

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Public Meeting



August 15th 2024

Notes of the 2024 AGM and Public Meeting of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum held on Thursday August 15th 2024 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room of The Falcon Hotel

Present

UNF Chair and UF Director Janet Thompson BEM, Uppingham Town Mayor David Ainslie BEM, Uppingham Town Mayor Adam Lowe, RCC Cllr Lucy Stephenson, Uppingham First Directors John Leslie, Mark Shaw, Kath Gilbert, Geoff Thompson, Uppingham Town Councillors and UNF Executive Members Christine Edwards and Ron Simpson BEM; UNF Executive Members Andrew Mankowski and Margaret Simpson BEM, Uppingham residents and volunteers and members of the following institutions and community groups:-

The Beeches Residents' Association, St Peter & St Pauls Church, Uppingham Bowls Club, Uppingham Rotary Club, Uppingham Business Forum, Uppingham First, Neighbourhood Watch, Uppingham Brownies, The Elms Residents Association The Limes, Firs and Spurs Residents' Association, UppWatch, the Uppingham Surgery Patient Participation Group, Uppingham WI, Mothers Union, Uppingham in Bloom and the Hopper Heroes.

Apologies for Absence

Police Officer Rebecca Angel of Leicestershire Police, PCSO Andy Wylie, Nick Townsend, Margaret Lishman, Helen Swift, Cllr Trevor Colbourne and Alderman Edward Baines (UF).

Roll Call of Organisations and Residents

74 attendees were recorded as being present. Attendees were advised that the meeting was to be recorded and photographed at some point in the evening.

1. Chair's Welcome and Executive AGM Report

"I would like to welcome everyone to our Neighbourhood Forum, especially to anyone attending for the first time or new to Uppingham. I am Janet Thompson your Chair, As usual we have a full and exciting agenda, I will introduce everyone as we go through the evening. Hopefully you will all have received our latest newsletter through your door.

So am going to do 1st & 2nd Agenda items together because I wanted to start by giving you some information about the Forum, I want to dispel rumours and Chinese whispers.

The Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum was set up well before my time, I took over as Chair about 10 years ago because I wanted to know more about Uppingham. We are made up of representatives from various sections of our Town. We are all volunteers, we are not 'self serving' but have one main interest, that is to help to improve the quality of life in Uppingham and put Uppingham first and foremost.

Our representatives are from: The Limes, Firs & Spurs, The Beeches, and The Elms residents associations, The Churches in Uppingham, The Brownies, Town Twinning, Housing, Education, The Uppingham Surgery PPG. WI, Mothers Union and Uppingham in Bloom, We do have some Councillors on the Forum Executive but they represent their own resident's associations. This is not a 'political' group. We just wish to bring our residents information in any way that we can. So, If there is any other group that would like to be represented in the Forum Exec please let me know.

Many organisations, associations and charities rely heavily on volunteers and we are blessed to have lots of volunteer in Uppingham and Rutland covering a wide range of organisations which help to support our community. We should celebrate ALL our volunteers and not criticise them; I see many people who give up their time to help others in many ways and it truly makes a difference.

The Forum is supported by Uppingham First, which in itself was set up to take on some activities that the Council were unable to carry out.

At this point I want to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing Chair of Uppingham First, Alderman Edward Baines for all his hard work and support over the years and we wish him a relaxing retirement.

So just before we begin, I would like to bring a little humour to the meeting and I have found some interesting Anagrams for you:

- *A Decimal Point = I'm a Dot in Place*
- *Admirer = Married*
- *Debit card = Bad credit*
- *Heavy Rain? = Hire a Navy!*
- *Madam Curie = Radium came*
- *Postmaster = Stamp Store*
- *The Morse Code = Here Come Dots*
- *Snooze Alarms = Alas! No More Z's*
- *Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one*
- *Listen = Silent*

I hope you enjoyed them”

Janet reported that the AGM of the Forum Executive had been held on August 1st 2024. The draft annual report and financial update were read, and accepted, The Forum's annual expenditure was well within its budget.

Janet confirmed that she had been re-elected as Chair of UNF (for her impartiality) and that the meeting had also agreed to put her name forward to UTC for her to be considered as the UNF representative on the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee.

Mark Shaw was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Forum for 2024/25 and Ron Simpson BEM re-elected as the Forum Coordinator. The meeting discussed the update of the Community Emergency Plan and the town's progress with Neighbourhood Watch. Finally, the AGM approved updated equality and safeguarding policies.

2. Community Group Updates

Janet brought this agenda item forward to allow representatives from the various organisations present to inform the meeting of their events.

Henry Dawe spoke about the event called “Cheer Up” which takes place at the Uppingham Theatre in October: Leaflets were distributed by the Forum on his behalf and leaflets were available during the meeting. Henry also gave an update on Uppingham Town Twinning and the exciting trip to Caudebec-en-Caux planned for the end of October.

Hilary Dawe gave an update on the Women's Institute.

Lyn encouraged everyone to support the Rotary Eyebrook Walk on Sunday 18th August. This was in aid of Loros.

Janet gave an update on Mothers Union and mentioned the ‘ Round Rutland Classis Car Run” on 1st September. This event was also advertised in the Forum Newsletter which had been distributed to every household.

3. Crime and Policing Update

The Leicestershire and Rutland Police had sent us the new Area Commander's Update for Melton and Rutland and this was displayed on the screen. This newsletter was for one week and the printed date was 15th August 2024.

The meeting had invited PC Rebecca Angel to speak on neighbourhood matters, but she was unable to attend due to a training course commitment. Janet reported that we were expecting PCSO Andy Wylie in her place, who had now sent his apologies for absence due to illness.

We have received the last 3 months crime report and statistics, which were displayed on the screen for all to read. Janet stated that she was unable to answer any questions because she is not employed by the Police and PC Rebecca Angel has asked that any questions be directed to her. The Police Office is situated on the right hand side of the lobby area in the Town Hall.

4. Youth Space

Liz Clarke gave an excellent talk regarding the Youth Space Group and how and when it was set up, who is involved in the volunteering and how they had recently managed to secure a substantial Lottery Grant. . This

Grant will secure the group for a few years but they do have extensive expenditure for one paid youth worker, food and the cost of hiring the Town Hall.

Liz introduced Chloe, one of the Youth Space attendees, who gave an inspiring speech on how the Youth Group had helped her and many other youngsters. Liz asked that if anyone knows of any interested youngsters between the ages of 11-16, or would like to volunteer, to let her know or check out the website www.uppinghamyouth.co.uk

5. Uppingham Surgery Update

John Leslie, Chair of the Uppingham Patient Participation Group gave an update on the surgery activities, the vaccination programme for Covid, the winter Flu jab and imminent improvements to the waiting room. The Uppingham Surgery Newsletter was available at the meeting. Statistics regarding the surgery workload including appointments, telephone calls etc were displayed on the screen. John closed by inviting questions from the floor.

6. Town Council Update

Uppingham Town Mayor David Ainslie BEM introduced recently appointed Town Clerk Adam Lowe. Adam addressed the meeting briefly setting out his immediate actions upon taking up his appointment at the beginning of the week.

7. Uppingham Post Office

Forum Coordinator Ron Simpson BEM updated Forum attendees on the efforts being made behind the scenes to ensure the continuity of a post office in Uppingham once the current Postmaster Robin Bromiley retired. Ron confirmed that the present post office building had now been registered as a community asset by the county council thus ensuring that the community would be given 6 months notice of any proposed sale.

8. Any Other Business

At our next Forum meeting it is hoped to have Doreen Woodward CEO of St. Johns & St. Annes which covers Bonner & Taylor House as a speaker. Janet thanked everyone for attending. These notes will be available on www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk under the 'Forum' section.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.



Notes: Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum is a fully constituted, non-political, neighbourhood infrastructure network which brings together residents and a number of town councillors, charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups. In addition to acting as the voice of Civil Society for Uppingham, the Forum oversees the work of UppWatch (the town's neighbourhood watch and good neighbour scheme), the operation of the Uppingham Community Emergency Plan and the supervision of the community's defibrillators along with community partnership Uppingham First. The Neighbourhood Forum is led by its Chair Janet Thompson BEM and a strong Executive Committee of local organisation representatives. All public meetings of the Forum are preceded by a volunteer distributed newsletter to every household.



Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum - The Voice of Civil Society in Uppingham and a Founding Partner of UppWatch
A Member of the Rutland Consortium and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

7 Hawthorn Drive, Uppingham Rutland LE15 9TA

Chair: Janet Thompson BEM **Vice Chair** Mark Shaw **Coordinator:** Ron Simpson BEM

E-mail: enquiries@uppinghamneighbourhoodforum.org.uk **Tel:** 01572 495050 **Mobile:** 07710 328469