

# UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Public Meeting



August 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum held on Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room of The Falcon Hotel

## Present

UNF Chair Janet Thompson BEM, Uppingham Deputy Town Mayor and UNF Executive Member David Ainslie BEM, Uppingham Town Councillors and UNF Executive Members, Trevor Colbourne, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw and Ron Simpson BEM; UNF Executive Members John Leslie, Andrew Mankowski, Margaret Simpson BEM, representatives, 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.

## Guest Speakers

Police Officer Rebecca Angel, Leicestershire Police; Daniel Medhurst, Operations Manager, Uppingham Surgery; Tom Watson CEO Voluntary Action Rutland;

## Apologies for Absence

Uppingham Town Mayor Liz Clarke, County Councillors Edward Baines and Lucy Stephenson (UF), David Greengrass (Methodist Church), Sue and Tony Streeter (Uppingham in Bloom and Uppingham WI); Residents John and Elizabeth Rankin.

## Roll Call of Organisations and Residents

43 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 Opening Remarks

*Welcome everyone, I am Janet Thompson the Chair of the Forum, a special welcome to anyone who is attending for the first time. People who have attended before will know I like to start with a little light heartedness....*

*A magician was working on a cruise ship. The audience would be different each week, so the magician allowed himself to do the same tricks over and over again... There was only one problem The captain's parrot saw the show each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick, he then started shouting in the middle of the show:*

*"Look, it's not the same hat", "Look, he is hiding the flowers under the table, "Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades"*

*The magician was furious but couldn't do anything because it was the Captain's Parrot. One stormy day the ship had an accident and sank. The magician found himself adrift on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean... and the parrot was adrift on the very same piece of wood with him.*

*They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word. This went on day after day after day. After 3 days the parrot finally said "OK, I give up, where the heck is the boat".*



Janet Thompson BEM

**Now for the meeting:**

*I feel passionate about our lovely town and wish to cascade information and updates to our residents. We will use a microphone because voices get lost in here. Our agenda (which you will find on your seats) will be accompanied by slides on the screen so please sit closer if you need to. If you wish to ask any questions please indicate this at the end of each presentation. You must use the microphone otherwise the rest of the audience will not be able to hear you and I may have to move on to someone else. So raise your hand if you wish to ask a question and WAIT for the microphone before speaking. Please make your questions succinct and to the point so that we can cover as much as possible during the evening.*

*The minutes of this meeting will be available on the Uppingham First website in due course and to assist with this we will be recording the session. We have guests from our Police Force and our GP Surgery and VAR, I will introduce them as we go along. You will hopefully all have received our August Newsletter which details lots of amazing things going on in Uppingham.*

*All the members of the Forum and Uppingham First are volunteers and give up their time to assist our lovely town and the residents. I am not politically motivated and I have no hidden agenda...just the one you have on your seats.*

*I wanted to draw your attention to Neighbourhood Watch which is supported by the Police, in their recent newsletter there is a very good article on 'standing up to street harassment and the impact of crime. You can download an app called 'Help me Angela' for your personal safety and it can track your GPS location if you are in danger. I bring this up because you may have children or grandchildren embarking on university life and it could give them some reassurance as they venture forward.*

*Also look out for the RALSS- Rutland Adult Learning Social Services who are running multiple courses at Ashwell. These include courses for adults on Maths, crafts, sewing and cooking. Please let others who may benefit from these courses know. They are subsidised by the County Council and some are even free to those who are eligible.*

*You will have seen from the Newsletter that a Defibrillator has now been installed in Wisteria House, thanks to Tom Johnston, Mark Shaw and Uppingham First. I have to admit I had presumed that all Care Homes would have a defib installed, but it appears not. I even checked on my own mother's care home in Worcestershire and they didn't have one.*

*There are a lot of events going on for the rest of the year, some of them are noted in our newsletter, and on the agenda you have already. There is also the Rutland Round Classic Car Rally on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September starting in the Market Square; take a look. ....The Ride & Stride is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September which allows you to walk or cycle to as many churches as you wish in Rutland and helps to raise funds for the individual churches and the Churches Conservation Trust.*

*So we will get on with section 2 of tonight's agenda...which is me again."*

## **2. Executive Committee AGM Report**

Janet reported on the key decisions taken at the UNF Executive Committee AGM which had met immediately prior to the public meeting. These were:-

- **Annual Report, Accounts and Financial Update** - The draft 2023 Annual Report was approved for publication subject to the Executive appointing the named nominees and officers later in the meeting. It was acknowledged that the Forum no longer had its own bank account, but instead had a ring fenced budget heading in the Uppingham First accounts. This avoided Forum bank charges and insurance costs. The provision of administrative and banking support for the Forum by Uppingham First for the future was approved. The UF accounts and budget statement were noted and received.
- **Nominations and Elections** - The following were unanimously approved:-
  - a) UNF Chair 23/24 – Janet Thompson BEM UNF Vice Chair 23/24 - Mark Shaw
  - b) UF Community Director Nominees – Janet Thompson BEM (to 2026); Trevor Colbourne (to 2025)

- c) Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (NPAG) – Janet Thompson BEM and Andrew Mankowski
- d) Forum Coordinator 23/24 – Ron Simpson BEM
- **Uppingham Emergency Plan Update** - It was agreed that this be delayed to enable the incorporation of learning from the forthcoming Flood Management event being offered by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Forum. Mark Shaw and Ron Simpson BEM are attending.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** - The need for residents to now signup online, as recommended by the police, was noted as was the continuation of the Uppingham schemes under the UppWatch banner. It was agreed to confirm that our Uppingham schemes still benefitted from membership of the national N W association, given the current effort to restart an association in Leicestershire.
- **Data Management and Safeguarding Polices** - The committee noted the need to revisit these policies even if no change was required. It was agreed that both be readopted for 2023/24. The need for an updated Equality and Diversity Policy was acknowledged.

### 3. Crime and Policing Update

Uppingham Beat Officer PC 1668 Rebecca Angel supported by an onscreen presentation of the crime statistics for May, June and July 2023 led members of the public through a dialogue on the current policing issues in Uppingham. The relevant monthly reports and emerging issues can be read online at [www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk) on the Neighbourhood Forum page.

### 4. Health and Wellbeing – Uppingham Surgery

Daniel Medhurst, Operations Manager at Uppingham Surgery led members of the public through recent developments at the surgery and in particular the new surgery website. With live online access to the site on screen, Daniel demonstrated much of the site’s capability and answered questions from the floor.



PC Rebecca Angel with PCSO Andy Whyllie

### 5. Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

The decision of the Executive Committee on this matter (above) was noted

### 6. Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR)

Chief Executive Officer of VAR, Tom Watson, provided an update on the new location of his organisation and the range of services offered by VAR, in particular its very well regarded transport scheme. Tom confirmed the excellent working relationship between the Uppingham Hopper project and the VAR transport team. There was mutual benefit in such a collaborative approach. Tom distributed literature on VAR services and welcomed the invitation to speak and take questions.

### 7. Planning Update

Deputy Mayor David Ainslie BEM provided the meeting with a short update on the timetable for both the new Local Plan and the new Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan. It is expected that both will be approved for the next stage of publication by the October meeting of RCC Cabinet with the next stages of public consultation commencing soon after.

## 8. Community Group Updates

Meeting attendees attention was again drawn to the events listed in the latest UNF Newsletter and both Ride and Stride and the Round Rutland Run classic car events

On behalf of Uppingham WI, Hilary Dawe read out an update from the current president.

## 9. Any Other Business

None

Janet thanked everyone for attending. These notes and the presentation slides will be available on [www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk) under the 'Forum' section.

**Meeting closed at 9.15pm.**

**Notes distributed 12.9.2023**



**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 and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)