



# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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**Town Clerk – Holly Goring**

## **YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO A MEETING OF UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**on**

**Monday 5 September 2022 at 7.00pm  
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield**

### **AGENDA**

Under The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public are able to film or record during a committee meeting.

#### **1.0 TO CO-OPT TWO YOUTH MEMBERS TO UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

1.1 To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

#### **2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda. Should any Member consider that they require a dispensation in relation to any prejudicial interest that they may have, they are asked to make a written application to the Clerk well in advance of the meeting.

Notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration. The nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

#### **3.0 STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION**

#### **4.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **5.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **6.0 MINUTES**

6.1 To **RESOLVE** that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 25 July 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

6.2 Action list – For information only

#### **7.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

7.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Plans Committees                  | 1 and 22 August 2022 |
| (b) Environment and Leisure Committee | No meeting held      |
| (c) General Purposes Committee        | No meeting held      |

- 8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
- (i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee
  - (ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
  - (iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Group
- 9.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**
- (i) Civic Centre Working Group
  - (ii) Uckfield – Events Working Group
  - (iii) Uckfield Dementia Forum
- 10.0 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH EAST'S DRAFT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN**
- 11.0 TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO WEALDEN DC'S CORPORATE PLAN 2023-27**
- 12.0 TO CONSIDER IF THE TOWN COUNCIL WISHES TO PUT FORWARD ANY NOMINATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2023**
- 13.0 TO SIGN UP TO THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE**
- 14.0 TO CONSIDER THE RE-ALLOCATION OF FUNDS WITHIN EARMARKED RESERVES FOR WORKS TO ADDRESS ASH DIEBACK**
- 15.0 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE FROM BURWASH COMMON AND WEALD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION REGARDING HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**
- 16.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**
- 17.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT**
- 18.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**
- 19.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 20.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 21.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**
- To consider whether to **RESOLVE** to exclude the press and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted: -
- 21.1 To review the lease for the Chapels, at Snatts Road Cemetery**



**Town Clerk**  
30 August 2022

## Youth Member Interest Form



<b>Name</b>	<b>Lilly Kortenbout-Wright</b>
<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>09/10/2004</b>
<b>Secondary School/ College</b>	<b>Uckfield College</b>
<b>Currently studying</b> (please include qualifications and subjects)	<b>A levels: Politics, Philosophy, English literature</b>

**Please explain why you are interested in becoming a youth member:**

I am interested in becoming a youth member for a number of reasons. I am heavily interested in politics and because of this have a number of strong opinions. Becoming a youth member would not only give me the opportunity to voice my thoughts and opinions as a representative for the area, but would also allow me to acquire and advance a multitude of skills that would help me progress with my aspiring career choice in the future. I have been a member of the debate club for almost a year now with the intention of not only participating next year but also leading it. Being a member of the debate club has allowed me to not only discuss my own views on controversial issues both in modern times and historically, but also listen and reason with others who hold opposing views to me. I also participated in my school's Model UN general assembly day as a delegate for Costa Rica where I had to both represent Costa Rica's views on the abolition of war and also debate with delegates of other countries to convince them to agree with the policies I represented. I really enjoy debate but still remain open minded to various issues as my viewpoints range significantly. I am wholeheartedly interested in the progression of the world at the hands of political movements as I myself as a young person know that my future in this country will be dependent on the choices made over the next couple of years. My interest in politics is not a newly acquired interest however it is one which increases every day so my involvement in the council would be something that would interest and benefit me.

## Youth Member Interest Form



<b>Name</b>	<b>Holly Hemming</b>
<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>12/04/2005</b>
<b>Secondary School/ College</b>	<b>Uckfield College</b>
<b>Currently studying</b> (please include qualifications and subjects)	<b>A Levels: Politics (Edexcel), English Literature (AQA), English Language (AQA), EPQ (AQA)</b>

**Please explain why you are interested in becoming a youth member:**

As a writer for our college newspaper I have researched topical issues and wrote an article on our Conservative MP, Nus Ghani, when she visited Uckfield college. Many of her views contrasted my own values as a (applied not yet actually) member of the Labour party, so exploring and celebrating her achievements in my article allowed me to appreciate alternative viewpoints and have a more nuanced understanding of ideologies than I previously held. I am also a member of Uckfield College Female Lead Society and a member of the debate club which both enabled me to discuss issues that I am passionate about and engage in challenging conversations which caused me to question my own stance on several matters. I also participated in a Model UN General Assembly as a delegate for Costa Rica - an opportunity which caused me to research and argue for viewpoints which didn't always align with my own perspectives and deepened my understanding of global issues. I've been involved in political activism since I was in Primary school and deeply interested in bettering the world for everyone, being guided by my strong moral values. I never really considered it to be a career option for me until I studied Politics at A level and realised that I couldn't be passive to pressing contemporary issues both locally and globally, and felt impelled to be involved.

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held  
on Monday 25 July 2022 at 7.00 pm  
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. K. Bedwell	Cllr. J. Love (Town Mayor)
Cllr. J. Beesley	Cllr. C. Macve
Cllr. J. Edwards	Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. D. French (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr. A. Smith
Cllr. H. Firth	Cllr. P. Sparks
	Cllr. D. Ward

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

No members of the public.

Holly Goring      Town Clerk  
Minutes taken by Holly Goring

**1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. They were advised that notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration and that the nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest became apparent.

Councillor P. Sparks declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.0 as a result of his position as Chair of Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association.

Councillor J. Beesley declared a personal interest in agenda item 17.1 as the Uckfield Performance Ensemble hired the Source.

**2.0 STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION**

None received.

**3.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FC.33.07.22** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to enable updates to be provided by a District Council representative.

Councillor H. Firth referred to the recent work of the Licensing Committee.

Councillor P. Sparks referred to the motion debated at the recent Full Council meeting of Wealden DC, which requested action by Southern Water following reports of raw sewage spilling into Wealden District's waterways. This was the first time every WDC member spoke with the same voice with regard to one subject. The motion was supported unanimously by Wealden DC members. This would involve inviting the new incoming CEO of Southern Water, plus senior representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England, to attend a meeting to answer questions on the current levels of sewage discharge. It would also involve asking Southern Water, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage and whether it has information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers or seas.

Councillor P. Sparks referred to the Council Tax Rebate scheme. There were in the region of 30,000 eligible properties in Wealden District that paid by direct debit. All of those households should have received payment by now. Those who made other arrangements for payment (around 13,000) were having special arrangements provided. It was anticipated that all recipients would receive the funding by 31 July 2022.

Councillor P. Sparks also referred to the Ukrainian guests currently being supported within Uckfield. There were a total of 25 guests in Uckfield being supported, there were 27 guests in Buxted, and 31 guests in Forest Row.

Councillor J. Edwards wished to thank Councillor Firth for highlighting the survey at the last meeting for the review of Wealden DC's Housing Allocation Policy. He expressed his disappointment in how much detail he could give in the survey responses.

Councillor C. Macve attended an online presentation from Southern Water and they promised to send through the slides from the presentation which hadn't been received yet. They made out that they had been improving their situation, that they had a lot of new staff in post and they had taken the complaints received in recent months very seriously. One point of interest – they were not a statutory consultee, and sometimes they were not consulted, and if they were, they were not obliged to make a response or for the planning authority to take notice.

**FC.34.07.22** The Councillors were thanked for their input and updates, and subsequently **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

#### **4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillors D. Bennett, B. Cox, G. Johnson and D. Manvell. Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Chris Dowling and District Councillor Claire Dowling.

#### **5.0 MINUTES**

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 27 June 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**FC.35.07.22** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

- 5.2 Action List  
Members subsequently noted the action list.

**6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- 6.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-

(a) Plans Committee of the 11 July 2022

**FC.36.07.22** It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committee of the 11 July 2022.

(b) Environment & Leisure Committee  
No meeting held.

(c) General Purposes Committee of the 18 July 2022

**FC.37.07.22** It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of the 18 July 2022.

**7.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

(i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee  
Nothing to report at present.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
Nothing to report at present.

(iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Panel  
Nothing to report at present.

**8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS**

(i) Civic Centre Working Group  
Nothing to report at present.

(ii) Uckfield – Events Working Group  
Members noted the report.

(iii) Uckfield Dementia Forum  
Members noted the report.

**9.0 TO NOTE THE QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE ON UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PRIORITIES FOR 2022/23**

Members were provided with an update on the annual priorities for 2022/23 and the progress undertaken in the first quarter of the year. Members wished to reinforce their support of this progress, and to thank the fantastic Town Council team including the Clerk. The report was subsequently noted.

**10.0 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DENE, BROWN'S LANE, UCKFIELD AND CONSIDER THE TOWN COUNCIL'S NEXT STEPS**

Members reviewed a report prepared by the Town Clerk which explained that Buxted Parish Council were looking to sell the land in their ownership called the Dene. As the land had been registered as an Asset of Community Value, the Parish Council were therefore required to follow a strict procedure to enable eligible community interest groups to express an interest within a set time period. The Town Clerk explained the details of the site to members, and procedures

should they express an interest at this stage.

In the main, members felt that the Dene as a grassed area adjacent to Brown's Lane on the Manor Park estate, was an important local green space on the garden estate of Manor Park, and captured an important key view looking out of Uckfield towards Buxted Park.

**FC.38.07.22** With unanimous support, members **RESOLVED** to task the Town Clerk with writing to Wealden DC to confirm its intention to bid for the land, within the initial moratorium period and before the deadline of 3 August 2022.

**11.0 TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH EAST'S DRAFT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN**

Councillor C. Macve referred to the contents of the consultation document, which had been provided as part of the agenda papers. As this was a summary document, the details were fairly light and it was suggested that more in depth reading would be required of the full document to review those transport interventions relating to Uckfield and Wealden District.

Members noted the contents of the report, and agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

**12.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Members noted the engagements.

**13.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT**

Two deed of grants had been received:  
Mrs Pamela Doreen Crowhurst  
Joanna Claire Temporal

**FC.39.07.22** It was **RESOLVED** for three councillors to sign the above deeds of grant.

**14.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**

None received.

**15.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk put forward a suggestion that had been raised by a staff member, which involved purchasing a batch of deer whistles at cost price to sell onto for staff, councillors and potentially the wider public for a nominal fee, to alert deer whilst driving on the local road network, and reduce the risk of accidents.

It was understood that other local charities sold them in the local area so there was some concern that it could be seen that the Town Council would be undercutting the good cause of donating to the local charities. For that reason members felt that initially the whistles should offered to staff and councillors and the charities selling the whistles should be promoted within a future edition of Uckfield Matters.

**FC.40.07.22** Members **RESOLVED** to agree for the Town Council office to purchase a small batch of deer whistles for resale to staff and councillors for a nominal fee.



The Town Clerk also advised that Persimmons Homes wished to commence work on the new western footpath which would cross the top of Harlands Playing Fields between their new development and the corner which led to Selby Meadows. The work was anticipated to take three weeks but agreeing a start date proved difficult as officers were on leave, and it would be important to agree the detail of the works before the project commenced.

Members provided feedback to the Town Clerk, suggesting that it would make more sense for the bulk of the work to be carried out before the primary school returned on 2 September. They also wished for a pre-work site visit to be undertaken to agree any closing off, of the existing footpath and understanding of the exact location of the path. Once a date was agreed, the Uckfield Grasshoppers, local primary school and local news/media outlets would be notified.

## **16.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor, Councillor J. Love referred to the updates from outside bodies and working groups, and felt it would be helpful to know when the next meetings were due to take place. Fewer updates were being provided by councillors and it would be helpful to see if meetings were booked in.

## **17.1 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

### **FC.41.07.22**

It was **RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

### **17.1 To consider an update from the Hub Working Group and potential works to the Hub (contains commercially sensitive information)**

### **FC.42.07.22**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the contents of the report;
- (ii) confirm the recommendation of the Hub Working Group to appoint (identified company) to project manage the demolition of the Hub building only, and;
- (iii) request staff to approach local commercial estate agents and relevant expertise to gain up to date and further information which would inform future considerations for the site.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

## ACTION LIST – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

### FULL COUNCIL

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<b><u>FC.105.02.17</u></b>	14.0 To sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows and West Park Local Nature Reserves.	20.02.17	HG	The Council will be advertising its intention to apply for confirmation once covid restrictions have eased. The byelaws must then be held for at least one month at the offices for inspection by the public, before any representations are reported back as part of the package of information, to DEFRA.
<b><u>FC.95.01.20</u></b>	18.0 To sign and seal the Town Council's byelaws for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve Members RESOLVED to: (i) authorise the affixing of the common seal to the byelaws for both Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve and signing by two named councilors, and; (ii) authorise the Town Clerk for Uckfield Town Council to carry out the necessary procedures and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation.	20.01.20		
<b><u>FC115.04.19</u></b>	9.0 To consider a motion submitted by Councillor Donna French It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to support the motion put forward, and; “reinvestigate the possibility of part funding a traffic warden; entering into a discussion with Hailsham, Crowborough and Polegate, with a view to joint funding a shared traffic warden, employed via Sussex Police.”	08.04.19	HG	This matter has been raised with the Wealden Inspector of Sussex Police. It is understood that Sussex Police and Wealden DC were due to hold discussions once again. UTC will await the outcome of these.

<b><u>Resolution No.</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b>Date Raised</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Date Complete</b>
<b><u>FC32.06.19</u></b> <b><u>FC46.08.19</u></b>	<u>13.0 To consider a motion from Councillor Spike Mayhew</u> Members unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to (i) ask the Town Clerk to look into civil orders such as Public Space Protection Orders, and; (ii) for the Town Council to reconsider the role of a Community Warden <u>13.0 To report back to Full Council on Public Space Protection Orders</u> Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to ask the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with Sussex Police and Wealden District Council.	24.06.19/ 05.08.19	HG	Members considered research into Public Space Protection Orders at the meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. It was agreed to defer this item until the new PCSO's had started.
<b><u>FC.30.09.20</u></b>	<u>12.0 To review a report by Councillor A. Smith on the need for affordable homes in Uckfield</u> After a detailed discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to request that the Town Clerk write to the Housing Minister Rt Hon Robert Jenrick with a copy of this report and advise Wealden DC's planning department of these discussions along with neighbouring parish councils.	14.09.20	HG	A letter is being drafted and will be circulated to members for approval before sending.
<b><u>FC.47.09.21</u></b>	<u>11.0 To consider the proposed way forward and preparation of the dedication agreements for the new footway links to the "land off mallard drive" development</u> Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to: (i) note the proposed legal process being taken with regards to the footway link across Uckfield TC land at Harlands Playing Fields, and; (ii) confirmed that the footway link between Framfield Road and Hospital approach should also be placed up for adoption by ESCC at the same time; (iii) request that Persimmon Homes cover the costs of any legal fees incurred	13.09.21	HG	Work is in progress for the dedication agreements to be prepared. In the meantime, the footway link is currently being constructed across Harlands Playing Fields.
<b><u>FC.55.10.21</u></b>	Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the motion put forward by Councillor D. French and for staff to make contact with the County Council: <i>"Uckfield Town Council supports the increase in the provision of Changing Place Toilets across the country, and will approach East Sussex County Council to understand if they: (i) have submitted an expression of interest to central government to draw down funding to the county of East Sussex, and: (ii) if ESCC have expressed an interest, that Uckfield Town Council lobby for such facilities to be introduced in Uckfield."</i>	25.10.21	HG	In progress.

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date Raised</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Date Complete</u>
<b><u>FC.94.02.22</u></b>	<p><u>11.0 To consider a further motion by Councillor B. Cox, relating to food poverty</u>  Members unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the motion put forward by Councillor B. Cox to:</p> <p><i><b>What the council still needs to do</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the results of the schools' questionnaire and review the recommendations;</li> <li>• Be open to any new ways to offer 'out of term' food for young people and where needed, push the higher tiers of local government to back schemes;</li> <li>• Review and offer a final report on food poverty in March 2023 before the end of the term of this Town Council;</li> </ul> <p><i><b>Summary.</b></i>  Food poverty in Uckfield is an issue that is growing still. However, Uckfield Town Council have done a number of things to help ease the issue. The next year will see some very challenging times and it is important that the Council keep up the work in highlighting and where possible, easing food poverty. A review is needed in 2023 and a final report offered to the Town Council. The attached report within appendix A contains statistics for Uckfield in terms of earnings and age by ward should be offered to our local authorities (District and County) to highlight some local needs.</p>	28.02.22	All	In progress.
<b><u>FC.102.04.22</u></b>	<p><u>10.0 Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</u>  (i) work with Gladman Developments and arrange a meeting onsite to understand the full details of their proposal;  (ii) obtain independent advice with regards to drainage engineering within Uckfield and the cumulative impact of the water run-off from proposed development sites into Framfield and Ridgewood Stream, and; (iii) obtain more detail on the proposals for the discharge of water from the northern attenuation pond onto Eastbourne Road.</p> <p>Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to support officers to continue liaising with Gladman Developments to prepare the draft heads of terms for the discharge of water from Land off Eastbourne Road.</p>	11.04.22	MF/ HG	The Town Council's Solicitors are reviewing a draft grant of easement agreement, and should be in touch shortly.
<b><u>FC.17.05.22</u></b>		23.04.22		
<b><u>FC19.05.22</u></b>	<p><u>20.0 To review the response from Wealden District Council to Uckfield Town Council's letter regarding infrastructure</u>  Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to proceed with inviting the Director of Planning, Policy and Environmental Services to attend a meeting with Uckfield Town Council to discuss infrastructure requirements.</p>	23.05.22	HG	<p>A meeting has been arranged early October 2022.</p> <p><b>NFA.</b></p>

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date Raised</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Date Complete</u>
<b><u>FC.31.06.22</u></b>	<p><u>18.0 Town Clerks Announcements</u> Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to instruct the Town Clerk to maintain discussions with Buxted Parish Council with a view to registering our interest in this piece of land, should the opportunity arise</p>			Superseded by below resolution.
<b><u>FC.38.07.22</u></b>	<p><u>10.0 To receive an update on the Dene, Brown's Lane, Uckfield, and consider the Town Council's next steps.</u> With unanimous support, members <b>RESOLVED</b> to task the Town Clerk with writing to Wealden DC to confirm its intention to bid for the land, of the Dene, within the initial moratorium period and before the deadline of 3 August 2022.</p>	<p>27.06.22</p> <p>25.07.22</p>	<p>HG/ MF</p> <p>HG</p>	<p>Interest registered and confirmed. Full moratorium period underway until December 2022. Solicitors contacted with copy of the deeds for review of the legal responsibilities and liabilities and meeting arranged with Buxted PC staff in September 2022.</p> <p><b>NFA.</b></p>

## **Meeting of the Full Council**

**Monday 5 September 2022**

### **Agenda Item 9.0 (ii)**

#### **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS: UCKFIELD - EVENTS WORKING GROUP**

Uckfield Town Council wish to thank everyone involved in making the Weald on the Field event such a success on Saturday 13 August 2022!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who set up, maintained the site, kept it safe, clean and tidy throughout the day and packed up at the end. It was a fantastic team effort.

Thank you to the wonderful local events company Food Rocks for supporting the event, managing the pitch bookings and branding.

Thank you to Dukes Lettings for their fabulous promotion on the key routes into Uckfield.

Thank you to Lawson Commercial, Chamber of Commerce and EMC for supporting our live music on the stage!

Thank you to our wider sponsors for their fantastic support: AGB Event Services, C J Thorne & Co Ltd, CPJ Field, Cranwell Wealth Solutions, Dawson Hart Solicitors, Happy Me Dance, Lawson Queay Chartered Surveyors, Mini First Aid Sussex, Parker Building Supplies and Uckfield Garage.

Thank you to our suppliers and voluntary services on the day, without your efficiency and facilities we wouldn't be able to go ahead:

Airstream Stages

AGB Event Services

Belmont Centre

Brighter Uckfield

Dragon Event Services

Luxford Centre

Southern Events

Sussex Party Bales

Truloo

To Wealden DC and APCOA and Network Rail who supported us with free parking in Luxfords Car Park and the station car park.

We were joined by an amazing selection of street food, drinks, local vineyards, local produce and crafts. We really appreciate your support and attendance in the high heat especially for keeping us well fed and watered.

And thank you so much to our line up of live music who did an amazing job! The airstream stage gets a little warm at the best of times!! The crowd loved you: Pentacle Drummers, Megan Tweed, The Management Duo, Iron Tyger, Fat Freddie & the Queens and Max White and his band.

You rocked it!

Until next year – save the date – Saturday 12 August 2023, see you then!

## **Meeting of Full Council**

**Monday 5 September 2022**

### **Agenda Item 9.0 (iii)**

#### **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS: UCKFIELD DEMENTIA FORUM**

The survey and meeting in July confirmed that forum members were keen to see the Uckfield Dementia Forum continue, and for the meetings to take place quarterly with a mix of online and in person meetings. Over the next few months the forum is going to focus on putting together a document which helps to signpost those living with dementia and their carers to key support and local activities in the Uckfield area.

The dates of the Dementia Forum for the next 12 months are:

**Thursday 20 October 2022 at 2.00pm.**

In person - Ashdown Room, Civic Centre, Uckfield, TN22 1AE (free parking at TN22 1AL)

**Thursday 19 January 2023 at 2.00pm, Online via Zoom**

**Thursday 20 April 2023 at 2.00pm, Online via Zoom**

**Thursday 20 July 2023 at 2.00pm,**

In person – Ashdown Room, Civic Centre, Uckfield, TN22 1AE (free parking at TN22 1AL)

Before our next meeting we have also been informed of two fantastic walks organised by Rotherfield St Martin. They have registered the walk(s) with the Alzheimer's Society and use associated branding, t-shirts and balloons etc.

#### **Memory Walk organised by Rotherfield St Martin – Saturday 17 September 2022**

There are two beautiful walks, both leaving from the Rotherfield St Martin office at the Memorial Institute in Rotherfield at 11am, where everyone meets to sign in and collect their bottle of water and snack.

Both walks are circular, finishing back in the centre of Rotherfield at The Kings Arms pub garden.

One is a shorter 4 mile walk along lovely country lanes, and the second is mainly cross-country for 8 miles.

Half way around the longer walk an RSM volunteer offers refreshments and a toilet break at her home.

Both walks are accompanied by RSM staff wearing high vis jackets, a contact list of walkers and a first aid kit. In the pub garden they have local craft and charity stalls, and last year the landlady offered a BBQ, with a free burger or hot dog for each walker!

Last year they raised an amazing total of £1,600 for the Alzheimers Society and many new friendships were made along the way.

This year they would love more people and dogs to join them for their walk on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

You can either walk yourself or sponsor their Dementia Champion Iona who will walk on your behalf. If you would like any further details, or to sign up, please give us a call on 01892 853021, pop into the office or email [iona@rotherfieldstmartin.org.uk](mailto:iona@rotherfieldstmartin.org.uk)

## **Meeting of the Full Council**

**Monday 5 September 2022**

### **Agenda Item 10.0**

#### **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH EAST'S DRAFT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 As members were informed at the meeting of Full Council on 25 July 2022, Uckfield Town Council was invited along with residents, businesses and wider stakeholders to comment on the Draft Strategic Investment Plan for Transport for South East.
- 1.2 Transport for South East is a regional body working in partnership with the 16 local authorities in the South East, for transport related matters in this area.
- 1.3 Rather than looking at specific areas in isolation, the purpose of this body is to review the whole of the South East and the connections and linkages between areas. The aim of the body is to determine what transport infrastructure is needed to boost the region's economy.
- 1.4 They are currently consulting on their draft Strategic Investment Plan which makes a compelling case for investors and sets out their ambitions. The deadline for feedback is 12 September 2022.
- 1.5 The weblink to the consultation can be found online at:  
<https://transportforsoutheast.uk.engagementhq.com/transport-for-the-south-east-strategic-investment-plan-consultation>
- 1.6 Members felt that a more in-depth review of the full document was required, in terms of the sections relevant to the South East (and most importantly Uckfield). Councillor C. Macve offered to assist and has prepared a review of the document to assist members in forming a response.

##### **2.0 Review of the full document**

- 2.1 *"The recently published consultative document is asking for comments on the proposals which cover all forms of transportation matters until 2050.*

*The area included within the report spans from Dover in the East to Andover in the West and Maidenhead in the North to Ventnor in the South. Within this area there are 7.6million people, 4.3 million jobs and 368,000 businesses. This plan envisages a capital cost expenditure of £45billion spread over 27 years. It is anticipated this will provide 21,000 new jobs, £4.1 billion GVA per annum, 550,000 new rail journeys per day, 1.5 million new bus, transit and ferry journeys per day, 4 million fewer car journeys per day and deliver 1.4 mega tonnes less of CO2 emissions.*

*The means of transport are considered under various headings:*

*Rail*

*Mass*

*Highway*

*Active*



*In addition to the above, marine/ports around the coast are also included. The implementation time frames for the various 'interventions' are grouped into decades:*

*Short – 2020s*

*Medium – 2030s*

*Long – 2040s*

*It is acknowledged in the report that all of the proposals will be subject to interactions, input, cooperation and agreements from many numerous partners. Of the 293 interventions proposed, there are 12 which directly affect Uckfield and it is therefore only these which are noted below, and listed in the above groups – to date there is no detail on the proposed but they are included in appendix B with a little supporting evidence.*

<b>RAIL</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	To provide enhanced connectivity from Brighton via Lewes and Uckfield to Tunbridge Wells Large reduction in carbon emissions		
J10	Uckfield Branch Line	Hurst Green to Uckfield electrification	MED
K1	Uckfield – Lewes Wealden Line reopening	Traction and capacity enhancements	MED
K2	Uckfield – Lewes Wealden Line reopening	Reconfiguration at Lewes	MED
K3	Spa Valley Line Modern Day Operations reopening	Eridge to Tunbridge Wells West xxxxx to Tunbridge Wells	MED

<b>MASS</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	Improvements in speed, frequency and connectivity Better journey experience Significant mode shift from car		
L5	A22 Corridor	Rural bus service enhancements	SHORT
L8	A26 Corridor Lewes to Tunbridge Wells	Royal Tunbridge Wells Rural bus service enhancements	SHORT
L10	A272 Corridor	Rural bus service enhancements	SHORT

<b>HIGHWAY</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Uckfield Bypass to reduce amount of traffic diverting through the town. Unlocking public spaces Safer highways Reliable and resilient network Improve air quality Reallocate road space to active and mass travel		
N17	A26	Lewes to Uckfield enhancements	MED
N18	A22	Uckfield Bypass dualling	SHORT
N19	A22	Smart road trial proposition study	SHORT

<b>ACTIVE</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	Significant mode shift from car Improve air quality and quality of life Unlock regeneration opportunities		
M13	London to Paris	New L'Avenue Verte	MED
W9	East Sussex Local	Local cycleways	SHORT

The document overall endeavours to look at all transport systems over a longer term and larger area to plan for the future.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Members are asked to:**

- (i) note the report and thank Councillor C. Macve for his time in reviewing the full document;
- (ii) provide a response to Transport for South East on:
  - (i) the local interventions listed;
  - (ii) their overall aims

Contact Officer:      Holly Goring

## **Meeting of the Full Council**

**Monday 5 September 2022**

### **Agenda item 11.0**

#### **TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO WEALDEN DC'S CORPORATE PLAN 2023-27**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 On 1 August 2022, Wealden District Council opened up consultation with the public and key stakeholders to assist with the refresh of their Corporate Plan. The revised plan will run between 2023 and 2027 and the feedback received from this consultation period will be used to inform the development of their draft plan.
- 1.2 The deadline for providing a response falls on 30 September 2022.
- 1.3 Appendix A of this report details the questions from their consultation survey. A copy of the previous corporate plan has also been attached for your reference (2019-2023).
- 1.4 A You Tube video has been created to explain the consultation process at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQec0678vi8>

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the content of the survey questions in appendix A and advise the Town Clerk of how they wish to respond.

Appendices:           Appendix A:   Consultation questions  
                              Appendix B:   Current Corporate Plan 2019-23

Contact Officer:       Holly Goring

## Wealden District Council Corporate Plan 2023 to 2027 Public Consultation

## Sustainable Economic Growth

We want Wealden businesses, communities and residents to thrive and prosper in the District. We are committed to planning and promoting opportunities for sustainable growth through the following list of priorities.

**How important to you or your organisation do you think the following priorities are for us to focus on in the Corporate Plan 2023 to 2027?**

Drag and drop each priority into the relevant box

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs to achieve a locally sustainable economy					
Creating new employment opportunities and supporting those that have lost their jobs					
Stimulating Wealden's tourism sector and promoting Wealden as a tourist destination					
Supporting local businesses and our high streets					
Working with partners to regenerate our diverse market towns and attract investment					
Working with partners to better broadband and connectivity across the district					

## Sound Business Management

Wealden will continue to be a well-run Council, well thought of and respected by our residents, peers and partners through the following list of priorities.

**How important to you or your organisation are the following priorities for the Council to focus on in its Corporate Plan 2023-27?**

Drag and drop each priority into the relevant box

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Ensuring fair and legal democratic elections					
Generating ongoing sources of income to reinvest locally					
Optimising funding from external sources					
Ensuring efficient, effective service delivery					
Providing open, transparent and timely performance data to demonstrate our accountability					
Including community value in our approach to return on investment					

# Engaged, Resilient, Active Communities

We want people in Wealden’s communities to have the opportunity to enjoy an excellent quality of life through the following list of priorities.

**How important to you or your organisation are the following priorities for the Council to focus on in its Corporate Plan 2023-27?**

Drag and drop each priority into the relevant box

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Delivering housing for local people					
Helping older people and disabled people that need support					
Improving access to essential services					
Promoting activities that improve health and well-being					
Protecting public health					
Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour					
Supporting children and young people that have been disadvantaged by the pandemic					

## Protect and enhance Wealden's high quality natural environment and heritage

We are steadfast in our duty and desire to protect Wealden's beautiful landscape. We want people in Wealden to be able to access and enjoy the outstanding natural beauty and heritage of our landscape and environment, including conservation areas through the following list of priorities.

**How important to you or your organisation are the following priorities for the Council to focus on in its Corporate Plan 2023-27?**

Drag and drop each priority into the relevant box

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Encouraging more sustainable travel options such as cycling and walking					
Mitigate the effects of new development and increase biodiversity					
Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and heritage of Wealden					
Supporting parks and green spaces and accessible open spaces					
Undertaking activities to tackle climate change					
Ensuring Wealden District Council is carbon zero by 2050					
Secure sustainable growth in our towns and villages					
Conserve and enhance the character of our rural areas					

Is there anything missing from the lists of priorities you would like to see included in our Corporate Plan for 2023 to 2027? Please explain here.





# Corporate Plan 2019-23

Mid-term update 2021

Wealden  
District of  
Opportunity





Spring at the Wealden Crematorium

## Introduction

“In the 2019 corporate plan we highlighted the amount of change in local government we had experienced throughout the period of the previous plan; little did we know what was to come during the period of this plan.

In the latter part of 2019 we saw the emergence of what we now know to be the largest national peacetime emergency in over a century - COVID-19. As a council and a community the past 18 months have seen a great coming together of effort to combat the pandemic and protect all our residents.

Alongside dealing with the effects of COVID we have also adopted a new Climate Change Action Plan following our declaration of a climate emergency. The action plan sets out how we are going to work towards both the council and the wider District being net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050 at the latest.

These two significant issues for Wealden have led us to review our Corporate Plan for 2019 - 23 and update it for the remaining two years. Whilst our vision for the future remains strong and our ambitions to achieve it the same, we think now is the time to reshape our targets, keeping and enhancing the positive changes enforced upon us and building forwards to a carbon neutral future.”



Cllr Bob Standley - Leader

**This review of our corporate plan has our commitment to being a carbon neutral area at its heart.**

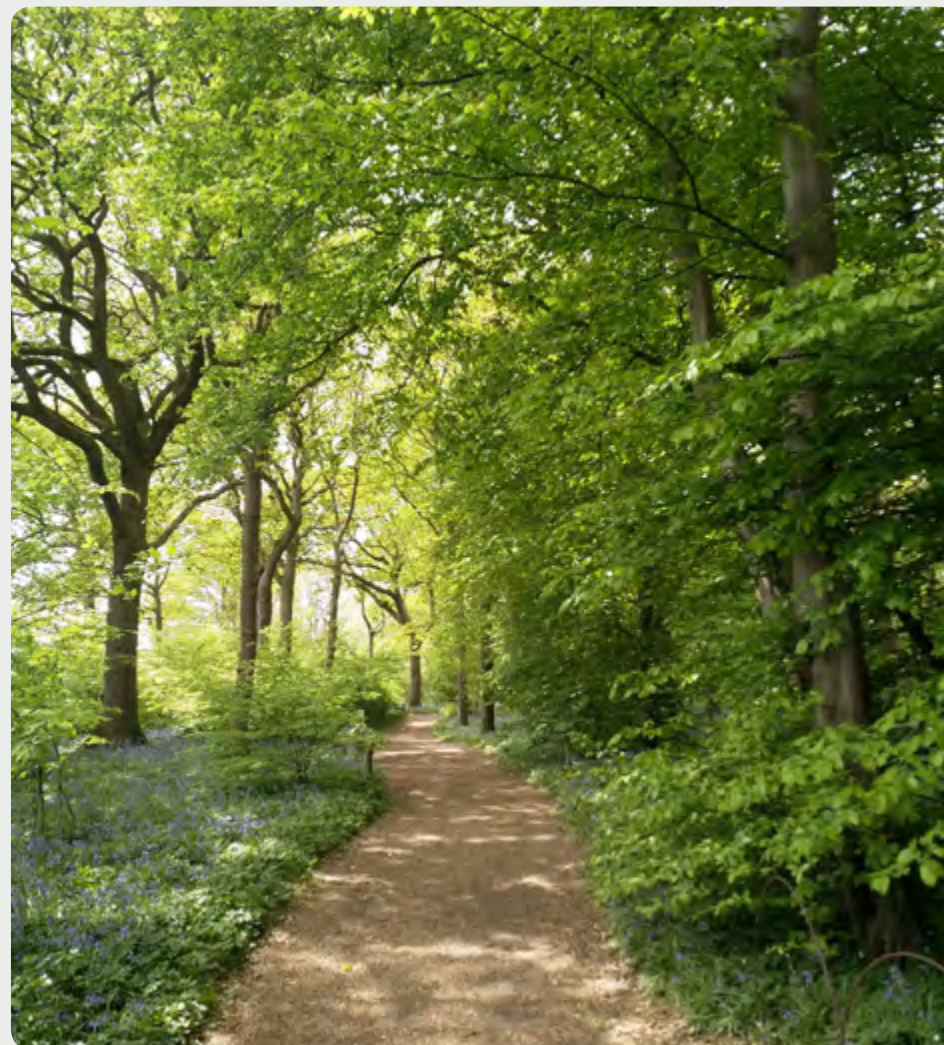
# Climate emergency

In June 2019, in recognition of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C we declared a climate emergency. In response to the climate emergency, we have undertaken to work towards net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050 for both the Council and the Wealden District area.



Following our declaration of a climate emergency we have developed and adopted a climate change action plan. The action plan has identified significant changes that need to happen in relation to policy, behaviour change and technology locally and nationally to achieve our net zero ambition.

We have a leadership role to play in examining our own operations, buildings, fleet and services and identifying best practice measures that we can implement for areas within our control. Alongside this we also have a role to play in working with partners to facilitate wider change across Wealden as well as to exert influence over Government policy.



Bluebell Wood, Arlington





## Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented challenges for everyone. As a local authority we have had to change the way we work in order to protect and support our residents and businesses whilst adapting to changes in Government guidance and regulations as the pandemic progressed. We have also worked closely with our staff to ensure their safety and wellbeing whilst continuing to deliver the essential services that our customers rely on.

In the 12 months up to March 2021 we have:

- › Created a COVID-19 safe work environment for staff to keep services running smoothly, using social distancing and protective equipment and ensuring home-working wherever possible
- › Distributed over £53 million of various business support grants
- › Dealt with over 1,200 enquiries through the Wealden Community Hub
- › Supported residents facing financial hardship due to pandemic including the payment of self-isolation support grants

- › Ensured that no-one was rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping from the start of the pandemic despite an increase in demand and a shortage of emergency accommodation
- › Supported partners in the roll out of testing and vaccination sites

We have tried to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on our services and our drive towards achieving the vision and aims of the Corporate Plan.



This includes the early adoption of a Restart and Recovery Plan. We recognise that, as the country begins to work its way out of the restrictions and back towards the new normal, this is an opportunity to revisit where we are and how we go forward to deliver our vision.

Our focus will be on supporting the economy and protecting jobs as the country recovers.

## Our progress to date

Since the start of the plan in April 2019, whilst COVID-19 has influenced our activities we continued to deliver our corporate plan ambitions, including:

- We have secured over £28m for infrastructure within the District and are working with partners to deliver new school places and major highways improvements; we are also providing over £2.5m to Town and Parish Councils
  - We have delivered over 530 affordable and 1200 market homes across the District
  - Our housing company, Sussex Weald Homes have worked to meet the demand of first-time buyers or those looking to downsize, delivering 34 new homes at Woodpecker View in Crowborough
  - Our community grants programme has provided in excess of £320,000 to support our partners including Citizens Advice Bureaux, 3VA, Care for the Carers, Conservators of Ashdown Forest and People Matter
- We are working with partners to improve health outcomes for our residents. Pre-COVID our leisure centre usage peaked at some 1.1 million annual visits and we are taking an active role in delivering new healthcare facilities in Mayfield, Hailsham and Polegate
- We have declared a climate emergency and set our detailed action plan. As a Council and District we will be net-zero by 2050
- We now have over 110 services available online through MyWealden, our self-service portal, helping us to deal with over 100,000 visits a month to our online services, saving us time to help those that need us most



- Working with our contractor we now recycle 49.5% of the waste we collect, with 50% being turned into electricity and just 0.5% sent to landfill
- Through our proactive intervention work, we have prevented over 865 households from becoming homeless since April 2019
- We have introduced a vital new service to residents with our state of the art crematorium which is producing a commercial return
- We have frozen Council tax for 2021/22, while maintaining valued services to our customer
- We have helped 3,900 residents with housing benefit and 6,888 with Council Tax reduction



Affordable housing, Woodpecker View, Crowborough

# *Our vision for the future*

*Shaping Wealden as a District which offers a fulfilling and worthwhile quality of life for our residents, a thriving and prosperous place for businesses where local people and visitors can enjoy the outstanding beauty and heritage of our landscape and environment.*

## Our approach

We will continue to chart a course for the District founded on lean, efficient principles, based on sound business management with a considered approach to investment and income generation. In a post COVID-19 world we will play our part in achieving strong, self-reliant and vibrant conditions for the wellbeing of our residents, our businesses and our environment.

We are a council centered on community that strives to;

**W**ork Together with colleagues and Partners to deliver the best for our communities.

Be **E**xcellent in serving our customers.

**A**spire to be the best we can.

Provide first class **L**eadership for our staff and our Communities.

Be a modern, forward thinking **D**ynamic Council.

Be **E**fficient and effective in all we do.

Act with **i****N**tegrity and be trustworthy, open, honest and dependable.





# What will we do?

At the mid-point of this plan, we are re-focussing our efforts on our 8 most important aims:

## **Ensure development meets future needs, with associated investment in infrastructure.**

How? We will deliver a local plan for the district that provides a balanced approach to housing, growth, the environment and our residents.

How? We will help our partners deliver the right infrastructure to support our communities not just for now but also into the future.

## **Ensure that Wealden is Carbon Zero by 2050 at the latest.**

How? In everything that we do we will consider our impact on climate change in order to deliver our climate change action plan and move Wealden towards becoming a carbon neutral area as soon as possible.

## **Improve access to essential services for all our communities.**

How? We will put first class customer service at the core of how we operate, leading with digital solutions, but being mindful of the needs of all.

## **Promote a better quality of life for Wealden people through activities that improve health, resilience and well-being.**

How? We will work alongside partners to reduce health inequalities by encouraging and promoting better leisure, sporting and recreational facilities.

## **Generate ongoing sources of income to reinvest in local priorities and optimise funding from external sources.**

How? We will continue to pursue commercial opportunities to keep council tax low while maintaining valued services to customers.

## **Support our local businesses, tourism sector and entrepreneurs to achieve a locally sustainable economy.**

How? We will support our economy to recover and flourish in a post COVID-19 world.

## **Work with partners to regenerate our diverse market towns, creating jobs and attracting investment.**

How? We will lead on our key Hailsham Town Centre regeneration project (Hailsham Aspires) ensuring we capture all the learning and best practice to take into other projects in the future.

## **Protect and enhance Wealden's unique natural environment and heritage.**

How? We will care for our natural and historic environment through our actions and working with our partners.

## How will we measure ourselves?

Progress against the delivery of this Corporate Plan and its objectives will be managed and reported on a regular basis. In-keeping with our commitment to transparency and accountability, quarterly reports will continue to be considered at Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny committees. These reports will include updates against the priority objectives and relevant performance indicators measuring the impact of our activities. These reports and the meetings will be publicly available on our website.



Chaucer Business Park, Polegate



Cuckoo Trail bike hire, Horam





Pevensey Levels. Credit: M Kennedy

## **Meeting of the Full Council**

### **Monday 5 September 2022**

#### **Agenda item 12.0**

#### **TO CONSIDER IF THE TOWN COUNCIL WISHES TO PUT FORWARD ANY NOMINATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The Town Mayor, Councillor Jackie Love, has been approached by the Deputy Lieutenant for East Sussex, about the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. They are accepting nominations until 15 September 2022.
- 1.2 The award seeks to recognise and celebrate local groups or volunteers who have devised or run services to help change the lives in their community. The Honour received is equivalent to an MBE, but there is no typical criteria, and the successful awardees cover a range of activities from theatre groups to food banks, dementia clubs, local radio stations and more.
- 1.3 Uckfield Town Council has previously supported applications and we are now being asked if there is an exceptional group in our neighbourhood who the Town Council may wish to nominate.
- 1.4 The criteria means that the applicant must be completely independent from the person being nominated. The application involves completing an online form, and include letters of support from two other individuals.

##### **1.5 To meet the criteria, the applicant must:**

*The nominator **must**:*

- *be a member of the public with a good knowledge of the group's work (such as a beneficiary or long-term supporter)*
- *be able to supply two separate letters of support from two additional people who know the group well*

*The nominator **must not**:*

- *be a volunteer, employee or trustee of the group, or in any way involved with the running of the organisation*

*We need to ensure that nominators are independent, and members of the group cannot nominate themselves. This is very important, as QAVS is a national Honour.*

##### **Group eligibility criteria**

*QAVS awards are intended for groups that are led by volunteers and provide a benefit for local communities.*

*The group **must**:*

- *be made up of three or more people*
- *be based in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man*
- *have been in operation for at least three years before nomination*

- *have over half its volunteers eligible to reside in the UK*
- *be led by volunteers, not by paid staff; over half its members should be volunteers*
- *provide a specific and direct benefit to the local community*

The group **must not**:

- *have been nominated for a QAVS award in the past 3 years*
- *have already received a QAVS award*
- *operate as a national organisation, as QAVS is aimed at local volunteer groups*
- *have fundraising or grant making as its primary focus*
- *be based within or in support of a public service, unless they have a separate identity from the public service organisation*
- *operate solely for the benefit of animals, unless it can demonstrate that its work provides significant other benefits to the local community (for example, therapy pets)*

Additional Guidance:

Specific and direct local benefit

*Groups must provide direct benefits to a community through their work, for example, directly supporting disabled people. Groups will be considered ineligible where their sole purpose is to support one or more other groups that provide these direct benefits. This is why fundraising and grant-giving organisations are specifically excluded as listed above.*

*Please note, groups that raise funds might be considered if their activities have a significant beneficial impact on the wider community beyond fundraising (for example, by hosting a major event or providing a significant local service).*

National organisations

*A group can be nominated if it is a branch of, or affiliated to, a larger regional or national organisation. However, it will be expected to have initiated and developed a distinctive approach locally and be able to show a high degree of autonomy and self-determination (for example, a local scout group).*

Groups supporting a public service

*Groups based within or in support of a public service (such as a hospital, police force or school) are eligible, but you will need to be able to demonstrate that:*

- *the group has a separate identity from the statutory organisation and is clearly under the leadership of volunteers, rather than simply following instructions from paid staff in the organisation*
- *the group is an established, long-term volunteer group with its own unique identity and a governance structure, rather than being part of a wider scheme or a school-led volunteering initiative*

- 1.6 Examples of previous awardees are provided on their website:  
<https://qavs.dcms.gov.uk/awardees/>

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the opportunity to put forward a nomination for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and advise the Town Clerk accordingly.



## **Meeting of the Full Council**

### **Monday 5 September 2022**

#### **Agenda item 13.0**

### **TO SIGN UP TO THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and county associations across the country have been working together to initiate a programme of work which seeks to address bullying and harassment in the sector of parish and town councils. This project has been named the "Civility and Respect Project" and relates to councillors, council staff and clerks.
- 1.2 Unfortunately this sector experiences a number of problems and although it is always the minority that ruins it for others, it can have a serious detrimental impact on the well-being of those involved, and also develop issues in the running of the council and thus a wider impact on the community.
- 1.3 The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced to initiate a change in the culture of this sector. By signing up to this pledge, local councils can demonstrate their commitment to change behaviour and drive positive change.

#### **2.0 The Pledge**

- 2.1 *"By signing the Pledge, the Town Council would be agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:*
  - *Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff;*
  - *Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors;*
  - *Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy;*
  - *Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise;*
  - *Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens;*
  - *Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local **Local Council Award Scheme**;*
  - *Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate"*
- 2.2 The Town Council has a Code of Conduct Policy in place for Town Councillors, but it is suggested that this be reviewed in line with not just Wealden DC's Code of Conduct, but also the Local Government Association (LGA) Code of Conduct for members. This could be presented and reviewed at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee prior to Full Council in the autumn. This would also be a good opportunity to consider the adoption of a 'Dignity at Work Policy.'
- 2.3 The Town Council already adheres to a number of HR related policies and all staff members have a contract in place. The Town Council also has the relevant policies in place to address poor behaviour in terms of disciplinarys and misconduct. It is recommended that these HR policies continue to be reviewed during the autumn, to ensure they reflect the latest information and advice for staff, and their managers.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Members are asked to:**

- (i) agree for Uckfield Town Council to support and sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge (*and be registered on NALC's mapping tool as a council demonstrating its support for this pledge*);
- (ii) agree for the Town Clerk to review the Code of Conduct Policy in line with local best practice as well as the Local Government Association Code of Conduct for Members;
- (iii) agree for council staff to undertake a review of the Town Council's HR policies through the autumn/winter months in line with ACAS, NALC, Sage HR advice and to consider the introduction of a 'Dignity at Work Policy.'

## **Meeting of the Full Council**

**Monday 5 September 2022**

### **Agenda item 15.0**

#### **TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE FROM BURWASH COMMON AND WEALD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION REGARDING HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The Town Council office, has received communication from Burwash Common and Weald Residents' Association in regards to highway maintenance.
- 1.2 In August 2022, they contacted all parish and town councils in East Sussex about the state of the county's roads and particularly those in the rural areas. The above Residents' Association produced a report in 2020, which identified 47 examples of poor practice. A copy of their report is attached in appendix A.
- 1.3 Burwash Parish Council and the above Residents' Association wrote to East Sussex County Council requesting that they consider their suggested recommendations for improvement, but have yet to receive support from the county council.
- 1.4 Burwash Common and Weald Residents' Association are concerned about the renewal of the existing highways maintenance contract which they believe to be currently undergoing negotiation. They feel this is our opportunity as parish and town councils to join together and influence the review of the maintenance contract.
- 1.5 One of their main concerns relates to the quality of temporary repairs, which are often semi-permanent and require repeat visits; wasting time and resource. They feel that the requirements for footway standards are greater than the roads, and in rural areas where no footpaths are present, the quality of the road should be considered. They also raise their concerns with response times to issues reported through the East Sussex Highways website. They are not requesting that more money be spent, but that the money be spent to best effect. The Residents' Association are asking for the support of other parish and town councils and for those in support to write to the Lead Member at East Sussex County Council and their local county councillors.

##### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the position of the Town Council with regard to the above correspondence, and to advise the Town Clerk accordingly.

**Appendices:** Appendix A: Report produced by Burwash Common & Weald Residents' Association

**Contact officer:** Holly Goring

## **Meeting of the Full Council**

**Monday 5 September 2022**

### **Agenda Item 16.0**

#### **TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The report sets out the engagements of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor between 25 July and 5 September 2022.
- 1.2 Please note that the Mayor, Councillor J. Love and Deputy Mayor, Councillor D. French were re-elected on 23 May 2022.

#### **TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

- 13 August 2022 Opening of Weald on the Field event, Luxford Field, Uckfield
- 3 September 2022 Official opening of Phoenix Health Hub, Uckfield

#### **TO NOTE THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

- 15 August 2022 Summer Civic Reception at Herstmonceux Castle
- 28 August 2022 Charity Fundraiser at Cinque Ports, Uckfield