



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, Civic Centre
Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AE
Tel: (01825) 762774
e-mail: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk
Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Monday 15 April 2024 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, 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 4 March 2024
- 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 ending 31 January 2024
- 5.3. To consider and approve fees and charges for Sports facilities in 2024-25

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To consider Wealden District Council's Climate Change - Organisation Survey
- 6.2. To consider the Town Council's 'terms of hire' policies for sports pitches

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
- 7.2. To consider an application for Wealden District Council's Community Orchards Grant Funding
- 7.3. To consider actions to reduce litter in the vicinity of new food outlets and retail businesses in Uckfield

8.0. LEISURE

None.

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 To note an update from the Joint Allotment Working Group

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

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

9 April 2024



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. A. Smith (Vice Chair)
Cllr. D. Bennett
Cllr. V. Frost
Cllr. B. Reed

Cllr. K. Bedwell
Cllr. D. French
Cllr. M. McClafferty
Cllr. D. Ward

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Chris Macve

Holly Goring – Town Clerk
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

None.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was received from the Chair, Cllr Mayhew due to a personal commitment.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 22 January 2024

EL.46.03.24 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 22 January 2024 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members noted the report - no items were removed.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

Members noted the report - no items were removed.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the report.

One query was raised about a skip hire and mattress collection in January. It was believed that the skip was hired by the Grounds team but a mattress was dumped by a fly tipper into the skip prior to collection.

5.2 To note the Income & Expenditure report ending 31 December 2023

One member had asked if the woodland management plan and ash die back works were still underway in Boothland Wood and Nightingale Wood, and if this was something that was due to continue. The Town Clerk explained that the second year of the ash dieback works were undertaken in November 2023, in line with the Town Council's woodland management plan, which had been created with assistance from the Forestry Commission. There was one more year of the three year programme of works which would be carried out in winter 2024/25, and funding had been approved for this in the reallocation of reserves at Full Council on 15 January 2024. The Ranger would be starting to plant new trees in March/April 2024, in line with the re-stocking requirements.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 To note the draft minutes of the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meeting held on 12 February 2024

This meeting was held every six months and provided a platform for any ongoing issues to be addressed with East Sussex Highways.

One item was flagged up in relation to the ongoing flooding issues, at the junction of London Road/ Snatts Road as well as Budletts Roundabout and Bird in Eye Hill. These areas had encountered ongoing ground/surface water issues over the years and it was thought that these issues were not only because of the overflowing gulleys but that the drainage systems needed looking at.

This item needed to be raised before the next SLR meeting on 15th July 2024, although some of these areas were already being looked into by East Sussex County Council under planning applications.

Another member expressed his concerns about the ongoing flooding issue at the bottom of the High Street during wet weather. This had also been raised whilst the carriageway reconstruction works were underway in 2016 and they felt strongly that this was not just about the tree pits and filtration of run off before reaching the River Uck, as the tree pits were not designed to collect water. The drainage system capacity was not adequate enough for the amount of water and this should have been increased at the time.

Another flooding issue was raised at Fernley Park, where it was heard that a SuD system was struggling. The Town Clerk advised that this matter should be reported to the management company for that estate.

The road works that had been completed at Southview Drive were well received.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

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

A member recognised that again, it was a shame to hear about more vandalism around the town, this time about a litter bin at the skate park. This had to be paid for by residents out of their local taxes.

A litter bin liner had to be restored from the Bell Lane allotment site, although it was not certain if this had been used to burn garden waste material. This was discovered after local dog walkers had been emptying their dog bags at the litter bin location, although without the liner this was not sufficient enough to hold rubbish or dog waste. This area had to be cleared and the liner put back.

- 7.2 To note an update for future options for rural grass cutting
Members noted the report and update from East Sussex Highways, although they were disappointed that the 'No Mow May' initiative was not being supported.

8.0 LEISURE

- 8.1 To consider the 'We Grow' Initiative – a Sussex based gardening co-operative
This scheme had been raised at a recent Uckfield Green Partnership meeting and by the Allotment Working Group who asked Officers and Grounds staff to consider if there were any suitable areas available.

There were a couple of possibilities, such as a proposed piece of scrubland on the left-hand side, at the top of Hospital Approach and possibly near The Dene, although this would need to be carefully considered.

There were some concerns such as how the produce would be divided up between volunteers and how those rules would tie in with the allotments Rules and Regulations, if the allotments had not been ruled out.

One member also reminded members to be mindful and considerate about not disturbing local habitats.

Some positive suggestions included:

To maybe consider offering a licence to grow, which would mean that the responsibilities would rest with them and for them to manage and cultivate the land themselves. Members were keen to visit Forest Row and look at how the initiative worked, which is where the project began.

There were already a couple of community gardens in Uckfield, so the community could look into having a community grow scheme like this, rather than a cooperative idea.

Tablehurst Farm cultivated its own organic food production and Wealden 3VA also had involvement with food partnerships, so it would be useful to find out how they operated.

Members could also raise this request at the Local Plans committee and with developers.

Lastly, if not our own land, we could maybe look into leasing agricultural land to develop, although the Town Council should prioritise its funds on its current priorities and service provision in the first instance.

EL47.03.24 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to:

- (i) Request officers to investigate whether there were sites owned by the Town Council which could be utilised as community gardens;
- (ii) Investigate whether a co-operative gardening approach would be feasible within the Town Council's Allotment Rules and Regulations;
- (iii) bring these findings to a future meeting for further consideration by members.

- 8.2 To consider initial quotations received for play area improvements
The Town Clerk presented this report to members by Powerpoint.

Town Council staff had started to seek quotations for the upgrade of Victoria Play Area and to replace the damaged zip-line at Hempstead Play Area.

This presentation focused on the replacement of the damaged zip-line at Hempstead Play Area. One company did suggest it was cheaper to purchase and maintain a vipor swing and they also saw less health and safety implications.

Members were shown two quotations for a replacement zip-line, to compare with the vipor swing. The quotations for supplying and installing a vipor swing fell in the region of £17k - £18k, compared with the zip-line at between £18-20k. There were five quotations with different surface options to compare, although only three would be required for comparison.

One member was reassured that we would also look into eco and specialist equipment too for the upgrade at Victoria Play Area.

Members were presented with the many reasons why officers would prefer to select a different piece of equipment from the zip line, including ground erosion, maintenance and inspection issues, concerns of theft and vandalism and usage issues. Also, the zip-line tended to attract older children naturally than younger ones and the vipor swing was also a more solid mechanism for this purpose.

EL48.03.24 Members **RESOLVED** to agree:

- (i) for Officers to proceed with seeking designs for the upgrade of Victoria Play Area, and;
- (ii) to seek a quotation at the same time for the installation of a piece of play area equipment to replace the zip-line at Hempstead Play Area (providing an alternative to a zip-line for all the reasons outlined).

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 To note an update from the Allotment Working Group and with proposed amendments to the Allotment Rules and Regulations

Members noted the report and accepted the minor amendments to the Allotment Rules and Regulations.

The next allotment group meeting would be held on 25th March 2024 with members of the Allotment Association and allotment reps, who had been invited to attend. If allotment tenants had any questions to ask they were advised to speak to their rep or contact Rachel at the council offices.

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

Members noted the report.

10.3 Conservators of Ashdown Forest

Members noted the report.

10.4 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report at this time.

10.5 Luxford Centre Management Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

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 Vice Chair requested asked members who were due to attend the next Climate Emergency steering group meeting, to stay behind after the meeting briefly to arrange a date.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.49.03.24 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 and were very pleased with the layout and content given by the Marketing and Community Engagement Officer.

Our events were getting increasingly popular, so ideas were being explored if event holders could be flexible about seating, as this was about trying to find the right balance for our customers.

There had been some innovative ideas in relation to the blue plaque scheme that might be worth looking at. Initial conversations had taken place with Uckfield Heritage and once more information had been sought, a report would be presented to Environment & Leisure Committee in due course.

12.2 To received the results of survey works at Snatts Road Cemetery
Members noted the report with one committee member kindly offering to help with overlaying the mapping.

The meeting finished at 19:53pm.

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>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.
<u>EL28.10.23</u>	<u>7.3 To consider the installation of a gate to restrict access to the Grounds work area next to Victoria Pavilion</u> (i) install a gate on the main drive (with a pedestrian gate and closer) estimated at £300 to £400, and; (ii) defer the decision to bring the path around the edge of the fencing up to the car park to the next E&L Committee in November 2023, after seeking further details on accessibility and funding options.	09.10.23	HG/JH	Members agreed at the E&L meeting on 13.11.23 to bring the path around the edge of the fencing up to the car park and for this work to be carried out in-house. The gate has been installed at Victoria with relevant signage. The path will be looked at when we have staff capacity. This is quite a big job that will be progressed in due course.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL40.01.24</u>	To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates Members RESOLVED to agree to a proposal to get a quotation for a like for like replacement of the zip wire to compare costs and which option would be better.	22.01.24	JH	This item has been superseded by the decision of E&L Committee on 04.03.24. The replacement equipment will be quoted for and installed at the same time as the upgrade of Victoria Play Area. NFA.
<u>EL41.01.24</u>	To consider potential funding announced for Wealden orchards Members RESOLVED to agree to this funding opportunity, should it arise and to the four areas suggested; next to Ridgewood MUGA and Victoria basketball court, an orchard already planned at West Park and maybe the bottom of Hempstead Field.	22.01.24	RN	This item has been superseded by the report being presented to E&L Committee on 15.04.24. NFA
<u>EL42.01.24</u>	To consider proposals to improve safety at the lower end of Luxford Field Members RESOLVED to agree to: (i) the lone or purchase of a wildlife camera, and; (ii) remove the metal youth shelter, and; (iii) the electrician to explore costs for pillar lighting at the bottom of Luxford Field.	22.01.24	HG/JH	(ii) The youth shelter has been removed and a new flood light has been installed on the front side of the Community Fridge. NFA. (iii) A quote for the pillar lighting has been obtained, and would be fairly expensive, so staff are investigating grant funding opportunities.
<u>EL43.03.24</u>	To consider the 'We Grow' Initiative – a Sussex based gardening co-operative Members RESOLVED to agree to: (i) Request officers to investigate whether there are sites owned by the Town Council which could be utilised as community gardens; (ii) Investigate whether a co-operative gardening approach would be feasible within the Town Council's Allotment Rules and Regulations; (iii) Bring these findings to a future meeting for further consideration by members.	04.03.24	RN	The Allotment Working Group are still looking into a suitable area that's not too exposed yet still accessible. Possibly as a wellbeing plot. We will look at possible areas for consideration.

<p><u>EL48.03.24</u></p>	<p>To consider initial quotations received for play area improvements Members RESOLVED to agree: (i) for officers to proceed with seeking designs for the upgrade of Victoria Play Area, and; (ii) to seek a quotation at the same time for the installation of a piece of play area equipment to replace the zip-line at Hempstead Play Area (providing an alternative to a zip-line for all the reasons outlined).</p>	<p>04.03.24</p>	<p>JH/HG</p>	<p>As above – EL40.01.24. NFA.</p>
---------------------------------	--	-----------------	--------------	--

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2024-25**

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	23.01.24	Planting is due to take place in March 2024, this year. The Ranger has devised a management plan for this and is under control.	
	Minus £533.65 for tree restocking in March 2024 = £1,466.35	10.04.24	New trees purchased from English Woodlands for restocking in March 2024. The remainder can be requested to be carried forward for use in 2024-25. NFA.	

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2024-25**

Project Name	New gazebo and trestle table for events		Project Number	75
<u>FC.86.01.23</u>	£300	23.01.24	Recommend that Events Working Group identify suitable items for purchase and events in 2024.	

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.	
	-	16.01.24	Looking into options. Plan to make lease arrangement in 2024/25, so funds will need to be carried forward. We are currently looking at updated costings and proposals.	

Projects in 2024/25 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Grass verge cutting contribution to East Sussex County Council		Project Number	80
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£5,686	10.04.24	The invoice has been received for the contribution to East Sussex County Council to maintain service levels of grass verge cutting on urban verges. The invoice will be processed and paid wk beg 22 April 2024. NFA.	

Project Name	Tree for a tree planting programme		Project Number	81
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£1,000 plus carry forward from 2023-24 (£1,466.35)	10.04.24	This will progress winter 2024-25. The Town Council also intends to apply for funding through Wealden District Council's Community Orchards Funding scheme during 2024-25.	

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2024-25**

Project Name	D-Day Anniversary activities		Project Number	82
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£2,000	10.04.24	Plans are underway to book entertainment and facilities for the beacon lighting event on Thursday 6 June 2024.	

Project Name	Roofed compound area for Grounds storage		Project Number	83
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£500	10.04.24	Will progress during 2024-25.	

Project Name	Ranger equipment – chainsaw replacement		Project Number	84
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£650	10.04.24	Will progress during 2024-25.	

Project Name	Harlands Pond Management Plan Works		Project Number	85
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£950	10.04.24	Will progress during 2024-25.	

Environment Leisure Committee as at 31 January 2024

	Apr 23 Actuals £	May 23 Actuals £	Jun 23 Actuals £	Jul 23 Actuals £	Aug 23 Actuals £	Sep 23 Actuals £	Oct 23 Actuals £	Nov 23 Actuals £	Dec 23 Actuals £	Jan 24 Actuals £	Actuals at 31 Jan 24	Budget at 31 Jan 24	Feb 24 Budget £	Mar 24 Budget £	Total 2023/24	Budget 2023/24
Sales																
Contribution to Town Centre Security	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	557	557	620	0	0	557	620
Weald Hall Events	1,061	860	1,380	2,046	1,739	2,092	2,950	4,895	3,431	3,558	24,011	20,833	2,571	2,571	29,154	25,000
Allotments	6,862	(15)	71	(86)	0	21	77	(63)	0	23	6,890	7,000	0	0	6,890	7,000
Allotment Admin Charge	3,555	45	30	90	0	30	45	0	0	15	3,810	2,500	0	0	3,810	2,500
Allotment Deposits	54	156	104	156	0	104	156	0	0	(52)	678	833	83	83	845	1,000
Playing Fields & Pitches, Sport Income	27	87	164	351	83	166	0	0	0	3,234	4,112	5,000	0	8,000	12,112	13,000
Playing Fields & Pitches, Event Income	68	325	124	4,337	0	1,428	(238)	0	182	0	6,226	5,000	0	0	6,226	5,000
WDC- WPark Culverts Agreement	0	370	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	370	400	0	0	370	400
Cemetery - Interments	776	6,850	5,736	2,152	2,061	1,500	4,597	4,776	1,789	1,494	31,731	25,000	2,500	2,500	36,731	30,000
Cemetery - Memorials	1,453	105	1,187	46	509	46	776	1,143	59	484	5,806	5,000	500	500	6,806	6,000
Cemetery - Sundry income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	200
Cemetery Maintenance Charge	100	209	627	439	209	418	314	325	105	105	2,848	3,333	333	333	3,515	4,000
Sale of Ransome Parkway Mower	0	0	0	0	0	3,500	0	0	0	0	3,500	0	0	0	3,500	0
Env Sundry Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	2	0	16	0	0	200	216	200
Litter/bus station	0	398	0	0	398	0	0	398	0	0	1,193	994	331	0	1,524	1,325
Road Safety Week/Eco EXPO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
Weald on the Field	0	0	0	1,700	796	1,305	0	0	0	0	3,801	0	0	0	3,801	0
Roundabout income	864	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	864	850	0	0	864	850
Total Sales	14,819	9,388	9,422	11,231	5,794	10,610	8,691	11,473	5,568	9,417	96,412	77,564	6,319	14,288	117,019	97,195

£21,916.87 of this expenditure is due to be covered by Ash Dieback earmarked reserves.

Boxes highlighted are to be funded or part funded by earmarked reserves/new initiative spending

	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Actuals at 31 Jan 24	Budget at 31 Jan 24	Feb 24 Budget	Mar 24 Budget	Total 2023/24	Budget 2023/24
Purchases																
Protective - Outdoor staff	80	92	92	237	0	278	81	45	50	245	1,201	542	54	54	1,309	650
Street lights, supply & maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,508	0	11,508	11,000
Street light repairs	5,031	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,031	5,000	0	12,500	17,531	17,500
Bus shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	391	0	0	391	0	0	0	391	0
Allotments	22	(1,642)	15	156	1,111	475	193	807	629	(5)	1,761	3,000	0	500	2,261	3,500
Playing fields and pitches	276	1,086	769	1,303	816	521	1,185	435	353	1,988	8,733	19,823	1,982	1,982	12,696	23,780
Playfing fields electricity	33	1,029	69	69	82	435	466	34	57	61	2,334	220	0	0	2,334	220
Play Areas	0	0	80	686	1,497	30	750	0	0	222	3,265	3,000	0	0	3,265	3,000
Cemetery, grave digging	320	640	1,346	320	640	0	0	640	320	0	4,226	4,167	333	333	4,893	5,000
Cemetery, rates & water	1,116	115	115	(1,695)	115	115	149	115	115	174	433	1,833	183	183	800	2,200
Cemetery, litter	234	293	249	220	249	249	358	205	234	326	2,617	2,500	250	250	3,117	3,000
Cemetery, maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	402	0	402	200	0	0	402	200
General equipment repairs	708	136	1,211	1,561	2,271	0	257	102	527	13	6,787	2,500	0	0	6,787	2,500
New Equipment	0	0	747	0	327	2,230	0	0	0	0	3,303	5,000	0	0	3,303	5,000
Ground Maintenance General	2,341	715	627	803	710	120	46	549	133	48	6,091	2,000	0	0	6,091	2,000
Hire of equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	315	315	0	0	0	315	0
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Ranger)	2,377	2,189	2,177	0	0	1,028	2,349	2,799	2,532	2,532	17,983	25,893	2,589	3,614	24,186	31,071
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Working budget)	176	9	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	3,312	3,527	3,000	250	250	4,027	3,000
Transit	97	163	94	413	119	0	0	101	98	0	1,086	1,667	222	222	1,530	2,000
Ford Ranger	546	60	260	69	652	82	75	216	77	0	2,038	1,668	167	167	2,371	2,000
Tractor maintenance & running costs	202	2,242	2,982	48	164	131	355	0	26	778	6,928	1,500	0	0	6,928	1,500
Movana Vehicle	536	94	109	214	129	607	134	964	97	0	2,883	1,668	167	167	3,216	2,000
Grass cutting mower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	760	0	760	1,500	0	0	760	1,500
Fencing	45	193	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	62	310	833	83	83	477	1,000
Trees	120	650	0	167	3,002	750	1,290	21,037	1,975	250	29,241	10,000	1,000	3,000	33,241	12,000
Litter bins	0	0	0	786	140	0	0	0	0	0	926	800	0	0	926	800
Litter collection, open spaces	948	980	1,135	1,295	1,006	1,109	1,112	980	799	661	10,025	7,583	758	758	11,542	9,100
Horticulture	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	250	25	25	78	300
Roundabout expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
Weald Hall Events	0	1,000	0	0	0	2,280	6,413	1,037	4,575	39	15,344	14,000	0	1,000	16,344	15,000
Corp dev- signage outside areas	0	0	537	0	196	0	0	0	0	0	733	500	0	0	733	500
Groundsmen - salaries	6,339	7,274	9,382	9,894	10,306	10,026	9,849	14,716	10,410	10,515	98,711	100,318	10,032	10,032	118,774	120,382
Groundsmen - National insurance	561	587	772	842	899	861	836	1,508	914	928	8,707	8,163	816	816	10,340	9,796
Groundsmen - Pension	1,505	1,676	2,056	1,453	2,072	2,015	2,413	3,453	2,558	2,562	21,763	18,458	1,846	1,846	25,454	22,150
Town Security/CCTV	1,482	55	976	60	55	58	58	1,346	57	0	4,146	2,200	0	0	4,146	2,200
Floral displays	0	1,343	507	507	657	507	0	0	0	0	3,520	3,500	0	0	3,520	3,500
Repair and replace street furniture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Cleaning materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	50

Environment Leisure Committee as at 31 January 2024

	Apr 23 Actuals £	May 23 Actuals £	Jun 23 Actuals £	Jul 23 Actuals £	Aug 23 Actuals £	Sep 23 Actuals £	Oct 23 Actuals £	Nov 23 Actuals £	Dec 23 Actuals £	Jan 24 Actuals £	Actuals at 31 Jan 24	Budget at 31 Jan 24	Feb 24 Budget £	Mar 24 Budget £	Total 2023/24	Budget 2023/24
Performing rights	157	671	0	0	0	475	478	0	0	901	2,682	400	0	0	2,682	400
Event Advertising Marketing	190	80	130	80	668	280	80	80	100	120	1,808	2,917	292	767	2,866	3,500
Weald on the Field	550	138	0	1,533	6,411	984	0	0	0	0	9,617	4,000	0	0	9,617	4,000
Climate Change Working Group activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Twinning Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
HMLNR & WPLNR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	324	0	324	500	0	0	324	500
Total Purchases	26,017	21,868	26,435	21,031	34,293	25,647	28,928	51,590	28,120	26,049	289,978	263,852	32,558	38,550	361,085	330,499

New initiatives 2023/24

ESCC Grass Verge cutting	4,442	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,442	N/A	0	0	4,442	4,442
Tree for a tree planting programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	201	332	533	2,000
New gazebo and trestle tables for events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	300
King's Coronation	1,879	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,969	N/A	0	0	1,969	2,000
Victoria Rain Water Tank clean and service	4,290	0	0	0	0	0	1,031	0	0	0	5,321	N/A	0	0	5,321	7,000
Wildflower areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	250
Vehicle replacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	7,500
Total New Initiatives 2022/23	10,611	90	0	0	0	0	1,031	0	0	0	11,732	N/A	201	332	12,265	23,492

Earmarked reserves expenditure covering above expenditure (in progress)

Cycle to Work scheme	0	0	0	0	0	1,631	0	0	0	0	1,631	N/A				
Ash dieback	0	0	0	0	1,270	90	250	20,307	0	0	21,917	N/A				
CCTV Replacement Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A				
Survey of cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A				
Income for Cycle to Work Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	116	116	116	462	N/A				

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 6.1

TO CONSIDER WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE - ORGANISATION SURVEY

1.0 Summary

1.1 You may be aware that Wealden District Council are creating a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. As part of this process, they are asking residents and local organisations to fill out a survey to gather opinions on climate change action in the district. This information and local insight will help inform their new strategy.

1.2 They created two surveys, the first being directed towards individuals and the second, organisations. They would welcome our participation.

A copy of the survey can be found online at

<https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/hub-page/climate-change>

1.3 Or please find a copy attached in appendix A. The survey needs to be completed by 10 May 2024. A copy has been sent to the Climate Change Steering Group for their consideration.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to compile a response, or to delegate the compiling of a response to the Climate Change Steering Group, on behalf of the Town Council.

Contact officer: Rachel Newton

Section 1

The following section will ask you for your opinions on climate change as an organisation.

1. How aware are you of climate change?

- Very aware Somewhat aware Not very aware Not aware at all

2. How aware are you of the Government's commitment to be net zero by 2050?

- Very aware Somewhat aware Not very aware Not aware at all

3. How concerned are you about the impact of climate change on your organisation?

- Very concerned
 Concerned
 Neutral
 Not very concerned
 Not concerned at all

4. Your organisation recognises the urgency of addressing climate change within your operations and wider community.

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. Your organisation believes that addressing climate change presents opportunities for business and communities.

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

6. How often does your organisation seek information about climate change and its effects?

- Very frequently
 Frequently
 Occassionally
 Rarely
 Very Rarely
 Never

7. Where does your organisation look for information about climate change and its effects?

- National media
 Local media
 Social media
 Friends and family
 Central government
 Government departments
 Charity organisations
 My local council
 Voluntary or community organisations
 Schools or other educational institutions
 None
 I don't know
 Religious organisations - either local or national
 Internet/online websites
 Other (please specify)

Select all that apply

8. How much does climate change affect your organisation's decision-making in your day-to-day activities?



- It affects our decision-making greatly It affects some of our decision-making It doesn't affect our decision-making It doesn't affect decision-making at all

9. Do you believe your organisation already experiences the impacts of climate change, e.g. disruption from extreme weather, flooding etc.



- Yes
 No
 Don't know

10. Is your organisation concerned about the impacts of climate change on your business in the future?



- Very concerned Concerned Neutral Not very concerned Not concerned at all Don't know

11. How motivated is your organisation to help tackle climate change?



- Very motivated Moderately motivated Slightly motivated Neutral Slightly unmotivated Moderately unmotivated

12. What steps is your organisation currently taking to tackle climate change?



13. Is climate change highlighted as a risk on your organisation's risk register? ⌵

Select option ⌵

14. Your service users/customers expect your organisation to have a climate change plan in place to reduce your organisations impact on climate change. ⌵

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

15. Does your organisation have a clear plan for tackling climate change e.g., environmental policy, a net zero strategy? ⌵

Select option ⌵

16. Would you be interested in climate change net zero workshops and information for your organisation/employees? ⌵

Select option ⌵

17. Is your organisation involved in initiatives that address climate change at a local level? ⌵

Select option ⌵

Section 4 ⌵

The following section will ask questions about existing barriers to your organisation in taking positive climate action.

18. Lack of financial resources in our organisation is a significant barrier to implementing net zero initiatives ⌵

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

19. Limited awareness and understanding of net zero concepts hinder progress in our organisation. ⌵

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

20. Regulations pose challenges to our organisation's commitment to achieving net zero ⌵

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

21. Are there any other barriers that prevent your organisation from taking action to tackle climate change and work towards becoming net zero? ⌵

Section 5

The following section will inquire about your organisation's attitudes towards energy use.

22. Energy consumption is a key concern for our organisation's operations

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

23. Which of the following do you currently do, or would consider doing?



Switch to a renewable energy tariff

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Actively reduce our electricity use on the premises, e.g. by investing in energy efficient appliances and lights

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Actively invest in renewable energy sources

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Insulate your organisation's premises

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Replace gas heating with a lower carbon option e.g., a ground/air source heat pump

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Install solar panels on the premises

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

24. Which of the following would be the biggest barrier to your organisation taking positive climate action to include the following?

Please scroll to select the **one** biggest barrier per statement.

Switch to a renewable tariff

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Actively reduce our electricity use on the premises, e.g. by investing in energy efficient appliances and lights

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Actively invest in renewable energy sources

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Insulate your organisation's premises

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Replace gas heating with a lower carbon option e.g., a ground/air source heat pump

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Install solar panels on the premises

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Section 6

The following section will inquire about your organisation's attitudes towards transportation operations.

25. Operational transportation emissions are a key concern in our organisation's operations

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- The nature of our organisation doesn't require transportation

26. Which of the following do you currently do, or would consider doing?



Have an approach to reduce business travel, eliminating unnecessary travel e.g. online meetings

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Promote active travel e.g. walk and/or cycle

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Have considered the way you make and receive deliveries

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Uses hybrid vehicles (owned, leased, or third party)

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Uses electric vehicles (owned, leased, or third party)

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Offsets carbon emissions produced from organisational transport operations

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

27. Which of the following would be the biggest barrier to your organisation taking positive climate action to include the following?

Please scroll to select the **one** biggest barrier per statement.

Have an approach to reduce business travel, eliminating unnecessary travel e.g. online meetings

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Promote active travel e.g. walk and/or cycle

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Have considered the way you make and receive deliveries

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Uses hybrid vehicles (owned, leased, or third party)

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Uses electric vehicles (owned, leased, or third party)

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Offsets carbon emissions produced from organisational transport operations

- It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

Section 7

The following section will inquire about your organisation's attitudes towards commuting habits.

28. Our commuting emissions are a key concern in our organisation's operations

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- The nature of our organisation doesn't require transportation

29. Which of the following do you currently do, or would consider doing?



Promote commuting by walking or cycling

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Promote commuting by public transport

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Has a cycle to work scheme

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Promote ride sharing

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Promote car clubs

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Considered staff work and travel patterns e.g. travel on a set day, work from home etc.

- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

Encourages employees to work from home part-time when possible

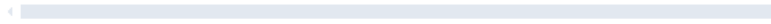
- We are currently doing this We would consider doing this We wouldn't consider doing this Not applicable

30. Which of the following would be the biggest barrier to your organisation taking positive climate action to include the following?

Please scroll to select the **one** biggest barrier per statement.


Promote commuting by walking or cycling

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶

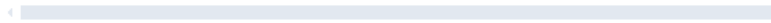
Promote commuting by public transport

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶


Has a cycle to work scheme

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶

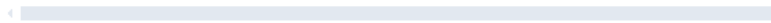
Promote ride sharing

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶


Promote car clubs

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶


Considered staff work and travel patterns e.g. travel on a set day, work from home etc.

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶

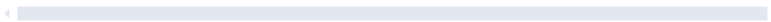
Encourages employees to work from home part-time when possible

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶

Encourages employees to work from home full-time when possible

It is too expensive We don't have the time to do this We don't understand what we would need to do We don't know anyone else who does this

◀  ▶

Section 8



The following section will explore your organisation's engagement with your supply chain.

31. Have you begun to work with your supply chain to share best practice, ideas and sources, to help reduce your carbon emissions?

- We have engaged our supply chain We are beginning to engage our supply chain We would consider engaging our supply chain We would not consider engaging our supply chain

32. Has your organisation been approached by your service users/supply chain to engage in reducing your carbon emissions?

Section 9



The following section will inquire about your organisation's waste management practices.

33. Do you currently recycle any of your organisation's waste?

Select option 

34. Are there any barriers to recycling all of your waste?



Section 10



The following section will ask questions about carbon offsetting.

35. Has your organisation signed up to a certified carbon offsetting partnership?

Select option 

36. Are there any barriers to your organisation carbon offsetting?



Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

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. Funding has now been set aside, and initial conversations have commenced with play area companies.

Grounds team are investigating drainage issues as a starting point.

One of the new bins has been vandalised. The Grounds team are looking into possibility of moving this bin further away from the skate park.

The works to replace the nets on the practice net area, have been ordered, and should be completed by the end of April/early May.

Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

A replacement piece of equipment will be ordered and installed in place of the zip-line at the same time that we plan to upgrade Victoria Play Area.

Vandalism of a fence near to the slide was reported to Sussex Police on 10 April 2024, as the perpetrator was seen onsite. Details were passed to the Police to take action.

Rocks Park Play Area

Nothing to report.

Snatts Road Cemetery

A report was presented to Full Council on 11 December 2023, regarding the Lime Tree. Contact is being made with the deed holders of in graves near to where works need to take place, and works are due to take place wk beg 15 April 2024.

Some of the graves in the X section of the cemetery have had low level fencing placed around the perimeter. The X section of the cemetery is a lawn only cemetery. This is set out within the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Contact has been made with the deedholders to sensitively manage the issue and a notice has been installed to remind visitors to the cemetery not to leave any trinkets on the graves.

West Park Recreation ground and West Park LNR

The Grounds staff are in the process of renewing the sleeper bridges that were agreed as part of the footway/step improvements.

The boundary fence on the east side of the nature reserve has been repaired. This was reported by a dog walker.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing new to report.

Hughes Way play area

Nothing to report.

Luxford field and play area

Nothing further to report. Pillar lighting is potentially going around the side of the Community Fridge if grant funding can be obtained for this.

Woodlands

Tree planting in line with the re-stocking notice has been completed.

Equipment & Vehicles

Exploration into the lease of a replacement for at least one of the Ground vehicles has commenced. Further details will be presented to members once we have the information available.

Following a thorough review of quotations for the part exchange of the Town Council's tractor, and adoption of the budget for 2024-25, an order has been placed for the purchase of a new tractor, through a payment plan over a term of 24 months. Still waiting for this to arrive.

Street Furniture & Lighting

We are now in receipt of weekly updates from ES Highways in relation to outstanding jobs.

Other

Nothing to report.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: James Hollingdale

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ORCHARDS GRANT FUNDING

1.0 Funding announced for Wealden Orchards

- 1.1 A report was taken to the Environment and Leisure Committee on 22 January 2024, to announce that Wealden District Council had been awarded grant funding, to support tree planting initiatives across the district and contribute to supporting biodiversity, tackling climate change and enhancing community wellbeing.
- 1.2 This new funding programme has been made available through the Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF) to support the development of community orchards in the district for grant funding bids between £1k and £3.5k, which we are eligible for.
- 1.3 Members have already agreed to this funding opportunity should it arise and were happy to support four suggested areas: next to Ridgewood MUGA and Victoria basketball court, an orchard already planned at West Park and maybe the bottom of Hempstead Field.
- 1.4 Applications are now open for eight weeks and close on Friday 10 May at 5pm.

2.0 What we can apply for and aim to achieve

- 2.1 The Wealden Community Orchards Grants Programme Guidance is available to view (App A) although the following provides a breakdown of the requirements:

The capital grant can pay for items such as:

- Trees and their protection (fruit and nut trees, fencing)
- Tools and storage (spades, watering cans, wheelbarrows)
- Ground preparation
- Delivery costs
- Soil enhancers (compost and mulch)

And it needs to deliver at least three of the below outcomes:

- A community orchard
- Community involvement in the development, planting, and maintenance of the community orchard.
- Increased use of a community green space
- Increased biodiversity

- 2.2 The community orchard can be any size larger than 5 trees and include fruit trees that can thrive in the UK environments. It is recommended that semi-vigorous rootstocks trees that are at least two years old are planted as part of the scheme, to optimise establishment and ensure quick fruit production. The number and type of trees chosen must be suitable for the site and available space chosen for the community orchard. Maintenance costs cannot be funded as part of this scheme.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

- The community orchard must be publicly accessible, or accessible to a significant number of people for example, in the case of schools.

- If you are not planting on land that you own, you must have signed permission from the owner or manager of the land indicating that they consent to the planting project or lease of more than 10 years where the capital fund will be spent.
- Proposed orchard creation must demonstrate that tree planting funded by this scheme can be planted by 31st March 2025.
- All applications need to clearly demonstrate that all costs applied for are directly attributable to the physical delivery of a project. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase and installation of materials and equipment. Please ask for clarification if unsure.
- You must have a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation to apply.

4.0 Suitable areas for planting and aftercare

- 4.1 The Ranger has confirmed that he is happy to proceed with the planting of all the areas aforementioned, including next to the Ridgewood MUGA, a small orchard at Victoria behind the basketball court, and where they were already planning to plant additional fruit trees at the West Park community orchard, for which this grant funding would be useful.
- 4.2 We would need to ensure we follow the stipulations on how far apart the trees have to be planted etc.
- 4.3 We would also need to consider who the Town Council could work with in partnership to deliver on the community element of the funding bid, i.e. Ridgewood could be Ridgewood Village Hall Committee or Allotments holders, Victoria could be Sussex Support Services, and West Park maybe the Uckfield Grasshoppers, or Brighter Uckfield perhaps who could maybe help to maintain one or some of these areas.

5.0 Costings

- 5.1 The Ranger has provided some costings to present at this stage (see diagram 1 below). These have been taken from a local supplier, but are shown to members, to give an indication of costs. To be approved for a grant we are required to submit three quotes from three approved suppliers.
- 5.2 The maximum grant that can be applied for is £3.5k and this project would fall just under that in Uckfield, but adjustments can be made. Like wise there is some flexibility with regards to the varieties chosen but we need to be mindful of pollinators and non-pollinators. The Ranger has not included any nut varieties owing to the areas of planting and risk of allergies. The Ranger has suggested we apply for the full amount of £3,500 which would allow the purchasing of planting equipment for the volunteer groups to use.

<i>Community Orchard Grants april 2024</i>			
<u>Ridgewood MUGA</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost(£) each</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Bramley Apple	3	£64	£192
Apple (Scrumptious)	3	£64	£192
Victoria plum	3	£64	£192
Conference pear	3	£64	£192
Mulberry	2	£75	£150
Strimmer guards	14	£6.30	£89
Tree stakes	14	£3.66	£52
Tree Compost	4	£13.82	£55
Tree ties (30cm)	14	£0.58	£8
Woodchip		FOC	FOC
		<u>Total</u>	£1,122
<u>Victoria MUGA</u>			
Bramley Apple	2	£64	£128
Apple(Scrumptious)	4	£64	£256
Victoria Plum	4	£64	£256
Conference pear	4	£64	£256
Mulberry	1	£75	£75
Strimmer Guards	15	£6.30	£94.50
Tree Stakes	15	£3.66	£54.90
Tree compost	4	£14	£55.28
Tree Ties	15	£1	£8.12
Woodchip		FOC	FOC
		<u>Total</u>	£1,184
<u>West Park Community Orchard</u>			
Bramley Apple	2	£64	£128
Apple(Scrumptious)	2	£64	£128
Victoria Plum	2	£64	£128
Conference pear	2	£64	£128
mulberry	2	£75	£150
strimmer guards	10	£6.30	£63
Tree Stakes	10	£3.66	£36.66
Tree Compost	3	£13.82	£41.46
Tree Ties	10	£0.58	£5.80
Woodchip		FOC	FOC
		<u>Total</u>	£809
		<u>Overall Total</u>	£3,115.00

Diagram 1: Indicative costs from a local supplier

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the report and to consider:
- (i) if they agree to go ahead with the proposals to make an application, for grant funding through this Programme, and;
 - (ii) to consider potential organisations to partner up with for this project.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton



Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme Guidance

Introduction

We are pleased to announce that Wealden District Council is delivering a new capital grants programme which will be able to support and enable partners to create more community orchards, improve the natural environment and increase biodiversity. This includes improving; local resilience against the impacts of climate change, accessibility to outdoor spaces and encouraging residents to walk and cycle more. The grant funding has been established by DEFRA to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Wealden District Council has secured £27,756.00 from the Nature for Climate Fund: Coronation Living Heritage to support the development of Community Orchards in the district. We are asking schools, residents' associations, village hall trusts, parish and town councils, businesses, community and voluntary groups, charities, not for profit organisations, and landowners with publicly accessible land to apply for between £1,000 and £3,500 for local tree planting projects that benefit the residents of Wealden District. This funding programme opens on 15th March 2024 and closes on 10th May 2024

This new funding programme has been made available through the Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF), (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronation-living-heritage-fund>), hereafter the Fund. The Fund is a new £2.5 million, capital fund from DEFRA for local tree planting projects in non-woodland locations as well small-scale local fruit and nut tree production. Wealden District Council has secured grant funding for community orchards.

The Fund allows trees to be planted to celebrate the Coronation, in a strong link with the King's lifelong support of the natural environment. The goal of the fund is to enable more trees to be planted in non-woodland locations and close to where people live, providing a visible and lasting tribute to the King's Coronation within local communities.

The programme is a capital only fund and will not cover funding for staff. Applicants must spend the grants on trees and assets such as equipment and fencing which help to create community orchards, a place for people to come together to plant and cultivate a variety of fruit and nut trees and to use the area as a focal point for community activities. Community orchards contribute to biodiversity and provide opportunities to learn new skills such as bird watching, horticulture skills and maintenance of trees.



Proposed Timetable

The timetable is indicative and may be subject to change by the Council and applicants will be informed accordingly.

We are looking to fund projects where organisations can demonstrate they have delivered their project including the provision of receipts and evidence of the project delivery. All documents must be submitted by 1st March 2025.

Funds cannot be carried over after 31st March 2025.

Activity	Key Dates/Deadlines
Funding programme opens	15th March 2024
Closing dates for funding application submissions	10th May 2024
Send out successful/unsuccessful 'offer' letters	31st May 2024
Issue award agreements	14th June 2024
Payments made for delivered projects	28th June 2024
Project to be delivered and receipts and evidence of the project delivered submitted.	1st March 2025
Final summary report on activity to be submitted to us	25th June 2025

Objectives

Projects must deliver at least 3 of the following outcomes:

- A community orchard
- Community involvement in the development, planting, and maintenance of the community orchard
- An annual celebratory community orchard day
- Increased use of a community green space
- Increased biodiversity

Projects must be within the Wealden District boundary.

Match Funding

Organisations who are applying to this funding programme do not need to show match funding, but it will be useful to show any match funding you have secured. This can be a combination of cash and "in kind" e.g. volunteer time, room hire.

The CLHF funding cannot be used as match funding from any other government grant or vice versa.



Who can apply?

Eligible groups that can apply for the funding include

- Schools
- Residents' associations
- Village hall trusts
- Parish and town councils
- Businesses
- Community and voluntary groups
- Charities
- Not for profit organisations
- Landowners with publicly accessible land

The capital grant can pay for items such as:

- Trees and their protection (fruit and nut trees, fencing)
- Tools and storage (spades, watering cans, wheelbarrows)
- Ground preparation
- Delivery costs
- Soil enhancers (compost and mulch)

The funding can be used to add to existing orchards, if all other eligibility criteria are met, and the cost of the new trees are not met elsewhere.

Your community orchard can be any size larger than 5 trees and include fruit trees that can thrive in the UK environments. We recommend that semi-vigorous rootstocks trees that are at least two years old are planted as part of your scheme, to optimise establishment and ensure quick fruit production. The number and type of trees chosen must be suitable for the site and available space chosen for the community orchard. Maintenance costs cannot be funded as part of this scheme.

Describe your Project

Please tell us about the purpose of your community orchard

Clearly set out why the community orchard is being created, for example

- Community project
- School project
- For the produce
- For wildlife and biodiversity
- For a combination of the above
- Who will benefit from the project?
- Who will be involved in the planting of the trees?
- Varieties and quantities of trees to be planted and a rough description of their layout
- How the trees will be protected.



Land ownership

You must have signed permission from the landowner or manager of the land indicating that the proposed community orchard project has approval for delivery. If you are planting on land that your organisation or business does not own, you will need to provide written confirmation that you have permission to plant here.

Who has access to the land?

All trees must be planted in public/publicly-accessible spaces: sites that are accessible to the public, including schools, parks, open spaces, rights of way, and sites managed by community groups

Please confirm how many trees you will be planting.

The best location to plant a community orchard and the space you will need will be dependent on the site you are planting. Issues to consider are things like how much land is available and what size of tree of which type of fruit and/or nut are going to be planted. Types of trees include but are not limited to:

Apples Cherries Greengages Pears Plums Walnuts Quinces

You will need to ensure a minimum distance of c4-5 metres between each of the fruit/nut trees. You will need permission to plant on the land you plan to use for your orchard. Consider any other new developments that may be proposed for the site/location. Trees must ideally be planted where they will have light and space to thrive for over the next 20 years. Plant where trees can receive sunlight and where drainage is good. Also, consider a location that is accessible by all and allows you to easily water your young trees and whips regularly.

Fruit trees including plums, pears, apples, and nut trees can be grown successfully in many different types of soil, but different varieties have different requirements, so ensure you know what type of soil you have on the land.

Ongoing maintenance and especially watering during the first 3 years are essential to the survival of the young trees. Future uses of the community orchard also need to be thought about e.g., community events such as apple days as well as support for wildlife and biodiversity will need to be considered.

Tree supplier details

All trees purchased for the community orchard must come from suppliers who can demonstrate they can meet the requirements set out in the Plant Health Management Standard. Details can be found here - [Plant Health Management Standard](#).

For information and support on how to comply with the requirement, please read the following guide: [Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot for Plants and Trees](#).



All grant recipients must demonstrate best value for money will be achieved by obtaining a minimum of three quotes during any purchasing activity.

Fruit and Nut Trees

Most cultivated fruit and nut trees do not come from a seed, but from uniting them with a piece of rootstock which is known as budding and grafting. The rootstock determines the final size of the tree, general growth, and character. If the orchard is for a school, you could consider some dwarf trees which are easier for young children to reach but also consider that nut trees may not be suitable for such an environment due to allergens.

Most plant nurseries will stock a range of trees, providing details on their size and form but it is worth going to a specialist fruit or nut nursery for a full range. A local fruit and/or nut tree specialist can be found in the 'Resources' section of this guidance.

Careful selection of varieties can spread your fruit/nut harvest across the season and/or give you a range of colours and flavours. However, part of this initiative is to encourage the planting of local Sussex fruit varieties, you will find that these are not only more interesting than those available in supermarkets but will also be more significant to the community.

Management of the Orchard. Who will be responsible for the long-term management of the community orchard?

A designated contact should be nominated from each community orchard project to liaise closely with the Council. Successful grant recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement on receipt of funds that outlines a commitment to actively manage the trees for at least 3 years after they have been planted. Who will be responsible for the long term management of the trees?

You will be required to submit photos for the following three years after planting to confirm establishment and management practices, and spot checks will be carried out by the Council's Officers.

Planning & Designing an Orchard

To create a successful community orchard plan, you must consider the needs of the species you are going to plant. General considerations include access to sunlight, soil type, soil depth, frost pockets and standing water, spacing and layout, and access to water. Additional considerations include how your community orchard can benefit the surrounding environment, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and the community that surrounds it, e.g., 'bug hotels', benches, shelter.

Resources for more information on how to plan and design your community orchard can be found in the '**Resources**' section of this guidance.

You can use <https://gridreferencefinder.com/> to locate your proposed community orchard location and even draw on a polygon for your proposed site. Locate your site



using the postcode search bar, select the 'Draw a Polygon' button, and click points around your site to create a polygon. You can then print the page as a pdf, and include it as part of your application.

Eligibility Criteria

- Your community orchard must be publicly accessible, or accessible to a significant number of people for example, in the case of schools.
- If you are not planting on land that you own, you must have signed permission from the owner or manager of the land indicating that they consent to the planting project or lease of more than 10 years where the capital fund will be spent.
- Proposed orchard creation must demonstrate that tree planting funded by this scheme can be planted by 31st March 2025.
- All applications need to clearly demonstrate that all costs applied for are directly attributable to the physical delivery of a project. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase and installation of materials and equipment. Please ask for clarification if unsure.
- You must have a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation to apply.

Restrictions

The following are not eligible for funding:

- Individuals and any organisations not listed within 'Who can apply?' section.
- Retrospective work – work that has already taken place before any grant has been awarded.
- Projects which generate private gain or profit making.
- Grants cannot be made to individuals or for items which only benefit an individual, such as prizes, bursaries, or personal equipment.
- Projects that are already funded through external funding e.g., government funding.
- Staff salaries.
- Organisational overheads/running costs.
- Projects/works which cannot be completed by Friday 1st March 2025
- Carrying out statutory duties.
- Submission whereby the applicant does not own the land, has no permission from the landowner or has a lease of less than 10 years where the capital fund will be spent.
- Fundraising activities or advertising costs.
- Minor repairs or routine maintenance.
- Capital improvements must not be compromised by other work in the near future.
- You cannot apply to us for funding for items if you have applied for, or will be seeking funding for, the same items from elsewhere before you know our decision.



- Grants cannot be used for activities promoting religious or political beliefs; however, we welcome applications from faith groups for community activities that are open/accessible to the whole community, regardless of religion.
- Events, excursions, CDs and websites, publications, and marketing materials.
- Grants will not be awarded to organisations that have large unrestricted balances available for them to spend – if a balance is ‘restricted’ for a particular purpose, e.g., you are saving for a building or piece of equipment, you should clearly indicate this in your application.
- There should not be duplication with funding schemes supporting similar activities. As such, CLHF funding cannot be used to support projects that have received funding from other Defra schemes. This includes if you have applied in the year for the Nature Climate Fund for community orchards, for instance through the ‘Urban Tree Challenge Fund’ (UTCF).

If you have any questions or are in any doubt about whether we are likely to fund your application, please contact the Climate Change team at sustainability@wealden.gov.uk

Subsidy Control rules

The UK is subject to a new statutory Subsidy Control regime which came into force on 4 January 2023 and is largely based around the requirements set out in the **Subsidy Control Act 2022** (the “Act”).

As part of the assessment of your application we will need to know whether the grant constitutes a ‘Subsidy’ under the Act.

If a Subsidy is present, it will be necessary to follow one of the routes prescribed in the Act for the award of compliant Subsidies.

We may request your assistance in the assessment of Subsidy and in determining the appropriate route to make an award and may ask you for additional information. If you need to provide this information, we will contact you and we will require this additional information to be provided by May 2024.

Grant agreement and payment of grants

If an applicant is successful in securing a grant, a Grant Funding Agreement will be sent to the applicant organisation, which will need to be signed by the organisation and sent back to us before the project can start. The Grant Funding Agreement will include terms and conditions of funding to ensure the grant award and project delivery meets Wealden District Council’s requirements and CLHF terms and conditions (as applicable).

The Grant Funding Agreement must be signed and returned to the Council within 4 weeks of issue.

Subject to the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement, the grant will be paid as follows:



- i) 75% of the grant amount determined shall be paid within 10 working days of receipt of the signed grant funding agreement.
- ii) 25% of the grant amount determined shall be paid upon completion of the project and receipt by the Council of satisfactory proof of completion (this shall include, without limitation, receipts, proof of purchase, photographic evidence of completion of project).

Projects must be completed, and funds must be spent by no later than 1st March 2025.

Requirements

Applicants must secure any required statutory or other consents required for the project before applying and/or be in progress before the project commences (and attach copies with your application). It is the responsibility of the applicant to speak to the relevant authorities to determine if any permissions or consents are required and to put all required consents or permissions in place.

Documentation (e.g. register of title, lease, or licence) detailing land ownership and permissions/consents must be appended or submitted with the application if applicable. For projects where capital works are taking place on land not owned by the grant recipient, the landowner will need to be party to the licence/lease or show evidence of permissions given by the landowner.

Monitoring

If your application is successful, we will ask you to collect baseline data prior to the project commencement and further data once the project has been completed. The data collected must relate to one or more of the following outcomes:

Intervention	Outcomes	Measures in place
Creation of community orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of green space created/improved. • Increased users of facilities or amenities • Volunteers • Increased biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of and type of trees planted • Number of volunteers involved in the community orchard project • Number of community events

Further support on how to collect this data can be provided, if required at a later date. If by the end of grant self-monitoring evaluation form and evidence of expenditure/receipts (to be submitted no more than 4 weeks after the end of the project) is not satisfactory, the Council will have the right to obtain funds back.



Acknowledgment and Publicity

Successful organisations must at all times, during and following the end of the funding period, adhere to the requirements of the Branding Manual in relation to the funded activities and cease use of the Funded by Government logo on demand if directed to do so by Wealden District Council. The 'Funded by UK Government branding manual' is available at [Branding guidelines - GCS \(civilservice.gov.uk\)](https://www.civilservice.gov.uk/branding-guidelines).

Successful organisations must acknowledge the CLHF grant awarded by the Council in their annual report and in any publicity materials they produce about the work supported by the grant. They will supply copies of these documents to the Council on request.

Application Checklist and Form

Your completed application form and check list must be completed and returned to sustainability@wealden.gov.uk by the 10th of May 2024 **at 5pm**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Application Checklist

Before you get started - You must be able to answer **yes** to all to the following:

Checklist Requirements	Yes/No
<p>Are you one of the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Residents' associations • Village hall trusts • Parish and town councils • Businesses • Community and voluntary groups • Charities • Not for profit organisations • Landowners with publicly accessible land 	
<p>Your organisation must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its own bank account and must have at least two signatories on the account (refer to document checklist below) • At least three members on its governing body or board of directors? (refer to document checklist below) • Vulnerable Adult and/or Child Protection Policies and Procedures (if your organisation works directly with children and/or adults) • Public liability insurance • Volunteer policy 	
Is your application requesting between £1,000 and £3,500?	
Will the funding be spent by 1 st March 2025?	



The project site must be located within the district	
Your project is open and free to the public.	
The project does not meet any of the restrictions mentioned within the 'Restrictions' section.	
You have evidence to show that three quotations or estimates have been requested/obtained. You need to ensure that all paperwork and information is submitted with the application form, including quotes and a clear decision about the costings for the project which will have to reflect the receipts you would need to provide if your award was successful. If you are unable to obtain these, please clearly justify within the application as to why.	
Applicant must either own the land, have permission from the landowner or have a lease of more than 10 years where capital fund will be spent. (Refer to document checklist below)	
You must agree to maintaining the funding asset over its lifetime and for a minimum of 3 years once planted to ensure the trees survival.	

Documentation Needed

Before you get started – Please answer the following to confirm you have the required documents:

Documents	Yes/No
Copy of your organisation's constitution or set of rules, dated and signed as adopted by your group, including a copy of any current resolution or delegated authority given to members/trustees authorising them to enter into grant agreements on behalf of the organisation.	
A copy of a Bank or Building Society statement for all accounts which are held by your organisation (not more than three months old). Or a photocopy of the page(s) in your passbook/s which shows your group's name, address, account number and current balance. (Please do not send originals).	
A copy of your most recent Annual Accounts dated and signed as approved. Or if you are a new group, a statement of your estimated income and expenditure for the first year	
Copies of Vulnerable Adult and/or Child Protection Policies and Procedures if your organisation works directly with children or adults	
Public liability insurance	
Evidence of land ownership e.g., land registry number, deeds, or copies of your lease. OR	



Evidence of landowner permission if you are not the landowner. OR Agreement from the landowner.	
Provide evidence to show that three quotations or estimates have been request/obtained. If you are unable to obtain these, please clearly justify within the application as to why.	
Orchard Design Plan	

All information relevant to your project must be submitted as we may not be able to answer ask for any further clarification after the closing date due to the expected volume of applications received.

You may send the application and all supporting paperwork electronically. This is our preference. However, if you send any hard copies, please inform the Climate Change team via email that you plan to do this. Please do not staple or bind any part of the application form or supporting information. Please ensure you retain a copy of the whole application form for your records.

Please contact the Climate Change Team via sustainability@wealden.gov.uk



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Resources & Additional Guidance

Tree council

[National Tree Week - join the UK's largest tree celebration \(treecouncil.org.uk\)](http://treecouncil.org.uk)

Permaculture Trust

[Plant a community or school orchard – Brighton Permaculture Trust](#)

UK Government

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11466/1973262.pdf

Orchard Network

<https://www.orchardnetwork.org.uk/>

The Orchard Project

<https://www.theorchardproject.org.uk/guides-and-advice/>

PTES

<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/orchard-practical-guides/mapping-your-orchard/>

Tree Nurseries

[Sussex Fruit Trees – Grown in the heart of East Sussex](#) advice and information.

[UK tree supplier. Visit us in East Sussex or buy trees online for home delivery across the UK | English Woodlands \(ewburrownursery.co.uk\)](#)

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 7.3

TO CONSIDER ACTIONS TO REDUCE LITTER IN THE VICINITY OF NEW FOOD OUTLETS AND RETAIL BUSINESSES IN UCKFIELD

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report highlights problems with litter since the Co-op opened at the bottom of the Highlands car park, on the grass outside the Co-op and specifically from the roundabout leading down to the town and by the vets. There is also a problem near the KFC shop at the southern end of the High Street.

2.0 New retail outlet at Highlands roundabout

2.1 Councillor Bedwell did a litter pick on Monday 18 March and filled a carrier bag full of sweet wrappers, co-op receipts and items clearly bought from the Co-op shop. This was only a Monday afternoon during term time and Brighter Uckfield would have carried out a litter pick the day before, so it was not a small issue.

2.2 There appears to be a lot of school children using the Co-op shop in the mornings en route to school, the children can be seen passing by with snacks, even an Easter egg was found on this particular week and cans of coke were mainly being picked up too.

3.0 Food outlet at bottom of High Street

3.1 The Town Clerk was advised by the Chair of Brighter Uckfield in 2023, that they had seen a marked increase with litter near to the new food outlet (KFC) at the bottom of the High Street. The Town Clerk had tried to make contact with KFC Headquarters since the business arrived in Uckfield but received no reply. It has since been found out that like Co-op this business is a franchise so contact needs to be made with the businesses direct.

3.2 The Chair of Brighter Uckfield liaised with the Manager of KFC and asked if they could look at placing a bin outside. As far as we are aware they have done this and take the bin in each night. The Town Clerk will obtain an update from Brighter Uckfield to see if any further action is needed in this area.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) consider whether contact should be made with Uckfield College to undertake joint litter picks with students and Brighter Uckfield, to increase their awareness;
- (ii) consider the placement of a litter bin in close proximity to the new Co-op store off Highlands roundabout;
- (iii) continue to liaise with Brighter Uckfield on this matter.

Contact officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 9.1

TO NOTE AN UPDATE FROM THE JOINT ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP

1.0 Background

The Joint Allotment Working Group met on Monday 25 March 2024 at the Civic Centre. This meeting was attended by councillors, allotment reps and members of the Allotment Association and provided some previous updates and latest items raised for discussion, including some raised by our tenants.

There are currently forty-eight people on the allotment waiting list and further interest to join as is normally the case nearer springtime.

The water was turned back on mid-March, although with the recent weather tenants are still being encouraged to collect the rain water where they can.

Just a reminder that bonfires are permitted between 1 April and 1 November for the burning of un-treated or un-painted woody waste only and must be contained within an incinerator barrel.

The next joint working group meeting will be held on Monday 17 June 2024. Please speak to your site rep or Rachel if you have something you wish to be raised on the next agenda.

2.0 Allotment checks and annual invoices - April

The next allotment checks will be carried out at the end of April, which will be held jointly between a council official, local councillor and a member of the Allotment Association present on each site. This will be to ensure that the allotment plots are being used and not overgrown.

There are some minor tweaks to the wording in the Allotment Rules and Regulations 2023, at items 2.4 and 2.6, which refers to the prevention of weeds and information on the ban of slug pellets, moving towards being 'greener'. Members were asked to approve those changes at the last working group meeting and a copy will be included with the annual invoices going out in April.

3.0 The Allotment Competition 2024!

Stavertons Nursery have kindly offered to be our sponsors again this year.

The chosen categories are: Best Kept (5 sites), Ecological Award, Overall Winner, Children's Award, Funniest Vegetable & Scarecrow Competition.

Allotment holders have to put forward a nomination for themselves or fellow allotment holders for:

- Children's Award (entry by 28 June 2024);
- Funniest Vegetable, and;
- the Scarecrow Competition (the Town Council is going to have one!)

We plan to return to automatic entry this year for the following awards, which means all are welcome for:

Best Kept;
Ecological Award;
Overall winner;

The judging will be carried out in the first two weeks of July. Uckfield Town Council will also adopt the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) principle again this year that current winners in the last year (changed from two to one year) are not eligible when awarding the Ecological award and Best Kept.

4.0 We Grow Initiative

The Allotment working Group are still looking into the idea of this social enterprise to provide the town with a community plot and growing space, maybe to create a wellbeing plot. Members were looking for areas in town that would not be too exposed yet still accessible and also recognised that with the number of potential housing developments coming our way, it would be useful to improve and utilise our green spaces with smaller initiatives, such as this one.

5.0 Community Art Project to follow – new idea by tenant

This idea was recently raised by an allotment rep on behalf of one of our allotment holders, on the Framfield East allotment site.

As part of the new development built by Persimmons Homes South East, the concrete exterior of the new pumping station, which borders the Framfield East allotment site, is quite imposing at 3.5m in length facing the allotment site. The question was raised to find out if some artwork could be created to brighten up this open green space.

Following the recent 'Banksy' pop-ups in the news, Uckfield Town Council would be delighted to take this opportunity to start our very own trend in the town!

After an initial meeting with the Senior Site Manager of Persimmons Homes, they are now kindly sponsoring this initiative in collaboration with ICOSA, who adopted the pumping station, and they have kindly offered to provide all the materials and install the artwork once it is finished.

The Head Teacher and Business Manager of the local Harlands Primary School, will ask some of their school children if they wish to take part. Also, they have been in contact with a local artist, Mark Munroe-Preston, who has supported them previously with art projects, to see if he could offer any special techniques and ideas that might be useful. As luck would have it, he is very familiar with this area because he has an allotment there!

Mark suggested that the best approach would be to print the children's images onto aluminium panels designed for the purpose. This would negate the need for any other materials and it is designed to stand the test of time.

It would also mean that the children could produce the artwork in school after visiting the allotment site first for inspiration. The school are in discussions with Mark and we have suggested to make this as bright and colourful as possible, maybe with drawings of insects, butterflies and flowers.

Mark measured the area and provided the image below by way of example. This would cost approximately £700 plus VAT.



Proposal for artwork: individual drawings painted on aluminium panels

Having looked at the new proposal, the Site Manager at Persimmons passed this up the chain and the Head of External Affairs South is delighted to be able to support the project and is willing to pay for the children's designs to be printed on some aluminium panels. The payment would need to be actioned by Persimmons Homes direct to the school, so we would not need to get involved in that aspect.

Persimmons would like to do a little unveiling/ceremony at the site when it is installed, in partnership with the Town Council and Harlands Primary School, with the children too.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 10.3

REPORT OF OUTSIDE BODIES: CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

1.0 Summary Report

- 1.1 Due to the recent appointment of Mark Pearson, CEO of Ashdown Forest, the parish liaison meeting was postponed.
- 1.2 However, I would like to draw your attention to his interview on Ashdown Radio, which is worth listening to. In addition, a series of podcasts, two from last year and a new podcast have just been released.
- 1.3 We continue to actively promote the Knepp and Ashdown Forest Weald to Waves for nature recovery and the vital work they do with the wildlife corridor, linking the Ouse and Adur. In our opinion, we hope that one day this will also be connected to all the North Uckfield Wildlife and Geological Sites and designated Nature Reserves, through the Isfield and Little Horsted wards, and link our important water courses and Shortbridge Stream through to Buxted Park SSSI (a potential phase of the Ashdown Forest landscape led nature recovery network (NRN)).
- 1.4 Research continues regarding this important heritage/ environment and the ecologically significant North Uckfield to Buxted nature recovery conservation habitat and wildlife arc described and supported by Dr Stenning (Ecologist to Uckfield of many years and Ecologist to Lake Wood and North Uckfield parish).

Councillor B. Reed.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 10.5

LUXFORD CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

1.0 Summary report

- 1.1 The executive committee meeting which was held on 22 March 2024, was an opportunity for the new Treasurer, Yvonne Linthwaite, to meet the other members of the group. Whilst her appointment is now current, until the bank can alter the mandate she is unable to actively participate. The bookings are now being managed by Joan Richards of the House Committee.

The works to install the new fire alarm system, as required by the Fire Officer, are now complete and operational.

The committee all agreed to the proposal to apply to have the building listed as a Community Asset and a nomination will be made to Wealden District Council, and contact made with the Town Council to make them aware.

Membership continues to improve and the groups are expanding.

The AGM is to be held on 11 May 2024 and invites will be sent to the Mayor and local councillors.

There is no further news on grant funding for the proposed extension.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 11 May at 11:00am with tea and coffee beforehand.

Councillor Chris Macve

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 15 April 2024

Agenda Item 10.6

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINE PARISHES COMMITTEE

1.0 Summary report

1.1 At the meeting held on 13 March 2024, the main items for discussion were firstly the East Sussex County Council's Transport Plan consultation document and the future of transport within the forthcoming Wealden District Plan. Both of these documents support the preservation of the trackbeds to the missing rail links for the possible re-instatement in the future, as set out in the TFSE Plan.

The Chairman will write to emphasise the benefit of electrification to assist in the decarbonisation plans and aims of the council.

The general consensus was that the current service levels were satisfactory apart from days of dispute and the effects of bad weather, flooding and land slips.

We understand that following years of pressure, the 22:07 London Bridge will be restored in the December timetable revisions, together with possibly the 17:07. The Chairman will write to thank GTR.

There will be consideration of the constitution at the next meeting which will be on 8 May at the Buxted Inn, Buxted.

Councillor C. Macve

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton