



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

March 2024

EDITION 253

WALKING IN UCKFIELD

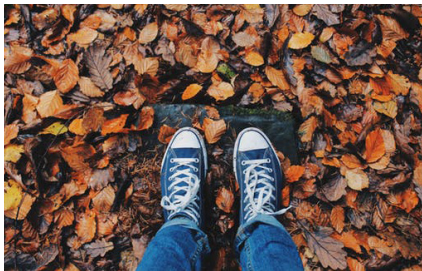
BY CLLR PETER SELBY

Uckfield sits on the edge of the Low and High Weald, and we are very fortunate to be surrounded by some attractive countryside that is perfect for exploring on foot.

Most notable, of course, is the ancient Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area (SPA), where you might catch a glimpse of an adder, deer, badger or fox and will certainly see some incredible views.

There are numerous walks over this area to suit every kind of explorer. The terrain is gently undulating and steep in parts but offers rambles at all levels.

There are plenty of parking spaces - subject to a small fee - and on Saturdays, the newly reintroduced 262 Ashdownlink bus service provides access to the Forest for those without a car or those wishing to leave the car at home.



Adventures await

North of the town, there is Buxted Park, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Easily reached from Uckfield High Street, the Park has lakes, herds of deer, cows, and ancient woodland. Dogs are welcome but must be controlled.



South of the town is Ridgewood Recreation Ground, adjacent to Millennium Green which has a well-defined path around the perimeter and through the ancient woodland. When conditions are right, glow worms can be spotted at dusk. There is a monument recording the clay works and quarry that dominated the site until the 1950s.

A wide choice of walks

From West Park Nature Reserve, there is easy access to the stunning Lake Wood (SSSI) - part of the original gardens of Buckswood Grange. Mesolithic stones and caves making up part of the High Weald Ridge can be seen, as well as seasonal flora and fauna.

For longer rambles, the Healthy Wealden website has links to free walks across the district, including the famous 83-mile Wealdway and 1066 Country Walk.

Happy walking this spring!

Clr Peter Selby

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

WHAT'S INSIDE

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IMPROVEMENTS TO UTC BUILDINGS

Over the last few months of 2023, Uckfield Town Council's staff were hard at work completing a range of significant site improvements.

These tasks included maintenance of the Civic Centre Uckfield and remarkable transformations to the site hosting The Hub and The Source on Civic Approach. With tireless work in testing conditions, the team got things ready just in time for Uckfield Late Night Shopping.

Extensive improvements

James Hollingdale, Estates & Facilities Manager at the Town Council and project lead, explained: "The Hub and Source site consisted of two buildings linked by a PVC corridor, with The Hub being built first and The Source added a few years later.

"The Hub had reached the end of its useable life due to various issues, but we wanted to keep The Source open.

"The decision was taken that due to the site needing to be useable for Late Night Shopping, our caretaker Ron and I, with extra help from builders and our grounds team, would carry out the works to ensure this deadline was met."



Impressively, the team made it in time. The Hub was taken down and plenty of renovations were made to The Source as it was transformed into the stable at the heart of the Nativity scene.



These improvements included the addition of a new entrance ramp, outdoor lighting, and heaters, as well as refurbished doors, repairs to the roof, and the decoration of indoor areas. A host of other important steps were taken to ensure The Source continues to be a flourishing site for its main tenants, Uckfield Baptist Church, as well as the Uckfield Food Bank, for many years to come.

James said: "Although there are still further works to carry out, these are not time-sensitive and the site is now vastly improved in terms of how it looks, the access, the practical sense, and compliance-wise.

"The tenants of the building are very happy with the improvements made."

Getting things squeaky clean

In addition to the renovations taking place opposite, there was much attention to the Civic Centre site over the winter.

James said: "The Weald Hall in the Civic Centre has also undergone a full paint refurbishment and a deep clean.

"Luxfords Restaurant's kitchen, meanwhile, has had new flooring, an upgraded cooker, and new lighting installed, as well as undertaking some key compliance works."



THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This meeting will be held in the Weald Hall
Civic Centre Uckfield

on

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024

at

7.00pm

**All residents of Uckfield are invited along to
to ask questions of the Town Mayor and
the Chairs of the Council Committees**

**If you have any questions, please let the
Town Clerk know in advance**

at

Uckfield Town Council
Civic Centre Uckfield, TN22 1AE

or

Email: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

**Please join me and the other Councillors for tea
and coffee from 6.30pm**

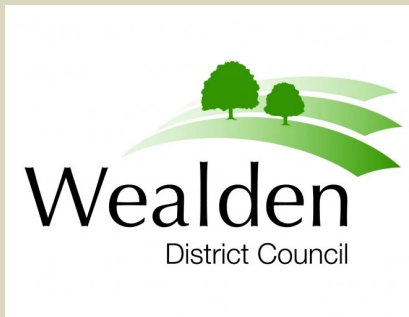
Councillor Jackie Love
Town Mayor

LAST MONTH IN OUR COUNCIL

Consultation on the Draft Local Plan

Wealden District Council are the local planning authority for the district and they are required to prepare and adopt a Local Plan.

This is the development plan, which sets out a long-term vision for the district; guiding where development should go, whether that be residential or commercial. The plan also details some key policies which the planning authority will work to, for planning officers to review when they consider planning applications here.



A new local plan has been drafted and members of the District Council have given the go ahead for the collection of documents to be placed out for public consultation from early March for a period of eight weeks. These documents

will make reference to proposals for the Uckfield area, as well as focusing on key district-wide themes such as housing, the economy, climate change, tourism, landscape, and nature.

You will be able to read and respond to the consultation online at:

<https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse/>

Hard copies of the documentation will be available to read onsite at:

- The Civic Centre Uckfield
- Uckfield Library

There will also be a public consultation event taking place at the Civic Centre Uckfield on Saturday, 13 April 2024 between 10am and 4pm.

Works to the Civic Centre lift

Works are scheduled to upgrade the lift within the Civic Centre, which will require undertaking works to the hydraulics, as well as refurbishing the lift cabin and landing doors. These works are provisionally booked in for the following dates:

- 13 – 15 March inclusive
- 2 – 16 April inclusive

We will review any bookings on these dates which require level access. Town Council staff can come down and meet customers on the ground floor of the Civic Centre should you require assistance or help with customer enquiries.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be viewed on the Town Council website at [https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-](https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/)

[minutes/](https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/). Meetings are held in person either in the Weald Hall or Council Chamber at The Civic Centre and all

MON 11 MAR	- PLANS
MON 18 MAR	- GENERAL PURPOSES
WED 20 MAR	- ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUE 2 APRIL	- PLANS
MON 8 APRIL	- FULL COUNCIL
MON 15 APRIL	- ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

start at 7pm. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Uckfield Volunteer Centre
- East Sussex Highways Consultation Report
- Annual Priorities for 2024/25

