



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

BY CLLRs JACKIE LOVE AND DONNA FRENCH

Despite the year starting under many restrictions, the easing of them has allowed us to come together and celebrate events that we all love.

Highlights of the year

It was wonderful to attend Weald on the Field and Uckfield Revival which both had huge turnouts. Other highlights of the year included celebrating the Volunteer Centre's 30th anniversary, the opening of The Community Fridge, the Model Railway Exhibition, the lighting of the beacon for the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion, the Lions Fete, Girl Guides awards and the Uckfield Festival, culminating in the fireworks and Uckfield Concert Brass at the rugby club.

Stand out moments

Some stand out moments have been; cheering along Audrey (Linden Cottage Care Home) on her sponsored walk and nervously watching Steph 'Brave the Shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you

Thank you to the Council staff who have kept the Civic Centre running and our grounds and green spaces in tip-top condition throughout the year.

As restrictions lifted it was good to get back to face to face council meetings in the civic centre. We were very pleased to see almost 50 members of the public at one plans committee meeting in November. This really shows how much our residents care about the town.



We'd like to pay tribute to the essential workers across all sectors who kept us going through tough times and our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic.

Support local

As Christmas approaches we hope that you carry on supporting local businesses and shop local.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a most wonderful New Year!

With love

Jackie and Donna

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Allotment Conference
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ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE UPDATE

Allotment tenants gathered before the Allotment Working Group (AWG) at the annual conference on 10 November 2021. A presentation outlined the review undertaken by the working group over the summer months. They explained the current costs of the Town Council to run the six allotment sites each year which was in the region of £21k. Without taking water rates into account, the Town Council was currently receiving only £4.3k in rental income. This could not continue with increasing costs year on year in

staff resource, materials, fuel etc. The AWG listened to the feedback received from tenants and understood that the proposals (put forward earlier in the year) would have been a shock to tenants, as no substantial changes had been made since 2012. They also understood they could have engaged with tenants better. The AWG presented a revised proposal, which would help to retain the current pricing structure for tenants, and retain concessions thus giving familiarity. But to help cover just some of the costs UTC incur, an admin fee of £15 would be applied to each plot per annum. This proposal would not come into practice until April 2023 and 12 months notice would be given to tenants on 1 April 2022 for the change in tenancy agreement. No changes would be introduced in the interim period. A letter will be sent out along with a copy of the presentation, and minutes from the meeting to all allotment tenants, with the proposals being presented to Environment and Leisure Committee on 10 January 2022.



Uckfield Town Council Community Grant Programme 2022-2023 Open for applications

Uckfield Town Council, at its discretion and subject to available funding, provides grants and general support to local community groups promoting community life in Uckfield. Local voluntary and community organisations that fulfil the criteria may apply for a grant from the Town Council for a specific funding purpose in the next financial year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023).

For an application form visit

www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/town-councilgrants-2022-2023/

The closing date for applications is Sunday 16 January 2022

UCKFIELD REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

On Sunday 14 November Uckfield held several acts of remembrance to honour those who have fallen in the service of their country. The Uckfield Branch of the Royal British Legion worked closely with Uckfield Town Council and Holy Cross Church to ensure these acts did not put anyone at risk of catching Covid-19

Eugene Segher's Memorial

There was a Simple Act of Remembrance at the Eugene Seghers Memorial in the grounds of the Highlands Inn. The two minute silence was observed at 11.00hrs after the laying of wreaths and other tributes.

The Annual Parade, Service of Remembrance and wreath laying

Guests and participants in the parade met at Luxfords Car Park. Many turned out to watch the parade as it processed to The Church of Holy Cross via the High Street and Church Street.

The Remembrance Service was held at 15.00hrs followed by wreath laying and the playing of the Last Post.

The parade then returned to Luxfords Car Park via Library Way where the Town Mayor Councillor Jackie Love took the salute.



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Armistice Day – Thursday 11 November 2021

In addition to the remembrance acts mentioned above a short service and the firing of maroons at the War Memorial at the Church of the Holy Cross took place on Thursday 11 November at 11.00hrs.



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LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Setting our priorities and budget

Despite the lead up to Christmas, work doesn't slow for Town Councillors who have to review a number of detailed draft documents prepared by council staff, for the next financial year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023). Members will review the first draft of the strategic priorities and budget at Full Council on 6 December. This timetable is set so the Town Council can inform Wealden District Council (by the end of January) the precept required for 2022/23.

Planning ahead in these uncertain times, makes budget setting particularly difficult. We have to consider increases in utility costs, staffing, building/grounds materials and food/drink purchases, whilst also considering the potential changes in the way our customers utilise our buildings and open spaces in 2022/23. The pandemic continues to have an impact on our income streams and currently one third of the Town Council's income is generated through its own means; not through your council tax (precept). The draft priorities and budget will be placed on the Town Council's website until Friday 7 January 2022. We would welcome your thoughts on the draft

documents and will then seek to finalise and adopt the strategic plan, the annual budget and annual plan for the Town Council on 17 January 2022.

Christmas Opening Hours

The Civic Centre will close after the last room hire booking on Thursday 23 December and Luxfords Restaurant will close that same day after the Festive Afternoon Tea. Both will then open on Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 and Friday 31 December before reopening on Tuesday 4 January after the new year. Grounds staff will be working on a rota system to ensure litter collections continue over the Christmas break and any urgent matters are addressed. The Town Council offices will close at 5.00pm on Thursday 23 December and reopen on Tuesday 4 January at 9.00am. The main email account (admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk) will be monitored over the Christmas break should any urgent issues arise. Issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour should be reported to Sussex Police (999 in an emergency, or non-emergency to 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or if you or a family member find yourself homeless over Christmas please contact 0330 123 3517.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library and on the town council website. Meetings will now be

held in person either in the Weald Hall or Council Chamber at the Civic Centre. All meetings start at 7pm.

MON 6 DEC	– FULL COUNCIL (DRAFT BUDGET)
MON 13 DEC	– PLANS
TUES 4 JAN	– PLANS
MON 10 JAN	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 17 JAN	– FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET)
MON 24 JAN	– PLANS
MON 31 JAN	– GENERAL PURPOSES

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- New Year Message
- Your Civic Centre

