



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

2026-27 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR CONFIRMED

BY THE MARKETING & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Uckfield Town Council has appointed its Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Committee Chairs for the 2026-27 year following its Annual Statutory Meeting on Monday 18 May 2026.

We are delighted to confirm that, after serving two years as Town Mayor before this, Councillor Karen Bedwell (pictured, right) will complete a three-year term in the role after being re-elected by her fellow Councillors.

In a similar vein, Cllr. Spike Mayhew (pictured, left of photo) has been re-elected as Deputy Town Mayor to complete a three-year term.

In their roles, Cllr. Bedwell and Cllr. Mayhew serve as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of Full Council meetings. Continuing with the theme of consistency, the three Committee Chair roles have also seen their incumbents re-elected; Cllr. Chris Macve as Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Cllr. Angie Smith as Chair of the Environment & Leisure Committee and Cllr. Jackie Love as Chair of the Plans Committee.

They have had their respective Vice-Chairs all re-elected as well; Cllr. Diane Ward as Vice-Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Cllr. Bernadette Reed as Vice-Chair of the Environment & Leisure Committee and Cllr. Chris Macve as Vice-Chair of the Plans Committee. The full layout of our Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Committee Chair and Vice-Chair roles for 2026-27 is as follows:



Town Mayor

Cllr. Karen Bedwell

Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr. Spike Mayhew

General Purposes Committee

Chair – Cllr. Chris Macve

Vice-Chair – Cllr. Diane Ward

Environment & Leisure Committee

Chair – Cllr. Angie Smith

Vice-Chair – Cllr. Bernadette Reed

Plans Committee

Chair – Cllr. Jackie Love

Vice-Chair – Cllr. Chris Macve



Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2026 RECAP

BY CLLR. DONNA FRENCH

preparing for growth within the town with new facilities."

Uckfield Town Council welcomed a wide range of questions and contributions from residents at its Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 15 April 2026.

Each year, this meeting provides an important opportunity for residents and Town Councillors to come together, share views, and discuss the issues that affect our town and the surrounding communities that rely on Uckfield as a vital hub for services.

What happened this year?

Uckfield Town Mayor, Councillor Karen Bedwell, opened the meeting by welcoming residents and introducing the Committee Chairs, before presenting the Annual Report for 2025-2026.

Uckfield Town Council's priorities for 2026-27 were outlined in Cllr. Bedwell's address with the following statement:

"Our key priorities for the coming year include the continuation of asset upgrades – built and green. This involves focus on our sport and recreational facilities (play areas, including the skate park and sport pitches) as well as progressing building maintenance programmes to ensure our properties are compliant, in the right condition, and



The Chair of each Committee then recapped the successes and challenges of the previous year, covering the work of the Town Council's 30-plus staff, and explained the priorities for the coming year in our growing town.

Residents were then invited to put any questions to the panel.

The cost and timeline for the proposed 3G pitch at Victoria Pleasure Grounds was queried, along with the ongoing works at Boothland Wood (pictured above), and other pertinent questions.

The full minutes are available on the Town Council website here: <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>

How can I get involved?

Please come along to the Annual Town Meeting next year, where you can also chat informally, before and after the meeting, to your Town Councillors.

Residents are welcome to attend all committee meetings, which usually take place at 7pm every Monday at the Civic Centre Uckfield. A full calendar of Uckfield Town Council's meetings in 2026 is available here: <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/your-council/calendar-of-meetings-2026/>



WEALD ON THE FIELD

A GREAT DAY OUT IN UCKFIELD

8 AUGUST 2026

11^{AM} TO 7^{PM}

LUXFORD FIELD

UCKFIELD

LOCAL PRODUCE

LIVE MUSIC

POP UP BARS

STREET FOOD

WE ARE
10!

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

BY THE MARKETING & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



Elections for East Sussex County Council (ESCC) took place on Thursday 7 May 2026.

All 50 seats on ESCC were contested, including two within our parish; Uckfield South with Framfield, and Uckfield North.

The incumbents, Councillor Chris Dowling and Cllr. Claire Dowling respectively, were seeking re-election. Cllr. Chris Dowling had served continuously on ESCC since 2001, while Cllr. Claire Dowling had served continuously since 2013.

Both incumbents were defeated in the election, however.

In Uckfield South with Framfield, Peter Griffiths (Reform UK) won the ward, while in Uckfield North, Kelvin Williams (Liberal Democrat) won.

The full results from our wards, with details of the parties represented and number of votes cast, are as follows:

Uckfield South with Framfield

BUTLER Kathy (Liberal Democrats) - 836 votes

CHURNSIDE Linda Margaret (Green Party) - 487

COX Ben Sebastian (Labour and Co-operative Party) - 362

DOWLING Christopher David (The Conservative Party Candidate) - 1,017

GRIFFITHS Peter (Reform UK) - 1,322 **(Elected)**

Turnout: 50.91%

Uckfield North

COATES Michelle (Green Party) - 407

DOWLING Claire Barbara (The Conservative Party Candidate) - 785

RHODES John Charles (Reform UK) - 1,082

UNDERHILL Dylan (Labour Party) - 138

WILLIAMS Kelvin John (Liberal Democrats) - 1,113 **(Elected)**

Turnout: 48.55%

Overall Results

In ESCC as a whole, the results were as follows in the 2026 election:

Reform UK - 22 Seats

Liberal Democrats - 13 Seats

Green Party - 11 Seats

Conservative Party - 3 Seats

Independent - 1 Seat

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 1 JUNE	- PLANS
MON 8 JUNE	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 22 JUNE	- PLANS
WED 24 JUNE	- FULL COUNCIL (AUDIT)
MON 6 JULY	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- The Big One Hundred Community Engagement
- Weald on the Field 2026
- Last Month in Your Council

