



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

UPCYCLED FASHION SHOW

BY TOWN MAYOR, CLLR. KAREN BEDWELL

This February, the Civic Centre Uckfield throws open its doors to the town's talented young creatives for the Green Shoots Upcycled Fashion Show. Taking place at the same time as London Fashion Week, the show provides an environmentally-conscious alternative to the fast fashion trends seen elsewhere. Our show invites entrants from Years 6-9, Years 10-13 and Adult categories to enter outfits made from pre-loved clothes, ideally purchased from a charity shop, which have been upcycled to create something new and exciting.

What's the concept?

As well as providing an excellent platform to the talented young tailors and seamstresses who enter, the event also raises money for charity, with all profits from ticket sales going to local support group, Family2Family. The charity's work in redistributing baby clothes and essential items, gifting them to families in need in East Sussex, is an inspiration and shows how powerful reusing, recycling and upcycling can be. The event will also tie in with the Upcycling Arts Show, which takes place in the Civic Centre's Ashdown Room throughout the same weekend of Friday 21 and Saturday 22 February. Selected outfits from the Fashion Show will be exhibited as part of the Arts Show and available for the public to view all weekend.

Who can enter?



There are three categories that make up the show;

- Years 6-9 (ages 10 to 15)
- Years 10-13 (ages 15 to 19)
- Adult (20+)

Entrants for the first two categories are welcome to come from any local schools.

What's on offer?

Prizes on offer in each category are a 1st prize of £75, a 2nd prize of £50 and a 3rd prize of £25 (in vouchers).

There is one grand prize of £100 cash. Judges will include **Jade Earley**, who was a runner-up in the Great British Sewing Bee and attended Uckfield College.

How to enter

Head to www.civiccentreuckfield.com/events to find the Green Shoots Upcycled Fashion Show, and purchase an entry ticket. Then, get making your outfit!



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

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Annual Town Meeting
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TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR 2025/26

Every year, Uckfield Town Council sets new priorities for the multiple areas of town life which it is responsible for. In the Full Council meeting of December 2024, Councillors set these priorities for 2025/26 with the following specific areas of focus:

CONSERVATION

1. A 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. We will replant trees and restock areas of our woodlands, alongside new community orchards where trees have been removed and disease has had an impact.

2. Upgrading our assets



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

3. 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 flora and fauna and protect key species.

4. 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 manoeuvrable goal posts for football pitches at New Barn and Harlands Farm Playing Field;
- The creation of welfare facilities at Harlands Farm Playing Field.

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

5. 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.

COMMUNITY

6. Community Grants



We will award up to £23,000 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 £8,000 to Wealden Volunteering through service-level agreements.

7. Public realm

We will 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 floral displays in our town centre.

8. Upgrading play area facilities

We will deliver upgrades 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.

9. Public events and anniversaries in the town

We will organise and deliver the annual day festival Weald on the Field and a Beacon Lighting ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We will also support the organisation of the Remembrance Parade and Services.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

10. Professional expertise

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

11. Forward planning

We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements of Uckfield, in regards to sport, leisure, recreation and community facilities.

We will also consider the future impact of growth in the town on the Town Council's provision of allotment and cemetery space and make preparations. This information will also be utilised to inform the finalisation of an Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan, which is set to be released later in 2025.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



On Wednesday, 19 March 2025, at 7pm, Uckfield Town Council hosts the Annual Town Meeting.

Taking place once every year, this is an opportunity for residents to attend, meet their Councillors, raise questions and concerns, receive answers and understand more about the work the Town Council does.

We invite all Uckfield residents to the Annual Town Meeting, where the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and the Chairs of our General Purposes, Environment and Leisure, and Plans Committees will all be present. Reports will be presented on work that has occurred in the last 12 months, before a questions and answers session led by the Town Clerk.

Refreshments will be available at the meeting, where we hope to see many engaged residents in attendance.

ROOMS FOR HIRE AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

If you are looking for the perfect event venue in 2025, the Civic Centre Uckfield could be just right for you.

With the capacity to host live music, theatre and comedy nights, and capable of hosting weddings, wakes, parties, work socials, meetings, interviews and training sessions, the list of the building's possibilities is endless.

Not only that, but the Town Council also has spaces at Foresters Hall and in Victoria Pavilion's downstairs area which could be perfect for you this year.

With special rates for charities, there is an excellent incentive for local groups to make the most of the space.

At the Civic Centre, there is free parking, brilliant on-site catering and a choice of rooms with capacities from 2 to 275 people. Head to www.civiccentreuckfield.com/room-hire to find out more.



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

MON 3 FEB	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 17 FEB	- PLANS
WED 26 FEB	- FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE
MON 3 MAR	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 10 MAR	- PLANS

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Community Orchard and Tree Planting News
- Annual Town Meeting Updates
- Last Month in Your Council
- Upcoming Meetings

