



## **ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 7:00pm**

**Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield**

*Tea and coffee from 6.45pm*

### **AGENDA**

- 1.0 Welcome and Introductions**
- 2.0 Announcement of the Allotment Competition Winners**
- 3.0 Update from the Town Council's Allotment Working Group**
- 4.0 Questions already submitted prior to the conference**
- 5.0 Q&A from the floor**
- 6.0 Looking ahead to 2025 – Allotment Competition & Conference**

**Town Clerk**

3 September 2024

A high-angle photograph of a person with long brown hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, leaning over a garden bed. The person's hands are reaching towards the plants. To the left, a wooden basket is filled with freshly harvested green leafy lettuce. In the bottom left corner, a wide-brimmed straw hat is visible. The background is filled with various green plants and foliage. The entire image has a semi-transparent purple overlay.

**WELCOME!**

**UCKFIELD ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday 11 September 2024**

**WORKING  
TOGETHER:  
UTC ALLOTMENT  
WORKING GROUP,  
COUNCILLORS AND  
OFFICERS**



**WORKING WITH**

**THE ALLOTMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

**&**

**ALLOTMENT SITE REPS**





# ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

**£6 PER YEAR,  
BENEFITS INCLUDE:  
% OFF**

**seeds, bamboo canes, fertilizer  
+ advice, newsletter with tips and updates**

**Hut list of lower prices & copy of the latest  
newsletter – pick up copies and see for yourself!**



# Uckfield & District Allotment Holders Association Trading Hut – Framfield Road allotment car park. Open Sundays, 12-Noon



# HOW TO JOIN

- **Online – DOWNLOAD MEMBERSHIP FORM VIA:**

**<https://bit.ly/allotment-membership-form>**

- **Contact Uckfield Town Council for a copy of the membership form, or...**
- **Speak to David Newbery – Secretary**

# ALLOTMENT SITE REPS

- BELL LANE – Vic Oliver
- BIRD IN EYE – Adrian Marshall & Steve Ward
- FRAMFIELD EAST – Stuart Woodham
- FRAMFIELD WEST – David Newbery
- RIDGEWOOD – Carol Washer
- WEST PARK – Mr. Bailey & Louise Tennant





# ALLOTMENT SITE REPS

- Point of contact to ensure a helpful, fair and consistent service
  - Share information
  - Offer support & encouragement
  - Monitor need for repairs & report issues or concerns

# **JOINT ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING IN NOVEMBER:**

- Provides a forum for discussion
- Aim is to continuously improve communication between allotment holders and UTC

Any concerns or ideas to raise –  
contact Allotment Rep

# ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2024

## SPONSORED BY STAVERTONS NURSERY





# CHILDRENS AWARD 2024!

## Casey Harrison-Graves - RW21C





# **CHILDRENS AWARD 2024**

## **Maya Kala Vilar - FRW23**





# **BEST KEPT WINNERS**

## **Mr Coleman - BL37A**





# BEST KEPT WINNERS

## Janet Snow - WP14





# BEST KEPT WINNERS

## Ian Scutt - RW26B





# BEST KEPT WINNERS

## Mrs S. Read- BIE22





# BEST KEPT WINNERS

## Phil Manning - FRE47





# **BEST KEPT WINNERS**

## **Andrew & Mary Ford - FRW21A**





# ECOLOGICAL AWARD

## Heather Berry – FRE43B





# OVERALL WINNER

## Phil Manning – FRE47





# SCARECROW COMPETITION – 5 ENTRIES!

## 5. “Rex & Ursula” - by Cllr D. French



## 4. “Grandad” - by David Hall, WP4A





### 3. “Stanley” - by Louise Tennant, WP5A





## 2. “Billy Bird-In-Eye” - by Steve Simons, BIE29B





# 1. THE WINNER IS: “Bob the Builder” - by Joelle Jeffery, RW4B



# **SHORT TALK BY**

## **Joelle Jeffery - Ridgewood allotments**

**As a family venture, we started our allotment in June 2023.**

**We entered the Scarecrow Competition for fun and our 9-year old son enjoyed stuffing the scarecrow with straw and putting his yellow Bob the Builder hat on!**

**We also have an 18-month old baby, and they both help with the watering and harvesting when the crops are ready. The children are also learning where their food comes from and how to care for the plants. It's a good way for the family to share this experience and to do something that's positive for the next generation too.**



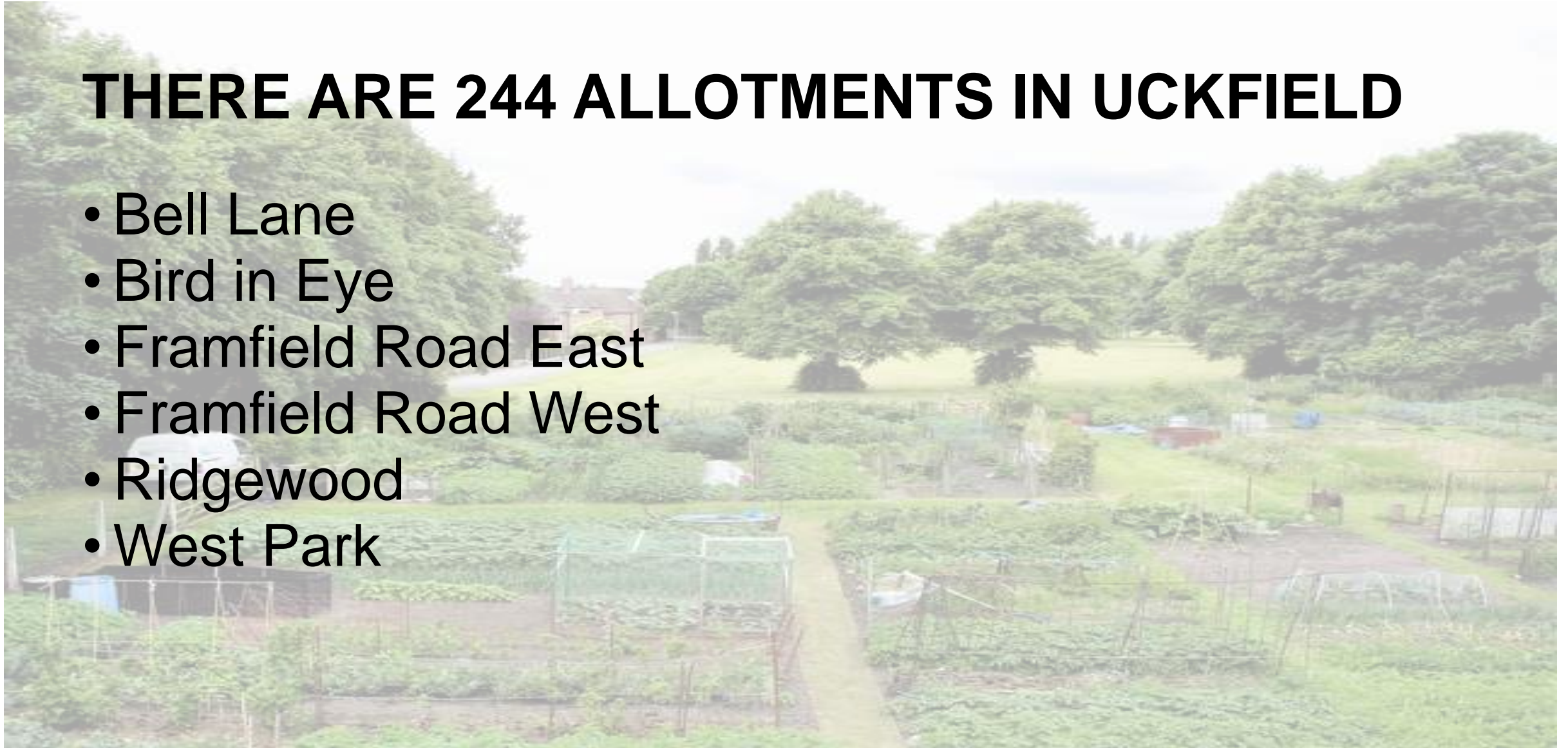
# **ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP - UPDATES**



# UCKFIELD ALLOTMENTS

**THERE ARE 244 ALLOTMENTS IN UCKFIELD**

- Bell Lane
- Bird in Eye
- Framfield Road East
- Framfield Road West
- Ridgewood
- West Park





# ALLOTMENT FEES AND CHARGES

## INVOICING PERIOD

The next yearly invoicing period will commence from  
1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Invoices will be sent out early April 2025.



# ALLOTMENT COSTS (AVERAGE)

Admin	£3,645 (4.5hrs/wk)
Mowing & equipment	£2,592 (2.5hrs/wk)
Hedges	£1,280 (80 cuts/yr)
Maintenance	£960 (5hrs/mth)

Average total expenditure £8,477/yr - avg

(Not including material costs or discounts applied to 93 plots of £416)



# ALLOTMENTS INCOMING

Admin charge	£3690
--------------	-------

Plot fees	£4207
-----------	-------

Total Income	<u>£8,313.00</u>
--------------	------------------

(Water is separate – from the water company and out of our control)

# **AVERAGE COST OF A PLOT**

Average Cost of a plot      £18.98

Most Expensive Plot      £81.00

Cheapest Plot      £5



# ALLOTMENT WAITING LIST

September 2021 – 121

September 2022 – 66

September 2023 – 52

September 2024 – 35

8 waiting to swap

8 waiting for an additional plot

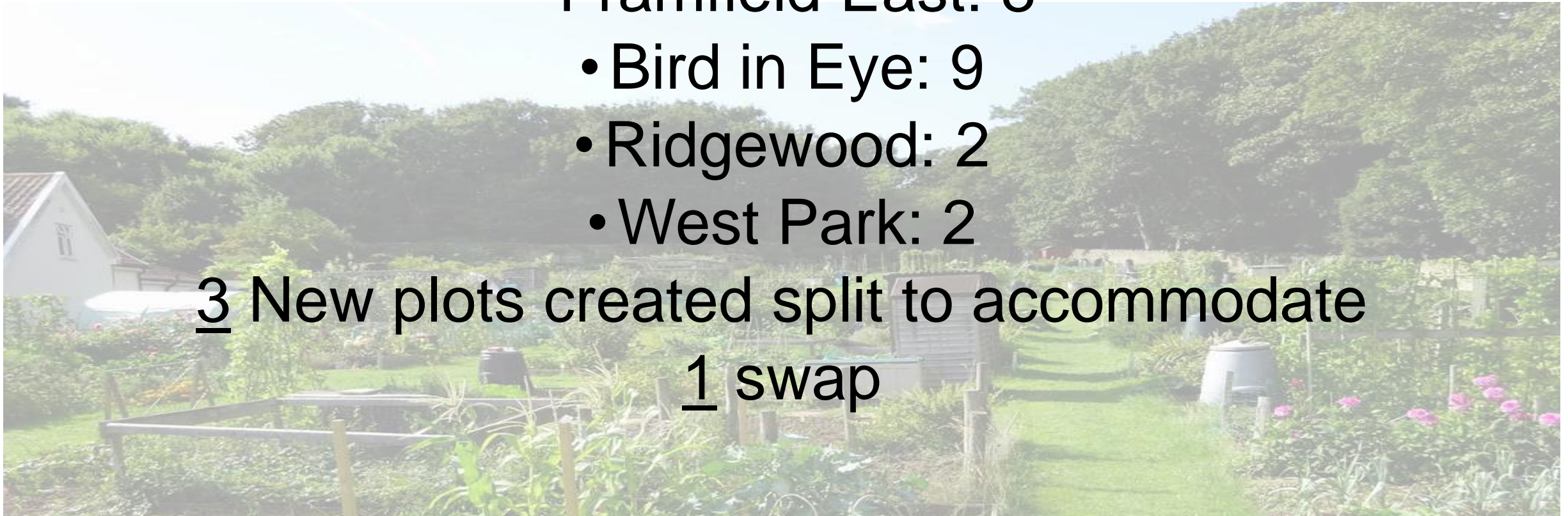
19 waiting for a first plot

# NEW TENANTS WELCOMED

29 new tenants (so far) in 2024-25:

- Framfield West: 8
- Framfield East: 8
- Bird in Eye: 9
- Ridgewood: 2
- West Park: 2

3 New plots created split to accommodate  
1 swap





# ALLOTMENT CHECKS REVIEW: WE ARE LISTENING

- Allotment checks helped in some areas but aren't working for others.
  - Feedback from tenants received led to review of checks procedures for 2025:
- Joint allotment checks to be undertaken by councillors, officers & site reps twice a year – May/June & September/October
  - 1<sup>st</sup> check April: either weeds prompt letter or non-cultivation letter & further check in September
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> check September: still no cultivation, Final Warning (4 weeks) then Notice to Quit (2 weeks)  
(New tenants: 12 months grace period)

# GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- Estimates two grass cuts per month (weather dependent)
- Groundsmen only responsible for main pathways
- Tenants are responsible for the grass cutting between each allotment, keeping edges neat and tidy, and free from weeds.
- Hedges cut in October/November and March, then left for bird nesting season.





**QUESTIONS ALREADY  
SUBMITTED**

# **Q&A FROM THE FLOOR**



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR TIME**