The November ’26 newsletter from the Residents’ Association.

Dear members

A longer newsletter than usual this time. You can expect a couple of rants plus some good news.

Our invitation to SE Water

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I had approached SE Water to see if it would provide a speaker to talk about the effect climate change and what steps are being taken to respond to the challenges this presents – droughts, extended hosepipe bans etc.

Unfortunately, despite several reminders, I still haven’t received a substantive reply. If I do not soon get a response to my most recent reminder I will raise the matter with our MP to see if she can progress our request or at least elicit a reply.

Our Shoppers Discount Scheme

Now good news.

Two locally operating businesses have joined our Shoppers Discount Scheme. They are:

- **Scott and Sons Grounds Maintenance** who offer 15% off seasonal hedge and grass cutting.
- **Discover Solar** who are offering us £40 discount on each solar panel, £400 max.

For full details and information about the many other businesses offer us useful discounts please follow this link.

Christmas mentions

Yes, Christmas is rapidly approaching and we know that many of you are involved with groups and organisations that will be putting on seasonal events and activities.

If you would like us to mention your Christmas event or activity in the next newsletter, just drop me an email with a brief description.

We will kick off with the Uckfield Baptist Church which meets each Sunday at Manor Primary School:

- **Wreath making workshop** on Sunday 21st November 2.30pm at the Civic Centre (book via uckfieldbaptist@gmail.com)
- **All Age Nativity service** on Sunday 13th December 10.30am at Manor Primary
- **Christingle Service** on Sunday 13th December 5.30pm at Manor Primary
- **Christmas Day service** Friday 25th December 10.00am at Manor Primary

Scams

Sussex Police have said that they are willing to provide a speaker to talk to us about the precautions we can take to avoid scams.
Before I arrange this, I would like to get some idea of the level of interest so please contact me if you think you will be coming along. This will probably be held one evening in Manor Primary or possibly a Saturday afternoon.

Bus Service

(a lengthy item so skip this if our bus service isn’t important to you)
Another rant!

I tried once again to get the Metrobus 500 route operator to include a loop through Manor Park.

I pointed out that when the 54 service was discontinued and replaced by the 245 this left our residents with no service at all at weekends and only a very limited service during the week – first bus from Manor Park is at 10.21am, last return from the bus station leaves at 2pm.

This means that if you want to visit Eastbourne for example you have virtually no time there before you have to catch a bus back to get the 2pm bus.

Metrobus said *"…due to the length of the route already, and the low passenger usage …, this is not something we will be able to accommodate ……would add on a considerable amount of time on the route…. reliability of this route could be affected…"*

In fact, this would only add around three to five minutes as shown by the 245 timetable. Regarding the number of passengers, this misses the point that public transport is essential for an important sector of or community including those who can no longer drive, the vulnerable and the socially isolated.

I had a similar response from ESCC Highways some time ago regarding the 245 which it funds, but I will try again.

It would be very helpful to hear from anyone affected by the poor bus service. The more evidence we can gather the stronger the argument we can make.

Uckfield a town of culture

Last month the Association was invited to a meeting at Uckfield College where it launched a Chamber of Arts and Music for Uckfield.

Uckfield College is leading on this on behalf of the whole town. It believes cultural participation must be recognised as a vital social infrastructure for public health alongside education, social protection, and employment.

The Association is keeping a watching brief on this project, and we will let you know of any events or initiatives that might interest members.

The Tuesday Warm Welcome Warm

The Tuesday Warm Welcome celebrates its fourth birthday this month. This service has grown and grown since we introduced it in November 2022. If you don't know about it, this is a place where you can meet others, enjoy refreshments and spend time in a safe welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. Let me know if you would like to know more about it.

Wealden Grant update

We have been assured that at least part of the money we applied for will receive approval but so far the funds have not appeared in our bank account. This grant is essential if we are going to continue to provide the breadth of services we provide so fingers crossed everyone.

The Vandalised Bench

Finally, thanks to the efforts of our Town Mayor, Karen Bedwell, who pointed us to a funding opportunity through the Sussex Police and a generous donation by member Andy C, a new timber bench overlooking the Dene was installed last month. Woodland Products and Services supplied and fitted it.

That's all for now.

Take care everyone

Peter