



Uckfield Town Council Annual Report

2021-22

**Council Offices
Civic Centre
Uckfield
TN22 1AE**

Our Town Mayor's Annual Review of 2021-22

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and impact this has had on our organisation, along with many other businesses and households in the town, I am overwhelmed with how much positivity there has been to keep safe, calm and carry on.

The current crisis in Ukraine has also highlighted how wonderful the town's residents are in coming together to support others. The knitting of Ukraine's flower, the sunflower, to fund raise and the amount of donations collected by you all to help those in need, has truly been amazing and heartwarming, thank you.



Regardless of the closure of our buildings during the national lockdowns and financial impact this and sickness has had on our organisation, our staffing team have worked hard to deliver the same standard of services you would expect day to day, and have continued to put our customers and residents first. I hope the Town's residents will join me in saying thank you.

This also goes for the wonderful events that were organised within the town in 2021, whether they took place indoors or outdoors, they helped to entertain the family and lighten everyone's mood after last year's lockdown. Thank you to everyone that came together safely organizing and enjoying these events.

The gathering of the Town Council's 15 Town Councillors in the format of our four to six weekly Full Council meetings, has seen us explore a number of very current and topical issues. Many of these subjects are outside of the remit of the Town Council, but affect the town's residents and businesses, and for that reason, require our attention.

The Town Council have responded to public consultations from East Sussex County Council on highway improvements and bus improvements. Transport continues to be of concern to the Town Council with a number of the rural bus services seeing reductions in service timetables, or cuts altogether, whilst proposed future growth in Uckfield will sit around the periphery of the town, with no or limited access to public transport provision.

Councillor B. Cox updated the council on his previous motion around youth food poverty. This past year, the Town Council has supported the set-up of the Uckfield Community Fridge CIC through grant funding and the temporary provision of space to set up their fantastic container. Both the Uckfield Community Fridge and Uckfield Food Bank have seen growing demand for food and supplies. We believe this will become increasingly apparent, with the anticipated changes in the cost of living. We still have work to do in this area to fully understand the levels of deprivation in Uckfield and how it is affecting our young people so a review will be undertaken over the next 12 months to obtain this data, before we lobby the relevant agencies for support.

As our Chair of Uckfield Town Council's Plans Committee will advise in their update, a particular focus of the Town Council has been to observe and feed into the development of Wealden DC's draft Local Plan. Uckfield is anticipating growth of at least 50-60% in the next Local Plan period (up to 2039). Our main concerns have focused on the facilities we have now, which are already overstretched, and what we need to support a

growing population. Councillor J. Edwards recently prepared a response to Wealden DC following a press release they issued in December relating to Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The press release quoted that £9million pounds of Community Infrastructure Levy funding (developer contributions) would be spent in Hailsham and Crowborough to improve health and leisure facilities. Improvements are required in Uckfield to support our current and future population and we want to ensure we remain engaged in those discussions, with key partners such as Active Uckfield.

Town Councillors will continue to remain engaged in the strategic discussions with Wealden District and push for improvements in infrastructure to prepare us for the future. The Town Council are also working behind the scenes with a group of local residents to prepare a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the town, which will incorporate a character assessment of the town, important local green spaces which we wish to protect, and policies relating to the local economy, transport and access, environment and health, infrastructure and recreation, and design and development. Public information sessions will be undertaken in the Spring/Summer of 2022, to check in on the work so far, and to receive feedback from you on important aspects of our character, our spaces, our green corridors and views. Look out for more information very soon!

Our Town Councillors have therefore been working hard alongside Town Council staff to continuously improve and modernise our services and facilities, but longer term we have also been looking at the bigger picture, in terms of demand and supply, and what we need. Town Councillors refused to take any increase on their member allowances for another year, and therefore remain dedicated to the cause, to do their utmost for Uckfield. Thank you everyone for your support. May 2022, be a better year for us all.

Councillor Jackie Love
Town Mayor
(Chair of) Full Council

General Purposes Committee



The past financial year has posed a number of challenges to the Town Council but when you look back at the work undertaken, it has also been a very productive year.

First and foremost, the Town Council was very pleased to receive another clean bill of health for its Annual Governance and Accountability return for 2020-21, which included a review of the year end accounts and the Town Council's governance. External and Internal Auditors were satisfied with the details submitted and confirmed that the Town Council's governance and financial arrangements remained sound.

Internal controls continued to be reviewed with revisions being undertaken to the Town Council's Annual Investment Strategy and Risk Management Policy. Officers also renewed the council's building and public liability insurances taking into account increasing build costs, and equipment.

Managing the finances of a large Town Council such as Uckfield has always been a difficult task, but become far more challenging as a result of the pandemic with the consequences of lockdown coupled with staff sickness. The Town Clerk and all council staff responded in an excellent way to minimise the financial impact and ensure that the Council continued to operate as well as could be expected. The result of all this work was that for the Council's budget for 2022/23, the Council Tax element for the Town Council only required a very modest 1.5% increase.

Each year, the Town Council determines the works that are to be undertaken as part of an annual programme of building maintenance. Last year was no exception, with works being completed to expand the Civic Centre's biomass pellet hopper, to reduce the number of journeys our wood pellet suppliers make to the Civic Centre, as well as reducing costs each winter. The Town Council receives income in return for using a biomass boiler from central government via the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). This helps to offset some of the costs of heating the Civic Centre all year round. The Civic Centre had also suffered from frequent water ingress through its foyer atrium. The atrium has since been removed, which has not only smartened up the entrance to the building but also reduced the water damage previously experienced and draughts.

A number of improvements have been made to Foresters Hall as part of the annual maintenance programme. This has included replacing the main hall floor, adding blinds and updating the décor to the main room, as well as replacing the taps within the children's and main toilets, and flooring to the disabled toilet. A new heat source pump system has also been installed to heat the building, following the deterioration of the existing gas boiler. In the long term, this will help to reduce our carbon emissions and in the short term enables hirers to have more control over the temperature of the main hall day to day. A similar heating system was also installed in the Signal Box, following the decline of their boiler, and with only electric now supplying the Source, all sources of gas has now been removed from these three buildings.

The Town Council was affected by the storms in February, with power cuts and surges causing the lift's control panel within the Civic Centre to be damaged beyond repair. A full electrical refurbishment was required and this has just been completed, with the lift now back in action. This required officers to move a number of regular hirers to the ground floor of the Civic Centre to ensure their clients could access their surgeries and lessons. We thank you all for your patience during this period, and recognise the inconvenience this would have caused. Victoria Pavilion and West Park Pavilion experienced damage to their ridge and slate tiles.

It is important to note that General Purposes Committee have responsibility for more than the internal arrangements of the council's finances and assets. General Purposes Committee take a lead role in deciding how funding set aside under the General Power of Competence for its annual Community Grants Programme, is distributed. Applications were received in autumn 2020 for grant funding for the financial year 2021-22. A total of £27,500 was available and the full amount was granted to a total of 22 organisations. The full breakdown is available on page 11 of this report.

The Town Council also has service level agreements in place with Wealden Citizen's Advice and the Uckfield Volunteer Centre for the support they provide to the local community. The service level agreements were further strengthened this year to ensure that the responsibilities of both parties were up to date and relevant. It also helped to set out the expectations of both parties. These agreements will be reviewed in 12 months during the budget setting process, and the organisations will receive £19,000 and £8,000 in 2022-23 respectively for their services to the community.

Within the community, the Town Council contributes to the running of the 262 Saturday bus service. This service is delivered by North Wealden Community Transport Partnership and runs between Ashdown Forest and Heathfield via Uckfield every Saturday. The service has been subsidised by the parishes along the route, due to reductions in the 231 bus service between Heathfield and Uckfield. The 262 Saturday service therefore enables those in the villages to do their shopping in Heathfield or Uckfield, it's also a great service to reach the Ashdown Forest for residents or visitors to the area.

Like most organisations, staffing levels have been impacted over the course of the year, for a number of reasons, not just covid, and the Town Council has been carrying a handful of vacancies, which we hope will be filled shortly. All teams working for the Town Council (grounds, caretaking, cleaning, restaurant and office staff) do a tremendous job, and have worked extremely hard over the past year. We wish to thank them for their dedication and for delivering such a great service regardless of the difficulties experienced.

Councillor Paul Sparks
Chair of General Purposes Committee

Environment and Leisure Committee



Although the past two years have been tough, one thing the pandemic has encouraged many to do, is to get out and enjoy the fresh air of the outdoors.

The Town Council's open spaces and many of the town's public rights of way have been well used, particularly in the Spring and Summer months.

The Town Council looks after the emptying of 66 bins within the town (mainly on Town Council owned land), with Wealden DC responsible for those in the main thoroughfares including the High Street and main routes in and out of Uckfield. We have seen our litter collection costs double as a result and we believe this pattern will continue as many of us seek solitude in the fresh air and beautiful green spaces and countryside around us.

I have been amazed at how much we have achieved in the past year, despite staff shortages and vacancies within our grounds team. The Grounds team look after our sports pitches, play areas, open spaces, nature reserves, ancient woodlands, and prepare for burials and interments in Snatts Road Cemetery.

A number of further improvements have been undertaken within West Park Local Nature Reserve. A large section of boardwalk which would frequently deteriorate was replaced, and we also arranged for a further culvert to be dug to protect nearby properties from water ingress. In Ridgewood Play Area, we arranged for contractors to professionally repair the surfacing to reduce the risk of trip hazards and make the space safe for families to use. Near to Luxfords Play Area, a memorial bench was installed in partnership with CPJ Field, which seeks to remember those who have lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A detailed Woodland Management Plan was drawn up with the support of the Forestry Commission and Trees and Woodlands, for the Town Council owned ancient woodlands of Boothland Wood, Bridge Farm Wood and Nightingale Wood. The plan was part funded by the Forestry Commission and sets out a plan for the management of the three sites over a ten-year period. This will ensure maintenance continues for the health of these woodlands and to help to attract future grant funding.

The Climate Change Steering Group report into the Environment & Leisure Committee. They have been working closely with officers to develop a simple Climate Change Policy, which has now been adopted. Officers commissioned a carbon audit in 2021 on a number of the Town Councils' buildings and processes. This highlighted the areas we need to focus on to reduce our carbon emissions, and the biggest culprit was the use of gas in our buildings. The group have also been organizing an Eco Expo, the first in Uckfield. This was due to take place in 2020, but due to the pandemic, had to be postponed. The event has been rearranged for 30 April 2022 and provides an opportunity for local businesses to promote eco-friendly technologies and alternatives. We are proud to have planted 630 trees over the past two winters. These trees have been planted in Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve in association with Sussex Flow, Hempstead Recreation Ground, Ridgewood Recreation Ground and West Park

Recreation Ground. The Town Council has also supported the Manor Park & Hempstead Meadows Residents' Association with the planting of cherry trees at Brown's Lane Rockery. This area was underutilised and we were therefore happy to support this beautiful enhancement for the local residents. Nationwide, we have seen losses in our trees as a result of ash dieback (chalara) and oak decline. Uckfield has been equally affected. Following a process of tree surveying, works were scheduled and prioritised on property boundaries and those near high use areas, and as many will be aware substantial works had to be carried out to a very large oak tree in Snatts Road Cemetery, due to decay. This was incredibly upsetting for the families with loved ones' ashes laid to rest around the tree, but we have been able to retain a monolith and reduce the risk of the tree falling, which could cause greater damage and distress to those with loved ones laid to rest in the cemetery.

Increased litter collections, unforeseen tree works, increased costs in streetlighting repairs and replacements, as well as week to week issues and rising vehicle costs, has seen greater expenditure under this committee than anticipated, but officers have worked hard to find savings to balance this out. An example would be the grass cutting of Town Council owned green spaces, such as the sports pitches. This used to be contracted out but since March 2022, this is now being carried out in-house. This will not only reduce our costs in the longer term, but also enable us to give greater attention in the lead up to events and in sensitive areas such as the cemetery. Grounds staff have been looking at the replacement of existing fencing and boundaries which are deteriorating, with hedgerows. Work has already commenced along Framfield Road adjacent to the allotment, and on Luxford Field.

The Allotment Working Group, have undertaken a detailed review of the management of the allotment sites owned by Uckfield Town Council. Although initial proposals received negative feedback, a more thorough review was undertaken in the summer of 2021 of the charging structure which provided more fairness across the board, and subsequently a new set of proposals were presented to the Allotment Conference in November 2021. Letters were sent out to all allotment holders on 1 April 2022, providing them with 12 months notice of the new arrangements which will come into play from 1 April 2023. We look forward to working closer with the Allotment Association this year, with routine checks, helping out at the shed, and in building the membership of the association, by attracting local discounts for the benefit of allotment holders.

With all of this work, and the organisation of key outdoor events such as Weald on the Field, which was a fantastic day back in August, and the Uckfield Revival in October, which despite the rain did not put off the classic vehicle owners, we have done an exceptional job. The Civic Centre kicked their events programme back into action and had a great line up of artists over the winter, with more planned for 2022. Check out the 'what's on' page at www.civiccentreuckfield.com.

During the storms the teams were out addressing fallen trees or fences even on their days off. We saw a large ancient ash tree sadly fall at West Park Local Nature but thankfully the town held up against the weather much better than expected. The Town Council has continuously sought improvement, even during the pandemic and we would like to thank our excellent staffing teams for their dedication to the town and voluntary groups such as Brighter Uckfield, who keep our town clean and tidy.

Councillor Spike Mayhew
Chair of Environment and Leisure Committee

Plans Committee

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all Uckfield-based planning applications and is therefore given the opportunity by Wealden District Council, the local planning authority, to provide a response on all planning applications within the Uckfield parish boundary. We also act as a 'critical friend' through examining local planning applications in such detail. We know our town and location better than anyone, so this enables us to feed in any points that are relevant to the physical and built landscape.

The Town Council takes this role seriously as a key voice for the town's residents, and when reviewing applications, members not only visit the site to understand the proposals, but also read the feedback that has already been received from other key statutory agencies and nearby residents to understand the full picture.



Many of the applications this year have been smaller with the exception of a large-scale application for Bird in Eye Farm, for the development of up to 290 dwellings, landscaping, informal open space and Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space. The public were in strong attendance at the Town Council's Plans Committee on 1 November 2021 and raised their views with regard to the detail of the proposals within the application. There was also an application for up to 46 dwellings at Ridgewood House, but this was later withdrawn.

Despite few major applications being submitted formally for outline planning permission there are a number of developers, waiting in the wings as such, for Wealden DC's Local Plan to be published in draft format. Many of the larger developments being proposed for the periphery of the town are dependent on improved highway networks and transport modelling and we understand that the developers for those sites are currently in liaison with East Sussex Highways and the local planning authority to understand the movement of traffic flows within, and into and out of the town. Planning permission was however granted for the development of up to 90 dwellings on Land off Eastbourne Road back in 2021.

The local planning authority, Wealden District Council, are also in the process of assessing a number of sites that have been put forward through their SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability). This has not yet been published, and will be released we believe alongside the draft Local Plan once ready during 2022.

Wealden DC, like Uckfield Town Council and the majority of the parishes in Wealden District are lobbying central government (in particular the Rt Hon Michael Gove) for a change in the methodology used to determine the number of homes to be built in Wealden. Wealden District is placed under enormous pressure to pick up the excess housing numbers that neighbouring boroughs and districts are unable to deliver, such as Eastbourne who are constrained by the coastline and Lewes who are constrained by the South Downs. Mid Sussex and parts of Wealden District are constrained by the Ashdown Forest. We can't keep developing over natural green space and agricultural

land that historically made Wealden District the place it is today. The sites put forward by landowners and agents for the SHELAA also pose the risk that development will breach the Uckfield parish and development boundary by building in our neighbouring parishes right along the boundary line of the A22 along Owlsbury. This and any extended growth out towards Maresfield could result in a large urban sprawl and loss of identity for Uckfield as a small market town, and more importantly the villages and rural settlement communities of Five Ash Down, Buxted, Nutley and Maresfield.

The Town Council has written separately to the Rt Hon Michael Gove, to explain the predicament of Uckfield, in seeing such vast levels of growth. It was also explained that as a town we have a number of physical constraints as a result of the River Uck, railway line, floodplains, topography of the site and A22 by-pass. To deliver appropriate infrastructure for the level of anticipated growth is extremely difficult as the space is not available other than on the sites coming forward for development. But developers, are only legally required to meet open spaces guidelines which typically sees the provision of a play area and open space.

The Town Council has set up an Infrastructure Working Group who are looking specifically at the needs of the town in terms of sports, leisure, and community facilities, and as we and our partners know, these facilities are already overstretched. This work will support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan for the town, and both work streams will sit alongside each other and provide a better understanding of what is needed to support us now and for the future.

Work remains underway on sites that had already been granted planning permission such as Ridgewood Farm and Land off Mallards Drive (Harlands). We thank you for your patience whilst these sites are being constructed. We know this is not easy, and will continue to address any of your concerns with the developers/contractors whilst they are on site.

The year ahead will continue to be challenging as we await the draft Local Plan and will take the time to study this in detail and understand what it means for Uckfield. We will continue to lobby central government around housing numbers both independently and as part of a Wealden consortium of parish and town councils. We will also continue to lobby our closer authorities of Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council to develop a dialogue around strategic planning for the town and infrastructure requirements. Thank you for your continued support.

Councillor Karen Bedwell
Chair of Plans Committee

Allowances paid to Councillors

ALLOWANCES PAID TO COUNCILLORS IN 2021-22 per annum (before tax)			
	Allowances	Expenses	Notes
	£	£	
Cllr. Karen Bedwell	£1,284.00		*Denotes Town Mayor. (An additional allowance is payable to the Mayor in connection with the duties of the position).
Cllr. Jeremy Beesley	£1,284.00	-	
Cllr. Duncan Bennett	£1,284.00	-	
Cllr. Ben Cox	£1,284.00		
Cllr. James Edwards	£1,284.00		
Cllr. Helen Firth	£1,284.00	-	
Cllr. Donna French	£1,284.00	-	
Cllr. Gary Johnson	**		The allowances are from the financial year 1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
Cllr. Jackie Love*	£1,284.00	£1,514.42	
Cllr. Chris Macve	**		
Cllr. Spike Mayhew*	£1,284.00	£258.58	
Cllr. Angie Smith	£1,284.00		
Cllr. Colin Snelgrove	£1,284.00		
Cllr. Paul Sparks	**	-	
Cllr. Diane Ward	£1,284.00		

**N.B. Councillors can choose to receive the allowance if they wish.

Councillors Gary Johnson, Chris Macve and Paul Sparks did not claim for their allowance.

Financial Summary for 2021-22 (Early draft)

INCOME and EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2021/22 by COMMITTEE			
Committee	Budget set for 2021/22	Projected outturn at year end	Variation from budget set
	£	£	£
Environment and Leisure			
Revenue expenditure	249,783	256,042	(6,259)
New initiatives expenditure	46,880	28,378	18,502
Earmarked reserves exp	20,500	24,874	(4,374)
Income	79,485	84,926	5,441
<i>Balance total</i>	<i>237,678</i>	<i>224,368</i>	<i>13,310</i>
General Purposes			
Revenue expenditure	771,764	765,545	6,219
New initiatives expenditure	63,500	65,031	(1,531)
Earmarked reserves exp	33,050	8,621	24,429
Income	169,172	174,033	4,861
<i>Balance total</i>	<i>699,142</i>	<i>665,164</i>	<i>33,978</i>
Luxfords			
Revenue expenditure	197,775	178,877	18,898
New initiatives expenditure	0	0	0
Earmarked reserves exp	0	0	0
Income	178,650	151,361	(27,289)
<i>Balance total</i>	<i>(19,125)</i>	<i>27,516</i>	<i>8,391</i>
N.B. Year-end financial processes need to be completed before the above figures can be finalised.			

Councillor Attendance

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS (27 March 2021 to 26 March 2022)					
Councillors	Full Council (9 meetings)	General Purposes (8 meetings)	Environment and Leisure (8 meetings)	Plans (17 meetings and 1 cancelled)	Overall Attendance %
K. Bedwell	8	-	5	15	82.4%
J. Beesley	7	-	8 out of 8	11	76.5%
D. Bennett	6	-	4	14	70.6%
B. Cox	9 out of 9	1* (out of 1)	6	13	82.9%
J. Edwards	7	6	7	-	80.0%
H. Firth	7	4	4* (out of 7)	-	62.5%
D. French (Deputy Mayor)	8	-	8 out of 8	-	94.1%
G. Johnson	4	3* (out of 7)	0* (out of 1)	-	41.2%
J. Love (Town Mayor)	9 out of 9	6	-	15	88.2%
C. Macve	8	8 out of 8	-	14	88.2%
S. Mayhew	7	-	7	15	85.3%
A. Smith	7	6	5	-	72.0%
C. Snelgrove	2	3	-	-	29.4%
P. Sparks	8	8 out of 8	-	-	94.1%
D. Ward	7	7	-	-	82.4%

N.B. Attendances are from the 27 March 2021 to 26 March 2022.

- Not all Councillors sit on all or the same committees every year.
- The Town Council also has both Finance and Personnel Sub-committees which meet as necessary.
- In addition, Councillors sit on working groups, steering groups and also represent the Town Council on a number of outside bodies.

* The above table runs for the 12 month period from end of March 2021 to end of March 2022, but committee appointments are agreed at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council in May each year, so some members changed committees after 10 May 2021.

Our Community Grants Programme for 2021-22

Each year the Town Council sets a budget for the provision of community grants within its budget setting process. The following grants were awarded by General Purposes Committee in March 2021 for payment in the financial year of 2021-22:

GRANTS AWARDED BY UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL FOR 2021-22	
Wealden Citizen's Advice	£18,900.00
Total Section 142 Grants	£18,900.00
The Uckfield Housebound & Friendship Club	£220.00
Family Support Work	£2,000.00
Age Concern Uckfield & District	£420.00
Uckfield Allotments Bee Club	£647.55
The Royal British Legion	£403.00
Uckfield Theatre Guild	£600.00
Uckfield Festival Association	£3,000.00
Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society	£3,000.00
St. Wilfrid's Hospice	£1,000.00
Uckfield Community Orchestra	£150.00
Uckfield Community Radio Ltd (Uckfield FM)	£1,500.00
St Peter & St James Hospice	£1,000.00
East Sussex Hearing	£500.00
Ridgewood Village Hall Committee	£1,000.00
The Luxford Centre	£1,000.00
Wealden Works	£2,866.45
Maresfield Village Meadows Trust	£1,000.00
ATC 2530 (Uckfield Squadron)	£1,000.00
Uckfield & District Preservation Society	£1,000.00
Counselling for students at Uckfield College	£2,000.00
Uckfield Community Fridge CIC	£2,500.00
Children with Cancer Fund	£693.00
Total General Power of Competence Grants	£27,500.00
Service Level Agreement for Uckfield Volunteer Centre	£8,000.00



Annual Plan 2022/23 PRIORITIES

PEOPLE	PROVISION
<p>COMMUNITY GRANTS We will award up to £54,500 of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2021/22 (<i>£27,500 to community groups, and £27,000 through service level agreements</i>)</p>	<p>REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON PAPER We will look to reduce postage and paper usage by increasing correspondence by email with customers and reviewing our current procedures for the hire of facilities and purchase order and invoicing.</p>
<p>PUBLIC EVENTS IN THE TOWN We will work alongside the local business community and local community groups to deliver two free public events within the town; Weald on the Field and Uckfield Revival.</p>	<p>NEW BOOKING SYSTEM We will look to install a new booking system for the internal management of booking enquiries for the Town Council's rooms and open spaces.</p>
PLACE	
<p>IMPROVEMENTS TO OPEN SPACES We will undertake repairs and improvements to a number of our open spaces including installing new signage, repairing equipment, investigating drainage issues and responding to enhancements identified through the Green Spaces Project.</p>	<p>TOWN COUNCIL BUILDINGS We will review our older buildings by undertaking repairs and improvements, exploring options for vacant premises such as the Hub and exploring options for further community space within the town.</p>
<p>WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN We will commence work on our 10-year woodland management plan to ensure ongoing maintenance and tackle diseased trees as and when appropriate.</p>	<p>ROAD SAFETY We will work with partner organisations such as Sussex Police and East Sussex Highways to re-establish community speedwatch initiative(s) in the town and explore the installation of a speed reduction device.</p>
<p>GRASS VERGE CUTTING We will continue to contribute to the costs of the East Sussex County Council's grass verge cutting contract to retain a good standard of service, and ensure visibility is maintained on pavements and highways.</p>	<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN We will support the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to prepare a draft Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan ready for submission to the local planning authority.</p>
<p>CLIMATE CHANGE We will investigate ways in which we can reduce our impact on climate change by seeking to deliver our climate change policy by reviewing our contracts, considering alternative fuel supplies, exploring additional insulation within our buildings, reviewing the equipment we purchase, managing our land for nature, and minimising waste.</p>	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield, in regards to sport, leisure, recreation and community facilities and the future impact on the Town Council's provision of allotment and cemetery space.</p>

Did you know?

Your County Council looks after:	Your District Council looks after:	Your Town Council looks after:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways maintenance (road repairs, verge cutting, pavements, most street lighting); • Highway emergencies; • Winter gritting; • Rights of Way; • Public transport; • Adult Social Care (<i>carers, services for older people, learning disabilities, physical/sensory impairments</i>); • Children's services (<i>child protection, support for families</i>); • Education; • Leisure and culture; • Libraries; • Trading standards • Registration of births and deaths; • Waste disposal (<i>including household waste recycling centres</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax collection; • Local planning as your local planning authority; • Development control; • Building control; • Waste collection and street cleansing; • Environmental health (<i>including licensing, environmental protection – air quality, noise, food safety, health and safety and currently Covid safety</i>) • Housing advice; • Homelessness; • Business rates; • Housing benefits; • Leisure Centres; • Wealden car parks; • Supporting economic development, local businesses and tourism; • Community toilet scheme; • Community and capital grants scheme; • Conserving biodiversity assets, conservation areas and designated sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of Uckfield's green parks and open spaces; • Snatts Road Cemetery; • Upgrades and maintenance of Uckfield play areas, sports pitches and skate park; • Maintenance and management of Allotments; • Conservation of our nature reserves and conservation areas; • Floral displays and hanging baskets; • Christmas lights; • Town Centre CCTV; • Community grants; • Some street lighting; • Maintenance of Town Council owned buildings which includes Civic Centre, Foresters Hall, sport pavilions, and lease agreements with tenants of Signal box, Bridge Cottage, Osborn Hall, upstairs of Victoria Pavilion, Ridgewood Village Hall etc. • Hire of rooms at the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Sport Pavilions; • Events held within the Civic Centre and through the summer on Luxford Field; • Luxfords Restaurant; • Events held within the town to educate, mark special occasions, and celebrate Uckfield.