



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Monday 3 March 2025 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 20 January 2025
- 4.2. Action list – for information only
- 4.3. Project monitoring list – for information only
- 4.4. Forward plan – for information only

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
- 5.2. To note the income & expenditure report ending 31 December 2024

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To note the draft minutes from the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meeting held on 13 January 2025

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
- 7.2. To consider the consecration of a section of land at Snatts Road Cemetery to be named the new Y-section
- 7.3. To note a new litter campaign to address dog fouling in public spaces

8.0. LEISURE

8.1 To note an update on the 'Our Parks' Fitness sessions

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 Climate Change Working Group update

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1 All Weather Pitch Operational Group

10.2 Conservators of Ashdown Forest and 'Weald to Waves' initiative

10.3 Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group

10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee

10.5 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

10.6 Uckfield Youth Club Board

10.8 Wealden Food Partnership Advisory Group

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

25 February 2025



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.00pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. Angie Smith (Chair)
Cllr. Duncan Bennett
Cllr. Chris Macve

Cllr. Karen Bedwell
Cllr. Donna French
Cllr. Spike Mayhew

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Peter Selby

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 CHAIR'S DISCRETION

None.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Two formal apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr B. Reed and Cllr D. French, both owing to personal reasons.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 25 November 2024

EL.34.01.25 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 25 November 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4.2. Action list

Members noted the report and asked for the following item to remain on the action list (discussed further at item 7.2):

EL.55.04.24 – To consider actions to reduce litter in the vicinity of new food outlets and retail businesses.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

Members noted the report – no further updates.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

It was disconcerting to see that the recent acts of vandalism to the pillar lighting in Luxford Field had resulted in a huge financial cost to the Town Council and that if this

continued, it may be worth looking at more suitable lighting for this location in the future, with some sort of protection and vandal proof.

Members suggested maybe looking into column lights instead of pillar lighting, which would be a more solid construction and more robust, or quick break away lighting with a protection guard, which were smaller and less easy to damage.

It may also be worth going back to the original company to ask if we had received any advice on the current model purchased and to request any kind of member deal that could be offered in this regard.

5.2 To note the Income & Expenditure report up to 30 November 2024

The Cemetery income for interments and memorials (budgeted at 30 November 2024), was slightly higher than those figures displayed in the initial report that was circulated.

Members subsequently noted the report.

6.0. **ADMINISTRATION**

6.1 To revisit the Cemetery working group and review options available for cemetery provision

Members asked for this invitation to be extended to all Councillors, so that this opportunity did not fall under the auspices of just those members who were on the Environment and Leisure Committee.

Once a working group was set up, it would be useful to take part in a site visit to the cemetery primarily to gather a sense of the works being carried out on a day to day basis by the Grounds staff, and to see how the service could be improved and to establish if any new facilities could be introduced.

Councillors had also been keen to investigate what else cemeteries in Kent and Sussex offered, so this could be explored.

The cemetery was a facility for the local community and it was important that the grounds were well maintained and available at a reasonable price whilst space was available. For this reason, staff had been obtaining quotes for contracted support to attend the cemetery on a fortnightly basis, to provide more attention to detail with grass cutting and maintenance works.

EL.35.01.25 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to revisit the Cemetery working group, and to ask all Councillors (not just on this committee), to compare costs and facilities in comparison with other local service providers, and to share ideas for future cemetery provision.

6.2 To note a future provision of training resources in relation to matters raised with East Sussex Highways

At the recent Strengthening Local Relations meeting, staff from East Sussex Highways had been asked for some training resources to help local Councillors understand how and where to report any maintenance or road safety issues, and to re-look at their code of conduct.

Local residents sometimes reported potholes or snagging issues to local Councillors, if they were struggling to do this online, which was then raised with East Sussex County Councillors for their assistance, although these issues could often be reported direct through the East Sussex Highways website.

It was also recognised that local Councillors would benefit from being able to view some training resources in regards of where to report maintenance enquiries, road safety issues and to understand the local Highways code of conduct.

The Road safety stewards could only fix issues if they were reported in the first instance, and they were only assigned jobs on the rota, and they were facing some abuse from disgruntled members of the public. Members agreed that greater awareness was needed, although it was understood if a job was not completed or finished properly, that some people would feel upset. Regardless, any abuse towards staff just doing their job was unacceptable.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 To receive an update from Wealden District Council's Climate Change Green Paper
Members noted the report and were happy for the working group to formulate a response on behalf of the Town Council as they had responded to the original survey.

7.2 To review the Town Council's Litter Policy – Policy No. 78
In respect of a recent request by a local resident for a litter bin in Keld Close, members voted equally for and against this, so the Chair was summoned to cast the deciding vote. This decision was not taken lightly however, as members understood the need to increase the number of litter bins around the town, especially where new developments were being built.

There was a dog fouling sign in Keld Close, and this request did not meet the relevant criteria, although the litter bin scoring system would need to be reviewed again soon, to stay in line with the overall need to provide more litter bins in the town.

Members were aware of the upcoming incentive to find out ways to reduce our waste collection costs at the same time, and money was available in the revenue budget for litter bins.

The vast majority of litter bins had been removed by Wealden District Council in the past, possibly due to waste collection costs at the time, so all those costs needed to be compared during the upcoming review.

It was argued that some people did pick up their litter and take it home if a bin was not available, although the counter argument was that this did not always happen in certain areas, especially with dog walkers.

A local transport plan could be factored in as well which provided the most popular walking routes.

Members also asked for further action to reduce litter in the vicinity of new food outlets and retail businesses, so this was kept on the action list.

Although this no longer appeared to be a problem leading into town, there were still issues with litter gathering at the edge of the Highlands pub and just outside the Co-op. Members wished to offer their gratitude to all the staff who had been keeping this particular area spotless by clearing any rubbish being dumped outside their business premises, and putting it in their bin provided outside. Councillors asked if they could continue to keep an eye on any surrounding areas as well, which would be really helpful.

EL.36.01.25 Members **RESOLVED to agree to:**

- (i) approve the amendments (in red) to the Town Council's Litter policy no. 78, including costs, and;
- (ii) reject the request by a local resident for a litter bin in Keld Close under the current scoring system. Also, to inform the resident that evidence was being gathered to install more litter bins around the town. With three votes in favour (Councillor S. Mayhew, Councillor K. Bedwell and Councillor D. Bennett), and three votes against

(Councillor A. Smith, Councillor D. French and Councillor C. Macve), the deciding vote was made by the committee Chair.

7.3 To note the current position with the Town Council's Estates

The fencing had been removed at Elizabeth Gardens which looked much better. Councillor S. Mayhew made a request for an update on the barrier at Hempstead play area, as this was potentially unsafe. This was logged on the Grounds sheet for urgent attention and would be chased up.

Councillor D. French mentioned that at a meeting last week, at Wealden District Council, she was informed by Councillor Kelvin Williams that there might be some funding available for the West Park play area, although this was not confirmed yet.

8.0 LEISURE

8.1 To consider the commemoration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary

EL.37.01.25 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to take part in the commemoration and celebration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025, and felt that this was only fair to open this up to all Councillors, for everybody to get the opportunity to take part in these working groups.

It had not been intermated, but the decision to have beacon lighting would need to be decided by the working group.

8.2 To establish a working group to organise a showcase event to promote the various Community groups and activities in Uckfield

This was a lovely suggestion and it was felt that this should be opened up to other Councillors and perhaps other stakeholders in turn, who may wish to lead this event, as long as this was kept locally and for Uckfield.

The working group could also work with Wealden Volunteering and support them with this idea, so that they could run this and perhaps we assist them that way around.

It was a good idea, but it might also be worth thinking about including this idea as part of the Weald on the Field event, as this might be the ideal place for everyone to be at, where we know there would be a large footfall. This would need to be considered in terms of space and voluntary groups that wanted to participate, and if people wanted to watch the acts and listen to music, and want to approach these groups at the same time. This could be in the Weald Hall as well as Luxford Field.

This could be a self-promotional idea, where we could assist with this but our input would need to focus on facilitating their needs.

With the VE Day celebration and Weald on the Field event already scheduled, it may be good to organise this for later in the year or springtime next year.

EL.38.01.25 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to:

- (i) ask other Councillors if they wished to assist with this showcase event to promote the various Community groups and activities in Uckfield, and;
- (ii) ask Wealden Volunteering and support them with this idea raised, so that they could run this event themselves, and to offer to facilitate use of the Weald Hall and Luxford Field.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

None.

10.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.2 Conservators of Ashdown Forest
Members noted the report and thanked Councillor A. Smith and Councillor B. Reed.
- 10.3 Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee
Members noted the supplementary report provided and thanked Councillor C. Macve.
- 10.5 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Members noted the report with thanks again to Councillor C. Macve.
- 10.6 Uckfield Youth Club Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.7 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.8 Wealden Food Partnership Advisory Group
Nothing to report at this time.

11.0 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair wished to promote the Green Shoots Fashion Show and had sought the support of Councillor K. Bedwell so this could raise funding for Family2Family charity.

Councillor D. French would also do a pinned post on the News and Events news pages.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.39.01.25 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
The Marketing and Community Engagement Officer had been meaning to provide updated figures for the various events that took place in December, but the timescales for preparing the report were tight, to meet the agenda despatch deadline. Event reports for November and December would therefore feature in the next committee report.

The meeting finished at 20:21pm.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list. It 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	In progress.
<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>EL55.04.24</u>	<p><u>To consider actions to reduce litter in the vicinity of new food outlets and retail businesses in Uckfield</u> Members resolved to agree for Uckfield Town Council staff to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) contact the new Co-op store off Highlands roundabout, to ask them if they would consider contributing to a litter bin in the town, and; (ii) look into other ideas mentioned above, and; (iii) continue to work with Brighter Uckfield on this matter. 	15.04.24	RN	In progress – report submitted to E&L committee on 3rd March in relation to a litter campaign promotion to address dog fouling in public spaces.
<u>EL.11.07.24</u>	<p><u>Climate Change working Group Update</u> Members resolved to agree to request staff to instruct the Town Council’s solicitors in relation to the potential purchase of land adjacent to the River Uck and abutting the lane leading to the Sussex Horse Rescue site.</p>	08.07.24	HG	In progress
<u>EL.18.09.24</u>	<p><u>To initially consider the proposed re-routing of the Public Right of Way from Ridgewood Farm into Boothland Wood as part of the development of this site</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to initially agree to the proposal from Redrow, to re-route the Public Right of Way from Ridgewood Farm away from Boothland Wood as part of the development of this site but if further consideration of routes needed to be explored.</p>	02.09.24	HG	In progress
<u>EL.35.01.25</u>	<p><u>To revisit the Cemetery working group and review options available for cemetery provision</u> Members resolved to agree to revisit the Cemetery working group, and to ask all Councillors (not just on this committee), to compare costs and facilities in comparison with other local service providers, and to share ideas for future cemetery provision.</p>	20.01.25	RN	In progress - Cemetery working group to meet in 2025, to compare ideas for improvement to the cemetery, including costs and facilities.
<u>EL.37.01.25</u>	<p><u>To consider the commemoration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary</u> Members resolved to agree to take part in the commemoration and celebration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025, and felt that it was only fair to open this up to all Councillors, for everybody to get the opportunity to take part in these working groups. The decision to have the beacon lighting would also need to be decided by the working group.</p>	20.01.25	RN	In progress. Events Working Group meeting on 6 March 2025.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL38.01.25</u>	<p><u>To establish a working group to organise a showcase event to promote the various Community groups and activities in uckfield</u></p> <p>Members resolved to agree to:</p> <p>(i) ask other Councillors if they wished to assist with this showcase event to promote the various Community groups and activities in Uckfield (<i>this could be a self-promotional idea, whereby we could assist with this but our input would need to focus on facilitating their needs</i>), and;</p> <p>(ii) ask Wealden Volunteering and support them with this idea raised, so that they could run this event themselves, offering use of the Weald Hall and Luxford Field.</p>	20.01.25	RN	In progress. Events Working Group meeting on 6 March 2025.

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

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 2024/25 Budget – New Initiatives

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	<p>The Town Council was successful with its bid for grant funding through Wealden DC for Community Orchards.</p> <p>We were successful in receiving a donation of 50 saplings from Eco Green Communities and 15 from another company. We have also just received 6 x Black Poplars from Western Sussex Rivers Trust.</p> <p>All planting is now completed for 2024-25 except for the Poplars as they've just arrived. These will be planted shortly.</p> <p>A total of £2,696.34 has been spent in 2024-25 (which includes materials for planting) so far.</p> <p>A sum of £2,317.62 has been received so far from the awarded £2,885 from Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme (funded through the Nature for Climate Fund: Coronation Living Heritage Fund). And we may receive a share of the remainder (£205), which can be used for ancillary community events.</p> <p>NFA – project at completion.</p>	

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

Project Name	Roofed compound area for Grounds storage		Project Number	83
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£500	10.04.24	This work is not urgent, and will be progressed in due course.	

Project Name	Harlands Pond Management Plan Works		Project Number	85
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£950 minus £178.33 (siltex) = £771.67.	19.11.24	<p>The funds were set aside to cover the cost of siltex treatment and nesting tubes for Mallards. The siltex has been ordered and delivered, ready for action in the coming weeks. Siltex is a natural and inexpensive way to reduce organic silt and improve water quality. It is environmentally friendly and harmless to plants and animals, and because it recycles organic material, it is a great benefit to the aquatic ecosystem.</p> <p>A bulb planting day took place with the Town Mayor and local residents on Saturday 22 February 2025, which was a great success and will bring colour to the area during the summer.</p>	

FORWARD PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 2025

STANDING ITEMS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES AGENDA	REPORT LEAD
Minutes from the last meeting	Senior Admin
Action list	Mgt Team
Project list	Mgt Team
Bills paid	Senior Admin
Income and expenditure reports	TClerk / Asst TC
Estates Update	E&F Manager
Reports from working groups	Councillor representatives
Reports from outside bodies	Councillor representatives
Marketing report (confidential business)	Marketing & Comms Assistant

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	
3 MARCH 2025	Establishment and approval of new ‘Y’ section in Snatts Road Cemetery	
	Litter bin campaign – dog fouling in public spaces / ideas to share & action (further to review of litter policy No. 78 earlier in year)	
	DRAFT SLR mins	
	Our Parks promotion – trialling new site	
	Amendments to Cemetery Regulations	
	Outside bodies: Conservators of Ashdown Forest	
CONFIDENTIAL		
DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	
14 APRIL 2025	Report from Cemetery Working Group	
	Report from Allotment Working Group	
	Tender proposals/designs from Play Area Companies for Victoria Play Area, and feedback from consultation	

FORWARD PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 2025

	Update on wildlife/conservation proposals – i.e. Boothland Wood preservation	
	Events Working Group Update – plans for VE Day and Weald on the Field	
CONFIDENTIAL		
DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	
27 MAY 2025	Report from Cemetery Working Group	
	Report from Allotment Working Group	
	Update on Victoria Play Area Upgrade	
	Plans for sports facility improvements	
CONFIDENTIAL		

FORWARD PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 2025

Environment and Leisure Committee at 31 Dec 2024

	Apr 24 Actuals £	May 24 Actuals £	Jun 24 Actuals £	Jul 24 Actuals £	Aug 24 Actuals £	Sept 24 Actuals £	Oct 24 Actuals £	Nov 24 Actuals £	Dec 24 Actuals £	Actuals at 31 Dec 24 £	Budgeted 31 Dec 24 £	Jan 25 Budget £	Feb 25 Budget £	Mar 25 Budget £	Totals	Budget 2024/25
Street lights, supply & maintenance (5080)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,000	11,000
Street light repairs (5081)	0	5,528	4,130	4,133	0	0	11,076	9,835	0	34,701	15,000	0	0	0	34,701	15,000
Bus shelters (5086)	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	250	0	0	250	304	500
Repairs to Holy Cross Churchyard (5051)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	400	0	0	0	0	400	0
Groundsmen - salaries (5360)	8,869	11,023	10,827	10,827	10,916	10,827	10,827	15,034	11,365	100,515	103,220	11,469	11,469	11,469	134,921	137,626
Groundsmen - National insurance (5361)	805	998	971	971	983	971	971	1,552	1,045	9,268	9,537	1,060	1,060	1,060	12,447	12,716
Groundsmen - Pension (5362)	2,256	2,689	2,650	2,650	2,703	2,650	2,650	3,668	2,780	24,696	25,301	2,811	2,811	2,811	33,130	33,734
New memorial benches	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	866	0	0	866	0
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Ranger) (5230)	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,880	2,577	2,577	3,556	2,700	24,601	24,840	2,760	2,760	2,760	32,881	33,120
Total Purchases	24,041	31,980	33,082	39,699	33,016	28,173	35,771	42,421	31,256	299,440	285,542	21,562	20,545	51,262	392,809	379,496

So approx. £20k of the expenditure is already accounted for by earmarked reserves as per 2024

New initiatives 2024/25

ESCC Grass Verge cutting (5207)	5,686	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,686	5,686	0	0	0	5,686	5,686
Tree for a tree planting programme (5050)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,039	0	0	2,039	0	462	158	0	2,659	1,000
Beacon Lighting events (5209)	421	1,141	790	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,352	2,000	0	0	0	2,352	2,000
Roofed compound for grounds storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
Chainsaw for Ranger	0	0	0	0	0	900	0	0	0	900	650	0	0	0	900	650
Harlands Pond Mgt Plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	178	0	178	0	0	0	950	178	950
Total new initiatives 2024/25	6,107	1,141	790	0	0	900	2,039	178	0	11,155	8,336	462	158	950	11,775	10,786

Earmarked reserves expenditure covering above expenditure (in progress)

Pitch improvement works (cricket or football)	2,095	0	2,435	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,530	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
New Holland Tractor	0	11,497	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,718	1,163	1,163	1,163	20,192	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
New Tractor Attachments	0	0	0	769	0	0	0	0	0	769	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Wildflower planting	0	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	142	N/A	0	174	0	0	0
Gazebo and equipment for events	0	433	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	433	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Ash dieback works	72	0	775	0	2,420	283	3,626	1,708	0	8,883	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Hedgecutters	0	0	1,049	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,049	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Grillo Brush Cutter (5272)	0	0	1,186	469	400	400	400	400	400	3,653	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Renew interpretation boards (5073)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	2,265	0	0	0
Ridgewood Car Park Surface (5085)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,270	0	1,270	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle replacement (5099)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	0	104	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Income for Cycle to Work Scheme	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	1,040	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pillar lighting project	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,197	1,632	7,829	5,000	0	0	0	0	5,000

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Liaison Meeting
Weald Hall, Civic Centre on Monday 13 January 2025 at 2.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr. Chris Dowling East Sussex County Council
Cllr. Claire Dowling East Sussex County Council
Sarah McEvoy-Peall Senior Stakeholder Liaison Mgr (ES Highways)
Jo Reed Traffic & Safety Mgr (ESCC)
Judy Deane Stakeholder Liaison Officer
Warwick Padley Senior Traffic & Officer (ESCC)
Phil Read Highway Steward (ES Highways)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr. Karen Bedwell
Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer, Uckfield Town Council
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

1.0 APOLOGIES

None.

2.0 APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last SLR meeting held on the 15 July 2024 be taken as read, and confirmed as a correct record.

3.0. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Kerb stones dislodged in Library Way

The Highway Steward had inspected and raised for kerb stones to be re-bedded.

b) Signage for lorries in Church Street

(Discussed at item 6.0)

c) Recent fatalities on A26

(Discussed at item 7.0)

d) Cambridge Way – two potholes

The Highway Steward had inspected and raised for the two potholes to be repaired, within the allocated timeframe. If potholes were not reported as and when detected, this may result in further delays and make the problem worse.

e) Lewes Road (Post Office side) – drain overflowing

This could have been coming from further up, the Highway Steward had inspected and raised for the drain to be jetted.

f) Highland Pub – sign out of line

The sign was put back in line with the main direction into town.

g) Hedgerows and vegetation between Holy Cross School and the Meads Medical Surgery

The Highway Steward had inspected and cut back any areas that met their safety criteria. A treetop in Rocks Park was raised for clearing. The Steward would continue to monitor on their regular inspections of the area.

h) Overgrown vegetation on the footway between Hunters Way & The Mount

This was a Rights of Way pathway, so this enquiry was passed onto that relevant team to look into.

4.0 PATCHING ON BELMONT ROAD

In October, a Facebook post had been put out regarding patching on Belmont Road, but this was paused to ensure all of the area was being completed as this was quite extensive. The postponement of works was only notified to the Uckfield News and event Facebook page, so Councillor C. Dowling asked if the Highways team could tag Uckfield Town Council (and other local councils) to their notification posts so that they had a third connection to identify the works.

The Town Council was advised to follow the hashtag 'Uckfield' to keep tabs on their latest updates, and East Sussex Highways would continue to keep notifying councils of any postponements or cancellations.

5.0 DROPPED KERBS

Councillor D. Manvell was interested to know more about introducing more dropped kerbs in and around Uckfield's housing developments. He mentioned that the town itself was fairly good with the upgrades to the High Street and bus station in the last few years but there were a few people who could not easily move past their own street, let alone the High Street.

This information could be sought via the East Sussex Highways website with any requests for specific sites. The Stakeholder Liaison Officer would also be able to provide a link, if necessary. It had been explained previously that this would only happen if the footways were within the ES Highway's ownership/asset portfolio, although there had been some recent changes to the process they followed.

6.0. SIGNAGE FOR LORRIES IN CHURCH STREET

Local residents had complained that large lorries were still travelling along this road despite the heavy weight restrictions given.

Councillor C. Dowling re-iterated the problems being faced with HGV lorry drivers ignoring the signs provided and just following instructions on a satnav, which were not always correct routes.

The Traffic and Safety Manager announced that there were lots of changes being put in place and ideas to investigate. They will look at putting signage in the High Street before turning into Church Street, it was just a case of looking at the best location. They would not be able to look at the wider A22 as this would be too costly and would only be feasible if there were no restrictions on the main High Street.

It was clear that lorry drivers would rather take the shorter route through Rocks Road so it was difficult diverting them, and there were so many houses or farms/businesses in this area with deliveries.

7.0 RECENT FATALITIES ON A26

Since the last meeting, the Highway Steward had inspected and advised that there were no areas along the A26 causing an immediate safety concern, although should there be any, the team would notify us.

8.0 UPGRADED/RESURFACED PAVEMENTS

A local resident had been struggling with his mobility frame walking from Portman Court into Town, and had contacted his local Councillor for advice. Councillor J. Love had initiated a discussion with Councillor C. Dowling who respectfully asked the Steward to monitor this, with the hope that ES Highways could ensure that pavements could be upgraded and resurfaced with consideration for those with mobility issues (especially around any applications for new developments).

The Highway Steward informed the committee that there were tree roots pushing up the pathway around a tree in the court gardens causing access issues, so he would raise a land search but that the responsibility would lie with a private landowner. An enquiry would be raised and an enforcement notice to the landowner about this problem.

9.0 CLEARANCE OF FOOTPATH FROM DOWNLAND COPSE TO THE DRIVE

In relation to the footpath (UCK3/1) that runs from Downland Copse to the Drive, Councillor J. Love asked if a clearance programme could be organised (especially in relation to the houses from the Mount that backed onto this footway) as garden waste was being thrown over some fencing and any branch cuttings were just left in situ, leaving this footway to become increasingly dangerous for pedestrians. There was already an area at the back of Hunters Way, coming off Pudding Cake Lane which had deviated from the original footpath due to garden debris and other rubbish being dumped, possibly from a disused shed at the back of one property. This footway was historically (pilgrims walk) connecting through an area of ancient woodland and what could be ancient veteran oak trees, so it was essential that this footway was kept as an historical green corridor.

This would be referred to Rights of Way and the fly tipping to Wealden District Council.

[Councillor K. Bedwell arrived at 2:40pm]

10.0 Other items raised:

Councillor K. Bedwell announced that there were a lot of blocked drains overflowing around New Town ward and the Ridgewood area and made a request for these to be inspected, especially along Lewes Road and Harcourt Road. A couple of the drainage issues had been raised along Harcourt Road not long ago which needed monitoring, and best inspected when it rained, although this would be a schedule to look into.

An update was requested in relation to an issue reported on a footpath in Mill Lane. The Highways team would chase up Rights of Way for feedback, as part of this fell within their remit.

There were issues with lighting columns at Lewes Road, Pipers Field and High View Lane. One was for night works so this would be chased up and the Highway Steward was waiting on site visit results for others, including clearance of vegetation.

Councillor K. Bedwell asked when the National Grid substation works (off Eastbourne Road) would be finished, as this was originally meant to be within eighteen months. The team were unsure but would find out and let us know.

There was upcoming road patching works that would affect the town at some point this year, and a review of grass cuts.

The Steward mentioned that some highway issues were not being reported enough by the general public, so when a pothole was being temporarily filled in, they were often targeted by a few disgruntled members of the public, and there appeared to be a misunderstanding of how the process worked. Councillor K. Bedwell recognised the need to increase awareness of abusive behaviour with local Councillors and asked for the Highways team to look into providing some educational resources or guides that could help advise the public, and prevent any misinformation being escalated on social media platforms. This would include maintenance issues, road safety and code of conduct training.

11.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting: Monday 14th July 2025 at 2pm

The meeting ended at 15:00pm

DRAFT

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 3 March 2025

Agenda Item 7.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE TOWN 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

The formal tender process to seek contractors to upgrade the play area will commence early March, on the UK Government portal Contracts finder. A consultation will also commence with local residents to understand what families would like to see, alongside a poster competition with the local primary school.

The installation a new memorial bench at Victoria Pleasure Ground is due shortly, as per the new bench policy.

New trees have been planted in an area between New Barn Football Pitch and the Skate Park.

Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

The zip line will be replaced with new equipment at the same time as the upgrade of Victoria play area.

In the meantime, the safety fencing keeps getting pulled down at the top of the slide. This has now been replaced by the Grounds team.

West Park/Rocks Park Play Area

The play area equipment is coming to the end of its life. This will therefore be the next play area to upgrade following Victoria.

West Park Recreation ground and West Park LNR

The area of Community Orchard has now been extended using grant funding received from Wealden District Council.

The Town Clerk met with a representative of the Uckfield Grasshoppers to understand the drainage issues at West Park recreation ground as part of an application for Sport and Infrastructure grant funding.

The new interpretation boards for West Park Local Nature Reserve have arrived and will be installed shortly.

Snatts Road Cemetery

Staff are currently working on mapping the new burial section to be known as the Y-section and the process of consecration in the north west of the cemetery (report submitted to this meeting).

A new contractor is due to be appointed on a part-time basis to tend to the cemetery's grounds and provide it with the sensitive and greater attention it needs.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

The Community orchard has now been completed between the MUGA (Mixed Use Games Area) and Ridgewood allotments with the help from volunteers from Brighter

Uckfield and Allotment holders.

East Sussex Highways have added two drains to New Road, and removed the existing berm, and altered the entrance into Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park from New Road, to try and alleviate the water entering the recreation ground from New Road, in heavy rain.

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing to report.

Hughes Way play area

A sink hole has appeared in the play area and this is somewhat larger than previous occasions, so will need appropriate investigation.

Luxford field and play area

Following on from the three-monthly play inspections, some repairs have been carried out. There are a couple outstanding.

The gate has been replaced and pedestrian entrance into the field, due to issues with remedial works undertaken in the car park. The work will be completed shortly.

Woodlands

Works in Boothland Wood are near completion. This is the third year of the scheduled work identified within the Woodland Management Plan developed with the support of the Forestry Commission in 2021.

Equipment & Vehicles

The two electric vans have now been delivered and are in use by the Grounds team. The diesel pick up is due for delivery in April 2025. The older transit van has now been retired from service.

The replacement for the Izeke Mower has been ordered and should be ready in time for the start of grass cutting season (end of March/early April).

Street Furniture & Lighting

The Estates and Facilities Manager has devised a useful system in order to keep up to date with any pending and authorised works.

Harlands Pond

Works to siltex the pond has now been completed along with a bulb planting morning organised by Cllr Bedwell and attended by Cllr Smith as well as residents of Ridgewood.

Any other business

The Grounds team are currently working through ROSPA inspections reports, carrying out repairs and replacements.

The crown reduction of the Liquidambar tree in Holy Cross Churchyard went well and thankfully didn't require a full day of road closure in Church Street.

Quotes have been obtained for full wildlife appraisals of our nature reserves, and a dormouse survey in Boothland Wood.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Tom Woollard/Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 3 March 2025

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER THE CONSECRATION OF A SECTION OF LAND AT SNATTS ROAD CEMETERY TO BE NAMED THE NEW 'Y' SECTION

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 This report highlights the need to address future requirements at the Snatts Road Cemetery.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Uckfield Town Council is a burial authority as designated by Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972 with the power to provide and maintain cemeteries. Uckfield has maintained a cemetery since 1885. The Snatts Road Cemetery is divided into two areas North and South of Snatts Road. The southern area, being the original site, consists of 2.37 hectares, has two chapels and includes the Garden of Remembrance.
- 2.2 In 2001/02 a Best Value Review was carried out on the Cemetery and the District Audit agreed that there was sufficient capacity to last another forty years based on current trends.
- 2.3 In 2008, a further area of land known as the X-section was consecrated to provide 276 grave plots (reconfigured to 253 plots in 2022 due to tree roots). There are currently 48 available plots in the X-section, including a separate area allocated for pre-purchased plots, although this area is due to run out in the near future.
- 2.4 Arrangements are being made for a further section of land to be named the Y-section and similar in size to the above, to be consecrated. It was hoped that this will provide a similar number of plots, but this could not be confirmed without a detailed scaled map drawn up (see below).
- 2.5 Once this area is fully occupied this will leave no other areas of land to consecrate for full burials, although there may be provision for a new ashes memorial garden in the Town Council owned wooded area adjacent to Paygate Wood, to the north of the cemetery.

3.0 Mapping of the new Y-section

- 3.1 Current trends show that although cremations are on the increase, there is still a requirement for burial plots, and a Garden of Remembrance area for ashes.
- 3.2 This will therefore be reflected during the creation of the new Y-section, by creating separate areas for both burials and ashes interments
- 3.3 The Town Council employed a company called Pear Technology Services Ltd, a digital mapping service who currently assist with the mapping of cemetery and allotment spaces. They have been commissioned to accurately map the new Y-section, providing two map drafts, in case any amendments are required after the first draft is completed (see App A). This included mapping the section boundary, paths, plots and capturing any additional features such as benches,

bins and trees, and any existing structures such as the Cloistered Memorial Wall (see App B).

- 3.4 It was also important to be mindful about the buffer status whilst allocating any new burial spaces in relation to nature and ecology, which has been factored in, and to check that the direction of the numbering was going to be easily accessible.
- 3.5 This service was carried out remotely and prior to the meeting has been slightly tweaked to ensure the exact number of plots are available within the space provided, and to avoid any potential obstructions that the Grounds staff need to be aware of, such as trees.
- 3.6 An alternative option was available for the company to attend the site and provide an accurate site survey, to include the time taken for them to upload the collected data and tidy it up ready for mapping. However, this was not necessary with local knowledge and staff members who have been able to provide measurements from experience of preparing burials in the cemetery.
- 3.7 A pathway will be created to divide the burial section and Garden of Remembrance area, to enable visitors to access their plots and pay their respects to loved ones.
- 3.8 The land will need to be consecrated before bringing into use.

4.0 Consecration process – brief background

- 4.1 Parish churchyards and those parts of cemeteries designated as ‘consecrated’ are governed by an older system of law dating back to William the Conqueror. That law, known as canon or ecclesiastical law, has its modern roots in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963.
- 4.2 When it comes to burial law, being ‘consecrated’ means being consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England. Land is consecrated when it is set apart solely for sacred purposes and this is affected by a Bishop signing the sentence of consecration.
- 4.3 In the case of ancient parish churches, consecration is presumed. Once land is consecrated, it and everything on it comes within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocesan Bishop and thus within the faculty system.

5.0 Consecration - next steps

- 5.1 The process of consecration involves applying to the local Diocese and supplying them with the required documentation for the Registrar.
- 5.2 This will include a plan of the new burial ground with the area to be consecrated, title documentation and confirmation from the Local Planning Authority that planning is not required for the use of land, and that consent is already in place, with no easements or rights of way affecting the land.
- 5.3 We would also be required to confirm that no burials have taken place in this area of the cemetery, which can be shown on the plan, since this piece of land was pre-purchased for the provision of burials only and has not been used for any other purpose.

5.4 Once the Registrar has had sight of the documentation, they will provide a quotation and estimate of how long it will take to get to the date setting stage. This should not take long although it will depend on them making sure that there are no complications or any restricted covenants that need to be dealt with before consecration of land can take place.

5.5 It is normally necessary for the Bishop and Registrar to be present at the consecration, so once the date is set, staff will arrange this with the Chichester Diocesan Registry office, and for a representative of the Town Council to sign the sentence document on the day.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) approve the map provided by Pear Technology Services Ltd for the new Y-section, including any adjustments if required, and;
- (ii) agree for staff to conduct those arrangements set out above for the process of consecration.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton



Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 3 March 2025

Agenda Item 7.3

TO CONSIDER A NEW LITTER CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS DOG FOULING IN PUBLIC SPACES

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 The Environment and Leisure Committee has been discussing a litter campaign in relation to the increase of dog faeces in our open spaces. This has been an issue for many years and a key issue which concerns the public.

A number of concerns have been raised by Councillors and local residents in recent months, in relation to people not picking up their dog mess, including the Harlands Farm estate, Mallard Estates, Keld Close and some allotment sites.

It is harmful and pretty disgusting and needs to be addressed. Not only do dogs themselves not want to walk in it, but neither do other pedestrians. And hanging it on a tree to be collected later, is just leaving it for someone else to pick up.

The parasite eggs responsible for toxocariasis can survive for many months in sand or soil, so all pet faeces should be collected and disposed of in rubbish.

General litter is also unacceptable and this poses a risk to wildlife and longer term, a risk to our environment particularly as single use plastic is unable to decompose.

2.0 Report from a resident of dog mess in Harlands Farm Estate:

- 2.1 One resident in Mallard Drive had contacted a local Councillor recently regarding the increase of dog faeces on the Harlands Farm Estate, as she noticed that it was becoming a problem for parents especially, who regularly walk their children to the local primary school.

This was often in the middle of the pavement in several places and at times with small children, was hard to avoid. On top of this, it was regularly walked through the school buildings as it has often gone unnoticed.

The resident wanted to raise some awareness about the problem in the hope that this would shame the dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs, to do so for the safety of children going to school.

Furthermore, the resident was concerned that this could put parents off walking to school which would cause more congestion and parking issues near the school at drop off and pick up time.

The resident also wished to attend the next Environment and Leisure Committee, to speak about her very real concerns.

3.0 Encouraging people to take their waste home!

3.1 The Town Council was keen to introduce a campaign which would tie in with recent discussions on getting people to pick up and take home their own litter. Residents were able to take the bagged waste home with them and place in their own bin, double wrapped.

Members were asked to discuss ways that we might prompt people to think about picking up their dog poo, whilst emphasising the risk of diseases and blindness that it could cause children.

The Town Council had over 70 litter bins of which residents could add their dog waste on Town Council owned land, and this was in addition to the litter bins on the main thoroughfares that Wealden District Council were responsible for emptying.

The Town Council has also approached some local businesses near the Ridgewood roundabout near The Highlands Inn, to develop a framework for monitoring of litter in and around the town.

4.0 Action taken and ideas being followed-up:



To review the waste collection costs and to look at the Uckfield Town Council Litter bin provision evaluation process at the same time.



The company scheme that supplied the Council with dog bag dispensers and bags free of charge, which would be funded by community-based advertising. Eco Green Communities were keen to continue with this partnership and to receive sponsorship. Staff had recently sent them some photos and videos for promotional purposes.



In previous authorities, campaigns have been run whereby photos have been taken of key hotspot areas with Councillors placing flags next to dog waste. Staff could seek to arrange a couple of early morning photo opportunities with a press release, to remind people of the risks of this type of waste, let alone treading in it.



The Town Council has also worked closely with Wealden Street Scene over the years placing dog fouling posters around the town to raise awareness. We have some artwork that could be placed on social media and around effected areas in the town.



In April 2022, members had agreed to a proposal for dogs to be placed on a lead during bird nesting season (March to July) and the Ranger placed polite notices up in Boothland Wood, Nightingale Wood and West Park Local Nature Reserve (wooded area) at that time. This could be refreshed if necessary, for any new access points into woodland areas.



Dog walkers have been encouraged to use a suitable alternative green space for dog exercising off leads, with various sites that are easily accessible such as Horsted Green (SANGS), Victoria Pleasure Ground and West Park Recreation Ground. This is something that could be included in the spring copy of 'The Voice'.



A local transport plan could be factored in as well which would provide the most popular walking areas (tbc).



Further action to reduce litter in the vicinity of new food outlets and retail businesses, was kept on the action list, for us to offer our gratitude to staff in these areas for their contribution, and to ask if they could continue to keep an eye on surrounding areas and place any rubbish in litter bins.



Staff to contact local schools to see if they would like to undertake joint litter picks with students and volunteers of Brighter Uckfield, to try to encourage awareness and responsible disposal of litter.

5.0 Keep Uckfield Tidy!

5.1 The "Keep Britain Tidy Campaign" wanted to see dog fouling substantially reduced, and all but eradicated by 2030, and they wholly supported the concept of 'any bin will do' Please see the following link:

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling>

Whatever people believe, there really is no such thing as the dog poo fairy!
Where it rests, is where it ends up! So, bag that poo, as any bin will do!

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to note the report and to provide any comments.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 3 March 2025

Agenda Item 8.1

TO NOTE AN UPDATE ON THE 'OUR PARKS' FITNESS SESSIONS

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 Our Parks sessions have now moved to Ridgewood. They recently changed location from Harlands Farm Playing Fields to the multi-use games area at Ridgewood Recreation Ground from Saturday 8th February onwards.

Sessions are taking place every Saturday and Wednesday morning at 9:30am by a qualified fitness instructor.

To take part, book your FREE fitness session online at: 🙌

<https://ourparks.org.uk/borough/ridgewood-recreation-ground>

You'll need to register, then book each session beforehand. Remember to bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated throughout your workout.

Sessions include:

- a 60-minute Bootcamp style workout on Saturdays, which offers a full body workout. These classes are suited to all levels, as the coach always offers modifications so you can take it at your own pace!
- a 60-minute HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) class on Wednesdays, with variations for different fitness levels, so it's perfect for beginners or anyone getting back into fitness.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 3 March 2025

Agenda Item 9.1

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS: CLIMATE EMERGENCY STEERING GROUP UPDATE

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 Whilst the Committee has not met, we have been very busy. The Green Shoots Upcycled Fashion Show took place on Friday 21st February. We had 21 contestants and about 80 spectators. The outfits were wonderful, with lots of creative effort having gone into them. We hope to repeat the show next year.

Not carried out under the auspices of the Committee, but still with a green theme, Councillor K. Bedwell organised for planting of bulbs at Harlands Pond on Saturday 22nd February, attended by 8 residents, who between them planted 250-300 bulbs, ably assisted by the Ranger.

Councillors Angie Smith.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 3 March 2025

Agenda Item 10.2

REPORT OF OUTSIDE BODIES: CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST AND WEALD TO WAVES

1.0 Summary Report

- 1.1 I have not yet progressed the additional part – Weald to Waves – to be a link contact (with a possible donation of £1,500), but the pledge areas remain for nature in our natural assets, and we will continue to make contact with Weald to Waves about the agreed initial pledge, and can follow up if becoming a link partner and what it will mean. Please visit the link: <https://www.wealdtowaves.co.uk/>

Benefits of joining the corridor are here:

<https://www.wealdtowaves.co.uk/get-involved/farmers-and-landowners/>

Partner with us is here <https://www.wealdtowaves.co.uk/partner-with-us/>

I attended the last waxcap survey at the Cemetery: a great bunch of volunteers.

A former NT Head has said they may be able to help survey our dormouse habitats, if we provide expenses and the nest tubes. This would be near West Park, along the A22 corridors because the roads and latest roadworks are concerning, especially vegetation being cut which might be dormouse habitats as dormice have been witnessed in that area.

I have asked Councillor J. Love to provide an update about concerns in relation to Boothland Wood not having large enough buffers and providing green corridors connecting bats to the SANGS area, as other new designs fragment habitat corridors.

With the direct and indirect impacts on Boothland Wood caused by unclear access points, this needs to be addressed and the woodland restored as it is an irreplaceable habitat. There is only one public right of way, so we need ensure that this remains accessible and other areas are blocked off, as this effects irreplaceable habitats. The impact in Downlands Copse and Nightingale Wood was shocking to see, so there is still much more to do to improve our ancient woodlands.

2.0 Further reading material

Here are some useful references to highlight irreplaceable habitats and old woodlands (Long Established Woodlands from 1893):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keepers-of-time-ancient-and-native-woodland-and-trees-policy-in-england>

Councillor B. Reed.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact: Rachel Newton