



# Uckfield Town Council's Annual Priorities 2024/25

## COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY GRANTS

We will award up to £52,000 of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2024/25 (£25,000 to community groups, and £27,000 through service level agreements).

### UPGRADING PLAY AREA FACILITIES

We will undertake a full upgrade of Victoria Play Area, and seek to replace pieces of equipment that have reached end of life in Hempstead Recreation Ground and Oakwood Drive play area.

### PUBLIC EVENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN THE TOWN

We will work alongside the local business community and local community groups to deliver two free public events within the town; D-Day Anniversary Beacon lighting and Weald on the Field.

### FESTIVE LIGHTS

Work with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to review the festive lighting for the town centre, in preparation for Christmas 2024.

## CONSERVATION

### PROTECTING NATURAL HABITATS

We will place greater focus on wildlife monitoring in both our ancient woodlands and local nature reserves, and separate areas from the public to preserve the flora and fauna and protect key species.

We will also hold developers to account to ensure they meet planning conditions and have consideration for adjacent land and wildlife/vegetation.

### WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

We will undertake the third year of works within our Woodland Management Plan, to address ash dieback. We will re-plant trees and restock areas of our woodlands where trees have been removed and disease has had an impact.

### GRASS VERGE CUTTING

We will continue to contribute to the costs of East Sussex County Council's grass verge cutting contract to retain a good standard of service, and ensure visibility is maintained on pavements/highways.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

We will host an educational activity with primary schools, consider alternative fuel supplies in our wider building portfolio, explore additional insulation within our buildings, review the equipment we purchase, use local suppliers, and manage our land for nature with a continued focus on conservation and tree planting.

### IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN COUNCIL BUILDINGS

We will continue to improve the standard of our buildings and ensure efficient use of utilities and the health and safety of our service users, staff and leaseholders. This will include LED lighting and compliance works, and new tables and table racks for the Civic Centre. Works will also commence to the Signal Box, to enable this to be returned to use.

### INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield, in regards to sport, leisure, recreation and community facilities and future impact on the Town Council's provision of allotment and cemetery space.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We will prepare a draft Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan ready for submission to the local planning authority.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

### POLICY REVIEW

We will commission an organisational review to ensure we are resilient and prepared for a growing town population.