



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Tuesday 29th August 2023 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chambers, 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. 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.

2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.0. MINUTES

- 4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 10 July 2023
- 4.2. Action list – for information only
- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
- 5.2. To note the Income & Expenditure report for Quarter One (Apr – Jun 2023-24)

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To note the draft minutes from the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meeting held on 14 August 2023
- 6.2. Update on the Allotment Competition 2023
- 6.3. To consider the Cycle to Work Scheme for Town Council staff

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
- 7.2. To note an update on street lighting repairs
- 7.3. To note an update on the Rural Grass Cutting Trial (East Sussex County Council)

8.0. LEISURE

- 8.1 To consider Wealden DC's proposals to extend the Public Space Protection Order for Dog Fouling

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

(Nothing to report)

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1. Active Uckfield
- 10.2. All Weather Pitch Operational Group
- 10.3. Conservators of Ashdown Forest
- 10.4. Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group
- 10.5. Luxford Centre Management Committee
- 10.6. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee (attached)
- 10.7. Uckfield Youth Club Board
- 10.8. Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link
- 10.9. Uckfield and District Twinning Association (AGM and events only)

11.0. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.0. 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: -

- 12.1. To consider a report on the Marketing programme



Town Clerk
22 August 2023



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 10 July 2023 at 7.00pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Mayhew (Chair)
Cllr. K. Bedwell
Cllr. V. Frost
Cllr. D. Ward

Cllr. A. Smith (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. D. French
Cllr. M. McClafferty

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Chris Macve
Councillor Peter Selby

Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

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. No declarations of interest were provided at this stage in the meeting.

2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Standing orders did not need to be suspended to enable Councillor Chris Macve to announce his support of the lighting of the Beacon for D-Day 80th Anniversary in relation to item 8.1 and that this council should definitely be involved with.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Councillor Reed and also Councillor Bennett due to work commitments.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 5 June 2023

EL.11.07.23 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 5 June 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members noted this and approved actions still pending. Members were informed that the upgrade to the existing Diamond Jubilee sign at Victoria Pleasure Park was underway.

In relation to the open space grass cutting schedule and future support towards 'no mow May', the Chairman announced that two members had volunteered to assist with this already and that this matter would be left until there was an outcome.

- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only
Members noted the report – no actions removed.

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
Members noted the report.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 To request items for Strengthening Local Relations meeting on 14 August 2023
A pledge had already been submitted to lobby county council over potholes problem on Wealden roads, although members were still keen to request an update on whether further repairs had been scheduled, in relation to an area outside George Moss, a patch on the opposite side of Elizabeth Gardens and an area along Grange Road (as there were still bollards all around here and members asked for this to be raised sooner than later).

Members were disappointed that East Sussex Highways had announced via social media that Lewes Road was closing during the daytime between 17 July to 4 August for traffic calming improvements, for the build out and signage. This would impact the Ridgewood Post Office and cause huge inconvenience to local residents.

Members agreed this should be carried out overnight prior to the carriageway resurfacing, which was scheduled during the night between 7 to 14 August, and that this did not require a full road closure. Also, members were previously informed that this road would not be closed again.

A request was also made to find out if the road signs within town could be cleaned up at some stage.

EL.12.07.23 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to raise any further items other than those mentioned above for the next Strengthening Local Relations meeting by 31 July 2023.

- 6.2 To review Seasonal pitch hire terms and conditions 2023-24
Members agreed to a request for the season to start at the beginning of August, instead of mid August, but also made a suggestion with regard to any future request for longer term hire for football. In order to monitor and keep the pitches from being overused, clubs would be asked to contact Uckfield Town Council if they wished to use a pitch for extra games or training outside of the booking season.

Members agreed that should the times of hire be exceeded, the Council reserved the right to levy a surcharge for the additional period of use, as this was something that would involve further pitch maintenance and would also need to be monitored.

The Head Groundsman had already mentioned that the grass needed time to grow back during August, so we would need to be open minded if this became an issue and to make football clubs aware that the grass was likely to show signs of erosion.

By agreeing to these terms, we would also be covering ourselves if the pitches were damaged.

Another councillor asked how football training sessions were monitored, if clubs were to use the pitches outside of the terms. One member suggested that the Groundstaff could keep an eye on any of the pitches being used and if they had not contacted the town council about this.

Regarding litter, one member asked to add a section within the agreement at point eleven, to ensure that it was the hirers responsibility to pick up any litter after any use.

Another member wanted to clarify which team were playing on the previous Sunday, to contact them and tell them that their teams' language needed to be addressed as there was swearing and there were children in the vicinity so this was not acceptable. They would be contacted about this and asked to speak to their players.

EL.13.07.23 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to:

- (i) a request by AFC Football Club for the football season to start at the beginning of August (instead of mid-August) with a view to monitoring this within the next two years if this should become an issue with grass erosion, and that;
- (ii) should the times of hire be exceeded, the Council reserved the right to levy a surcharge for the additional period of use, and;
- (iii) to arrange a working group meeting soon and raise this item on the agenda.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates

Members noted the report and commented regarding the recent upset caused by vandalism to town council facilities, once again. There were damages made to equipment in the Civic Centre and to our play areas and even though this was clearly unacceptable, the point being that we all had to pay for those damages in our taxes.

This would be highlighted in next months' edition of The Uckfield Voice to ask everyone to be vigilant and to report this kind of behaviour to the police.

7.2 To note an update on the East Sussex Highways Contract

Members noted the report and although the new contractors sounded promising, that we should keep monitoring and reporting back to them with any reoccurring problems.

Members were also informed that the new contractors had an outsourced contact centre to assist with periods of increase in demand during bad weather.

8.0 LEISURE

8.1 To consider lighting of the Beacon for D-Day 80th Anniversary on 6 June 2024

The information for this event would need to be submitted by no later than 30th May 2024.

EL.14.07.23 Members agreed for a working group to be set up with Councillor Bedwell helping to coordinate any local events, with the assistance of Councillor Ward.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Nothing to report.

10.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1 Active Uckfield

Nothing to report at this time.

10.2 All Weather Pitch Operational Group

Nothing to report at this time.

10.3 Conservators of Ashdown Forest

Nothing to report at this time.

10.4 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report at this time.

- 10.5 Luxford Centre Management Committee
Members noted the report – with thanks to Councillor Macve.
- 10.6 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.7 Uckfield Youth Club Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.8 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.9 Uckfield and District Twinning Association (AGM and events only)
Nothing to report at this time.

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman raised an item regarding a surplus mower that needed to be sold and replaced with appropriate machinery.

EL.15.07.23 Members agreed to the sale of the mower and emphasised that this would need to be advertised as ‘sold as seen’ as well as for officers to decide on the re-purchase of any other equipment, as required.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.16.07.23 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.

- 12.1 To consider a report on the Marketing programme
Members noted the report.

The meeting finished at 19.47pm.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list and is for information only.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.28.09.16</u>	<u>To consider revised byelaws for the Town Council's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)</u> Members reviewed the amendments to the byelaws which still require Natural England and DEFRA's approval. It was RESOLVED to accept the revised byelaws.	05.09.16	HG	The Town Council has sealed and signed the byelaws. A public notice will be published soon to provide the public with an opportunity to view the byelaws, prior to their submission to the Secretary of State.
<u>EL.26.01.19</u>	It was RESOLVED that the Supporter Groups for both reserves be consulted with a view to shorten the byelaws in accordance with DEFRA's comments and report back to the Environment & Leisure committee.	28.01.19		
<u>EL72.05.22</u>	<u>To consider illegal tree works to Town Council trees</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree that a strongly worded letter be sent to the resident requesting that they clear up the mess created at their own expense, and; (ii) donate to plants and new trees elsewhere, but if not carried out; (iii) pursue legal action as recommended by Wealden DC.	16.05.22	RN	Further to recent correspondence, the Town Clerk and Estates & Facilities Manager have offered to meet the resident onsite once a survey is undertaken at the rear of Hart Close by an independent arborist to fully understand the resident's concerns and what action could be taken.
<u>EL73.05.22</u>	<u>To consider a number of improvements to direct tourism to Uckfield</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) introduce the following ideas for improvements to direct tourism to Uckfield at the next infrastructure working group meeting: better parking facilities for motorhomes in town and improved signage, and to; (ii) consider if there was anything additional that should be explored to be discussed at that next meeting, and; (iii) for the E&F Manager to explore those initiatives put forward already with the various responsible agencies, including any leverage through ES Highways for proper signage from developers.	16.05.22	RN/ HG	In progress.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL08.06.22</u>	<u>To consider proposal for a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Sign at Victoria Pleasure Ground</u> With eight members voting in favour, and one abstaining, members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) task the Clerk with obtaining costings for a matching sign on the opposite side of the beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and; (ii) rejuvenating the current Diamond Jubilee sign, and; (iii) the possibility of having smaller signs attached for other tributes and beacon lighting events.	27.06.22	RN	A new sheet has been cut & vinaled with the UTC logo. The idea of adding further shields to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and the King's Coronation will be explored during 2023/24.
<u>EL.16.09.22</u>	<u>7.4 To consider street lighting repairs</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree with proposals to carry out repairs on the street lights within the report, and; (ii) for the Town Council to get back in touch with East Sussex Highways to arrange for further details to be presented to Full Council for consideration on street lighting designs.	28.09.22	JH	East Sussex Highways changed their contract from Costain to Balfour Beatty. An update report has been provided for this meeting.
<u>EL.09.06.23</u>	<u>7.3 To nominate two members to work with the Estates team, to review the open space grass cutting schedule and future support towards 'no mow May'</u>	05.06.23	RN	Members resolved to appoint Councillors Bennett and Reed to work alongside the Estates team to review the open space grass cutting schedule and plan for the 'no mow May' initiative in 2024.
<u>EL.13.07.23</u>	<u>6.2 To review Seasonal pitch hire terms and conditions 2023-24</u> Members RESOLVED to agree to: (i)a request by AFC Football Club for the football season to start at the beginning of August (instead of mid-August) with a view to monitoring this within the next two years if this should become an issue with grass erosion; (ii)should the times of hire be exceeded, the Council reserved the right to levy a surcharge for the additional period of use, and; (iii)to arrange a working group meeting soon and raise this item on the agenda	10.07.23	RN	Football pitches are being booked and monitored by the Grounds team).

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2023-24**

Projects in 2021/22 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Green Projects plus £5,000 in earmarked reserves		Project Number	58
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£18,000 minus £1,800 =£16,200	18.01.21	Carbon footprint audit carried out £1,800.	

Projects in 2022/23 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Speed reduction initiative (already have £3,199.64 in earmarked reserves)		Project Number	69
<u>FC.82.01.22</u>	Plus £2,000 placed into budget in 2022/23	17.01.22	Will be utilised when further research has been undertaken into the various roadside initiatives available.	

Projects in 2023/24 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Tree for a tree planting programme		Project Number	74
<u>FC.86.01.23</u>	£2,000	23.01.23	These works usually take place during the winter season. New Ranger to follow up.	

Project Name	New gazebo and trestle table for events		Project Number	75
<u>FC.86.01.23</u>	£300	23.01.23	Recommend that Events Working Group identify suitable items to purchase.	

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2023-24**

Project Name	Victoria Rainwater Tank Clean and Service			Project Number	77
<u>FC.86.01.23</u>	£7,000	23.01.23	A total of £4,289.85 has been spent on undertaking a thorough clean and service of the tank. A follow up visit will take place in the autumn. Deep cleaned in March, follow up in September.		
Project Name	Wildflower areas			Project Number	78
<u>FC.86.01.23</u>	£250	23.01.23	To be progressed. Seed has been purchased for next season.		
Project Name	Vehicle replacement			Project Number	79
<u>FC.86.01.23</u>	£7,500	23.01.23	These funds will be used towards the cost of leasing a new Grounds vehicle in 2023 onwards. Waiting on final costings.		

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Liaison Meeting
Green Room, Civic Centre on Monday 14 August 2023 at 9:00am

PRESENT: Cllr. Chris Dowling East Sussex County Council
Cllr. Claire Dowling East Sussex County Council
Rebecca Iona Contact Centre Mgr (ES Highways)
Judy Deane Stakeholder Liaison Officer – Uckfield North
Ian Johnson Traffic & Safety Mgr (ESCC)
Steph Quinnell Community Steward (ES Highways)
Mark Stapley Drainage Manager (Balfour Beatty)
Liam Riley Stakeholder Assurance Lead

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer, Uckfield Town Council
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

1.0 APOLOGIES

None.

2.0 APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last SLR meeting held on the 17 January 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record.

3.0. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Update on grass crete outside Uckfield College in Downsview Crescent and Southview Drive

An ongoing issue was raised regarding the grass verges that had been replaced with grass crete along Downsview Crescent about half way along to the end of the road past Uckfield College and Manor Park Primary School. On either side, some of the verges had lifted to above pavement level and were a potential trip hazard, especially for children returning to school in September. The Community Steward would attend the site to investigate.

b) Pavement defects – Lashbrooks Road

There were still some pavement defects by the side of the school that were in a poor condition. The previous Highway Steward was aware of this after having undertaken a walked inspection of the area and he had a list of outstanding works in this regard. The Stakeholder Liaison Officer would provide an update once those repairs were underway.

4.0. SINK HOLES AND POT HOLES

The Stakeholder Liaison Officer encouraged all local councillors and residents to log in and report any highway issues or concerns via the East Sussex Highways website direct. There was now an automated system that could pinpoint the exact locations of any issues and provide current updates to the person reporting a problem. Basically, anyone could now report any highway issues direct onto the system whilst out and about, which was a more proactive way of helping people to do this themselves.

Further barriers had been placed around the patch on the opposite side of Elizabeth Gardens, along Grange Road. The Community Steward had carried out an inspection and identified the area to be repaired. They aimed to return within a month to complete the works. This did not appear to be a Southern Water issue so ES Highways passed this on to the drainage team to investigate further to find out if there was a problem with a pipe joining from one gully to another. (*This area of road appeared on Good Morning Britain wk beg 21 August 2023*).

An update was provided in relation to the ongoing sink holes on Church Street and the bus stop outside George Moss Jewellers in the High Street. The Stakeholder Liaison Officer had been informed on Friday that investigative works would begin in Church Street on 16 August, followed by the High Street.

Regarding traffic management, those works would be undertaken using Give and Take signs on Church Street from Wednesday 16 August and for the bus stop on the High Street, this would need two-way lights which may require having to close the pedestrian crossing and putting in a temporary crossing.

5.0 LOOSE MANHOLE COVER ADJACENT TO LUCKY HOUSE TAKEAWAY AT THE NORTH END OF TOWN

The Community Steward had raised this issue with Southern Water and would revisit to ensure that this had been rectified.

6.0 DIRTY ROAD SIGNAGE

There was no maintenance schedule set up for the cleaning of signs unless a safety issue was raised.

The Community Steward had reported a sign near the end of Church Street towards Rocks Road and one along Snatts Road. The sign was covered in vegetation which needed to be cut back and the sign(s) would be cleaned.

7.0 SEVERE SURFACE RUN OFF – BAKER STREET

This was an ongoing concern of a resident who had a property located at the end of Baker Street, off Framfield Road. There had been severe run off which had led to the flooding of their garage due to heavy rainfalls on numerous occasions.

The Traffic and Safety Manager had taken a look but the berm could not be raised although some of the private drains did need cleaning out. The team were considering working on the two gulleys either side to create an echo channel to catch more of the water. Works were scheduled to begin in September.

8.0 RINGLES CROSS – CROSSING PEDESTRIANS CONCERN

One councillor raised an item for the safety of pedestrians crossing busy roads such as the junction at Ringles Cross and Snatts Road and the entrance way near Uckfield College.

The access roads were originally going to be re-modelled as part of a bigger Uckfield review into the access corridors into the town. London Road would form part of this with the possibility of reducing speed limits and the removal of car parking.

Any specific issues however could be raised via the Road Safety Team.

9.0 RIDGEWOOD FARM – ES HIGHWAYS INVOLVEMENT

The resurfacing repairs and gully works were due to begin on 15 August on Lewes Road from New Road up to The Highlands. This follows phased works carried out by contractors of Taylor Wimpey for the build-outs and gateways progressing up towards Little Horsed Roundabout.

A local councillor had raised a query requesting having thirty additional mph roundels between New Road and The Highlands to prevent cars speeding in this vicinity. However, as this road was a 30-mph limit a repeat of roundels would not be permitted.

10.0 LOGGING ISSUES

A local councillor had experienced a problem whilst trying to log on to the new East Sussex Highways website to report a pavement issue. Any emergencies could be reported via the same website or by telephoning the team direct.

11.0 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (No further updates)

12.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A pothole along New Road, Ridgewood was raised in July and this would be further looked into.

Councillor Chris Dowling wished to show appreciation for the works carried out in June to the roads in New Town up to the High Street. Although there were still works to be done, this part of Uckfield had been upgraded to a high standard in the last couple of months.

Resurfacing works were due to be carried out by East Sussex Highways in October half term to include sections along the entire length of Downsview and Southview Drive, along with some footway and drainage works and road markings.

The Bus Station works were due to commence in early 2024. Councillor Claire Dowling was seeking to arrange a Project Board meeting to discuss the consultation process prior to the start of any installation works.

A query was raised regarding urban grass verge cutting around the area of Mallards Drive, Ridgewood and if Woodpecker Way was included. The Stakeholder Liaison Officer would find out more details and provide feedback.

13.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING (tbc)

Meeting ended at 10.00am

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Agenda Item 6.2

UPDATE ON THE ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2023

1.0 Update on Allotment Competition for 2023

- 1.1 The judging took place in the first week of July as they felt this was a better time to judge all of the produce being cultivated (even if they were not fully mature).
- 1.2 Two experienced judges from Staverton's Nursery, Phil Cottingham and Mark Woodhams, carefully selected the winners in each category for Best Kept Allotment (on each site), Ecological Award, Children's Award, Scarecrow Competition and Overall Winner.
- 1.3 We worked with the judges to introduce some changes to the categories this year and retained the entry form for both adults and children's awards. An entry form was completed by those allotment holders who wished to nominate themselves or (for the Adult category) another allotment holder, which was communicated via an e-newsletter and notices and information was also provided in the July edition of Uckfield Matters. We also chased entrants to the competition by sending more e-newsletter reminders.
- 1.4 We continued with the change to the rules again this year where anyone who had won a category in the previous two allotment competitions would be unable to enter that category. This is similar to the RHS approach at their flower shows and we hoped this would allow new or novice allotment holders to feel they may have had a chance of winning.
- 1.5 The judges were impressed again this year by some of the ways in which tenants encouraged wildlife and made use of recycled materials as well as various measures taken to conserve water using a number of water butts on each plot.
- 1.6 ***Winners in each category will be initially notified by post and the winners' certificates and vouchers will be presented at the Allotment Conference due to be held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 7pm.***
- 1.7 For the winner of the Children's Awards category, their certificate and gift voucher will be posted to them as any presentation would normally be during school term time.

2.0 Recap of the prizes

2.1 Best Kept Allotment

We retained the Best Kept Allotment award for each of the four sites entered (no entries were received from West Park allotment site). The judging criteria included the condition of plot, good workmanship, quality of crops, flowers, fruit and vegetables and plants, water conservation, encouragement of insects and wildlife, use of recycled materials and condition of paths and garden buildings.

Four winners would each receive £25 in garden vouchers

£100

2.2 Overall Winner

The overall winner was chosen from the four best kept allotment winners and their name has been added to the plaque held at the Civic Centre.

2.3 Ecological Award

This award was to allow the judges to focus on the principles of Reuse, Reduce and Recycle and included looking at:-

- *How the plot holder reused items such as plastic pots*
- *The efforts made to conserve water (rainwater harvesting if possible) and reduce the use of water by using mulch or growing varieties requiring less water.*
- *Encouraging insects and wildlife to the plot. Natural or organic approaches to pest control.*
- *The entry form allowed the allotment holder to make an ecological statement explaining what he/she had done to try to meet the items above.*

One winner would receive a £25 in garden vouchers

£25

2.4 Children's award

This category was open to children under 16 years old and was held with the intention to allow children to tell us what they liked about the allotment and what they had chosen to grow. There was a children's entry form for them to complete available online and in hard copy.

One winner would receive a £25 in garden voucher

£25

2.5 Scarecrow Competition

For a chance to win a basket of garden goodies, participants could install a creative scarecrow ready for judging!

3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Agenda Item 7.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE COUNCIL'S ESTATES

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the current position with the Council's Estates.

Victoria Pleasure Ground and skatepark

Town Councillors and staff are aware the play area needs upgrading. Money has been set aside in 2023/24. It is therefore hoped that with further funding obtained for 2024/25, and community infrastructure levy/developer contributions, the play area will be able to be upgraded in 2024/25.

Due to vandalism a new skate park sign and two new litter bins have been installed. A stone pillar that was vandalised has also been made safe.

The Town Council's Beacon has been repaired and painted, and the Diamond Jubilee sign has been cleaned and the visual refreshed.

A quote has been obtained for the replacement of the nets on the practice cricket area - £1,975 plus VAT. The ground was re-laid and levelled in February 2023 to which the Cricket Club contributed. Due to budget constraints, an application will be made for grant funding to fund the cost of the new nets.

The Grounds team are attending the Sussex Association pitch renovation workshop at Glynde & Beddingham Cricket Club on 22 August 2023.

Further investigation is required with the drainage issues near to the skate park.

Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

The zip line is showing signs of wood rot. The Grounds team will continue to monitor but the Estates & Facilities Manager is investigating the costings for a steel replacement which would have a longer lifespan.

The tunnel sleeper bridge has been refurbished with plastic sleepers to ensure greater safety, and minimise wood splinters, as well as increasing longevity.

Rocks Park Play Area

A tree limb snapped off in winds has been removed by tree Surgeon.

Snatts Road Cemetery

Fencing along the cloistered wall walkway has been replaced with knee rail fencing due to the fencing becoming insecure.

West Park Recreation ground and WPLNR

A large tree came down which fell partly over the fence of a residential property at Egles Grove, and impacted more substantially over the grounds of Buckswood Grange. The tree has been removed, and repairs to fencing been undertaken to the residential property. Fencing to be replaced between the reserve and Buckswood Grange in due course.

A tree has been pollarded in the recreation ground due to concerns raised following a storm at the end of July 2023.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground
Nothing further to add at present.

Elizabeth Gardens
Nothing new to report.

Luxford field and play area.
Very buried vision panel vandalised resulting in small plastic balls spilling out. This is on order from the play area contractor but has been made safe by the Grounds team.

The top gate of the field fell off its hinges on the same day as Weald on the Field but has been repaired by grounds team.

Woodlands
Works to address ash dieback are booked in to be undertaken in Boothland Wood, wk beginning 18 September 2023 and Nightingale Wood on 6 November 2023.

Equipment & Vehicles
We are starting to explore options for the replacement of one of the Ground vehicles through a lease agreement. Further details will be presented to members once we have the information available.

An official offer has been made for the purchase of the Ransomes mower. Two new drills have been bought for use by the Grounds Team.

Street Furniture & Lighting
The Estates and Facilities Manager met with East Sussex Highways for an update on current issues. Awaiting copy of outstanding jobs.

Other
The annual playground ROSPA inspections are being booked in for October 2023. The Grounds team have completed Red or Amber risks highlighted from last year's report.

A broken seesaw at Oakwood Drive play area has been made safe by the Grounds team and replacement is on order.

Hughes Way Play area - fallen tree removed by grounds team.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: James Hollingdale

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Agenda Item 7.2

TO NOTE AN UPDATE ON STREET LIGHTING REPAIRS

1.0 Summary

1.1 Due to the recent change of contractors from Costain to Balfour Beatty, East Sussex County Council are experiencing a period of transition due to some initial teething problems with new systems and software issues. This will result in some delays to the lighting repairs below which members agreed to authorise at the Environment and Leisure meeting on 28 September 2022:

Column 8 Keld Avenue	£2,740.85
Column 12 Snatts Road	£590.68
Column 8 Church Street	£2,303.00
Column 4 Keld Avenue	£2,740.85
Column 4 Selby Road	£2,206.23
Column 1 Selby Close	£638.30
Columns 2, 3 and 5 Hempstead Road	£6,737.90
Total costs	£17,957.81
20% Contingency	£3,591.56
Overall total for approval	<u>£21,600.00</u> (Rounded up).

1.2 The Estates and Facilities Manager is in communication with the Electrical Supervisor at Balfour Beatty and is awaiting an update on outstanding jobs. As soon as we have that update, we are looking to move forward.

1.3 This also means that the previous quotes (as above) might vary but only slightly and that it was recommended to add a contingency of 20% in case of price increases.

2.0 New jobs waiting for quotes:

2.1 Column 6 Lealands Drive
Column 5 Lealands Drive
Column 3 Lealands Drive
Column 2 Linden Close
Column 1 Keld Drive
Column 21 London Road

3.0 Extension to contract

3.1 The new East Sussex Highways contract with Balfour Beatty is for seven years with a view to extend for a further seven years, so it is important to establish the right procedures at this early stage. The Estates and Facilities Manager has been pushing for an update on this and will provide feedback as soon as possible.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Agenda Item 7.3

TO NOTE AN UPDATE ON THE RURAL GRASS CUTTING TRIAL – WILD LIFE CORRIDORS (EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) proposed to trial an early season reduction in rural verge grass cutting, which Uckfield Town Council supported.
- 1.2 ESCC received an increased level of contact regarding rural verge cutting since May 2020. ESCC also set targets for carbon reduction of which increased biodiversity plays an important part.
- 1.3 A trial reduction in verge cutting had been undertaken over the last two years, 2021 and 2022, in select Parish and Town Councils who have previously expressed an interest, including Uckfield. If needed, information about the trial can be found on their website at the following link:
<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/services/services-vegetation/10>
- 1.4 Overall, ESCC stated that the initial trial had been well received, however, neither of the trial years were typical growing seasons, therefore it was agreed at the 19 December 2022 Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting to **extend the trial** and evaluate the impact of reduced rural cuts over more grass cutting seasons.
- 1.5 To remind members - the standard service is for rural grass verges to receive two cuts per year. The first cut starts in May and the second in Autumn. These are carried out as a 1m wide swathe and visibility splays at junctions and on the inside of bends where sight lines between road users may be obscured by vegetation.

The trial reduces the rural grass cutting service in the selected areas to:

- One visibility cut undertaken around May/June
- One 1 metre Swathe with Visibility cuts in the Autumn

Please note, **the reduction will not take place on single track roads** due to increased safety risks for road users.

- 1.6 As part of the trial, ESCC would be monitoring the verges, alongside the local councils and their wildlife organisations to record what grows. They would like to hear our feedback on the trial.

Provide your feedback here:

<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/xfp/form/196>

2.0 Safety & Visibility

2.1 Throughout the trial safety issues have remained a priority, with any visibility or access issues being picked up and rectified through the usual process. If you see a problem, you can report it as usual through the [East Sussex Highways website](#).

3.0 Feedback received

3.1 The point of a trial is to allow ESCC to understand the impact this change could have if rolled out wider, so your feedback is very important to them and we welcome all comments, whether in favour of the change or not.

3.2 ESCC would like to know things such as:

- What you are seeing in the verges
- What your residents are saying to you
- If you would like this to become a permanent change
- If there is something that could be done better

3.3 The online form is open throughout the trial, so please feel free to share it with local residents. The responses from this form will be reviewed once the trial has finished.

3.4 Feedback will be reviewed along with any operational issues encountered, costs and an overview of the flora and fauna observed in the verges during the trial.

3.5 The findings will be presented to a Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting at the end of the year, with consideration of a policy change going forward for 2024/25.

3.6 Just to note that Urban Grass Cutting will not be affected. You can find out more about this separately at:
<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/services/services-vegetation/8>

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) note the report;
- (ii) submit any feedback on this trial (link provided at item 1.6)

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Agenda Item 8.1

TO CONSIDER WEALDEN DC'S PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER FOR DOG FOULING

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Members may be aware that three years ago, Wealden District Council established a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - making it an offence for anyone in control of a dog to not clear up the animal's faeces on designated land. The existing PSPO was attached for information.
- 1.2 A PSPO is valid for up to three years and Wealden DC were therefore seeking to extend the Order for a further three years upon expiration on 21st November 2023. Wealden DC did not expect to be making any amendments to the order as the current order, along with the work carried out by the District Council's Street Scene Team, has been very effective in targeting the issue.
- 1.3 A comparison of pre and post PSPO dog fouling could be made using the NI195 score which measured dog fouling to the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) standards. In 2015/16 this measured an average of 0.8% of transects inspected receiving a fail score due to dog fouling while in 2022/23 this was down to 0.4%. Whilst 0.8% is within an acceptable level, reducing this further to 0.4% during the period of the PSPO indicated that the order, in combination with enforcement and cleansing activities, has had a significant positive impact particularly with the increase in the number of dog owners during the pandemic.
- 1.4 However, reports of dog fouling were still being received and to not have legislation in place to tackle the issue would be detrimental to the enjoyment of the area for Wealden residents and visitors.
- 1.5 Wealden DC have requested a response to their proposal to extend the PSPO for a further three years before 15th September 2023.

2.0 Proposal

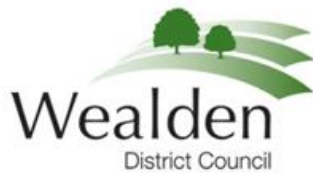
- 2.1 Members are asked to review, support and provide any comments as this was still very much an ongoing issue.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the report and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact officers:

Rachel Newton



WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

Section 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

This Order is made by Wealden District Council, pursuant to its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") and the Council are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the conditions under Section 59(2) of the Act are met.

1. The land identified in schedule One (attached) is hereby designated as the 'restricted area' for the purposes of this Order.
2. This order applies to the following persons: -
Any person in control of a dog
3. The following activities are prohibited in the restricted area: -
To allow a dog to defecate at any time and fail to remove the faeces from the land forthwith unless the person in control of the dog has reasonable excuse for failing to do so.
4. The following requirements must be undertaken in the restricted area:
To pick up dog faeces immediately and deposit in a suitable receptacle

This Order applies at all times

This Order shall take effect on 21 November 2023 and will remain in effect for three years

It is a criminal offence for any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a prohibition or requirement as specified in this Order. This offence is punishable by a fine in the Magistrates' Court.

Pursuant to Section 66 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order can do so upon one of the grounds set out therein.

Signed: Dated:

(ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL)

Schedule One

All public places within Wealden District Council's administrative area, that is any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as a right or by virtue of express or implied permission of the following descriptions:-

- (a) Any highway, footways, footpaths, twittens, promenades, steps and towpaths within the area of Wealden District Council and any adjoining verges or ornamental areas, which are maintained at the public expense.
- (b) All pedestrianised areas within the Wealden District Council area.
- (c) All parks, gardens, recreation and sports grounds, commons, amenity areas and other open spaces owned, occupied or maintained by or on behalf of any of: Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, a registered social landlord/housing association, any town or parish council within the Wealden area, any other public authority or any charity.
- (d) Any cemetery, crematorium, burial ground or churchyard.
- (e) Any public car-park or parking space.
- (f) All beaches.

Exempted Land:

Any woodland, marsh or agricultural land and any Access Land as defined in Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Agenda Item 10.6

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINE PARISHES COMMITTEE

1.0 Summary report

1.1 At the meeting held on 12 July 2023, the new representative from Crowborough Town Council, Councillor Martyn Everitt, was welcomed by the Chairman and members present.

The Chairman confirmed that, as yet, he had had no response to our query regarding the removal of the 22-07 service out of London Bridge. All members expressed concern about this, partly due to the lack of explanation and partly that the last evening service to Hever, Cowden and Ashurst is 21-07 which is considered too early if attending an event in London. The 23-07 is non-stop from Edenbridge to Eridge.

There followed extensive discussion on the consultation regarding closure of the ticket offices. This was considered a very retrograde step and would disadvantage many people, especially those in greatest need. Everyone and councils were to be encouraged to respond.

The reconfiguration of the rolling stock appeared to be satisfactory, as did the current service on non-industrial action days. With the new set-up of the coaches, this allowed one to be in daytime maintenance service without impacting on traffic volume needs.

The next meeting would take place on 13 September in the Buxted Inn at 2:30pm.

Councillor C. Macve

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton