the following:-
- a: replace the existing wooden bench for a metal bench, and;
- b: add another bench between that one and the new play park.

3.0 Timing of bench installation

- 3.1 They would like to try and get the benches installed by June ready for the Queen's Jubilee, so they would like a decision made as soon as possible.

4.0 Current bench condition

- 4.1 The current condition of the bench on the Holy Cross School fence is detailed in the photos below:



Diagram 1: to the west side of Luxford Field – proposal to replace bench on left for two new benches instead in positions highlighted in blue



Diagram 2: bench on west side of Luxford Field

5.0 Proposal for what the benches may look like:



Diagram 3: photoshop idea for benches

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to consider the above report and advise the Clerk if they are happy to agree to the donation of two Jubilee benches by the Uckfield & District Lions Club for installation on Luxford Field.

Contact Officer: Mark Francis/Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 8.2

TO CONSIDER REPAIRS TO CRICKET NETS AT VICTORIA PLEASURE GROUND.

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Anderida Cricket Club have approached the Town Council to assist in financially contributing towards repairing the damaged and vandalised cricket nets at Victoria recreation ground.

2.0 Costs involved and budget

- 2.1 The total cost for repairs is £2,349.57+VAT. Anderida Cricket club have offered to contribute half of the total amount towards repairs at £1,174.78+VAT and are asking the Town Council to contribute the remaining costs of £1,174.78+VAT. The nets are only used by Anderida Cricket Club during the summer cricket season.
- 2.2 The Town Council had a combined budget of £23,500 in 2021/22 made up of the playing fields and pitches nominal code and the covid play area spraying new initiative.
- 2.3 Total expenditure up to 7 February 2022 is £23,860.51, making an overspend of currently £360.51. The Town Council has £4,884 in earmarked reserves under playing fields and pitches, of which the 50% nets contribution of £1,174.78+VAT could be allocated towards this. However, this would only leave £3,709.22 in the earmarked reserves for playing fields and pitches in case of any over spend before year end.

	2021.22 Budget	Comments
Playing fields and pitches	£21,000	
Covid Spraying play areas New Initiative	£2,500	
Expenditure up to 07.02.22	£23,860.51	Includes covid spraying
Total overspend as of 07.02.22	-360.51	
	2021.22 Budget	Comments
Earmarked reserves		
Playing fields and pitches	£4,884	
Nets contribution 50%	£1,174.78	plus vat
Total remaining in EMR this code	£3,709.22	

- 2.4 Diagram above of potential expenditure.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report and advise the Clerk of how they wish to proceed.

Contact Officer: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 8.3

TO CONSIDER BLOCKING ACCESS – NORTH OF HARLANDS PLAYING FIELD

1.0 Safety issue detected

- 1.1 This report refers to safety concerns raised by the Newtown Action Group. At a recent meeting, concern was raised by some of their members regarding a safety problem between the playing field and the group of bungalows in Selby Rise.
- 1.2 Newtown Action Group members have raised their concerns regarding the sheer drop from the playing field into the gardens of the bungalows (see pics below).
- 1.3 The concern is that children playing in this field could try and retrieve a ball accidentally kicked into the hedging, not knowing that there is a sheer drop into the gardens below.

2.0 Area of concern

- 2.1 The area of concern is located at the rear of the two properties (i) Clintz, Selby Gardens, Uckfield, TN22 5EF (Image 2) and Dale View, Selby Gardens, Uckfield, TN22 5EF (Image 3) (highlighted below for reference in yellow).

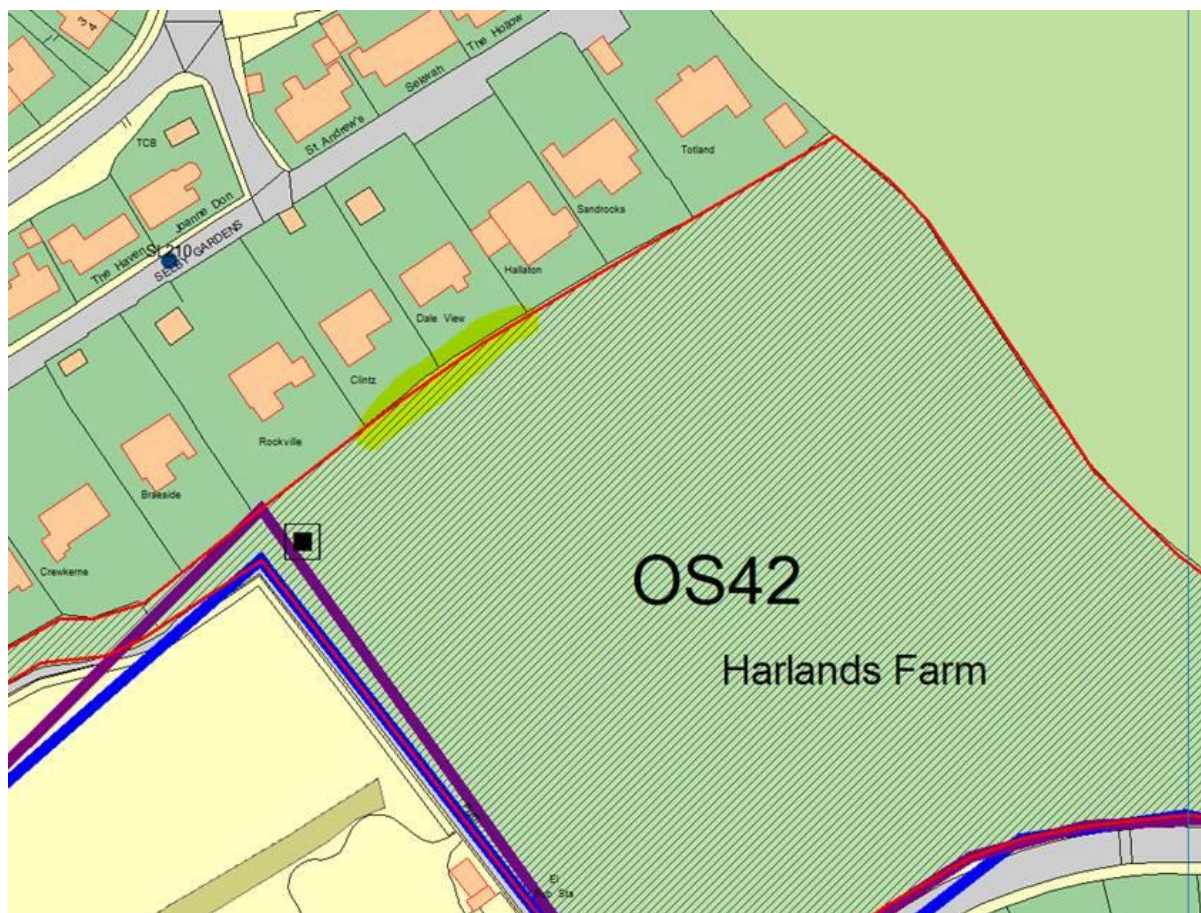


Image 1: map of Harlands Farm Playing Field - area of concern highlighted

- 2.2 It is a large drop on the far side, there is almost no access from the Town Council side except for two places and one involves crawling through a thorny hole in the hedge. The other shows no sign of foot traffic.

- 2.3 There are signs of activity behind the Town Council's hedge which seems to be accessed from the gardens below (see rope pic below) and some of the under growth has also been cut back.
- 2.4 Images of area:



Image 2: picture of gate through UTC hedge at Harlands field to resident's garden.



Image 3: Picture rope access from garden to Harlands field.



Image 4: Picture of Harlands drop into garden.

3.0 Looking for ideas and suggestions

- 3.1 The Newtown Action Group were asking if it would be possible for the Town Council to erect some form of fencing behind the hedging.
- 3.2 They also said that they would welcome any help and suggestions on how they should proceed with this matter and also said that they would look forward to working closely with the Town Councillors in the future.

4.0 Possible suggestions

- 4.1 If a fence was erected, this would block the gate and rope access so it may be more appropriate for the Residents' Association to speak with these two properties first to establish what they would like to see.
- 4.2 If a fence was erected, there are concerns children could still climb, so a good alternative perhaps would be to install some signage instead stating 'Danger, steep drop' or similar to make anyone in that area, aware of the risks.
- 4.3 The Grounds staff have five posts for post and rail in stock at 4ft in height which would be enough to enclose the two gaps through the hedge. If the whole northern boundary adjacent to the pathway of the field was fenced, this would cost in the region of £3,500. There is no budget currently available set in this financial year or 2022/23 to cover this cost.
- 4.4 An alternative solution is to reinstate the hedging in the gaps, however there could still be a risk with no signage advising members of the public.

5.0 Recommendation

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

Contact Officer: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 9.1

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS: CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Climate Emergency Steering Group has predominantly focused on getting the Uckfield Green Partnership up and running in recent months. Uckfield Green Partnership (UGP) appears to be going from strength to strength, with between 12 and 15 representatives attending each meeting.
- 1.2 UGP is in the process of setting up a structure. A Chair (Angie Smith) and Vice Chair (Roger Isaacson) have been elected and we are actively looking for a Secretary, Young Person's representative and Comms/Media Officer(s). We have also set up three working groups focusing on:
 1. Energy and transport
 2. Sustainable living
 3. Natural capital
- 1.3 UGP is current formalising a mission statement for the group. Action in Rural Sussex representative, Chiara Vagnarelli, has put together a community engagement plan. We have now established a Facebook group, and have a regular slot in Uckfield Matters.

2.0 ECO EXPO 2022

- 2.1 Aside from this, Uckfield Town Council are planning to host an 'ECO EXPO 2022' on Saturday 30 April 2022. This is intended to be a showcase of local green-focused businesses, designed to show residents how they can live more sustainably. Karen Bedwell is the driving force behind this, but if any councillors are able to help with putting the Expo together, particularly attracting stall-holders, this would be very welcome.
- 2.2 The event will take place in the Weald Hall of the Civic Centre, Uckfield from 10am until 4pm (TN22 1AE) and we hope to attract a wide range of local businesses and local residents. We hope this event will help to inform people of the small changes they can make to their home and lifestyles and how such changes can help to make a difference to our environment.
- 2.3 The event will be managed and advertised by Uckfield Town Council and will assist with promoting all businesses involved. There will be a small admin fee of £25 to cover the costs of running and staffing the event.
- 2.4 We have a limited number of spaces for this event and it will be on a first come first paid basis. Invoices will be issued once the place has been booked and

payment can be made by BACS, cheque or cash to Uckfield Town Council (details will be available on the invoice).

- 2.5 Access to the Weald Hall will be provided from 8am on the day to give everyone time to set up. 10-hour free parking is available in Luxford car park located just north of the Civic Centre off Civic Approach at postcode TN22 1AL.
- 2.6 Uckfield Town Council hopes this will be the first of many ways in which we can help to improve the effects of climate change for future generations both locally and nationally and we hope that local businesses will be interested in attending the event.

Councillors Angie Smith/Karen Bedwell
9 February 2022

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 9.2

QUEEN'S JUBILEE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 On Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 2.00pm a bagpiper will play in the town followed by the Town Crier's Cry.

At 6.00pm the same day at Victoria Pleasure Ground there will be a bar available (run by Uckfield Town Council Councillors) and a BBQ (run by the Uckfield & District Lions).

There will be music performances by Cantando Ensemble, Uckfield Singers and Uckfield Brass.

At 9.40pm the Bagpiper will lead the Town Crier, Father John will say a Prayer for Jubilee and the Beacon will be lit to join the others across the South Coast.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 10.8

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

1.0 Summary report

- 1.1 The Uckfield Festival committee met on the 20 January 2022 at East Sussex National Hotel. There were various music acts on the agenda for 2nd and 3rd of July.

Amongst those already agreed, Chalk Horse Music would be performing on the 2nd July at Bridge Cottage and 'CODA' - a Led Zeppelin tribute act on the 3rd July will be confirmed.

It was also agreed that the Classic car event would now be co-organised with the Town Council, with Mike Skinner taking the lead.

Councillor S. Mayhew has now become the festival representative for the Proms on the Pitch and would be attending a Zoom meeting on the 17th February.

Other acts were discussed for the big day but it was decided that they were too expensive, so a small sub-committee had been set up to look for local talent. The community grant application was discussed and it was hoped that the Town Council would continue with their very much valued support.

The big news of the evening was the new festival website which would be launched on 14th February. A lot of work had been put into this by Mike Skinner and Madeleine Judge and the committee were very impressed and grateful.

Councillor S. Mayhew

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 21 February 2022

Agenda Item 10.10

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINES PARISHES COMMITTEE

1.0 Summary

The bi-monthly meeting of the group on 12 January was held remotely by zoom. However, following the lengthy holiday shut down over the Christmas period there was not a lot of content to discuss.

The continuing engineering works at Victoria which have closed the terminal since the beginning of the holiday break are still ongoing. This affects our line in as much as the trams terminating at East Croydon and then passengers having to change trains for the onward journey to London Bridge. All this time, Southern Trains are currently going to London Bridge only and there is often a delay in the connection.

Apparently, Southern are not now issuing printed timetables, these are available on the website but only one week at a time. It was considered that the current service was generally satisfactory but that the users' uptake was very low again following the governments directive on home working and the holidays.

The new lift at Eridge is now working. However, ESCC have not brought forward the disabled parking at the station despite all of the users' pressure. Works to the new footbridge and lift at Crowborough have commenced.

There are meetings held by the Brighton/Seaford line users' group. GTR Stakeholders and Restoring Your Railways during February at which our group will be represented.

Councillor C. Macve

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.