

# UCKFIELD'S INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL



RIDGEWOOD &  
LITTLE HORSTED

**Bernadette  
'Ben' Reed**

I've lived in Uckfield for 30 years. I'm married to Andy and we have three children aged 16-23. I grew up in a farming family and then worked as an Account Manager for an international company, managing projects in the pharmaceutical, finance, and utility sectors. I was Vice Chair of Governors and a Committee Chair at Uckfield College.

Concerned about the environment and the effects of over-development, I've undertaken research, and now advise conservation and campaign groups on environmental and development policies.

Planning applications are being submitted across our town and villages. Services are suffering and brownfield sites are not used.

We deserve better: a local plan for genuine local need, planning for nature, adhering to development boundaries and environmental policies. We must protect our distinctive landscapes, trees and ancient woodlands, wildlife habitats, and heritage assets, which all contribute to Uckfield's appeal as a great place to live and work.

As your Independent Councillor I would:  
\*Champion Local Nature Recovery Strategies.  
\*Challenge overdevelopment. \*Focus on pollution issues in our rivers and streams. \*Make our local plan available for public consultation.

I would be honoured to represent Uckfield Ridgewood and Little Horsted in Wealden.

*Ben*



NEW TOWN

**Spike  
Mayhew**

It's time for a change and we need your help to make this happen!

After eight years as a Town Councillor, including three years as Mayor, I have put myself forward as an Independent candidate for Wealden District Council, with the aim of making a difference.

For many years WDC has been run by political parties with their own political agenda. I feel as an Uckfield resident, that we have been let down on so many occasions. Our views and concerns over the massive over-development of our area have been ignored. We also face the potential closure of our leisure centre.

If elected, as an independent Councillor, I will have no political party line to follow. I will do my very best to represent *you*, the residents, and fight for what is best for our community.

I promise that I will be a loud independent voice, representing the people of Uckfield that need to be heard.

I want the best for this wonderful town which has been my home for the past 23 years.

Please let's make a change and vote for an independent candidate this May 4th.

*Spike*

UCKFIELD  
NORTH

**Jackie  
Love**



it's been an incredible honour to have represented you on Uckfield Town Council for the last eight years, including two years as Mayor and three as Deputy Mayor

There are still objectives to consider for the future of Uckfield. With this in mind, myself and others have decided to stand as candidates for District Council. I hope that you will support *your* Uckfield Independent candidate, and myself for the North Ward.

We have many needs to consider for Uckfield's future: \*Building housing in the right places, including properties affordable to local people. \*Preserving our farmland. \*Protecting wildlife habitats including Lake Wood and others with unique and endangered species. \*Reducing our carbon footprint. \*Ensuring our many water sources are clean, protected and cared for. \*Planning for future infrastructure including roads, transport, education, medical facilities and utility services.

Many of you have raised concerns over proposed large scale developments, in and around Uckfield, such as Downlands Farm, Bird in Eye South, Horstedpond Farm, Cysleys Farm and Mockbeggars Farm. I will work with you to put forward local knowledge for all planning applications alongside government and local policy.

*Jackie*

# UCKFIELD'S INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

UCKFIELD  
EAST

**Duncan  
Bennett**



I am Uckfield born & bred and I love this town!

My memories extend back more than half a century, during which time I have witnessed the best and worst that has happened to our community.

I have been honoured to serve on the Town Council, first elected as a North Ward Councillor back in 2000 and then by representing New Town.

I attended Manor Primary School and then what is now Uckfield College. My own kids are now following in my footsteps at the same schools.

I do not believe that Uckfield has been well represented by the current Wealden administration, or its opposition, who have been less than vocal on behalf of the people.

I feel that our non-political independent representation has benefited the Town Council and by also removing Party Politics from District level, this will allow the views of our fellow residents to be heard without being constrained by any "party line".

With your vote and your support, I pledge to work hard to support our town at Wealden District Council.

*Duncan*

PS. Please follow the links shown on this leaflet to find out about me and all my Independent candidate colleagues!



To learn more about your Independent Candidates go to [www.facebook.com/TRUSTUCKFIELD](https://www.facebook.com/TRUSTUCKFIELD) or scan the QR code with your camera phone



**District Council Elections  
Thursday 4 May 2023**

Check your poll card for your polling station and don't forget to take your photo ID!

**Your Independent  
Candidates for  
Wealden District  
Council**

**Thursday 4 May 2023**

*your vote  
matters*

NEW  
TOWN

**Spike  
Mayhew**



UCKFIELD  
NORTH

**Jackie  
Love**



UCKFIELD  
EAST

**Duncan  
Bennett**



RIDGEWOOD  
& LITTLE  
HORSTED

**Ben  
Reed**



email: [uckfieldindependents@gmail.com](mailto:uckfieldindependents@gmail.com)

**New Town**

**Duncan  
Bennett**



I have been incredibly proud to have served our town since my first election as a councillor in 2000.

I grew up here and have family now growing up here too. I am absolutely passionate about improving the representation of local residents in a way which is free from party political interference and the pressures to follow party lines which goes with it.

I have, and always will, put the best interests of Uckfield first. *Duncan*



**New Town**

**Spike  
Mayhew**

I have been a town councillor for eight years, three of which I was proud to be the Mayor. For the last two years I have chaired the environment and leisure committee.

I am standing again this year as an Independent candidate and would appreciate your vote so that I can continue to be a voice for the people of Uckfield.

I have lived in the town for 23 years with my wife Wendy and two children and have been involved with many varied organisations and committees. Uckfield is a beautiful place to live with an outstanding community which I would be proud to continue to represent. *Spike*

## Getting on with things!

These candidates are not known for blowing their own trumpets - they just get on with things! If you'd like to read about what they have already achieved for our town; we have shared some of those successes on our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/TRUSTUCKFIELD](https://www.facebook.com/TRUSTUCKFIELD)

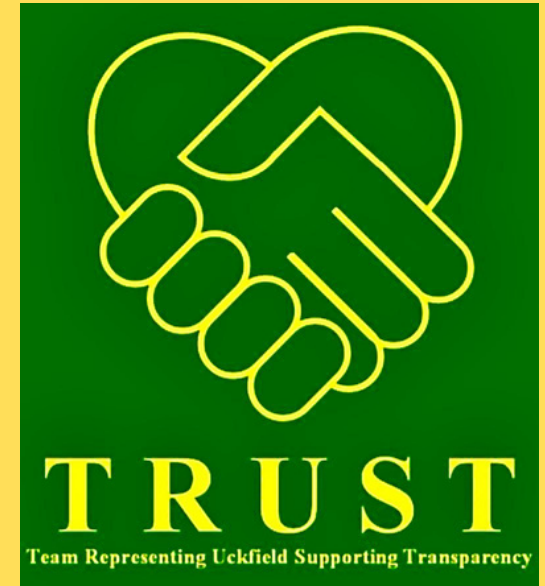
or just Scan the QR Code to read more from TRUST & Independent candidates.



**Town Council Elections  
Thursday 4 May 2023  
Your Town Council Matters  
Your Vote Matters**

**Check your poll card for your  
polling station and don't  
forget to take your photo ID!**

## Your TRUST & Independent Candidates for Uckfield Town Council



### If elected we will:

- Lobby to save the Leisure Centre (Pool and dry side)
- Fight for new developments to be in the right place and suitable for local people
- Lobby for the infrastructure required to keep up with new homes
- Ensure UTC is included in consultations regarding the Holy Cross School site
- Support improved provision for youth services
- Continue to work with the Police for a safe Uckfield
- Support the 'Safe Space' initiative
- Work to protect our green spaces and rivers
- Lobby for funding for a much needed 'Changing Places' toilet for Uckfield
- Engage with and support our residents
- Champion our Town at every opportunity



**Ridgewood**

**Karen  
Bedwell  
Independent**

I have lived and worked in Uckfield and Ridgewood for 29 years. I'm married to Ian and we have three children. I have been a Town Councillor for four years, during some difficult times for our community. As Chair of UTC Planning I am proud that we have challenged unprecedented large scale developments. We need the right houses in the right places with supportive infrastructure. I coordinated the Eco Expo in April 2022 and the Queens Jubilee celebrations in June. I helped establish the Outreach Boxes distributed during lockdown and community lunches and warm space initiatives in Ridgewood now held every month. If elected this year I can promise that as an independent councillor I will continue to represent the local residents views without party politics determining my perspective and work with all who put our town first. *Karen*



**Ensuring that local voices are not only heard, but listened to!**  
email: [uckfieldindependents@gmail.com](mailto:uckfieldindependents@gmail.com)



**Uckfield East**

**Donna  
French**

I have been a Town Councillor for eight years and proud to have been Deputy Mayor for the last year.

I'm active in the climate change group and the Uckfield Green Partnership. I am passionate about engaging residents with Council matters and I lead the annual Weald on the Field event. I help edit 'The Voice' article, for the monthly Uckfield Matters magazine.

I grew up on Manor Park and attended the schools there. I'm a business owner and a resident of East Ward, living with husband and two dogs! I would be proud and honoured to serve you again. *Donna*

**Uckfield East**

**Chris  
Macve**



After moving to Uckfield in 1969 I very quickly realised what a welcoming and supportive community Uckfield was. This encouraged me to be involved in many varied organisations including The Lions, Chamber of Commerce, Uckfield Hospital League of Friends and the Luxford Centre. I have also had the privilege to serve on Uckfield Town Council for the past eight years on various committees, working groups and representing the Council on a number of outside bodies to help ensure they are kept up to date with the various activities going on in the town. *Chris*



**Uckfield North**

**Jackie  
Love**

It has been my honour to have been the Town's Mayor for the last two years and Deputy Mayor for the three years before. I have met some amazing people and groups that we have in our town throughout my mayoral duties. We are blessed to live in an incredible supportive community.

I have been on the Town Council for eight years and I hope that you feel your concerns and needs have been represented and met fully. If re-elected I will ensure our voices are still heard and I will continue to work for you and help our town keep strong and active, whilst preserving our incredible ethos. *Jackie*

**Uckfield West**

**Diane  
Ward  
Independent**



I have been proud to be a Town Councillor for eight years. I have lived in Uckfield for nearly 30 years. I am a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

I have had the pleasure of being the Chair of General Purposes, a member of Environment and Leisure, personnel and finance committees. I feel that at Town Council level, politics should not be involved, so Independent Councillors are important. We do this as we care about our town, we listen to the residents and do all we can to ensure that we are heard. I would love to represent Uckfield for another 4 years. *Diane*