

UPPINGHAM FIRST

Community Partnership

Chair: Edward Baines Vice Chair: Mark Shaw Secretary/Treasurer: Ron Simpson BEM

Uppingham Webcam



Uppingham Hopper

Minutes of a Board Meeting held at 6pm on Thursday December 15th 2022 in Don Paddy's

In Attendance

Business Directors: Ron Simpson BEM, James Torbell, and Nick Townsend

Community Directors: Mark Shaw and Janet Thompson BEM

Statutory Sector Director: John Leslie (Health and Wellbeing)

Community Liaison: Christine Edwards

Guest: Damon Le Geyt

1. Apologies for Absence

Business Directors: Edward Baines, Trevor Ellis, Kath Gilbert.

Community Director: David Ainslie BEM

Statutory Sector Director: Lucy Stephenson (Local government)

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

In the absence of the Partnership Chair (Edward Baines) Vice Chair Mark Shaw assumed the chair and welcomed everyone to the final board meeting of 2022 and in particular guest Damon Le Geyt of Uppingham Fine Foods.

3. Declarations of Interest

Board member interests in various businesses, charities and community groups within the town and the county were noted. RS declared a non pecuniary interest in the work with CPRE Rutland as its current Chair (Minutes 6b, 10b and 11c).

4. Minutes of a Board Meeting and AGM held on August 18th 2022

Circulated and approved as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Secretary/Treasurer Report

- a) **Finance Update** - In accordance with insurance requirements, transactions for the period August 1st to December 14th were witnessed and signed by an attending director. Current bank balance was £11054 (Incorporates the Hopper, Rutland Lottery, Project, Event and Defibrillator funds). Credit Card balance is zero. In anticipation of the closure of the HSBC branch at Oakham and the increased likelihood of having to use the post office for cash deposits from the Uppingham Hopper, it was agreed that an HSBC deposits bank card be obtained and UF banking deposits volunteer M J Simpson BEM authorised to make deposits with it.
- b) **Significant Correspondence and Meetings** - Highlights since the last meeting included:- Meetings and/or correspondence regarding joint work with CAB, Vista, the Leicestershire and Rutland Law Society, CPRE Rutland, the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce (it now covers Rutland), the Xmas late night shopping event team, the cancelling of the 2022 Round Rutland Run due to the period of mourning for her late Majesty the Queen, Gigaclear regarding progress with the new fibre network; assorted employers regarding the further development of the Station Road Industrial Estate; various developers and partners linked to the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan, a meeting of the Vanguard Board, attendance at a Locality Heritage event in Birmingham, work for the Uppingham Homes CLT, support for the high street launch of the Uppingham Artisans, preparation of a Locality Case Study founded on the town's first Neighbourhood Plan, the mounting of three energy workshops for CPRE Rutland, attendance at, and promotion of, the East Midlands Women's Awards and support for the Rotary in Uppingham Annual Craft Fair and Children's Christmas Toys Appeal. Significant hours have also been allocated to the Uppingham Webcam following the loss of the camera's BT landline connection to the Vaults.
- c) **2022 Budget and Work Programme** – The Secretary/Treasurer led members of the board through a tabled paper illustrating the outcomes of the 2022 work programme and budget. Following extensive debate and noting the very positive outcomes for the almost completed financial year, it was agreed that the full year be reviewed in detail following the preparation of the 2022 annual accounts and the payment of the annual VAT bill. It was further agreed that a forward looking work programme and 2023 budget be submitted for consideration at the February 2023 meeting of the board.

7. Social and Economic Forums

- a) **Uppingham Business Forum** - The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday January 12th 2023 commencing at 6pm in The Falcon Hotel. All businesses to be invited by newsletter, email and social media. The meeting will be an AGM and current Chair Ron Simpson BEM indicated he would be looking to hand over the Chair's role to a current town centre business representative. The new Rutland Chamber of Commerce is also an invitee
- b) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum** - The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday January 19th 2023 commencing at 7.30pm in The Falcon Hotel. All households to be notified by newsletter and social media. UNF Chair Janet Thompson BEM has invited the police to attend
- c) **Vanguard Board** - The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday January 26th 2023 commencing at 10am in The Falcon Hotel. All partners and relevant developers/landowner representatives to be notified by e-mail. The meeting will consider the published Regulation 14 version of the Updated Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan and its related AECOM written SEA publication which are to be distributed by UTC for statutory consultation by January 3rd 2023. The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair of UTC Planning committee, NPAG Chair, Leader of RCC, the Chair of RCC development control committee, the Town Clerk and a representative of central government are invitees to the meeting.

8. Planning and Economic Development

- a) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan** – Board members were updated on the progress made by UTC and community groups in bringing the updated N Plan (Reg 14 version) to fruition and on target (January 3rd) Early feedback on the plan (from consultants AECOM) in the form of the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was favourable. UTC intended to distribute the plan and accompanying questionnaire by January 3rd, the intended start date of the statutory consultation period. The resignation of the current Chair of NPAG due to business pressures was noted and his service to the community acknowledged. Noting that the UTC N Plan website needed updating before January 3rd, it was agreed that UF Director and NPAG representative Nick Townsend write to the Town Clerk to alert her to the issue
- b) **Station Road Development** – It was noted that progress with the station road proposals may now be possible, subject to the views of the relevant landowner. It was agreed that directors Nick Townsend and James Torbell collaborate to forward an appropriate communication to the landowner
- c) **Rutland Local Plan** – Progress in the production of a new Local Plan was noted and a first draft awaited. It was further noted that the MOD was now proceeding with housing proposals for the St Georges Barracks site, apparently aided by RCC. A further meeting of the Vanguard Board will be called to consider the plan's implications for Uppingham and the UNP once the first draft of the plan is published
- d) **Leicester Road Roundabout** – Mounting public concern over the apparent absence of a roundabout in the most recent plans for Leicester Road developments was noted despite written assurances on the proposal from both landowner representatives and the County Council. The issue is to be raised in January meetings with the public and UTC
- e) **Crematorium Update** – The progress made to date with this development was noted. The partnership will be part of a design review team when appropriate.

9. Health and Wellbeing

- a) **Uppingham Surgery** - Patient Participation Group Chair and UF Director John Leslie delivered a well received and informative presentation on the performance of Uppingham Surgery. Key stats included those on Covid and Flu Vaccine delivery, the surgery's enhanced access scheme and the outcome of the December National Surgery Audit. Other key points addressed included the installation of car park CCTV, a waiting room enlargement proposal, staffing enhancements and a glazing refurbishment of the surgery building. In the very positive discussion that followed the presentation it was suggested that the surgery should consider sharing such good news with the wider public
- b) **Community Advocacy** – Board members took note of the increased demand for its community advocacy service particularly in the fields of housing and mental health and indicated they were happy to see such provision expanded and shared among interested board members.

10. Community Transport

- a) **Uppingham Hopper Update** – Following an overview of the state of play with the Uppingham Hopper it was agreed that the options for the acquisition of a replacement/supplementary bus should form a key part of the 2023 work programme and budget proposals to be debated at the February board meeting
- b) **Rutland Bus Company pilot** – The CPRE Rutland proposal to link a number of interested villages with an urban centre was noted. It is expected that the charity will submit a proposal to UF early in the New Year seeking early morning and late afternoon use of the Uppingham Hopper.

11. Events

- a) **LNS 2022 Review** – Following a review of the feedback and social/economic performance of the new volunteer team, it was resolved that the team's efforts be applauded and that the partnership extend its 2022 offer of support to cover Xmas late night shopping 2023. Suggestions for further improvements and greater business participation in the event will be invited at the January meeting of the Uppingham Business Forum. The significant sponsorship and support afforded by a number of businesses, community groups, the church and UTC was noted with pleasure
- b) **Social Sundays and 2023 Event Programme** – Following consideration of a draft schedule of Sunday events supplemented by a new cycling event on July 2nd 2023, the list presented to the board was agreed for support. A schedule of road closure requests has been submitted to the Town Clerk
- c) **CPRE Energy Workshops** – A contract with CPRE Rutland to deliver a fourth sustainable energy workshop for Rutland in 2023 was noted.

12. Community Safety

- a) **Crime Statistics** – The November crime statistics for Uppingham forwarded by Leicestershire Police were noted and posted on the partnership's website at www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk
- b) **PCC 2023 Policing Budget Consultation** – The PCC public consultation on next year's policing budget was noted and participation by the local community encouraged
- c) **Community Emergency Plan Meeting Minutes 11.12.2022** - The minutes of a recent meeting of the Community Emergency Plan Committee were noted and posted on the partnership's website at www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk. Action taken with regard to the relocated defibrillator was endorsed.

13. Any Other Business

- a) **High Street Update** – Director Janet Thompson BEM raised the issue of significant change in the high street and the arrival of a number of new businesses. It was agreed that a formal welcome and introductions should form part of the January Business Forum.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday February 22nd 2023 at 6pm in Don Paddy's

In closing the meeting, the Chair offered a formal thank you to James, the staff and the Wills family for their continued support for the partnership and its forums. He wished everyone a happy and healthy festive season.

Notes distributed: 18.12.2022

Copies to: social and economic partners; local and national government; media

**UPPINGHAM
FIRST**

Unless otherwise requested please direct all correspondence to The Secretary, 7 Hawthorn Drive, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TA

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