



# Uckfield Town Council's Annual Priorities 2025/26

## CONSERVATION

### ROBUST APPROACH TO ARBORICULTURE

We will address the remainder of ash dieback, and continue to record and map the results of our rolling tree surveying programme to ensure the safety of the public. We will re-plant trees and restock areas of our woodlands, alongside new community orchards where trees have been removed and disease has had an impact.

### PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HABITATS

We will commission ecological appraisals and wildlife monitoring of our ancient woodlands and local nature reserves, and seek to separate areas from the public to preserve the flora and fauna and protect key species.

### EDUCATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We will host an Eco EXPO to promote alternative technologies to local residents, and continue to consider alternatives in our purchases and management of Town Council land, with a continued focus on conservation and tree planting.

### UPGRADING OUR ASSETS

We will seek professional expertise to explore and deliver options for key buildings in the Town Council's portfolio – Osborn Hall/Signal Box. We will continue to improve the condition, safety and decoration of buildings we manage day to day – Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Victoria Pavilion.

### UPGRADING OUR SPORTS PITCHES

We will arrange for and fund:

- the replacement of the artificial cricket wicket;
- full pitch renovations of our football pitches between May and July;
- the installation of maneuverable goal posts for the football pitches at New Barn and Harlands;
- welfare facilities at Harlands Recreation Ground.

In addition we will also apply for grant funding to undertake more substantial improvements to the grounds and facilities, and explore options for a future upgrade of the Skate Park.

## COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY GRANTS

We will award up to £22,000 of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2025/26, alongside the provision of £23,000 to Wealden Citizen's Advice and £9,000 to Wealden Volunteering through service level agreements.

### UPGRADING PLAY AREA FACILITIES

We will see delivery of the upgrade to Victoria Play Area, and make mid-term upgrades to equipment at Hempstead Recreation Ground. Funding will also be put aside for future improvements to West Park play area.

### PUBLIC REALM

Work with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to review the contract for festive lighting for the town centre in preparation for Christmas 2025, and work with local contractors to provide a beautiful floral display in our town centre.

### PUBLIC EVENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN THE TOWN

We will organise and deliver the annual day festival Weald on the Field, an event to mark VE Day and support the preparations for the annual Remembrance Parade and Services.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

We will utilise the assistance of professional expertise to project manage major projects and assist with the review of specialist policies and procedures.

### FORWARD PLANNING

We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield. We will also consider the future impact of growth on the Town Council's provision of allotment and cemetery space. This information will also be utilised to inform the finalisation of an Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan and our position in the midst of devolution at the higher level of local government.