



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

BY CLLR. PETER SELBY

On Thursday 10 July, there is a By-Election for a new Town Councillor in the Uckfield New Town Ward. Polling stations will be open at the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Ridgewood Village Hall from 7:00am until 10:00pm. Only residents from the New Town Ward will be able to vote, so if you are a resident of the ward and have received a polling card, we encourage you to use your democratic right and vote. At the last Office for National Statistics (ONS) count in 2023, Uckfield New Town had a population of 5,749. We hope to see a lively and productive by-election process that engages as many residents as possible in the remaining few days.

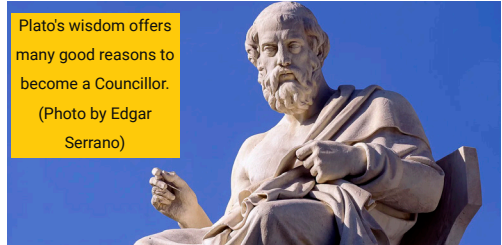
Why become a Councillor?

Ahead of a new Councillor joining Uckfield Town Council's ranks, Cllr. Peter Selby explains the benefits of being involved in local politics.

"Being a local Cllr. is not as daunting as you may believe," says Cllr. Selby.

"As a Town Cllr., many issues are filtered down from the county and district level for debate, with appropriate comments

Plato's wisdom offers many good reasons to become a Councillor.
(Photo by Edgar Serrano)



sent back. You may have already attended Plans meetings, held every three weeks, and seen full discussion about a number of residential applications.

"I joined UTC two years ago and was elected unopposed, as were the other 14 Cllrs. Let us make sure that the next UTC election in two years' time is much better supported and all seats are contested."

How to get involved

Cllr. Selby continued: "If you have never attended a UTC meeting, check the website for details and come along as an observer. For more information, call into the Council Offices, situated above Luxfords Restaurant in the Civic Centre.

"The Greek Philosopher Plato wrote in the early 4th Century BC that "one of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." So you have good grounds for becoming a Councillor!"



Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
@uckfieldtowncouncil

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Shop Uckfield, Support Uckfield
- Weald on the Field 2025
- Update from the Town Clerk
- Upcoming Meetings



SHOP UCKFIELD, SUPPORT UCKFIELD

Uckfield's town centre serves a large catchment area of residents from within the town and further afield. We are fortunate to have a wide variety of retailers and services.

There is everything you need on your doorstep, and staff are welcoming and approachable, making it a friendly and safe space to shop.

We, as a Town Council, appreciate your patience whilst progress is made to the former Maidens Head site in the upper High Street. We have been collaborating with Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council and Uckfield Chamber of Commerce to ensure the voices of residents and business owners are represented.

Latest update

At the time of going to press on 15 June, the latest statement from local councils was as follows: "Uckfield High Street remains open for business with access available throughout the High Street. "The town's car parks remain open and pedestrians are able to move about freely to reach retail outlets, cafes and services. Wealden DC is working closely with East Sussex CC, Uckfield TC and Uckfield Chamber of Commerce to resolve the matter.



Uckfield High Street boasts a wide variety of retailers and services, from small local businesses and Sussex-based charities to national companies.



"The temporary support and partial road closure are in place to keep the public safe. We know this is frustrating and fully recognise the impact on local residents, businesses and high street traders. Wealden DC are working with specialists and the property owner to seek a resolution to this complex situation. With the agreement of the property owner, internal inspections have taken place and further external high-level inspections are taking place shortly. This should assist with developing a more detailed schedule of works and timetable.

"Uckfield is a key service centre not just for the town's residents, but neighbouring villages and adjacent towns. We are renowned for having a thriving High Street which hosts a range of independent and national retailers, and it's a High Street we are incredibly proud of. With your patience at those busier school and commuting times, we can all work together to keep traffic moving and support both the High Street and Bellbrook Business Park. But for now, Uckfield is and will remain very much open."

WEALD ON THE FIELD 2025

WEALD ON THE FIELD

A GREAT DAY OUT IN UCKFIELD

9 AUGUST 2025

11^{AM} TO 7^{PM}

LUXFORD FIELD
UCKFIELD

LOCAL PRODUCE

LIVE MUSIC

POP UP BARS

STREET FOOD



LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK



Your Mayor and Deputy Mayor

A vote was taken at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 19 May, to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the new municipal year (May 2025 to May 2026).

Councillor Karen Bedwell was elected as Town Mayor for a second year, alongside Councillor Spike Mayhew as Deputy Mayor. To book them for any civic engagements, please send invitations to mayor@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Year-end accounts

On 25 June, members approved the council's draft annual governance and accountability return, and financial statements up to 31 March 2025. We are very pleased to report a sound set of accounts, which are available to view in draft on our website:

www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/your-council/council-finance/

Upgrade of Victoria Play Area

We had a great turnout to the public exhibition for a renovated Play Area at Victoria Pleasure Ground on 31 May 2025. We would like to thank the parents, carers and children who attended for sharing their views.

Representatives from four play area companies presented their designs for the upgrade. We found it really useful to hear from parents, grandparents and service users on what helps children and adults to enter and move within the space.

We also saw some excellent suggestions from students at St Philip's Primary School of how they wanted the play area to look (pictured below).

Members have been working closely with staff to review the detail of the designs and select a preferred company. The final design will be agreed at Environment & Leisure Committee on 7 July, with a date set for installation.



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 7 JULY	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 14 JULY	- PLANS
MON 21 JULY	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 4 AUG	- PLANS
TUE 26 AUG	- PLANS

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- Final Weald on the Field Updates
- Last Month in Your Council
- Upcoming Meetings

