



## A SAFE SPACE IN THE HEART OF UCKFIELD

BY CLLR. DONNA FRENCH

The Civic Centre is far more than a venue for events or the home of Uckfield Town Council and Luxfords Restaurant.

It is a place of reassurance at the heart of the town – a designated safe space where anyone can step inside if they are worried or need support.

The Safe Space Sussex network (<https://www.safespacesussex.org.uk/>) has been growing rapidly in the past 12 months, and we are delighted that the Civic Centre is now a part of this.

Started by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, the scheme aims to provide facilities where people can seek help, make a phone call or simply wait in a safe environment until they feel comfortable to continue their day. Organisations that have signed up can provide access to a private area, as well as a phone, a toilet and drinking water. Alongside this role, the Civic Centre is equipped with vital life-saving resources. A publicly accessible defibrillator has recently been joined by a bleed control kit.

### Why a Bleed Kit?

The decision to install the bleed control kit followed a conversation with Martin Cosser, who tragically lost his son Charlie to knife crime in 2023. In Charlie's memory, Martin founded the charity Charlie's Promise, which works to educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives. As part of this ongoing work, Martin is due to speak to pupils at Uckfield College later this month.



### Lions contribution hailed

Funding for the bleed control kit was supported in part by a generous donation from the Uckfield Lions, whose commitment to the town goes back a long way. Speaking on behalf of the organisation, Lions President Graham Baldwin (pictured above) said: *"The Uckfield Lions have been serving the local community for over 56 years, and we are pleased to continue that tradition of service. The Town Council identified a need for a bleed kit in the town centre, and the Lions were happy to help with the funding."* He added: *"We can only provide this support thanks to the incredible generosity of the local community, who consistently back our fundraising activities."*

A list of Uckfield's defibrillators is on the UTC website here: [www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/defibrillators-in-uckfield/](http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/defibrillators-in-uckfield/)

Contact us through:



admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk  
@uckfieldtowncouncil

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Upcoming Meetings

## RE-ESTABLISHING OUR DIRECTION

With the new year comes the publication of the Town Council's business planning documents - our Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and Annual Budget which set out our priorities for 2026 and beyond. Residents may begin to notice a few changes in the way we are working. These reflect our commitment to preparing for the town's future.

### Preparing for growth

Uckfield is likely to see significant growth in the coming years, with large-scale housing developments planned for the periphery of the town. Existing facilities need strengthening and upgrading, and new infrastructure will be required to support the needs of not just Uckfield's residents but neighbouring villages too. To meet these challenges, we have been reviewing our priorities and adjusting our resources.

We are placing more focus on our built assets, as well as protecting our green spaces and improving sport, recreation and community facilities. Services also need to keep up with demand, so we will keep lobbying for improvements in health, education and more.

### Strengthening our capacity

We have created greater capacity to address the issues that most concern residents with the split of the existing role of Estates and Facilities Manager into two roles (Estates Manager, and Facilities & Compliance Manager). With some large projects in the pipeline, we can deliver improvements whilst retaining what makes Uckfield a great place to live. Greater focus will be given to estates management, facilities management, conservation, business development, and seeking grant funding opportunities to support us with our plans.



# Uckfield Town Council Community Grants 2026-27



Applications are now open  
for access to the set of  
Community Grants your  
Town Council distributes  
every year.



**Deadline: Sunday 18th  
January 2026**



Visit [https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/  
council-services/community-grants/](https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/council-services/community-grants/)  
or scan the QR Code here:



## GETTING ACTIVE IN THE NEW YEAR

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK



### Get fit for free

Founded by fitness coach Born Barikor after the London Olympics, the national 'Our Parks' initiative is right on your doorstep in Uckfield.

Twice a week, a personal trainer hosts exercise classes at Ridgewood Recreation Ground. The sessions start again in early January.

If you've set a new year resolution to

work on your physical and mental health, this might be the thing for you!

- **Hiit/Circuits**

60 min full body workout suited to all levels of fitness.

Wednesday mornings, 9.30am–10.30am

- **Bootcamp**

60 min full body workout suited to all levels of fitness.

Saturday mornings, 9.30am–10.30am

The exercise classes are totally free. The only thing you need to do is take that first step, sign up and register your place:

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

You can also become a Our Parks Volunteer Coach – find out more here:

<https://ourparks.org.uk/content/coach-our-parks>

## THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRACTORS

We wanted to say a big thank you to the contractors we worked with in 2025, who helped us to effectively maintain and manage our Town Council buildings and land.

We use a number of specialist services to ensure our facilities are safe, clean and well cared for. From floral displays to tree surgery, buildings compliance to festive lights - on a widely-praised new

contract this year - as well as play area safety checks to cemetery maintenance, and CCTV to vehicle and equipment servicing, there's quite a network we rely on! We use local contractors, who have pride in their work and an interest in Uckfield and the local community. Thank you to them all for their hard work and support, which we know we can rely on in 2026 too.

## 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](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| MON 5 JAN  | - PLANS                 |
| MON 12 JAN | - FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET) |
| MON 19 JAN | - ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE |
| MON 26 JAN | - PLANS                 |
| MON 9 FEB  | - GENERAL PURPOSES      |

### COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- Priorities for 2026-27
- Uckfield Going Green
- February Events Schedule

