



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

DOG WASTE IN UCKFIELD

BY CLLR. PETER SELBY

A few months ago, an article was written about the dangers of dog fouling and not removing it. Over the last few weeks, more reports have come in from around the town where this is still happening. I was recently called by residents in New Road, Ridgewood, where the matter has got much worse.

Why should I clean up after my dog?

Allowing your dog to foul the pavement and not clearing up after is an offence in law, for which you could be fined up to £75. There is also a campaign to have this amount significantly increased. Not clearing up after a dog has fouled causes many health problems, is unpleasant and is highly irresponsible. It is also a serious health matter. One of the biggest risks comes from toxocarasis, spread by dog faeces. A puppy can pass 15,000 eggs in one 'sitting'.

What are we doing about the issue?

UTC will be encouraging greater vigilance so that miscreants are reported. A much



more prominent poster campaign is proposed for New Road, extending to other parts of the town. Wealden District Council's Dog Warden will be asked to take stronger action against those caught. Remember, this is not the fault of the dog, but the owner who does not clean up. Some may find that clearing dog poo is not very pleasant. Well, it is not, but it is less offensive than leaving it for someone else to do. If you have a phobia, cover the fouled area with paper and then use a bag or a small shovel to put it into the bag. After a while, you get used to it. I did many years ago after walking plenty of dogs. It is hoped Wealden's Dog Warden can make more spot checks and visits to the most vulnerable locations in Uckfield to start with.

But for now, please **BAG IT AND BIN IT.**

Cllr Peter Selby.



A bin



Not a bin



Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Mayor's Reception
- Last Month in Your Council
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FLY-TIPPING ISSUES IN UCKFIELD

Recently, we have had several reports from Town Council staff and local residents about a spate of fly-tipping around the town.

While this is far from the first time that the Town Council has attempted to challenge instances of fly-tipping, we wish to maintain our attention to the issue. We will always report this antisocial and illegal behaviour wherever we see it.

What does the law say?

Fly-tipping is defined as the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it'. It is an offence under both the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Fly-tipping is a serious criminal offence for which you can be prosecuted. The courts have various powers available to them to tackle fly-tipping, including imprisonment, unlimited fines and an order to deprive rights to a vehicle used to commit the offence.



The Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive can be required to investigate in more serious cases.

Why is it such a big problem?

Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish causes a local



nuisance and makes an area look ugly and run down. More serious cases like illegal waste disposal can be hazardous to the public, especially if it contains toxic material or asbestos. There could be a risk of damage to watercourses and soil quality from the dumped waste. In 2016/17, more than one million incidences of fly-tipping were dealt with by councils in England. The estimated cost of clearing up this waste was over £58 million.

What issues have we faced?

Recently, Town Council staff have reported repeated fly-tipping at bins located at Victoria Pleasure Ground. These bins are clearly labelled for Town Council use only, and several measures have been taken to discourage fly-tipping, but individuals have been repeatedly depositing bags and now leaving them on top of the bins. Additionally, there are regular issues with furniture tipping around town, most recently at Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve.

We make regular reports about these incidents and have now reported this behaviour to the police as well. If you spot evidence of fly-tipping, please always report it to Wealden DC via: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/fly-tipping/>

MAYOR'S RECEPTION 2025



Uckfield Town Council presents...

MAYOR'S Reception:

Celebrating Volunteering in Uckfield

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2025
THE CIVIC CENTRE UCKFIELD

DOORS OPEN 7:30PM
CARRIAGES AT MIDNIGHT

Dress Code: 1940s / 1950s Attire, or Evening Dress

Swing Band, Light Buffet, Raffle,
Best-Dressed Couple Competition

TICKETS £25
www.civiccentreuckfield.com

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK



ANNUAL PLAN 2025/26

On 13 January 2025, Uckfield Town Council adopted its suite of business planning documents for the new financial year (2025/26).

These documents set out our medium-term ambitions and short-term objectives for the town. The Strategic Plan includes a mix of projects; those we have direct control over and a list of aspirations we know are important to the community, where working with partner agencies or lobbying external parties is needed.

We break these projects down into key areas of Community, Conservation and Continuous Improvement.

As part of the planning process, we set a five-year Strategic Plan (2025-30) and an Annual Plan (2025/26). You can view these documents on our website:

<https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/your-council/plans-and-budgets/>

Community Grant funding

Uckfield Town Council continues to provide over £50,000 of financial support to local organisations which serve residents within Uckfield and the surrounding villages.

A total of 28 applications were received as part of the Town Council's community grant programme; the most applications we have ever received in one year.

Uckfield Town Council has agreed to contribute £23,000 to Wealden Citizens Advice and £9,000 to Wealden Volunteering through service-level agreements. Meanwhile, a total of £22,000 was successfully awarded to a variety of community organisations.

The full list of grants awarded can be found on the UTC website at:

<https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/council-services/town-council-grants-2025-26/>

A big thank you to all of those who applied this year, and good luck!



UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

person in the Council Chamber at The Civic Centre and all start at 7pm. All questions should be sent to the Town Clerk at: admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

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| MON 7 APRIL | - FULL COUNCIL |
| MON 14 APRIL | - ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE |
| TUES 22 APRIL | - PLANS |
| MON 28 APRIL | - GENERAL PURPOSES |
| MON 12 MAY | - PLANS |

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- Annual Statutory Meeting Preview
- Last Month in Your Council
- Upcoming Meetings

