



# UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Lead Coordinators held on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 4pm

### 1. Online Roll Call

All eight of the lead coordinators detailed in the Uppingham Community Emergency Plan were visually confirmed as present online with the meeting being chaired by Janet Thompson.

### 2. Apologies for absence

None.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

The various business, community and statutory sector interests of Lead Coordinators were noted.

### 4. Update

It was noted that the Coordinator Group was meeting to update team members on recent developments in the context of mounting local and national concern over the rising R number and the Prime Minister's announcement of a one month (or more) national lockdown commencing Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a number of precautionary actions be taken by the group to prepare for a renewal of the community support extended to the community in the previous lockdown. These include: -

- a) Reopening the now refurbished UppWatch Command Centre
- b) Reactivating and placing on standby the additional team of UppWatch support volunteers (subject to their availability)
- c) A fresh distribution of the Covid -19 edition of the UppWatch support leaflet to all households
- d) A reactivation of the Phone Pals support scheme led by Lucy Stephenson

### 5. Communications

- a) **Government** – Detailed government guidelines for the new lockdown were due to be published Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> but will be subject to a parliamentary vote. Once approved the guidelines and regulations will be promoted by the committee, UppWatch, Uppingham First (UF) and its Hopper team, Uppingham Business Forum (UBF) and the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum (UNF).
- b) **Schools** – The Committee will sustain dialogue with the town's schools as required or requested
- c) **Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Forum (LLRRF)** – Following recent contact with the LLRRF Lead Officer, the committee continues to implement procedures and practices it believes to be in the best interests of the town in consultation with its social and economic partners
- d) **Rutland County Council** – Regular communication with RCC is still being maintained via Michelle Woolman-Lane using fortnightly video conferences with a number of charities and community groups selected by RCC. UppWatch and Uppingham First continue to participate in these discussions on behalf of the committee.
- e) **Uppingham Town Council** – It is expected that UTC will continue to receive private briefings from the County Council on COVID - 19 developments. The Town Council COVID - 19 working group is to meet again to see what more can be done by the council and to address some issues requiring urgent action.
- f) **Local Business** – The Committee will continue to work with the Business Forum to support local businesses affected by the pandemic. The website page 'Open in Uppingham' will be reactivated and refreshed. Monitoring of social distancing and regulation compliance will continue

- g) **Uppingham Surgery** - Relevant communication will continue to be maintained with the surgery with the help of Emergency Plan Committee Coordinator Geoff Thompson who is Chair of The Uppingham Patient Participation Group.
- h) **Blue Light Services** – The rising level of crime and antisocial behaviour during the pandemic was noted. The existing positive working relationship with Neighbourhood Officers should assist communications. The new penalties for breaching COVID - 19 laws and regulations were noted
- i) **General Public** – Zoom, publications, social media and local websites will be used by the committee to maintain good communication with the community and its institutions

## 6. Uppingham Hopper

It is expected that Uppingham First will close down the current 'timetable service' from Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 and restore the former lockdown 'response service' helping the vulnerable and delivering medicines and food upon request. Updated Community Transport Association guidelines are awaited and will be implemented upon arrival.

## 7. Request

Following receipt of a private request for a meeting with Coordinators from an Uppingham Town Councillor it was agreed that a short meeting be arranged and the subject matter of the enquiry requested.

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