



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 1 September 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 7 July 2025
- 4.2. Action list – for information only
- 4.3. Project monitoring list – for information only

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. Bills paid
- 5.2. To note the income & expenditure report ending 30 June 2025

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To note the draft minutes of the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meeting held on 1 July 2025

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
- 7.2. To receive a progress update on water ingress into Ridgewood Village Hall
- 7.3. Update on the Uckfield Station Car Park and electric charging

8.0. LEISURE

- 8.1 To consider a request for a community garden on Town Council land at the end of Hunters Way
- 8.2 To consider a Seeds library on the Framfield West Allotment site
- 8.3 To note Wealden DC's Leisure Consultation

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

(None)

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
- 10.2 Biodiversity links - Ashdown Forest and Weald to Waves
- 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 Trust Board
- 10.8 Wealden Food Partnership Advisory Group
- 10.9 Uckfield & District Twinning Association – AGM 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
26 August 2025



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 7th July 2025 at 7.00pm
Council Chamber Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. Angie Smith (Chair)	Cllr. Bernadette Reed (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Karen Bedwell	Cllr. Donna French
Cllr. Val Frost	Cllr. Michael McClafferty
Cllr. Chris Macve	Cllr. Spike Mayhew

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Peter Selby
One member of the public
Tom Woollard – Countryside Ranger
James Hollingdale – Estates and Facilities Manager

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 received.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was received in advance of the meeting from Councillor D. Bennett who was unable to attend due to personal reasons.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 27 May 2025

EL.13.07.25 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 27 May 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 items to be removed from the action list:

EL06.05.25 – To consider the design of a new bus shelter to be installed on London Road.

The Town Clerk had been in contact with Vine Consulting Engineers. The initial siting of the bus shelter had been moved just south of the layby and gate, so this matter had already been addressed. The Town Clerk advised the consultants of the preferred bus shelter design, and support for a litter bin and information would be sent on the location of signage in due course.

EL08.05.25 – To consider a request from a local resident in relation to coppiced trees to rear of property.

The Tree Policy had been revised by the Ranger and submitted to this meeting for approval.

EL09.05.25 – To consider the feedback for the Ashdown Woodland Management Plan Consultation.

Members had supported the expertise of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest in managing the forest.

EL10.05.25 – To consider the feedback from service users for Victoria Play Area and initial designs.

The working group met on 16 June 2025, to undertake detailed scoring and analysis of the submissions and a report was submitted to this meeting to select the winning design.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

Members noted the report and agreed to remove the following actions on:

FC.90.01.25 – Football Pitch Manoeuvrable posts.

These were purchased in time for the new season in July/August 2025. The Estates & Facilities Manager was working on storage facilities with Uckfield Grasshoppers.

FC.90.01.25 – Full football pitch renovations.

These works had commenced on Monday 19 May 2025.

5.0. **FINANCE**

5.1. To note bills paid

A query was raised in relation to the seasonal pitch renovations as there was a marked difference in the approximate figures shown in the Project Monitoring report and Bills Paid, one at £29k and the latter £35k. This was due to the inclusion of VAT where applied.

The Estates and Facilities Manager confirmed that due to the weather, there were still some follow up works scheduled for completion. This included last minute additional drainage works from the pitch users.

Members subsequently noted the report.

6.0. **ADMINISTRATION**

6.1 To award the contract for the upgrade of Victoria Play Area and replacement of the zip line at Hempstead Recreation Ground.

On the advice of the Estates and Facilities Manager and further information being provided at the meeting, members were asked to select the winning design and to award the contract for the upgrade of Victoria Play Area, and replacement of the zip line at Hempstead Recreation Ground.

A further update was presented on the final two designs and along with additional modifications that had been discussed with both companies, which were HAGS and KOMPAN.

The budget had been increased with a request to include a pathway adjoining the car park to the first piece of equipment, the addition of an inclusive roundabout, mirrored detailing on the floor and the inclusion of a tunnel on both designs.

This was not just about the overall costs or completion of works involved, since both companies were comparable.

A question was raised about after care and post-maintenance rather than just the build itself, highlighting the need to ensure that there was a definitive system for quotes to repair.

The Grounds team had experienced some long delays when ordering replacement parts for some of the current play areas in the past, which had resulted in equipment being unusable and a health and safety issue. The company that was previously selected for these play areas did not always adhere to their warranty agreement either and it was felt that they had become complacent with their customer focus.

A refreshing conversation was held with KOMPAN as to what they wanted to provide for the council and they were very proactive on climate issues. They were also the most proactive of the two companies with new ideas and the difference in their suppliers interactions was evident as they had stock parts and ordered in a bulk. This impetus would mean fewer delays which was much better for the environment.

Members were impressed that their equipment was mostly inclusive too, such as not having to take a child out of a wheelchair to use the trampoline or roundabout.

The zip wire was going to be replaced with a much more affordable but equally attractive CocoWave Swing. This was a large rope swing and would provide the same fun although it was less likely to be vandalised.

It may also be worth looking to see if there were any funding options or contributions through Wealden District Council prior to agreeing the go ahead, since the town was expanding which may also help support Wealden.

EL.14.07.25 Members noted the report and voted unanimously to:

- (i) award the contract for the upgrade of Victoria Play Area and replacement of the zip line at Hempstead Recreation Ground to KOMPAN, and;
- (ii) agree with a request by the Chair for officers to advise HAGS, the unsuccessful contractor, that issues with maintenance in other play areas had been a key deciding factor in the Committee's decisions making.

6.2 To confirm members for the working groups of Environment and Leisure Committee

EL.15.07.25 Members noted the report and confirmed the appointment of:

- (i) Councillors A. Smith, K. Bedwell and S. Mayhew as members of the Allotment Working Group, and;
- (ii) Councillors A. Smith, K. Bedwell, S. Mayhew and M. McClafferty as members of the Joint Sports Facilities and Cemetery Work Group, and;
- (iii) Councillors A. Smith, B. Reed, D. French, K. Bedwell and M. McClafferty as members of the Climate Emergency Steering Group.

6.3 To consider the revised Tree Policy no. 48 (with comments).

Members discussed the tree policy and made some additional suggestions:

Requests for tree works on Town Council land may be declined and are subject to approval first and the works are organised by the resident.

The works would be arranged through the resident making this request, although no works could begin without permission given in writing.

Any costs payable to the Town Council must be paid in advance of any approved tree works.

EL.16.07.25 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to agree and adopt the Tree Policy no 48 subject to the additional items raised.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

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

There was a consensus that something needed to be done about off-road bikes crossing through Boothland Wood. We also needed to be mindful of accessibility for disabled residents, e.g. those using mobility scooters.

One idea was to maybe use large tree logs or tree trunks to navigate people to a footpath instead. The Ranger agreed that the wood could stay for this purpose, although the long term goal was to apply for funding for more secure fencing, which would cost £12-15k. There may be funding available from the Forestry Commission.

Signage would also be considered with a suggestion made for 'no off-road biking'. The ancient woodlands were an irreplaceable habitat and whilst there was more awareness people were still not taking this seriously enough.

Councillors requested that local schools be advised to pause educational activities in our woodland in the short term, in the light of a recent incident where a child was killed by a falling branch.

Nightingale Wood was thought to be in need of attention due to bike tracks and lots of wooden logs and branches blocking the stream, and the pathways needing clearing. The Ranger confirmed that there had been more spent in this area however, having been surveyed three times but he would add this to his list. He added that this council were ahead of other local councils with tree surveying.

Members subsequently noted the report.

7.2 To receive an update on the provision of future burial space at Snatts Road Cemetery and memorial inspections.

Members noted the report with no comments prior to the arrangements for the consecration of land in the Y-section later this year.

8.0 LEISURE

8.1 To consider installing a bench at the Ridgewood Recreation Ground Orchard

Councillor Reed was pleased that the bench could be installed within the Ridgewood orchard on a trial basis. If this caused any issues for local residents or anti-social behaviour, the bench would be removed.

EL.17.07.25 Members noted the report and agreed for this bench to be renovated and placed at the Ridgewood orchard, on a trial basis. This would be placed on the asset mapping software and be monitored as usual.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 To receive an update from the Allotment Working Group

Members noted the report and were very pleased to hear that the administration of the allotments was going well and that the waiting list had gone down by a third since last April.

Five new members had joined the Allotment Association with some new members, which was great news and some bright ideas were already coming forward for change, including the hut.

The Town Council were planning to have a 'Veg Swap Fest' in the coming weeks to help support the Allotment Association and a Scarecrow Competition townwide for the whole community, so there were lots to look forward to.

The Allotment Checks and Allotment Competition were also due this week.

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
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.3 Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.5 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Nothing to report at this time.
- 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

Members were made aware of a gate entrance that had been installed at the rear of a bungalow property onto Selby Meadow side, although access had not been granted for this.

Uckfield Town Council should have been contacted about this although members felt that this was something that needed further investigation in regards to gate access in other areas too, notices and restrictions and rights of way. This would be raised at a future meeting.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.18.07.25 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
Members noted the report.

The meeting finished at 8:45pm

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	The Ranger is sourcing external quotes for installation of the pathway. These works are not going to be carried out in-house due to workload.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.11.07.24</u>	<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.	08.07.24	HG	In progress
<u>EL.18.09.24</u>	<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.	02.09.24	HG	In progress.
<u>EL.35.01.25</u>	<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.	20.01.25	RN	New signs have been installed at the entrance including mapping and safety instructions to visitors. Cemetery working group to meet this autumn to compare ideas for improvement to the cemetery - tbc.
<u>EL41.03.25</u>	<u>To consider the consecration of a section of land at Snatts Road Cemetery to be named the new Y section</u> Members resolved to note the report before requesting, that officers: (i) look into those points raised at the meeting before deciding on the consecration of the new Y-section, and bring these points to the next meeting; (ii) seek advice from the Town Clerk in relation to writing a letter to the Head of Planning with a request for additional cemetery land in line with the amount of housing opportunities coming our way.	03.03.25	RN	In progress. Consecration date TBC.

	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL04.05.25</u>	<p><u>To consider the drainage works at Ridgewood Village Hall</u> With seven votes in favour, and one vote abstaining due to a conflict of interest members noted the report and RESOLVED to agree to request:</p> <p>(i) for more precise and accurate information to be provided within the quotation (<i>since the surface water levels were not yet fully understood</i>); (ii) to consider the alternative of tanking to stop water coming into the building; (iii) to bring this item back to a future committee meeting for members to make a more formal decision in relation to this application for costs, and;</p> <p>(iv) for the Estates team to arrange to have test pits installed onsite to assess current drainage and soil conditions on Ridgewood Recreation Ground.</p>	27.05.25	HG/TW	Onsite visit was carried out on 13.06.25 and a report has been submitted to this meeting with proposal of works and costs.

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2025-26**

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	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.	

Projects in 2025/26 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Permanent welfare facilities for Harlands Playing Fields		Project Number	89
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£12,000	08.04.25	A temporary solution is currently being explored by the Estates & Facilities Manager, to be presented to Full Council, before consideration and grant funding opportunities are sought for a longer-term solution.	

Project Name	Conservation and wildlife monitoring (longer-term project)		Project Number	91
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£8,000	08.04.25	Wildlife appraisals have been commissioned, alongside a dormouse survey of Boothland Wood. Enquiries are also being made for a bat survey in Boothland Wood. In progress.	

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Liaison Meeting
Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 9.30am

PRESENT: Cllr. Chris Dowling East Sussex County Council
Judy Deane Stakeholder Liaison Officer
Jo Reed Traffic & Safety Mgr (ESCC)
Phil Read Highway Steward (ES Highways)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Holly Goring – Town Clerk, Uckfield Town Council
Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer, Uckfield Town Council
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

1.0 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Claire Dowling – East Sussex County Council

2.0 APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last SLR meeting held on the 13 January 2025 be taken as read, and confirmed as a correct record.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Upgraded/resurfaced pavement

The Enforcement Team had sent a tree responsibility letter to the landowner explaining that the roots were damaging the pavement.

b) Blocked drains overflowing around New Town ward and the Ridgewood area

The Highway Steward had carried out an inspection on Harcourt Road and had identified multiple drains to be cleared. A further inspection of Lewes Road found no immediate flooding issues caused by the blocked drains although they were added to the maintenance list to be attended and monitored within six months.

c) Footpath in Mill Lane

The Highways team chased up 'Rights of Way' as this was their remit and they subsequently responded directly to Councillor Chris Dowling on this matter.

d) Issues with lighting columns at Lewes Road, Pipers Field and High View Lane

The Asset Team had advised that it would be easier to assess any overgrown vegetation in the spring when everything was in leaf and survey the amount of clearance required. Column five was resolved by the Streetlighting Team and Councillor Chris Dowling was also updated.

4.0 REPORTING ISSUES TO EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS – TRAINING RESOURCES

At the last Strengthening Local Relations meeting, Councillor K. Bedwell has asked if East Sussex Highways could provide some training resources to help local councillors understand how and where to report any maintenance concerns or road safety issues, without having to go through District Councillors.

Whilst there was no specific training, a guide was being worked on to be shared with local councils. In the meantime, councillors were being encouraged to get in touch if they were facing any issues with the online reporting system. The Stakeholder Liaison Officer was contactable by telephone to talk through any processes, if needed.

In relation to the emergency works at Ridgewood in January, with no direct notification being provided about a road closure and the entrance to Ridgewood Village Hall being blocked off, the Stakeholder Liaison Officer explained what happened.

East Sussex Highway did provide a hashtag of the location and Uckfield Town Council follow this, although details of emergency works are not always provided on this platform due to time restraints, and these would have been completed as an emergency permit.

One-network was a tool they would encourage all Parishes and members of the public to use as this showed all works on the highway, including utility works.

5.0 PARKING IN RIDGEWOOD

The parking through the thoroughfare in Ridgewood (i.e. Lewes Road) was becoming a significant issue. Previously, there were a few cars parked, typically outside the post office and leaving Uckfield via this route was a reasonable endeavour. However, up to very recently, this had become increasingly difficult with a constant row of parked cars often from just beyond the mini roundabout until the bus stop at New Road. The Highways team were asked if this area could be converted to double yellow lines to help with the flow of traffic.

The Town Clerk expressed her biggest concern about space and visibility issues due to an increased number of larger vehicles parking along Lewes Road by contractors off nearby development sites. The southern end of Uckfield (Ridgewood) had a number of approved developments either in construction or about to commence, with various entrances on this road. There was a limited amount of pull in room for vehicles travelling south when they needed to move out of the way for vehicles heading north.

Contact details were provided for the Transport Development Team who could assist and be asked to look at the terms of admissions with new developments and their contractors. Contact was made following the meeting and ESCC representatives undertook onsite visits.

6.0 DISABLED BAYS

Councillor D. French had requested for the disabled parking bays in the High Street to be more prominent. The Town Clerk also advised at the meeting that the disabled bay opposite Waitrose had faded.

The Highway Steward inspected and advised that these were still visible, so these lines would not be refreshed in the immediate future, although the Steward would continue to monitor this on their regular inspection of the area.

Councillor B. Reed also asked if they could install a dropped kerb for wheelchair users.

This was raised in the past, although the gradient into the dropped kerb to the pavement was considered to be too big. A further question was to see if any

accessibility audits could be undertaken for residents experiencing manoeuvrability issues within the High Street.

7.0 BATCHELOR WAY – VISIBILITY ISSUES

Local residents had reported that upon leaving Batchelor Way on to Bell Farm Road, and from Meads Surgery, that visibility was poor for drivers turning right towards the A22 roundabout. There was also a camber in the road which did not help.

A request was made for a swathe cut at these junctions for the purpose of road safety, and so this would be added to their current list of priority works.

The Highways team encouraged the Town Council and members of the public and Councillors to report any issues via the East Sussex Highways website, so that they can confirm (for example) that this had recently been cutback.

The Town Clerk requested an update in relation to the lowering of the road potentially over a culvert across Bell Farm Road near Batchelor Way, just by the EMC Car Garage. The Highway steward advised that he would continue to monitor this section of the road. However, it did not currently meet the criteria for repair, and as such, no further works were planned at this time. If there were any noticeable changes in the carriageway, these could be reported directly via the East Sussex Highways website.

8.0 TWO LANES LEADING TOWARDS ROUNDABOUTS

A query had been raised in relation to the new two-lane line markings leading towards the A22 Copwood Roundabout and also at Budletts Roundabout. It was not always clear which lane drivers should be in if they were heading straight ahead, especially there appeared to be no right hand turning.

The Traffic and Safety Manager explained that the Highway Code stated that vehicles should stay in the left-hand lane unless advised otherwise. The right-hand lane was for larger vehicles to get back around the roundabout if required.

The proposed works for the solar farm at the Copwood roundabout would involve further changes to boundary lines, although the same rules would still apply in line with the Highway Code.

Other local roundabouts had no line markings including the Blackdown roundabout and Maresfield Roundabout, which had a low crash history and as traffic was kept flowing in these areas there were no changes being made. Traffic flow and accidents were always being monitored however and if any enquiries or concerns should be reported.

9.0 BOLLARD AND SIGN, LEWES ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING

A bollard and signage had been introduced towards the lower end of Lewes Road, as a new safety feature, although it was felt that this was potentially dangerous for oncoming traffic and vehicles having to navigate when it was safe to move.

The Stakeholder Liaison Officer had informed the Transport Development Planning department that this item was being raised at this meeting although she had asked them to respond to Uckfield Town Council directly, with any views or updates on this matter.

10.0 VEGETATION ON ROAD SIGNS

This item was raised by Councillor C. Macve in relation to some of the local road signs, speed limits and repeater signs being unreadable due to overgrown vegetation, since it was not understood if these road signs were being monitored and refreshed.

The Highways team explained that they did provide areas for residents to report any obstructions online and they also carried out driven and walked inspections. However, with any signs that carried overgrown vegetation, this could be gone one week and there the next, so residents could only be encouraged to report any specific areas of concern as and when to East Sussex Highways, and a land search would be carried out.

This may take a little bit of time if this were private land such as farm land, although a notice would be served straight away by the Enforcement team.

11.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

[Councillor C. Dowling arrived at 10:24am]

The Stakeholder Liaison Officer announced that there was a document currently being created to assist parishes and town councils with the day-to-day referrals and online submissions, particularly with a bit more understanding on how they operated in terms of transport control, road safety and rights of way. In the meantime, if councillors required any further training, the Stakeholder Liaison Officer was contactable by telephone or could come to the office to assist.

Councillor Dowling asked if there were any further updates in relation to the Maidens Head building at the top end of the High Street. Wealden District Council were dealing with matter as this was no current traffic management concerns since the three-way traffic lights were in operation and working well.

12.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 10:01am

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 1 September 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 Victoria Play area upgrade is due to commence on 8 September and is expected to take until 24 September. During this time, the site will be cordoned off with signage.

Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

The zip line will be replaced with new equipment between 17 and 24 September.

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. The multi-play toddler piece has been vandalised and will need to be repaired.

West Park Recreation Ground and West Park LNR

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.

Snatts Road Cemetery

There is new and improved signage at the entrance to the cemetery to include all new locations and numbering.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Councillor B. Reed had asked if a bench could be installed within the orchard at Ridgewood Recreation Ground, primarily on behalf of a local ornithologist who had been using this spot over the last few years to observe and survey birds in their natural habitat. Our Groundsman, Shaun, has carried out an excellent job refurbishing a bench that was available. He has sanded and repainted the legs, cut the boards and rounded the edges so they were comfortable:



(This bench has been included on the asset mapping software and will be monitored).

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing to report.

Hughes Way play area

A sink hole had appeared in the play area and this was somewhat larger than previous occasions, and scheduled in to be investigated.

Luxford field and play area

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

Woodlands

Contractors are due to remove some of the timber during the summer months once the wood has further dried out. This will be completed carefully in order to respect this natural area.

Preliminary ecological appraisals have now commenced for the following areas- Boothland Wood, WPLNR and HMLNR. Alongside this, a dormouse survey is being carried out in Boothland Wood due to the amount of development occurring on the surrounding land.

The Countryside Ranger has investigated the costs of fencing areas of the wood to protect it from footfall and damage during development construction.

Equipment & Vehicles

The new Toyota Hilux has now been delivered. The old Ford Ranger has been retired from service.

Street Furniture & Lighting

Extra works are being scheduled in to ensure the infrastructure for the Christmas light display is in place well before installation.

Harlands Pond

The Newt Conservation Partnership carried out some studies by Harlands Balancing Pond (near the Nightingales) and West Park Local Nature Reserve on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 April. This involved digging test pit holes of approximately one metre square. Investigations are still ongoing.

Selby Meadows

Members were aware of a gated entrance that had been installed at the rear of a bungalow property onto Selby Meadow side, although access had not been granted for this. Uckfield Town Council should have been contacted about this. However, the owner has since been in touch by email to say that he was unaware that authorisation was required for the installation of the gate and apologised for any inconvenience caused. Upon receiving our notice, he promptly removed the fixing from the tree and the supporting brace and has restored the stock fencing to its original condition. He has also asked if there is anything further required from their side.

Other items:

Findings of the recent Wealden Streetscene Operation to review dog fouling in Uckfield

Two members of the Street Scene Enforcement Team, both kindly attended the Weald on the Field event on Saturday 9 August, to tackle the issue of dog poo on our streets. They engaged with around 30 dog owners and also several mobility scooter and child buggy users. Overall, they reported that the picture was very positive and most hadn't really noticed an issue with dog fouling around the Town.

They would be checking a few areas which were flagged up however. This included Keld Avenue, Hempstead Rise, New Road and Ridgewood (often a key hotspot). Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve was also mentioned. A couple of deposits were found and sprayed red to help the public see them on Ridgewood Recreation Ground and New Road. The other areas checked were all clear.

A couple of people believed dog fouling was bad based on posts they had seen on the local Facebook page, but the Senior Street Scene Officer had found that the same incident was often repeated many months after the event, so social media didn't always tend to paint an accurate picture of a problem.

Sadly, dog fouling would always be around due to the attitude of a minority of owners, but the people they spoke to at this event were very supportive of the actions they were all taking.

The officers thanked Uckfield Town Council for including them in this event, and hoped the above information was useful. They thought the event was very well organised and well attended with a special thanks to those who put the event together.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: James Hollingdale/Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environments and Leisure Committee

Monday 1 September 2025

Agenda Item 7.2

TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS UPDATE ON WATER INGRESS AT THE SITE OF RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Ridgewood Recreation Ground and the car park of Ridgewood Village Hall has historically suffered from drainage issues. The geology of the site, with its Wealden clay exacerbated the issue. With pooling water in the car park (*a complicated longer-term project that Uckfield Town Council are working on*) as well as water ingress to the rear storage area (western side) of the Village Hall (*this was improved with the installation of a soakaway at the rear of the hall and fitting of new doors, paid for by the current leaseholder*).
- 1.2 Ridgewood Village Hall is now experiencing water ingress at the front storage area of the building (southern aspect), making the area wet, mouldy, and unusable.



Figure 1: Front storage area (accessible from southern side of building)

- 1.3 After contacting a contractor for advice, they provided a quote to install another soak away along the recreation ground side of the hall (eastern side) to help with the water ingress. This was with the intention that this would link in with the original soakaway currently dealing with the rear water ingress.

Dear Sir,

Ridgewood Village Hall: Construction of Shingle Drainage System on Southern Side of Building

Further to your request for a quotation for the above works and our subsequent site visit last week, we are pleased to quote for the supply of all necessary labour, plant and materials to carry out the following operation:

- Mobilise machinery and materials.
- Set up small compound area in corner of carpark with Heras fencing.
- Excavate circa 15m (L) x 0.6m (W) x 0.5m (D) adjacent to perimeter of building from access ramp.
- Dispose of surplus muck to a local licenced tip.
- Install geotextile and bed of shingle.
- Lay 100mm dia. perforated pipe wrapped in geotextile.
- Connect to downpipe on the corner of the building.
- Connect pipework into existing drainage around retaining wall.
- Install waterproofing to the external side of the brick wall.
- Backfill trench with 20mm shingle and wrap with geotextile.
- Clear and demobilise site.

All for the sum of **£4,877.00 + VAT**

Please note that we have assumed that existing utilities are sufficiently deep to allow the proposed excavation depth without any need for lowering or diversion and confirm that our price is based on the following additional caveats and assumptions:

- Tender allowance for working Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm.
- No allowance for any environmental or ecological mitigation.
- No allowance to deal or discharge any excessive ground water.
- No allowance to deal or dispose of any contaminated ground.
- No allowance for any trackway or ground guard systems to be used.
- No allowance for any additional topsoil, reinstatement to be as dug materials.

1.4 Having invested a substantial sum on money into the site over the years, Ridgewood Village Hall have asked for Uckfield Town Council to assist with this cost. It would also be preferable for the works to take place prior to the winter.

2.0 Considerations at Environment & Leisure Committee – 27 May 2025

2.1 This item was last discussed at Environment & Leisure Committee on 27 May 2025. The details of that discussion are included below:

- 6.1 To consider further drainage works at Ridgewood Village Hall
[Councillor K. Bedwell left the room at 19:10pm for remaining members to discuss this item in her absence]

Ridgewood Village Hall was still experiencing water ingress from Ridgewood Recreation Ground and a quotation had been presented to E&L Committee from a local contractor. The Village Hall Committee requested the need to get these works carried out prior to the winter season.

Uckfield Town Council had initially offered to split the costs equally, but the Village Hall Committee wished to see the council fund the works in full, as a result of being the landowner. Members acknowledged the full repairing lease agreement and

reasonable amount of charitable grant money awarded for renovation works to the building.

Discussions centred around the difficulties being faced with water ground levels in this particular area. It was hoped that the recent highway works would reduce some of the run-off from New Road into the recreation ground.

Members tried to consider whether surface water run-off and drainage on the recreation ground would have been of impact to the hall after it was first built. It was also recognised that the building was lower in the landscape, and that over the years there had been various concerns which may have altered or impacted the flow of ground water levels.

During the refurbishment works in 2020-21, flooding to the basement was thought to have been caused by works to the car park, and yet it was also discovered that water was also coming off New Road into the Recreation Ground and car park.

The reconfiguration of the Ridgewood Recreation play area in autumn 2016 may have also contributed.

The Town Clerk advised that there were a number of factors that could be contributing to the drainage issues in this particular area and due to the geology of the area, it may never be possible to fully resolve. She also added that members needed to consider their responsibilities as owners of Ridgewood Village Hall, the recreation ground and subsequent impact on the hall.

In relation to the proposed drainage works, Councillor C. Macve said that the proposed shingle drainage system would still not encapsulate the water. He felt that a French drain being installed at a half metre depth may not be adequate enough, as it was not understood if the ground water levels under the recreation ground and basement floor of the building would be more than this, in which case excessive water could still percolate above this level.

An alternative idea could perhaps involve tanking the building to stop water coming into the building, and a french drain along the basement floor level.

In terms of liability, the Town Clerk explained that there should be no blame to any party given that this situation could indicate years of monitoring different water flows, and that whilst things altered on the ground, the structure of the building had also changed. The Town Council may also be responsible for structural repairs to the building within the lease agreement as the owner, so members were being asked to consider if they wished to support this request by making the building watertight.

Whilst discussing the funding, it was clear that the main difficulty members were facing was that this was a large sum of money that had not been budgeted for, whilst the Town Council was also having to look at drainage systems for the adjacent car park that could far exceed existing budget allocations.

Members were inclined to help and to maybe offer funding in place of grant money over the next couple of years, equalling this out.

The Town Clerk agreed that this could be a reasonable suggestion considering this needed sorting out sooner than later, especially if a request was made to extend the building in future.

EL.04.05.25 With seven votes in favour, and one vote abstaining due to a conflict of interest members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to agree to request:

- (i) for more precise and accurate information to be provided within the quotation (*since the surface water levels were not yet fully understood*);
- (ii) to consider the alternative of tanking to stop water coming into the building;
- (iii) to bring this item back to a future committee meeting for members to make a more formal decision in relation to this application for costs, and;
- (iv) for the Estates team to arrange to have test pits installed onsite to assess current drainage and soil conditions on Ridgewood Recreation Ground.

3.0 Review of site

3.1 Following on from the Environment & Leisure Committee, a site meeting was arranged with the contactor, leaseholder, Councillor Macve, Town Clerk and Estates and Facilities Manager. This took place on Friday 13 June to look at the points raised by members.

3.2 In this meeting, the following was discussed:

- The highways works have highlighted that the run off is originating from the field and made worse by the presence of natural springs;
- Test pits had already been dug and would not serve any benefit;
- Tanking the inside walls would not solve the problem as the water was seeping under the walls;
- The original soakaway tank might not be large enough to cope with the extra discharge of water – it was very hard to measure due unknown run off levels;
- A secondary soakaway tank could be added to create extra capacity and had the potential to solve the issue;

3.3 It was agreed for the Contractor to provide an updated quote to include a secondary chamber, to tank inside and out, and allow for membrane and adhesive. This would offer an increased capacity of water.

Dear Sir,

Ridgewood Village Hall: Construction of Shingle Drainage System on Southern Side of Building

Further to your request for a quotation for the above works and our subsequent site visit last month, we are pleased to quote for the supply of all necessary labour, plant and materials to carry out the following operation:

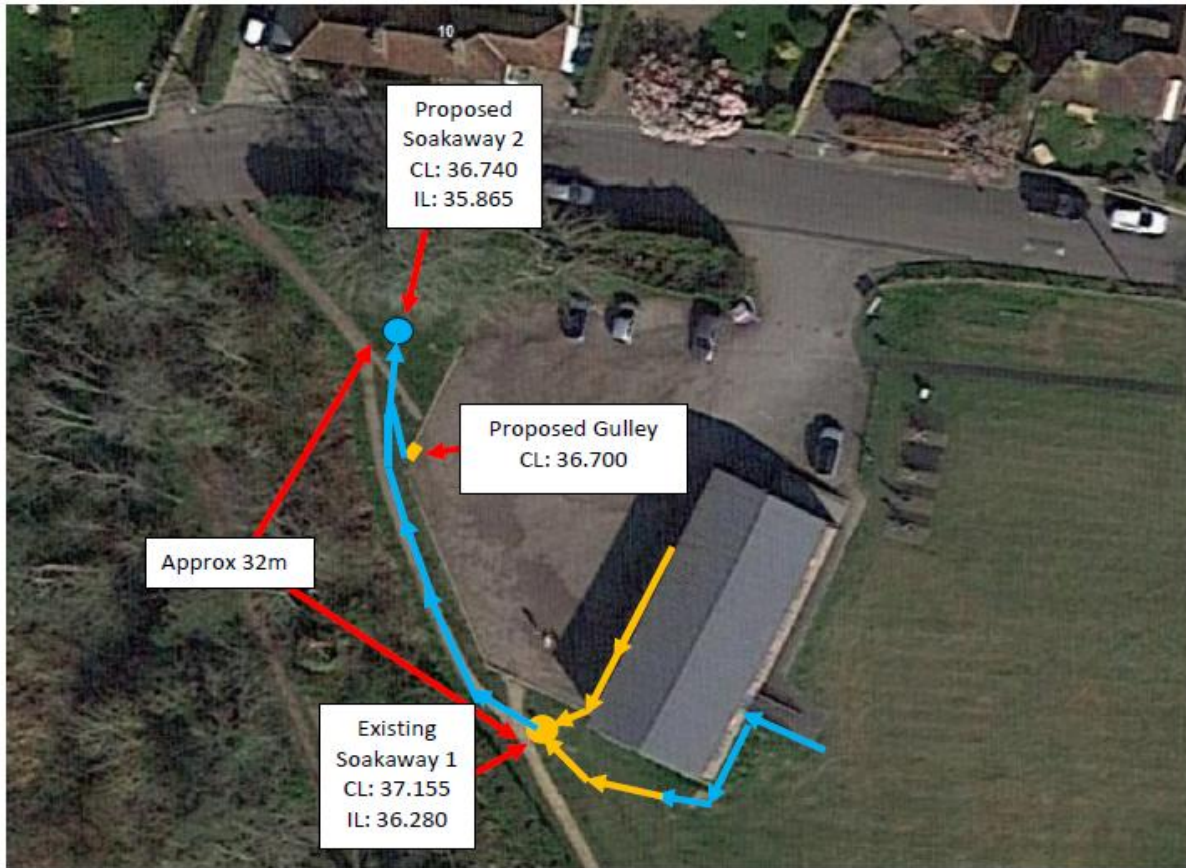
- Mobilise machinery and materials.
- Set up a small compound area in the corner of the car park with Heras fencing.
- Excavate circa 15m (L) x 0.6m (W) x 0.5m (D) adjacent to perimeter of building from access ramp.
- Lay 100mm dia. perforated pipe wrapped in geotextile on a shingle bed and surround.
- Connect to downpipe on the corner of the building.
- Connect pipework into existing drainage around retaining wall.
- Install waterproofing to the external side of the brick wall.
- Backfill excavation with 20mm shingle and wrap with geotextile.
- Excavate circa 32m (L) x 0.6m (W) x 0.5m (D) and lay a perforated pipe wrapped in geotextile on a shingle bed and surround between existing Soakaway 1 and proposed Soakaway 2.
- Install a new road gully in the low point of the car park and connect into the new pipeline.
- Construct new Soakaway 2: 1200mm dia. perforated pre-cast concrete manhole ring surrounded with a geotextile membrane and 20mm shingle.
- Dispose of all surplus material to a local licenced tip.
- Clear and demobilise site.

All for the sum of **£12,417.00 + VAT**

Please note that we have assumed that existing utilities are sufficiently deep to allow the proposed excavation depth without any need for lowering or diversion, and we trust that we have correctly interpreted your requirements.

Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park

Drainage and Soakaway GA



Blue = New pipework / Soakaway Orange = Existing pipework / Soakaway

Total fall from Soakaway 1 to Soakaway 2: 0.415m over 32m = $1/77$ fall.

Soakaway 2 detail is a mirror of the existing Soakaway 1 detail, however the overflow pipework can be designed so the IL is higher and therefore create a steeper fall towards MH 6451 for a possible future connection.

It should be noted that whilst both manholes are built as soakaways, neither will function as such, given the clayey nature of the soil. They will be attenuation tanks, but will relieve some of the drainage issues around the hall / in the car park.

4.0 Latest proposal

- 4.1 As works to manage overall drainage issues for the site are a longer-term project, councillors are asked to decide which quotation they would support.

Quote 1 £4,877: Installing the soakaway and using the existing chamber.

Quote 2 £12,417: Installing the soakaway and a secondary chamber to increase the capacity and accommodation of surface water run-off from the recreation ground

5.0 Available funding

- 5.1 There is currently a sum of £30,273.00 available in earmarked reserves for Car Park improvements. There is a smaller amount available for open spaces.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are asked to agree to proceed with Quotation 2, to ensure the safety of our leaseholders and their visitors. Officers feel this option may assist with mitigating the drainage issues into the car park, and thus positively impact the next steps we take in this area.

Contact Officer: James Hollingdale

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 1 September 2025

Agenda Item 8.1

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST BY LOCAL RESIDENTS TO START A 'COMMUNITY GARDEN' ON TOWN COUNCIL LAND AT THE END OF HUNTERS WAY

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 A local resident who lives at 7 Hunters Way has asked if he can manage a small community garden together with a couple of his neighbours, on an area of Town Council land at the end of Hunters Way (see App A – OS map in red). A screenshot of the proposed area is included (see App B – area marked in yellow).
- 1.2 Their idea is to improve and enhance this space aesthetically, with the view of having a few small apple and pear trees and possibly a raised bed with some easy-to-care-for plants, fruits and vegetables.
- 1.3 The Grounds team currently maintain the area and keep the grass strimmed, although this area is often used by dog walkers and children playing from the residential area.
- 1.4 The whole area is 0.36 hectares and 0.1 hectares for this small area. There a covenant of the land pertaining to have a drainage issue in March 2009 so trees were planted on this land. This space was also declined by Wealden District Council for inclusion in a housing scheme due to visibility issues on a dangerous corner and loss of green open space.
- 1.5 The Grounds Team have expressed that they do not have any issues with this request, since there was one on Rocks Park that was being managed extremely well. Local residents could be offered a licence to manage this area themselves, similar to that of Newtown Action Group and Selby Meadow, although the resident has advised that he does not have a petrol mower for cutting the grass.
- 1.6 The Ranger has suggested offering 6m x 6m in the far north west corner instead (see App C), as even though they might prefer their garden to be more central, this would enable the tractor to cut around the grass area more easily. The Head Groundsman also suggested meeting with the resident to discuss the location to finalise the area.
- 1.7 In consideration of the provision of allotment space, although we are currently well above average nationally, with anticipated growth in the population over the next ten years and beyond, the Town Council may want to consider the use of such green spaces to support local residents with their recreational needs.
- 1.8 If members agree to this proposal, a licence could be for the land at the end of Hunters Way for the supply and planting and maintenance of the land.

2.0 Proposal to establish a licence agreement

- 2.1 In October 2021, members granted a licence to Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association to supply, plant and maintain up to five cherry trees on land known as Brown's Lane Rockery, Uckfield (see App D). This was a

five-year licence (although a 20-year licence had originally been suggested by the Association).

- 2.2 Members should also note that a 10-year licence was issued to the New Town Action Group to cultivate and maintain the area known as Selby Meadow, Selby Road (see App F). This licence commenced in 2020.

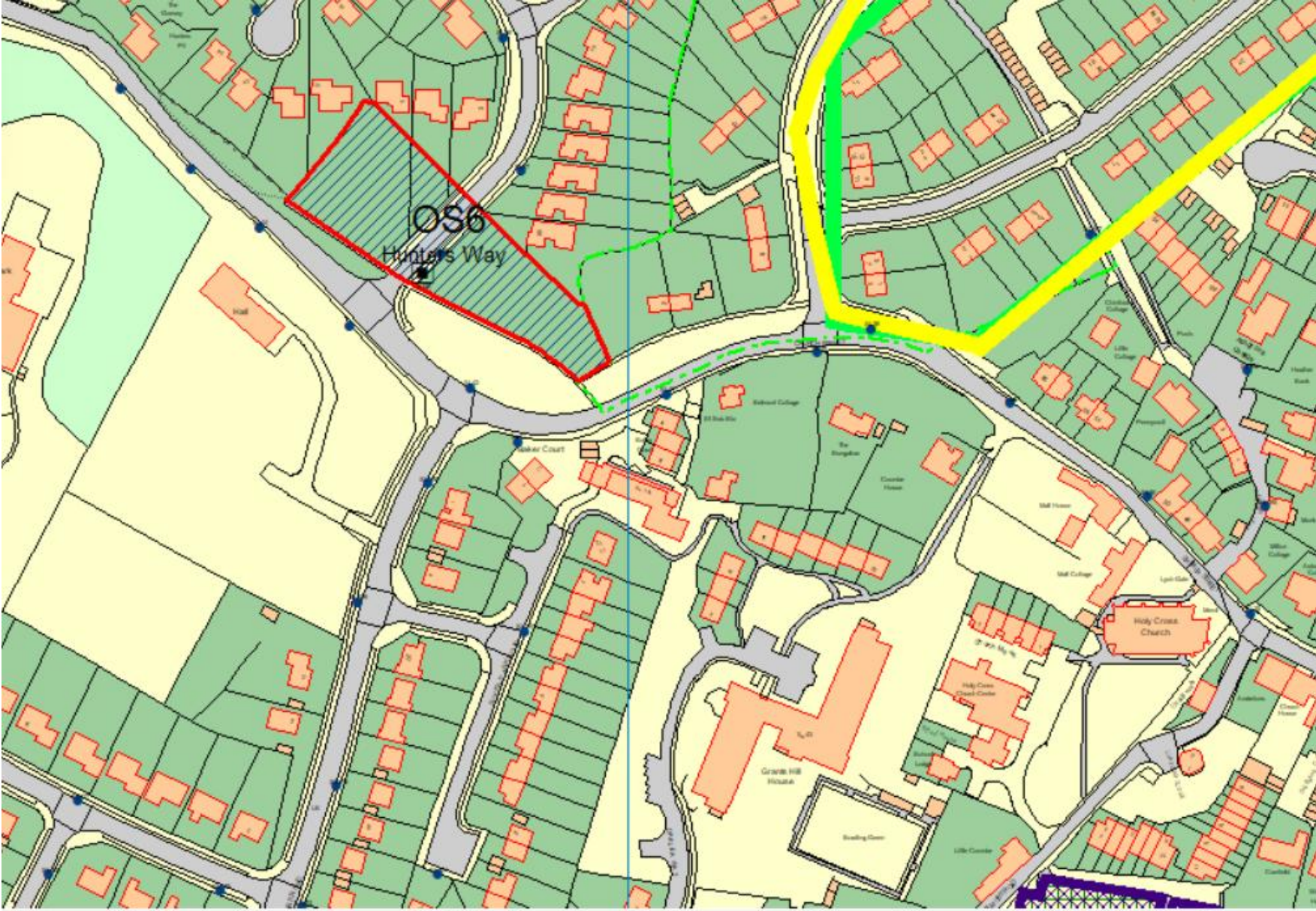
In this 10-year licence, there is a stipulation to say that if the licence is withdrawn or surrendered, the Town Council:

- a) *May remove and dispose of as it thinks fit all or any shrubs, plants or seats which the licence relates and reinstate or;*
- b) *If satisfied that the licensee can within such reasonable time as they may specify remove such shrubs, plants or seats the Town Council may authorise him to do so at his own expense.*

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the options available and advise the Clerk of how they wish to proceed.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton







UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



LICENCE TO SUPPLY, PLANT AND MAINTAIN UP TO FIVE CHERRY TREES ON LAND KNOWN AS BROWN'S LANE ROCKERY, UCKFIELD

Uckfield Town Council hereby permits the Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association (the licensee) to supply, plant and maintain up to five cherry trees on land known as Brown's Lane Rockery, Uckfield as shown coloured red on the attached plan subject to the following conditions:-

- a) Trees are to be kept in good order and attended in their early growth to ensure they become well established;
 - b) The erection of fences, walls, structures etc. on the land is not permitted. The installation of suitable seats however would be permitted with the prior written consent of the Town Council;
 - c) Temporary fixtures such as inscribed memorial plaques would be permitted, within the ground or as part of the installation of suitable seating;
1. In this licence references to the "licensee" shall except as otherwise provided be construed as reference to the person(s) which is for the time being entitled by virtue of this licence to do anything permitted by it to be done.
 2. The licensee shall at all times during the continuance of this licence take all reasonable precautions necessary to ensure the safety and convenience of users and prevent any nuisance or annoyance being caused to the owners or occupiers of other premises adjoining the said land.
 3. The licensee shall not assign or transfer this licence.
 4. The period of the licence will be for five years commencing on 1 October 2021.
 5. The Town Council may by notice served on the licensee withdraw this licence and on the expiration of such period in the notice the licensee will give up the trees in at least as good a state as at the grant of this licence.
 6. If this licence is withdrawn or surrendered the Town Council:
 - a) may remove and dispose of as it thinks fit any items which the licence relates, and reinstate or;

b) if satisfied that the licensee can within such reasonable time as they may specify, remove such trees, seats etc that the Town Council may authorise them to do so at their own expense.

In this and the next following clause “the licensee” means the person who immediately before the withdrawal or surrender of the licence in question was the licensee or if that person has died his personal representative.

7. The Town Council shall not be liable for any damage occasioned to any tree, or seat planted or retained in pursuance of this licence howsoever caused and whether or not arising from or caused by the Town Council.
8. The Town Council acknowledges the Constitution and Rules of Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents’ Association, this said, the licensee will abide by the conditions of this license at all times.

Signed on behalf of
Uckfield Town Council

Signed on behalf of
Manor Park & Hempstead
Fields Residents’ Association

.....
.....

Dated the2021

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



LICENCE TO MAINTAIN THE AREA OF LAND KNOWN AS SELBY MEADOW, SELBY ROAD, UCKFIELD

Uckfield Town Council hereby permits the Newtown Action Group (the licensee) to maintain the area known as Selby Meadow, Selby Road, Uckfield as shown coloured red on the attached plan subject to the following conditions:-

- a) This licence excludes the planting of trees unless prior written consent of the Town Council is obtained.
 - b) Shrubs, trees, plants etc are to be kept in good order, attended, pruned and weeded.
 - c) The erection of fences, walls, structures etc. on the land is not permitted. The installation of suitable seats will be permitted with the prior written consent of the Town Council.
1. In this licence references to the "licensee" shall except as otherwise provided be construed as reference to the person(s) which is for the time being entitled by virtue of this licence to do anything permitted by it to be done.
 2. The licensee shall at all times during the continuance of this licence take all reasonable precautions necessary to ensure the safety and convenience of users and prevent any nuisance or annoyance being caused to the owners or occupiers of other premises adjoining the said land.
 3. The licensee shall make good any damage to any pipe drains surface water drains or any other item belonging to the Town Council or other utility company.
 4. The licensee shall not assign or transfer this licence.
 5. The period of the licence will be for ten years commencing on the 1st March 2020, with a review to be undertaken every three years within this period.
 6. The Town Council may by notice served on the licensee withdraw this licence and on the expiration of such period in the notice the licensee will give up the land in at least as good a state as at the grant of this licence.

7. If this licence is withdrawn or surrendered the Town Council:
 - a) may remove and dispose of as it thinks fit all or any shrubs, plants or seats which the licence relates and reinstate or
 - b) If satisfied that the licensee can within such reasonable time as they may specify remove such shrubs, plants or seats the Town Council may authorise him to do so at his own expense.

In this and the next following clause “the licensee” means the person who immediately before the withdrawal or surrender of the licence in question was the licensee or if that person has died his personal representative.

8. The Town Council shall not be liable for any damage occasioned to any shrub, plant or seat planted or retained in pursuance of this licence howsoever caused and whether or not arising from or caused by the Town Council.
9. The Town Council acknowledges the Newtown Action Group Constitution and Rules and Management Programme attached, this said, the licensee will abide by the conditions of this license at all times.

Signed on behalf of
Uckfield Town Council

Signed on behalf of
the Newtown Action Group

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Dated the2020

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 1 September 2025

Agenda Item 8.2

TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF A SEEDS LIBRARY

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 An allotment holder who has a plot on the Framfield West site is currently saving seeds from her flowers and some vegetable stock and had the idea of maybe starting a little seed library on this allotment site.
- 1.2 The idea is to donate any unwanted seeds and pick up seeds for free for all to use.
- 1.3 The tenant has a wooden cabinet that they were going to upcycle/weather proof to put on their plot and just advertise for people to visit and use if they wish. However, she thought it was worth asking if she could leave it by one of the main gates so it is more accessible for all plot holders (see image below with three different areas to explore).
- 1.4 The tenant knows a lot of plot holders who share produce and even young plants, and she said that she would be more than happy to keep an eye on it, check for vandalism and dispose of any mouldy seeds, general upkeep etc although she did not want it to be viewed as fly tipping or cause obstruction.
- 1.5 Members are asked if this could be placed in a more public area on the land on the site rather than on her plot, so that allotment holders can gain access. Here are a couple of images of the cabinet and locations for consideration below:



Figure 1 - Cabinet tenant is proposing to use

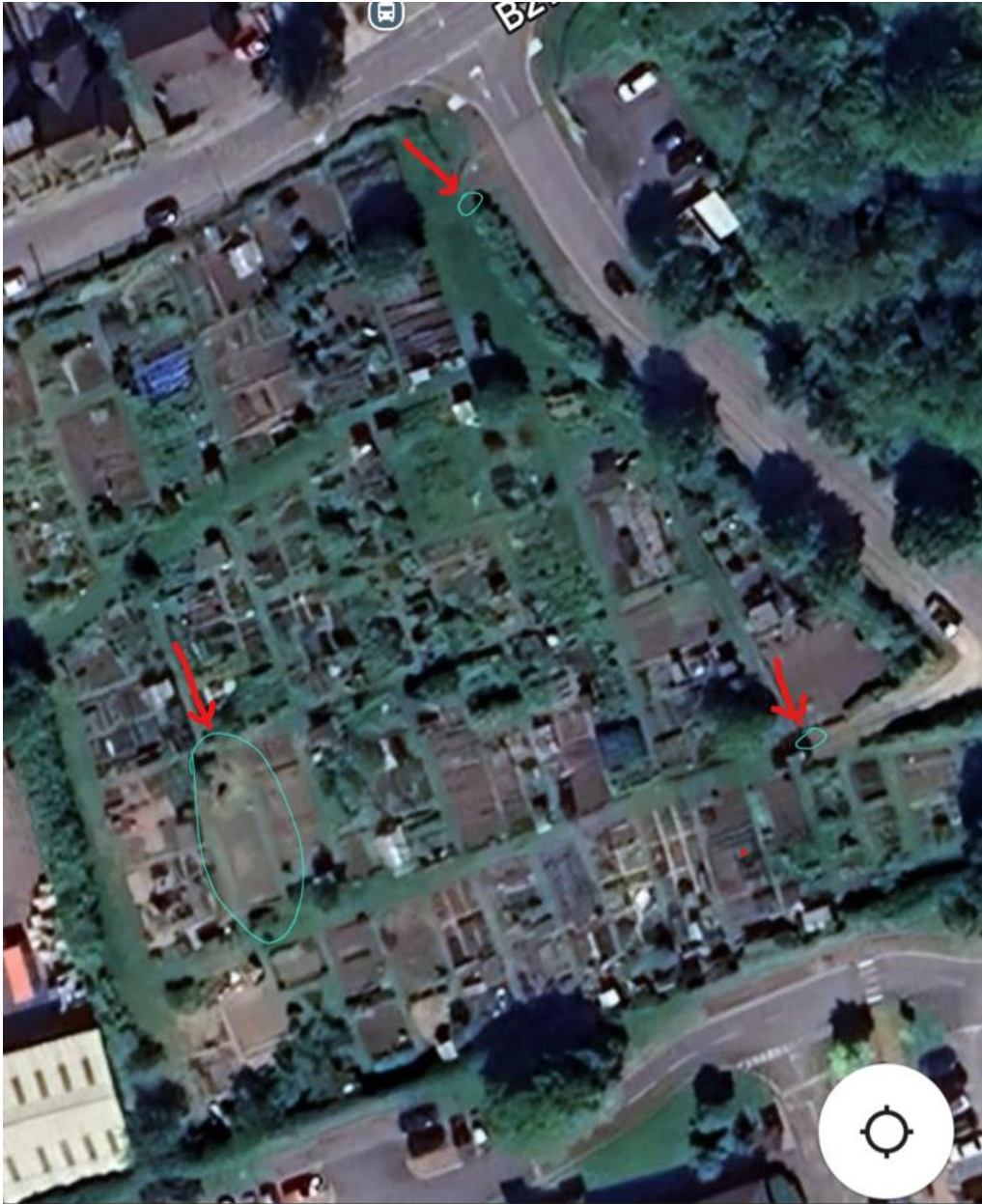


Figure 2 - Framfield West
Tenant's plot (to the bottom left) and two recommended locations by the main gates

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report and to advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 1 September 2025

Agenda Item 8.3

TO NOTE WEALDEN DC'S LEISURE CONSULTATION

1.0 Summary

1.1 Wealden District Council is reviewing how its leisure provision is meeting the needs of local residents and how to best encourage and support active and healthy communities in the future.

1.2 Wealden District Council is responsible for three leisure centres in the district, located in Uckfield, Crowborough and Hailsham. These centres are currently managed by Freedom Leisure, on behalf of the council. The current leisure centre contract expires on 31 March 2027. For more information on the three leisure centres, visit, <https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/>

1.3 The council has been asking residents and local groups to give their views on the districts three leisure centres and the wider health and wellbeing agenda. This would help the council gain a better understanding of the leisure centre provision, what additional services could be delivered and understand any barriers that may be preventing residents from being more physically active, and what can be done to overcome these.

1.4 Action in Rural Sussex is supporting Wealden District Council with this consultation exercise, and broadening the reach to local village halls, community facilities and owners/leaseholders of open spaces.

2.0 Responding as a Town Council

2.1 The Town Clerk has shared the survey with key sports clubs, village halls and community facilities within the Town.

2.2 The Estates & Facilities Manager and Town Clerk also met with representatives of The Sport, Leisure & Culture Consultancy on 11 June 2025. These consultants have been appointed by Wealden District Council to obtain a full understanding of the needs of the district before determining the procurement process for a new contract in 2027. The meeting was useful to understand the current picture of Uckfield. Both officers spoke in depth about the current facilities within the town, the need to improve and broaden the activities and facilities available, and the desire to work more closely with the local Leisure Centre on partnership projects and outdoor/outreach activities. At present although Uckfield Leisure Centre was an important asset within the community and supported a number of groups and individuals, there were lots of ways in which partnerships could be built to provide more for the local community, using the assets managed by both organisations and expertise of local groups.

2.3 Members are asked to spread the word of the following online survey hosted by Action in Rural Sussex:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=lyrksetzXE-FB0SUsRXrwEG3n-vLQoJMv_wAtGDcINBUMVQ5S0tBMEExZTIIEWUJNOUFZVEM2Rlg1Uy4u

The deadline for responding falls on Friday 5 September 2025.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 1 September 2025

Agenda Item 10.5

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINE PARISHES COMMITTEE UPDATE

1.0 Summary report

The Chair opened the July meeting by welcoming new member, David Mallett, representing Buxted Parish Council.

A brief update on the Facebook page and proposed pop-up notice boards showed some response and comments by passengers both good and bad.

The current service was generally considered satisfactory except when infrastructure failures and engineering works occurred and there was need for better planning on these occasions.

This discussion then led onto the report received from GWR on battery train trials which were found to work on short journeys, but would not cope at present on the distance between Hurst Green and Uckfield. The existing rolling stock was approximately 25 years old, but could last for a further fifteen years at the most. The use on the line continued to improve.

After discussion on the future of the lines, it was agreed to prepare a list of developments in housing along the route to use to support the need for its upgrade.

The September meeting will be the AGR on the 10 September 2025 at 2:30pm.

Councillor C. Macve

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton