



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

February 2022

EDITION 228

thevoice

TOWN COUNCIL IN A TIME OF COVID

BY CLLR JACKIE LOVE

Happy New Year

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, albeit still in these strange times of the pandemic. I hope you are all well and your families were able to come together for Christmas.

Town Council office update

I am writing here to keep you updated regarding the current situation within the Town Council offices. The officers are working so very hard to keep everything going for the Town and its councillors. However; as within many business environments around the country, Covid is having an adverse affect due to infections and the isolation requirements on staff. This is alongside the sheer amount of additional work, constraints and pressure that Covid brings. The office staff are committed to help with your enquiries, but I would ask you all to please be understanding and patient during this difficult period.

Priorities

The officers have an extraordinary workload to contend with to start the year so the Committee Chairs are working closely with the office to help prioritise tasks and projects. On the next pages you will find our priorities for the coming financial year that were approved by the Full Council on January 17. It is my hope that you agree that the plans laid out will be of great benefit to the town in the months and years ahead.




Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone in Uckfield and our surrounding communities for the actions you take to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

By continuing in this way, we will help protect health services, businesses and our town. We have always been a community that cares and supports each other and you have carried this on through the pandemic. I am so very grateful to you all.

To those that have had Covid I hope you all recover and can return to your lives as soon as possible, my best wishes go to you all.

Jackie

Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
 [@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

WHAT'S INSIDE

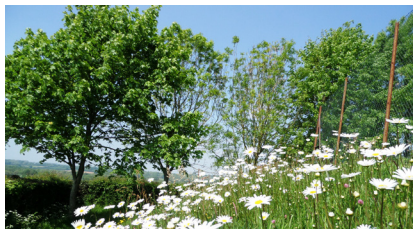
- Priorities for 2022
- Keeping Uckfield Tidy

OUR ANNUAL PRIORITIES 2022-2023



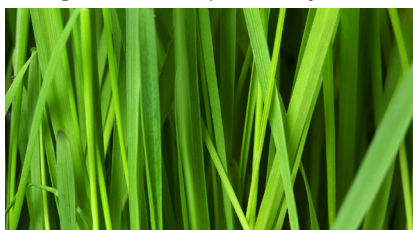
Community Grants

We will award up to £54,500 of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2021/22 (£27,500 to community groups, and £27,000 through service level agreements)



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.



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.



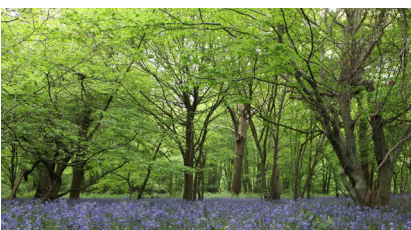
Public Events in the Town

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.



Reducing our Climate Change impact

We will review all 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.



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.

OUR ANNUAL PRIORITIES 2022-2023



Reviewing 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.



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 hire of facilities and purchase order and invoicing.



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.



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.



Infrastructure Planning

We will work with local partner agencies, residents and businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield, for sport, leisure, recreation and community facilities and future impact on providing allotment and cemetery space.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME

**HELP REDUCE DEATH
AND INJURY ON OUR ROADS**

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 exploring the installation of a speed reduction device.

KEEP UCKFIELD TIDY

At the Environment and Leisure committee meeting on January 10, the problem of discarded litter at our recreation grounds was raised. The committee resolved to install a litter bin next to the MUGA at Ridgewood. They also decided to investigate the cost of signage at all of our recreation grounds which would focus on reinforcing what the vast majority of people using

these areas already practise - being respectful. Whether it is disposing of litter appropriately, being mindful of residents living nearby or treating equipment correctly, the Council hope to encourage all citizens who use these facilities to follow the wonderful example set by the vast majority of the community.



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 14 FEB	– PLANS
MON 21 FEB	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
WED 23 FEB	– FINANCE SUB - GRANTS MTG
MON 28 FEB	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 7 MAR	– PLANS
MON 14 MAR	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 28 MAR	– PLANS

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- The three tiers of local government
- Greening Uckfield

