



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

January 2022

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## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

BY CLLR PAUL SPARKS



The General Purposes Committee have a challenging year ahead in supporting the recovery from the impacts of the pandemic together with the demands of Climate Change and substantial rise in energy costs in managing the Town Council's properties.

### Community Grants

An important but difficult function is the awarding of Community Grants to charitable organisations. These requests are generally in excess of available funds. This year there will be £54,500 of funding available of which £27,500 is allocated to community groups and £27,000 for Service Level Agreements with Wealden Citizen's Advice and Uckfield Volunteer Centre.


We would both like to thank our fellow Committee Members together with all the staff of the Town Council for their help, guidance and support over the past 12 months and look forward to working with them during 2022.

BY CLLR SPIKE MAYHEW



The Environment and Leisure committee wish all a happy new year. The last year had been a challenging one in which we worked on the following to enable us to take them forward into next year:-

- A carbon audit to understand the Town Council's carbon emissions
- The adoption of a Climate Change Policy
- Work with the Forestry Commission to develop a Woodland Management Plan for Boothland Wood, Bridge Farm Wood and Nightingale Wood;
- A tree planting programme for winter 2021/22 including in Hempstead Meadows, West Park Recreation Ground, Ridgewood Recreation Ground and open spaces.

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

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Your Civic Centre
- Last Month in your Council

## YOUR CIVIC CENTRE

The Civic Centre in Uckfield is situated conveniently in the heart of the town next to Luxford car park. It offers a wide range of facilities for residents and visitors alike and is home to Uckfield Town Council.



The Civic Centre was built in 1991 and opened by Cllr Mrs E.J. Daly who was mayor at the time. It provided offices for the Town Council, rooms for hire and a restaurant.

### Room hire

The Civic Centre has seven rooms available to hire. The rooms are used for a wide variety of functions including meetings, interviews, exams, training, demonstrations, club gatherings, talks, private parties, presentations, dinners,



exhibitions, conferences and shows. The rooms range from the intimate Mayor's Parlour for up to 12 people to the Weald Hall where up to 275 people

can be accommodated.

Full details of all the rooms and prices are available on the Civic Centre website [www.civiccetreuckfield.com/room-hire/](http://www.civiccetreuckfield.com/room-hire/)

### Community Toilet Scheme

The Civic Centre also takes part in Wealden District Council's Community Toilet Scheme to offer clean, safe and accessible toilets to the public during the opening hours and without the need to make a purchase.

### Supporting the Refill Campaign

In the foyer of the Civic Centre there is also a free-to-use filtered water refill station which was installed to allow members of the public to fill their water bottles and reduce single use plastic.



# YOUR CIVIC CENTRE

## Luxfords Restaurant

Situated just inside the Civic Centre (with outside seating when the weather allows) Luxfords Restaurant is a friendly, licenced restaurant serving freshly made food in relaxed and spacious surroundings. It recently maintained its five star rating from Wealden Environmental Health.

The restaurant is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 3.00pm for breakfasts, coffee, homemade cakes, hot and cold lunches including light bites, jacket potatoes, sandwiches and toasted panini. There are specials available each day and takeaway options for office workers.

It has wheelchair and pram/buggy access and free Wi-Fi access.

## Restaurant special events

Luxfords Restaurant provides a range of special events over the year including themed dinners and sparkling afternoon teas. The licensed bar provides drinks for many of the shows and entertainment put on in the Weald Hall.

## Conference and event catering

The restaurant provides a catering service for room hirers, event organisers



using the Weald Hall and for anyone who needs a bespoke provision. This can range from canapés and drinks parties, birthday parties, hot and cold buffets to celebrations of life events.

## Coming this year

Plans for this year include special afternoon teas for Mother's Day on Saturday 26 March and a special Derby Race tea for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 4 June.



# LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

## Highway verges

On 6 December, Town Councillors agreed to contribute to East Sussex County Council's urban grass verge cutting programme for another year. Back in 2018, due to financial constraints the County Council had to reduce their five to six urban verge cuts per year, to two. We were advised at the time that rural grass verge cutting schedules would remain the same with two 1 metre swathes plus visibility splay cuts per season.

To maintain existing service levels and help visibility at the roadside, the Town Council has agreed to contribute a sum of £4,356 in 2022/23 to ensure the five to six cuts can continue and keep verges and roadsides safe and tidy.

## Town Councillor allowances

Town Councillors are not employed by the Town Council but receive an allowance each year which can be utilised for purchasing IT equipment for example, or covering costs incurred from council duties. They are also entitled to claim mileage or travel expenses for meetings out of town or further afield, but very rarely do they

claim for these. Members felt that right now was not the time to increase allowances. Many businesses and households were struggling as a result of the pandemic and as a result, a resolution was carried to freeze member allowances at a previously agreed rate from 2019/20.

## Council tax breakdown

The Town Council is required to let Wealden District Council know what level of precept (council tax) it requires by the end of January, for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023. The Town Council generates one third of its income by its own means, with two thirds made up by a proportion of local residents' council tax (see below): Did you know your total annual council tax bill is shared between the following organisations:

- East Sussex County Council (71%)
- Wealden District Council (10%)
- Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (9%)
- East Sussex Fire Authority (5%)
- Your local town or parish council (average 5%)

# 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

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

or Council Chamber at the Civic Centre. All meetings start at 7pm.

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

## COMING NEXT MONTH

- Our priorities 2022-2023
- Planning

