



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

COUNCILLOR SOAPBOX

BY CLLR. PETER SELBY

When you arrive in Uckfield for the first time, as I did nearly 60 years ago, you immediately notice the town's quaint high street and vibrant local shops. Take a look at the open spaces behind the high street, however, and often - though not always - there will be litter scattered over the grass and elsewhere.

There are eight bins on Luxford Field just waiting to receive such rubbish but for some reason, these are invisible to many. A similar view will be found on other public spaces around the town. Why do people not just put their debris into the receptacles which are strategically placed and stand proud like rigid Daleks?

Is it laziness, a 'cannot be bothered' attitude, or it is 'hip' to dump your takeaway cartons and plastic plates anywhere but the place that they should end up?

Surely we can do better than this.

In praise of Brighter Uckfield

The reason why, especially on a Monday morning, Uckfield looks tidy and happy with proper bins half or nearly full is due to an incredibly humble group of Brighter Uckfield litter pickers who spend much of their Sunday doing a clean sweep of open spaces, roads, footpaths, river banks and anywhere the previous night's revellers have deposited their rubbish.

Uckfield Town Council provide over 70 litter bins on Town Council land.

The rest are provided and emptied by Wealden District Council.



Uckfield Town Council staff empty the bins on Council land and it costs some £1,200 per month to have it collected. It is so much cheaper and more considerate to take the litter home with you, as I am sure many of you do.

Keep Uckfield Tidy

When I was young - many years ago - dropping litter was a criminal offence and it still is, under Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. There was a major campaign known as Keep Britain Tidy which started in 1954. Let us give new energy to the campaign - which does excellent work and can today be found on <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/> - and be proud of our busy, growing town and Keep Uckfield Tidy.

Please remove your litter by taking it with you or disposing in the appropriate Dalek.

Cllr. Peter Selby

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.uckfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

WHAT'S INSIDE

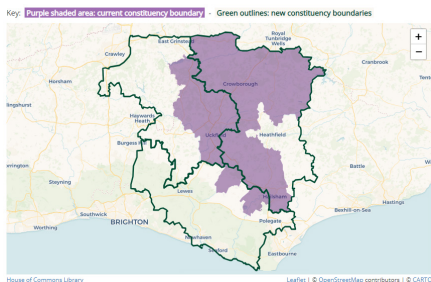
- New Member of Parliament
- Weald on the Field 2024
- Uckfield Heritage Plaques
- Allotment Conference
- Upcoming Meetings

NEW MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

On 4 July, people across the country had the opportunity to vote at polling stations for their next Member of Parliament in the General Election.

New parliamentary boundaries

Uckfield was amongst many areas in the United Kingdom which had its parliamentary make-up changed by the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in England. Unlike other towns in the heart of their constituencies though, Uckfield's place on the edge of the Wealden constituency saw the town moved to an entirely new constituency.



Along with changes to the Mid Sussex and Lewes constituencies, this saw the creation of the new East Grinstead and Uckfield constituency - the north west of the three green boundaries above. Boundaries were reviewed to ensure there was a fair balance of electors per constituency - generally around 70,000 eligible voters. On reviewing East Sussex, the Commission found that four of the existing five constituencies were above the permitted range, so changes were needed.

Outcome of the vote

Six candidates stood for the 2024 parliamentary election in East Grinstead and Uckfield. After the polls closed and the votes were counted, the number of ballots cast were (in alphabetical order):

Christina Coleman - Green - 5,277
Ben Cox - Labour - 10,440
Mims Davies - Conservative - 19,319
Benedict Dempsey - Liberal Democrats - 10,839
Ian Gibson - Independent - 2,482
William Highton - English Democrats - 2,036

New MP for East Grinstead and Uckfield – Mims Davies



Before taking a seat in the House of Commons, Davies served as a Councillor in Mid Sussex at Parish, Town and District levels, and subsequently took on MP roles from 2015 onwards. Davies served as MP for Eastleigh between 2015 and 2019, before becoming MP for Mid Sussex between 2019 and 2024.

With the boundary review dividing the previous Mid Sussex constituency for the 2024 General Election, Davies stood for the East Grinstead and Uckfield seat. Following the General Election, Davies has become the Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities.

If you have a matter that you'd like to raise with your MP, please visit: <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4513/contact>.

Alternatively, you can find more information on Mims Davies MP and her work in the new constituency on her official website:

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

WEALD
ON THE
FIELD

FREE ENTRY



LUXFORD FIELD UCKFIELD

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST 2024 11AM - 7PM

LIVE MUSIC ON THE AIRSTREAM STAGE

12:00 The Carnaby Brothers
13:30 The Offbeat
15:00 Dynamite
16:30 R.E.D.
18:00 Fat Freddie & The Queens



*STREET FOOD *ARTISAN PRODUCE *POP UP BARS
*LOCAL CRAFTS *FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT



WWW.FOODROCKSSOUTH.CO.UK

UCKFIELD HERITAGE PLAQUES

Every year, Uckfield Town Council publishes its Strategic Plan document, which provides a full list of the commitments drawn up by Councillors for the following five years. In the latest Strategic Plan for 2024-29, one such commitment was to 'establish a list of special and important dates or individuals within the town's history and commemorate these on heritage plaques'.



This task has been taken up by the Town Council's Marketing and Community Engagement Officer, Will, who has begun investigating the existing English Heritage plaque scheme run in Greater London, as well as other council and volunteer-led projects that operate in towns and cities across the UK. English Heritage are very helpful in providing fulsome detail on how to operate a local scheme, and links with local groups will be incredibly useful

whilst aiming to get an Uckfield project off the ground.

Uckfield Heritage have already been very useful in their backing of the project, while Town Councillors have stated their support too.



However, the Town Council also needs the contributions of residents. If you know an individual, group or event that is worthy of recognition in the form of a Heritage Plaque, please get in touch by sending an email to will@uckfieldtc.gov.uk or by calling 01825 762774.

Allotment Conference

On Wednesday, 11 September at 7pm, Uckfield Town Council will host its annual Allotment Conference.

As well as providing updates on allotment policies and news, all prizes from the 2024 Allotment Competition will be presented. These include the Children's Award, Scarecrow Competition, Ecological Award, Best-Kept Allotments and Overall Winner.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be viewed on the Town Council website at <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>. Meetings are held in person

either in the Weald Hall or Council Chamber at The Civic Centre and all start at 7pm. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

MON 5 AUG	- PLANS
TUE 27 AUG	- PLANS
MON 2 SEPT	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 9 SEPT	- FULL COUNCIL
MON 16 SEPT	- PLANS

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- Uckfield Bus Station
- Community Orchard
- Which Council to Contact
- Upcoming Consultations