

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



Notes of a General Meeting held on Thursday January 11th 2018 in The Garden Room of The Falcon Hotel, Uppingham at 7.30pm

Present

Chair and Executive Member Janet Thompson, Town Mayor Cllr Alec Crombie MBE and six other town councillors including UNF Executive Members David Ainslie, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw and Ron Simpson BEM. County Cllr Rachel Burkitt. UNF Executive members Margaret Simpson and David Greengrass and a total of 51 other residents including representatives, volunteers and members of the following institutions and community groups:-

Beeches Residents' Association, Uppingham Methodist Church, St Peter & St Pauls Church, E J Toon Trust, Uppingham Rotary Club, Uppingham Business Forum, Uppingham N Plan Task Group, Uppingham Town Centre and Business Zones Plan Task Group, Uppingham First, Neighbourhood Watch, RAFA, Together, Uppingham WI, Age UK Bowls Club, The Crown Inn, Uppingham Town Partnership, the Limes, Firs and Spurs Residents' Association, Uppingham in Bloom and Uppingham Surgery.

1. Chair's Welcome

Janet Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the excellent attendance. She advised that notes of the meeting would be circulated to attendees who entered an e-mail address on the sign-in sheets.

2. Apologies for Absence

Noted from PC Joshua Ace (Leicestershire Police), County Cllr Edward Baines and six residents

3. Events and Community Group Updates

Attention was drawn to the schedule of 2018 events listed in the January UNF Newsletter. Mention was made of:-

- Old Time Music Hall – January 13th – The Rotary Club of Uppingham – The Falcon Hotel
- Uppingham in Bloom Winter Warmer – Saturday January 27th 12noon to 2pm - St Peter & St Paul Church Hall Ticket £6.50 to include soup, jacket potato with filling and drink – Tickets on the door
- Eyebrook Charity Walk – Sunday March 4th – 10am to 12noon - Online registration or contact mjs@clara.co.uk
- Stilton Cheese Classic Vehicle Event – Sunday April 22nd - Register online or contact 01572 495050
- WW1 Centenary Events to include on October 13th – RBL Concert in the Memorial Hall with the Central Band of the RAF – On Sunday November 11th – Commemorative lunch with guest speaker and an evening event marking the end of the war with readings, music and song – Further information soon. It was agreed that more info on WW1 events could be provided later in the meeting if the WW1 Working Group Chair arrived. (He had indicated this was a possibility, but not certain, due to work commitments)

4. Health and Wellbeing

- a) **Uppingham Surgery** – Janet Thompson provided a brief overview of the recent changes at the surgery referring to its winter newsletter, the retirement of Dr Hilary Fox, the appointment of Dr Nainesh Patel and the introduction of a fast access clinic
- b) **Rutland Healthwatch** – It was noted that the Rutland Healthwatch team had been shortlisted and interviewed for the next Healthwatch contract. We await the outcome
- c) **Defibrillator** – Delivery of the next defibrillator and cabinet is awaited. It is overdue apparently because of manufacturing delays. Funded by the Rotary Club of Uppingham, it will be fitted by Spire Homes to the exterior of Gerard Court community room
- d) **First Aid Training** - A further certificated First Aid Course is to be run on Tuesday February 29th 2018. Of interest to community groups and businesses, a few places remain. Contact 01572 495050 to book a place.

5. Community Safety

- **Last Quarter Crime Statistics** – appended – prepared by PC Joshua Ace. The rising number of burglaries was noted with concern as was the Coop's apparent corporate policy of non-intervention in shoplifting. It was felt that this would embolden others and make the town a soft target
- **Icy Weather Incidents** – Members of the Forum were invited to view video footage of the weather conditions leading up to, and on, Friday December 29th 2017. Following lengthy discussion on the lack of snow and ice clearance in the market place and around town, the multiple accidents that occurred and the outstanding help given by local traders (particularly Nick from Smalls), the bread and fish stalls and several members of the

community, it was agreed that the situation should be pursued with RCC. Town Mayor Alec Crombie confirmed that the Town Council was pursuing a better future response from highways for certain designated areas of the town. It was also noted that the Town Council is now responsible for ensuring the many rock salt bins around the town are regularly topped up when required

- **Road Closure** – The community's attention was drawn to the proposed closure of Ayston Road (travelling from the north) between the A47 roundabout and the entrance to Firs Avenue for about a month from January 22nd 2018 while kerbing work is undertaken
- **Community Emergency Plan** – The boxes of equipment now held by the community to support its Emergency Plan were put on display during and after the meeting.

6. Community and Public Transport

- **The Uppingham Hopper** – David Ainslie reported that Uppingham First had now agreed a five year interest free loan from RCC to help purchase a nearly new mini bus. Around £13k had already been donated by residents and local businesses with over £6k given by those over 80. A magnificent effort that would be formally recognised once a bus had been purchased. Three more people had volunteered as drivers and the partnership was now actively searching for a bus
- **Leicester Bus** – Deputy Town Mayor, Steve Rozak, briefly updated Forum attendees on the continued operation of the 747 bus to Leicester. Route and timetable changes had been made to make it more economic. Its provision was guaranteed for 2018 with help of County Council grants but not beyond. It was important that the bus was supported if it was to survive into 2019.

7. Planning

- **Rutland Local Plan** – No further developments at this time
- **Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr David Casewell circulated an updating handout, revealing in his presentation that work was about to begin on updating the, nationally well regarded, first Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan. Community involvement would be via a wide range of community and business organisations which, together with members of UTC, made up the new UTC Neighbourhood Plan Committee. It would next meet on January 23rd 2018. The committee would determine whether a light touch change with updated housing provision would suffice, or if major changes were required necessitating a further public vote. The updated N Plan would need to be in general compliance with the strategic policies of the new updated Rutland Local Plan. Collaborative discussion with RCC was required. In a short, supplementary presentation, N Planning Champion Ron Simpson highlighted the need to strengthen certain policies in the existing document informed by planning application experiences elsewhere. The new plan needed to remain community led and there was evidence around the UK that some planning authorities were drafting local plans to override aspects of publicly adopted N Plans. The community would need to be vigilant in the debate to come.
- **Town Centre & Business Zones Plan** – Ron Simpson led the Forum through the Plan's Executive Summary and the many changes made in the second version of the Plan which was now online at www.uppinghamneighbourhoodplan.info No further changes were proposed. It was believed that most of the major changes called for during public consultation and dialogue with RCC had been made and this was accepted by the Forum during questions and discussion. Some projects in the Plan were already going ahead and some awaited endorsement by statutory authorities or funding to calculate cost. The amended Plan has been well received by economic partners, investors, sub regional agencies and government.

8. Housing

- a) **The E J Toon Housing Project for the Under 30s** – The project task group reported on the progress made with this Locality funded, community led, housing feasibility study on building a small number of affordable homes for the under 30s. The group reported that a legal advisor and architect had been appointed and a site visit to another project in Leicester had been arranged. An event to engage some under 30s in the design and character of the properties is being organised at the Cricket Club in February
- b) **Bloor Homes Development** - Bloor have named the site as The Elms. Sales are expected to commence in April. Advance interest can be expressed via the Bloor Homes website at www.bloorhomes.com

As the time was now 9.30pm, the meeting was closed by the Chair and the remaining agenda items adjourned to a future meeting.

Notes dated 21.1.2018

Notes:

1. Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum

The Forum acts as the voice of Civil Society in Uppingham, has an elected Executive Committee, and is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (No. 22162). In 2017 the Forum founded UpWatch, the town's next generation good neighbour scheme and Resilience Network. The Forum's primary purpose is to encourage collaboration between groups and offer mutual support whilst addressing issues of community interest and concern. It is represented in the Rutland Virtual Consortium, on the board of Uppingham First and the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Committee. The Forum has its own bank account and distributes four newsletters a year to every household in the town.

2. Meetings

The Forum meets quarterly and its Executive Committee half yearly. Forthcoming meetings are notified by newsletter, e-mail and online.

October:

08/10/17 – Burglary OTD, North Street East x 3

08/10/17 – Burglary OTD, High Street East

12/10/17 – Burglary, Rutland Close

13/10/17 – Burglary, Finch Close

16/10/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central garage

21/10/17 – Shop Theft, Co-Op

24/10/17 – Shop Theft, Co-Op

26/10/17 – Theft From Vehicle, Branston Road

26/10/17 – Theft From Vehicle, High Street West

31/10/17 – Stabbing, Branston Road

November:

04/11/17 – Theft From Person, Stockerston Cres.

07/11/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central garage

14/11/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central garage

18/11/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central garage

22/11/17 – Shop Theft, High Street West

23/11/17 – Attempt Burglary OTD, Uppingham Central garage

24/11/17 – Damage to Vehicle x 3

27/11/17 – Burglary, Lime Tree Avenue

December:

03/12/17 – Burglary, Brook Close

11/12/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central Garage

14/12/17 – Shop Theft, High Street East

16/12/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central Garage

20/12/17 – Bilking, Uppingham Central Garage

22/12/17 – Burglary OTD, North Street East

30/12/17 – Shop Theft, High Street East

Message from Beat Team: The fourth quarter in Uppingham has unfortunately seen a rise in acquisitive (burglary/theft) offences and on Halloween night there was a particularly nasty incident whereby an adult male was slashed across the arm with a knife. Acquisitive crime tends to become more prevalent in the winter months for a number of reasons; of which early hours of darkness and the run up to Christmas tend to be contributing factors. To put the 4th quarter of 2017' stats into perspective, I have compared them to the same period in 2016. The data which shows that there have been 3 more dwelling burglaries and 1 more commercial burglary in 2017, than 2016. This rise is concerning and as such the beat team have pooled resources across Rutland to target this issue. Op Hexagon is the name we have given to the pooling of these resources, which I speak about a little further down in this section.

The incident with the knife is also very worrying, but what I can tell you is that it was an isolated incident and swift action from the Rutland beat team led to the suspect being arrested on the night of the offence, the weapon recovered and has resulted in the suspect being charged and remanded to prison awaiting trial. Please rest assured there is not an armed, violent criminal loose in Uppingham!

In October I had the pleasure of accompanying the Police and Crime Commissioner; Lord Willy Bach around Uppingham, where I was delighted to introduce him to residents, councillors, business persons and community partners from Uppingham to discuss key issues for the town, to raise our profile and needs. Discussions were very positive with many outstanding ideas being discussed. In November, I was then privileged to have the Assistant Chief Constable (now Deputy Chief Constable) Rob Nixon join me on patrol, where again we discussed issues pertaining to Uppingham and met colleagues from Spire Homes housing association, Rutland Community Safety Team and a forum of local Uppingham persons. These discussions held great merit and were a pleasure to be a part of.

Reported anti-social behaviour in Uppingham is relatively low at the moment. We have dealt with a number of issues during the 4th quarter of 2017 relating to a noisy pub, neighbours causing issues, kids climbing on roofs and most recently dealing with noisy youths in vehicles in the Co-Op car park. You can report any ASB and other similar issues to police through '101' or by visiting our force website at <https://leics.police.uk/report-online>

Finally, we have also welcomed Police Sergeant 1847 Darren Richardson to Rutland, who has taken over the role of leading the neighbourhood team here from PS Lee Morris. PS Richardson is an experienced officer who joins us having managed busy response teams in the city centre and Loughborough, amongst various other roles he has undertaken throughout his career. He has recently put a video on the Rutland Police Facebook page, and I urge you to have a look so you can put a face to a name. To find the video, simply search "Rutland Police Facebook" in any search engine and it will link you through to our page.

For other local Uppingham Police related news, you can visit the following link to see what our priorities are: <https://leics.police.uk/local-policing/uppingham>

Current priorities are as follows –

Hare coursing, criminal damage, burglaries and theft are some of the issues Uppingham has faced in recent times. This is an issue for the entire Rutland and we will look to conduct regular targeted patrols and joint cross border work with both Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Police around these issues. As a beat team, we have created Op Hexagon to co-ordinate our attempts at reducing this issue and tackle those responsible for causing harm.

We continue to tackle this issue with targeted High visibility patrols throughout the 4 Rutland beats. We will use the new ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera to target the increase in Burglaries on the area. On the South of Rutland we have arrested and charged a person in connection to a high number of burglaries. We are working closely with the local residents and farmers who continue to help our efforts and offer support to this issue and ask that if anything suspicious is seen to report through '101'.

If you have any other concerns you would like made known to the police, then you can always report them through calling '101' or '999' if it's an emergency, or by approaching Andy or I in the street when on patrol. You can also meet us by attending a "Beat Surgery" which we hold every month in various locations around Uppingham. The next Beat Surgery is on the 26th of January 2018 at the Methodist Church between 10am – 11am. I will be attending that day and will listen to any concerns you may have.

Thank you all for attending tonight's meeting and your commitment to making Uppingham a safe and prosperous place to live and work.