



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

May 2021

EDITION 219

thevoice

## LOOKING BACK ON LAST YEAR

### BY FULL COUNCIL

The past 12 months have been a challenging time for everyone including the Town Council. As we come to the end of lockdown measures with the vaccine being offered to all by July 31, we look at a snapshot of the last municipal year.

### Consultations

We have responded to consultations on:

- East Sussex Fire & Rescue's proposals (Planning for a Safer Future);
- Department for Transport's consultation on 'pavement parking';
- Planning White Paper – proposals for reform of planning system;
- Wealden DC's Planning Validation Guide;
- Wealden DC's Local Plan Direction of Travel document;
- East Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan;
- Wealden DC's Draft Budget and MTFS for 2021/22.

### Uckfield Dementia Forum

Our work with the Uckfield Dementia Forum continued and we have signed up to the Wealden Dementia Action Alliance Dementia Charter. Prior to Christmas, we produced 30 festive dementia-friendly activity packs for those living with dementia and their carers. In addition the Forum was pivotal in the launch of the sunflower lanyard scheme.

### Royal British Legion

Once again we were pleased to provide support to the Royal British Legion and Holy Cross Church with preparations for Remembrance Service.



### Working with the police

Importantly, we worked closely with Sussex Police to address any reports of crime and anti-social behaviour and encouraged residents to report incidences and provided liaison between key partner agencies.

### Shop Safely, Shop Local, Shop Uckfield

We worked with the Wealden District Council, Uckfield Chamber of Commerce, Uckfield FM and local businesses to launch this campaign to promote the excellent facilities and services available in Uckfield.

### Looking forward

Although the start of this year has been a poor one let's hope the second half turns out being a fantastic one with all our usual events returning bigger and better.

Contact us through:  
[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)  
f @uckfieldtowncouncil

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Looking back at last year
- Last month in your council

# LOOKING BACK ON LAST YEAR

BY GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

This year has been like no other, all our meetings have taken place remotely by Zoom. The General Purposes (GP) committee have, in their deliberations, covered a large and wide variety of subjects ranging from property maintenance and improvements, to finance and administrative procedures.

## The Covid 19 effect

Throughout the year the committee have been especially mindful of the town council's finances. The effect of Covid 19 has been to reduce very substantially the council's income throughout the lockdown periods and they have considered and implemented ongoing and further methods of reducing expenditure.

Detailed consideration was given to how the 2021/2022 budgets were set together with the awarding of in excess of £49k of grant funding to local groups and organisations within this financial year. The allocation of grant funding for 2021/2022 has also been approved.



A new air source heat pump system has been installed at Foresters Hall updating the obsolete heating and improving its carbon footprint.

## Council buildings

The council's buildings and properties are a very important asset for the town. During the year extensive works have been carried out. These have included replacing the obsolete heating system and renewing decayed flooring at the Foresters Hall; redecorating and replacing lighting with LED and ceiling repairs in the Civic Centre; reroofing at Snatts Road Cemetery and overall general maintenance elsewhere.

## Supporting community groups

The committee have supported and been working with groups to improve the community. We are pleased to report that, among others, we have:

- achieved the successful relocation of Wealden Citizens Advice to their new purpose-built facility within the library;
- worked with the Ridgewood Hall committee to bring forward their improvements.

## A thank you

The General Purposes Committee are very grateful to the staff and officers of the Town Council for all their help during these difficult times.



The Snatts Road Cemetery building was re-roofed using the existing tiles.

## LOOKING BACK ON LAST YEAR

BY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

This year has brought many challenges and the cancellation or rescheduling of many events. With all of the restrictions in place we have still been able to provide over 30 services during the last year. Below are some of the highlights worth mentioning.

### Tree for a tree

In line with the Town Council's 'tree for a tree scheme' and actions around climate change, 277 new trees have been planted this winter. You can see these in Hempstead Meadows and West Park local nature reserves and Hempstead Recreation Ground.

### Luxford play area

Following a public consultation and primary school engagement, a brand new play area was installed for Luxford Field which included accessible play equipment and new fencing and pathways. This was opened in September 2020 and has been a very well-used facility by children of all ages and abilities in the centre of the town.

### Allotment competition

Staverton's Nursery once again sponsored and judged another fantastic allotment competition which celebrated the excellent work of local people to cultivate good crops and flowers on their allotment sites.



### Community speedwatch

A campaign was undertaken to recruit more volunteers to the Community Speedwatch Scheme already in existence in Ridgewood, and investigation into speed indicator devices at the roadside.

## LOOKING BACK ON LAST YEAR

BY PLANS COMMITTEE

Uckfield Plans Committee is a 'statutory consultee' and governed by the Local Government Act 1972.

The Committee is made up of seven elected members and is responsible for making representations to the appropriate authorities in response to planning applications in the town, specifically to: -

- consider and respond to all planning applications;
- comment on licensing applications as and when necessary.
- comment on street naming where requested.

- recommend the placing of Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate.

UTC Plans Committee try to represent the views of the town's residents; providing our local knowledge and expertise in relation to matters such as highways, environment, flooding, infrastructure and looking at ways to develop and maintain Uckfield as a thriving and modern town.

The last year has been particularly difficult as we consider the details of numerous large scale/major planning applications on the periphery of Uckfield Town.

# LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

## Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

On Monday 24 May 2021 the Town Council will be holding its annual statutory meeting where the council will elect its Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the year ahead, plus appoint members to the council's committees and working groups.

This meeting is a public meeting and will start at 7.00pm. As the legislation will have ended regarding online meetings we hope that the meeting can take place socially distanced in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre as we move into Step 3 of the UK Government's lockdown easing from 17 May.

### Lighting a beacon to mark an important centenary

A date for your diary. Uckfield Town Council is honoured to be invited to mark the centenary of the Royal British Legion by lighting the town's beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground on Saturday 28 August 2021.

The beacon lighting will mark the end of a week-long torch relay across East and West Sussex. The Town Council will work with the Uckfield branch of the Royal British Legion to arrange a small ceremony for this evening. Further info to follow!



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library and on the town council website. If you wish to ask a question

at a meeting, on items on the agenda, it is advisable to submit your question beforehand to allow a full response to

TUES 4 MAY	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 17 MAY	– PLANS
MON 24 MAY	– FULL COUNCIL (ANNUAL STATUTORY) NEW DATE
TUES 1 JUNE	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 7 JUNE	– PLANS
MON 14 JUNE	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 21 JUNE	– FULL COUNCIL
MON 28 JUNE	– PLANS

be given at the meeting. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:  
[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

## COMING NEXT MONTH

- Your Civic Centre
- Farewell from the Mayor

