

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Public Meeting



January 19th 2023

Notes of a General Meeting of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum held on Thursday January 19th 2023 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room of The Falcon Hotel

Present

UNF Chair Janet Thompson BEM, High Sheriff of Rutland Geoff Thompson, Uppingham Deputy Town Mayor and UNF Executive Member David Ainslie BEM, County Cllrs Lucy Stephenson and Karen Payne, RCC Chief Executive Mark Andrews, UTC Cllr Peter Rees, Town Councillor and UNF Executive Members, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw and Ron Simpson BEM; UNF Executive Members David Greengrass, Margaret Simpson BEM, representatives, volunteers and members of the following institutions and community groups:-

The Beeches Residents' Association, Uppingham Methodist Church, 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 and the Hopper Heroes.

Leicestershire and Rutland Police

Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews, Police Officers Ben Orton, PCSO Kimberley Newman.

Media Representative

Robert Alexander – Rutland and Stamford Mercury

Apologies for Absence

Uppingham Town Mayor Liz Clarke, County Councillor Edward Baines, Sue and Tony Streeter (Uppingham in Bloom and Uppingham WI)

Roll Call of Organisations and Residents

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

1. Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Forum Chair Janet Thompson BEM welcomed everyone including a number of special guests to this the first UNF public meeting of 2023 and noted the excellent attendance. Janet was delighted to see that so many of the associations in Uppingham were represented. Janet explained that a UNF newsletter had again been distributed to all households earlier in the month and that the minutes of this meeting would soon be available on the Neighbourhood Forum page of the Uppingham First website at www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk Janet went on to mention about the bad weather and that accidents have occurred and urged residents to stay safe. Janet went on to read out the list of community representatives on the Forum Executive and asked if any other organisation or association wished to be included in the Forum to let the Coordinator know. It was further noted by Janet that the UNF Executive had resolved to update 'Uppingham Community Emergency Plan'.

2. Rutland County Council 2023 Budget Consultation

Cllrs Lucy Stephenson (Leader) & Cllr Karen Payne (Finance Portfolio Holder) of Rutland County Council supported by RCC Chief Executive Mark Andrews delivered a short presentation highlighting the budget challenges confronting the authority in setting the level of council tax for the 2023/24 financial year. Following a short Q & A session which followed, it was clear that the majority of the audience understood the need for a council tax rise. There was therefore no significant challenge to the county council's proposals which had been published in the media earlier in the day.

3. Crime and Policing Update

On behalf of the local beat officer PC Anna Ingram (who could not be present) PC Ben Orton Leicestershire and Rutland Police delivered a short crime and policing priorities update for Uppingham founded on December 2022 statistics. PC Orton also referred to PC Anna-Ingrams recent newsletter which is available (see www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk/Forum).

PC Orton also stated that there are Police Surgeries held at the Methodist Church should you wish to attend (next one 23.1.2023) and that Uppingham now has a 'Beat Office situated in the Town Hall. Should you wish to attend the Beat Office this can be arranged via appointment through the Town Hall or 101. The Office does not provide a drop in facility because it is not staffed 24/7.

Rupert Matthews, Police & Crime Commissioner, gave a short update and thanked PC Orton for his good work. He went on to congratulate Leicestershire Police on a highly successful major operation tackling, arresting and charging around 150 people in connection with the organised riots in Leicester City in 2022.

4. Health and Wellbeing – Uppingham Surgery

John Leslie, Chair of the Uppingham Patient Participation Group stated that he was a volunteer and did not work for the Uppingham Surgery but was happy to present an update from them. His presentation was well received and informative. His PowerPoint showed the recent performance statistics relating to the Uppingham Surgery. His slides are appended for reader information which provide data on the appointments carried out face-to-face, on the telephone, online consultations and also home visits. Other statistics showed the amount of 'missed appointments' and how this is time wasted which could have provided other patients with an appointment. The Surgery have asked residents that if they cannot attend an appointment please let them know. Additional Surgery time has been allocated for Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings; these are booked by invitation text to patients with specific long term medical conditions.

Another survey being carried out by the surgery and residents are urged to complete it to give the surgery input into facilities required. John also informed Forum attendees that the surgery has appointed a new Operations Manager named Daniel Medhurst.

5. Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation

Using a 'corrected' screen based map of the development areas proposed in the town, Neighbourhood Plan Champion and Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (NPAG) Lead Councillor Ron Simpson BEM led the meeting through an analysis of the key policies and aspirations of the Regulation 14 edition of the updated Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan. He drew the audience's attention to the importance of responding in writing or online via the official questionnaire issued by the town council to every household in the town. Ron stressed that positive responses to the questionnaire were as important as critical ones to ensure proper balance in the final document. The town council consultant who would be analysing the responses could only address responses submitted in this manner.

Ron pointed out that, if supported, the development proposed in the plan would be worth circa £1M+ to the Town Council and circa £3M + to the county council in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other developer contributions. These are intended to help meet infrastructure needs generated by the 20 year plan.

In an extended Q & A, issues raised by residents included:-

- a) The implications for the plan of changing national planning policy
- b) The infrastructure needs, and particularly highways issues, created by the projected increase in traffic passing through the town
- c) The need to improve highways before, not after, the large number of homes are built
- d) The need to prioritise public realm, public health, public safety and education when allocating infrastructure funds
- e) The relationship between the existing Local Plan, the emerging new Local Plan and a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan

The session closed with a reminder that UTC was offering two drop in workshops staffed by councillors to answer any further questions from residents. Saturday January 21st 4pm to 7pm and Tuesday January 24th 1pm to 4pm. Both in the Town Hall.

6. Community Group Updates

- a) **Youth Groups:** Janet informed the meeting that the town now has a successful youth group which meets after school in the Town Hall and on Tod's Piece for secondary school aged children. The group is well attended and keeps the youngsters busy
- b) **Girl Guiding:** There is a successful Rainbow, Brownies & Guides troop who meet at the Scout Hut weekly. Residents wishing to register their child/grandchild should complete the waiting list online at www.girlguiding.org.uk
- c) **Boy Scouting:** Lucy Stephenson gave a short update on the cub & scout troop in Uppingham
- d) **The Elms:** Trevor Colbourne reported on The Elms, they have a committee which is up and running and very active. They have their own newsletter for every household and are currently conducting a survey for all residents. Trevor encouraged residents of the Elms to complete it
- e) **Methodist Church:** Jean Suff reported on the 'Warm Space' which is run from the Church to help support residents with the fuel crisis. It is run by volunteers twice weekly and provides refreshments, warm and a place to meet up, chat and feel part of the community. There are posters all around town advertising the 'Warm Space' if you know of a neighbour who would benefit from this facility please let them know
- f) **Community Fridge:** Mike Fish reminded everyone about the Community Fridge which is run from the back of the Town Hall by 'Root-and-Branch Out' which is a local Community Interest Company (CIC). This provides food, including fresh vegetables from supermarkets and the intention is to avoid wasting surplus food from supermarkets being thrown away. The Community Fridge is open for everyone to use, so please take advantage of this facility. It is open in the Uppingham Town Hall from 1.30pm until 3.00pm. It also offers soup to visitors.
- g) **Hopper Bus:** David Ainslie BEM thanked residents for their support for the Hopper bus and acknowledged that it had had a few mechanical problems recently. He also thanked the team of volunteers which ran it. If you wish to become part of the Hopper team please call 01572 495050 or e-mail mjs@clara.co.uk

Note: The Forum provides a Q&A session for each section of the meeting to allow residents to make comment and raise questions

7. Any Other Business

None

Janet thanked everyone for attending. These notes and the presentation slides will be available on www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk under the 'Forum' section.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Notes distributed 24.1.2023



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, One East Midlands (OEM) and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)**

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