



UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Lead Coordinators held on Sunday May 17th 2020 at 4pm

1. Online Roll Call

All eight 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. Communications Update

- a) **Government** - Government guidelines and public messaging continue to be promoted by the committee, UppWatch and its Covid 19 volunteer team, Uppingham First (UF) and its Hopper team, Uppingham Business Forum (UBF) and the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum (UNF). An 'Open in Uppingham' webpage to support local business has been created on the Uppingham First website at www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk by Emergency Plan Coordinator and Uppingham First director Mark Shaw and his staff
- b) **Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Forum (LLRRF)** - It was noted with disappointment that the LLRRF has failed to communicate with either the Uppingham voluntary sector infrastructure organisation (the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum) or the Uppingham Emergency Plan Committee Plan Committee to offer guidance or support during the Covid 19 pandemic. The committee had therefore implemented procedures and practices it thought to be in the best interests of the town in consultation with its social and economic partners
- c) **Rutland County Council** - Regular communication with RCC is being maintained via Michelle Woolman-Lane and more recently via fortnightly video conferences with a number of charities selected by RCC. UppWatch and Uppingham First are participating in these discussions on behalf of the committee
- d) **Uppingham Town Council** - Town Clerk Debbie Bettles is maintaining regular contact with the committee via its liaison representative Cllr Ron Simpson BEM. It was noted that Covid19 briefings from RCC to parish councils were being kept confidential by RCC and not circulated to Emergency Plan committees. Concern about the future implications of, and risks associated with, this decision have been raised with Michelle Woolman – Lane
- e) **Uppingham Surgery** - Information updates and relevant communication are being maintained with the surgery with the help of Emergency Plan Committee Coordinator Geoff Thompson who is Chair of The Uppingham Patient Participation Group
- f) **Blue Light Services** - Leicestershire Police continue to transmit relevant information both via its website and its Uppingham Officers PC Josh Ace and PCSO Andy Whyllie. Updated defibrillator information extracted from an RCC newsletter is to be included in a special Covid 19 edition of the UNF Newsletter to be distributed at the end of May
- g) **General Public** - A public meeting of the UNF via Zoom is to be called by the UNF for June 4th 2020 to update the local community and answer questions. Special guest will be Richard Cole, High Sheriff of Rutland
- h) **Volunteer teams** – The committee is supporting fortnightly Zoom exchange of information meetings with UppWatch and Hopper volunteer teams chaired by UNF Chair and Uppingham First director Janet Thompson. It was agreed that the volunteers were doing a superb job with a number still to be deployed in the event of a resurgence of the virus or continued demand.

5. Response Control Room

Emergency Plan Coordinator Margaret Simpson is leading on the day to day operation of the Committee's UppWatch Covid 19 Control Room. All has operated smoothly to date. Resilience is built into the supporting IT network with dual broadband networks, mobile and landline messaging systems, and both desktop and laptop computers. Over 100 calls for help to date have included requests to volunteer, address loneliness, IT problems, TV problems, drain blockages, medicine delivery, shop opening hours and help with shopping.

6. Uppingham Covid 19 Support Infrastructure

PPE manufacture is now well established in Uppingham as is a Phone Pals support network. Volunteer Liz Clarke has been leading on the manufacture of scrubs and Lucy Stephenson on bandannas, button bands masks and, in liaison with Janet Thompson, a Phone Pal service. See appendix.

7. Uppingham Hopper

Emergency Plan Coordinator and Uppingham First director David Ainslie BEM, supported by Emergency Plan Coordinator Sheena Ainslie, continue to lead on the deployment of the Uppingham Hopper with the full support of The Hopper team. A donation of £200 toward fuel bills from the Rotary in Uppingham Covid 19 fund, a £400 donation from a Beeches resident, and a £250 donation from the Beeches Residents Association toward The Hopper were gratefully acknowledged. It was noted that the Hopper team were supporting residents in need, high street shops and market traders by regularly delivering medicines, vegetable boxes, and shopping (with UppWatch volunteers). Occasional booked journeys to the surgery were also being undertaken. Deliveries and collections included journeys to Belton, Oakham and Stamford. Support for the foodbank is now being explored.

8. UppShop

It was noted that the Rotary UppShop project was continuing during the lockdown. This cashless society project was helping a pilot group of elderly residents to shop online in Uppingham using a smartphone. The project is being supported by the Coop and Barclays Bank. A new training website has been created for the project by local company ClockedIn whose proprietors are Emergency Plan Coordinators Mark and Amanda Shaw.

9. Newsletter and Covid 19 Support Survey

After considerable debate, the content of the next UNF newsletter, due to be published at the end of May, was agreed. Items will include a number of Covid 19 related matters, including a survey to gather resident feedback on the statutory and voluntary sector support being offered during lockdown. An online version of the survey will be published on the Uppingham First website by the end of May.

10. Market and High Street

Committee members afforded considerable praise to market traders for their outstanding efforts during the lockdown. The market was functioning well with fresh produce regularly available and exemplary social distancing being operated. Those shops and services able to trade were also serving the town effectively.

11. Health and Wellbeing

Following the publication of a national joint study by CPRE and the WI on the physical and mental health benefits of access to public open spaces, Emergency Plan Coordinator and Town Councillor Ron Simpson BEM reported on a visit to the town by ITV Central News with filming taking place on Tod's Piece.

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Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

Tel: 01572 823465 Mobile: 07710 328469 Email: rons@clara.net



Uppingham in Rutland Coronavirus Support Structures

Appendix

Business Sector

Voluntary/Community Sector

Statutory Sector

**Locality + Community
Transport Association**

Uppingham First

**Uppingham
Business
Forum**

**Uppingham Hopper
Team**
(14 on standby rota)
DBS + ID cards

**National Council for
Voluntary
Organisations**

One East Midlands

**Uppingham
Neighbourhood Forum**
Chair
Janet Thompson

NHS – Government

Blue Light Services

Uppingham Surgery

Rutland County Council

**Uppingham Town
Council**

Emergency Plan Coordinators + Team (8 + 12)

UppWatch Regular Team
(12 volunteers)
DBS + ID Cards

Call or text 07710 328469

Masks
Uppingham School
Support team

Phone Pals
(10)
01572 823906

Bandanas
Lucy Stephenson
Facebook support team

UppWatch
Coronavirus Shopping Volunteers
(42 as at May 24th 2020)
Carry Smartphone Letter of Identity
Leave messages at 01572 495050

Scrubs
Liz Clarke
Support team

Regular updates online at www.uppinghamonline.co.uk
Businesses 'Open in Uppingham' web page at www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk
Medicine and goods delivery
Essential transport
Regular exchange of info with economic, social & faith partners
Social media bulletins (Facebook and Twitter)

Media support from Rutland Radio and the Rutland Times/Stamford Times