

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



Notes of the Executive Committee held on Thursday March 6th 2018 The Club Room, The Falcon Hotel, Uppingham - 7pm

Present

Limes Firs and Spurs Residents Association – Christine Edwards
Limes Firs and Spurs Residents Association – David Ainslie
Leicester Road Residents – Janet Thompson (Chair)
Beeches Residents Association – Mark Shaw
E J Toon Trust – Ron Simpson (Coordinator)
Methodist Church – David Greengrass
Rotary – Margaret Simpson

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Janet Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum Executive Committee and noted one apology for absence. Participating groups were reminded of the right to have a second representative at the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Uppingham WI – Helen Hutton (Vice Chair)

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Significant Meetings, Visits and Correspondence

The following visits/meetings were noted or anticipated:-

- a) One East Midlands AGM – Nottingham
- b) Leicestershire Community Cluster Enterprise Project – two meetings – (UNF has an advisory role)
- c) Round Rutland Event – Victoria Hall, Oakham
- d) Emergency Plan Updating Meeting of Lead Coordinators
- e) RCC Keep Safe Places Meeting – Catmose
- f) UBF – March 2018 - Retirement of Kath Gilbert
- g) Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Courses and Conferences attended by UNF delegates include:-

- a) Joint Blue Light Conference - London
- b) The Future of LEPs – London
- c) Safeguarding Training for UppWatch
- d) One Day First Aid Certificate – Uppingham First
- e) Neighbourhood Planning – Uppingham First /Locality
- f) Women in the Board Room – CIPD Leicester
- g) Defibrillator Training – Community Heartbeat Trust

Consultation correspondence/events received/attended/invited include:-

- a) St Georges Barracks consultation – RCC
- b) One Public Estate – RCC
- c) Housing the Under 35s' – Uppingham Cricket Club
- d) Polling Stations Consultation (via the Rutland Consortium)
- e) Uppingham C of E Primary School Multi – Academy meeting

Significant items of correspondence received include:-

- a) Getting ready for the General Data Protection Regulation – NCVO - Coordinator to be Data Officer
- b) Second Half Year Grant Distribution – Rutland Lottery
- c) Residents Association Minutes and Motions regarding N Planning Committee
- d) Letter of concern regarding the Rutland Museum release of stock
- e) Letter requesting public agenda item ref Ketton Surgery – agreed
- f) Updating info from Leicestershire Police regarding changes in the police office
- g) Letter from Victim First offering to speak at the next public UNF
- h) Letter from the British Legion regarding a WW1 memorial concert on October 13th 2018
- i) Correspondence from UTC ref updating the N Plan
- j) Notice of future events including - April 22nd – Stilton Cheese Classic Vehicle Run 208; November 11th - WW1 Musical Commemoration – Rotary
- k) Invitations to speak at community led events in Frome and Leeds

5. Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Meeting

Date to be agreed with Russ Horne

6. Uppingham Hopper

Project is now to go ahead in April. Peugeot Boxer 14 seat minibus with electric door secured with help of a £25K interest free loan from RCC. Five businesses are donating up to £1K or more. Rotary is to fund the rear accessible ramp. Over 150 residents have donated from £5 to £500 each. A meeting of volunteer drivers is to be held on March 16th 2018. The timetable is to be updated and published by the end of the month.

7. UppWatch

Scheme is going very well with a steady trickle of incoming requests. Two volunteers have moved out of town but three replacement volunteers have been identified. UppWatch volunteers have attracted much praise from residents, local charities, the health service and RCC. A full report will be given at the AGM.

8. Healthwatch

It is noted that the next contract for Healthwatch has been awarded to a Northamptonshire organisation. Existing staff will be retained.

9. Community Led Housing Project

UNF volunteers have supported this project which seems to be proceeding well. An 'Under 35s Consultation' event held at Uppingham Cricket Club was well received and attended by members of Rutland Youth Council. This Locality funded feasibility study should report by April 2018.

10. Ketton Surgery

It was agreed that this matter be an agenda item on the April UNF agenda. Lead is Cllr Rachel Burkitt.

11. UNF Corporate Structure

It was agreed to take advice from NCVO on the most appropriate form of corporate structure for the future.

12. Uppingham Portal

The considerable benefits of the proposed portal to the town's voluntary sector, including those organisations not already online, were noted. It was agreed that the Forum take the lead in structuring civil society content and that web pages be offered where they do not already exist. Suitable hyperlinks will be created to organisations with an existing online presence. It was noted that the technical partner for the portal had now been selected and the funding bid was to be submitted by the end of the month. It was unanimously resolved that, on behalf of the voluntary sector in the town, the Chair submit a letter of support for the Leader funding bid.

13. Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan

Executive member attention was drawn to mounting concern in the town regarding the remit and modus operandi of the new Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Committee. The community had attracted much praise for its community and business led collaborative approach to its first Neighbourhood Plan. Community volunteers were now being asked to accept a lesser degree of influence over the plan with the new approach being council led rather than community led as envisaged by the legislation. The problem was not unique to Uppingham, with a number of communities around the UK withdrawing volunteer support for their N Plan process. This means that their plan process is susceptible to challenge on the issue of public engagement and, of course, in any final referendum or External Examiner submission.

The Limes, Firs & Spurs RA and the Beeches RA now sought the support of the Forum regarding two propositions and is asked to convey the outcome to UTC via the next N Plan Committee which was to be held on March 28th. The issue was also to be addressed at the next meeting of the Uppingham Business Forum and at the next board meeting of Uppingham First.

Following careful consideration of the community experience elsewhere and the resolutions detailed in the RA minutes, it was agreed that:-

- a) UTC and the N Plan Committee be advised that the Forum shares resident concerns about the formation of smaller working groups to undertake research work for an updated plan and calls for all members of the N Plan Committee to remain fully engaged in the process of creating the next N Plan and have equal status and respect
- b) The Town Council be invited to demonstrate its commitment to community engagement, and recognise the legislative change that empowers the desirable modus operandi of N Plan Task Groups and committees, by calling upon the N Plan Committee to appoint its own Chair and Vice Chair and function as a N Plan Steering Committee. Such a process has successfully been adopted in Oakham and many other parishes.

It was further agreed that the Forum's N Plan reps advise the next meeting of the N Plan Committee of those areas of the existing plan that need supplementing or updating: These to include the need for an environmental aspect and tighter planning policies. The relevant proposals for social and economic growth detailed in the Uppingham Town Centre & Business Zones Plan would also need to be shared at the N Plan Committee.

14. WW1 November 11th Commemorative Lunch

It was agreed that the Forum be the official host of the November 11th End of WW1 Commemorative Lunch. 1pm to 3pm in The Falcon Hotel. It was further agreed that Adam Lowe be invited to be the guest speaker.

15. Other Matters

- a) **Insurance** - It was noted that the public liability insurance policy taken out at the request of RCC had only a few months remaining, but the related RCC planting licence had yet to be received. It was agreed that a quote for next year covering all constituent groups be sought for the next insurance year
- b) **Information Exchange** – It was agreed to invite other community groups to share the minutes of their meetings

16. Date of Next Meetings

Executive Committee AGM - May 17th at 7pm. UNF Public AGM - May 17th at 7.30pm – The Falcon Hotel.

Notes prepared by Ron Simpson 17.3.2018

Agreed as True Record Signed.....

Date.....

Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum

Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum is the fully constituted voice of civil society in Uppingham and is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Membership No: 22162. The Forum complies with the NCVO Code of Good Governance for the Community and Voluntary Sector and is led by an Executive Committee elected annually by the local community. The Forum's primary purpose is to encourage collaboration between community groups and offer mutual support whilst addressing issues of community interest and concern. The Forum is represented in the Rutland Virtual Consortium and on the board of the Uppingham First Community Partnership. The Forum has its own bank account and distributes four newsletters a year to every household in the town. The Forum is represented in the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Committee and the Uppingham Vanguard Board. The Forum is also a founding member of UppWatch.

Any resident or community group can request that the Executive Committee approve a particular matter for consideration by a public meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum. This should be done by contacting the Coordinator Tel: 01572 823465 Mobile 07710 328469 E-mail rons@clara.net
The Forum aims to meet quarterly as does its Executive Committee. Forthcoming meetings are notified by newsletter, e-mail and on the Uppingham First website.