



# UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Lead Coordinators held on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 8pm

### 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. Communications Update

It was noted that the committee was meeting to update the team on recent developments in the context of mounting local and national concern over the rising R number, some area lockdowns and the nationwide return to schools, colleges and universities. It was agreed that Coordinators would meet again following the anticipated midweek government announcement on further restrictions.

- a) **Government** – Current government guidelines and public messaging continue to 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 Re-opening** - RS and GT updated colleagues on recent dialogue with Uppingham School and Uppingham Community College and the student return experience. Two information newsletters to the community from Uppingham School had been delivered to all households. UCC had published updating letters to parents and the community following the fire, with an expected full return to school now targeted for September 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Following considerable discussion on the issues of pupil movement and the wearing of masks it was noted that both school and college were to make the wearing of masks in the town discretionary for students and staff while in the open air. Government guidelines and regulations would, of course, still apply in shops etc. Given the evident public concern over pupil movement it was agreed that these notes record the suggestion that a visible presence of staff overseeing pupil movement might further reassure members of the community in the immediate proximity
- c) **Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Forum (LLRRF)** - In the continued absence of any communication from the LLRRF, 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** – RS reported on an initial meeting with RCC Highways supported by RCC Cabinet member and Highways Portfolio holder Cllr Lucy Stephenson. The relevant lead officer has agreed to review the highways implications of pupil movement and report back at a further meeting. Regular communication with RCC is still being maintained via Michelle Woolman-Lane using fortnightly video conferences with a number of charities selected by RCC. UppWatch and Uppingham First continue to participate in these discussions on behalf of the committee.
- e) **Uppingham Town Council** – It was noted that UTC continues to receive private briefings from the county council on COVID - 19 developments. The Town Council COVID - 19 working group appears to have completed its work with effective signage and a new cycle rack now in place. The Emergency Committee continues to monitor developments including the application of the current rule of six and the track and trace procedures operating in hospitality venues.
- f) **Uppingham Surgery** - Information updates and relevant communication 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. The committee is aware of the difficulties being experienced by some in dealing with the surgery online.

- g) **Blue Light Services** – The apparent recent rise in in crime during the pandemic was noted. An updating report from Neighbourhood Officers had been presented to the recent meeting of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum. It was agreed that, in future, the police be asked to indicate progress in their investigations on the matters reported. The new penalties for breaking the recently announced COVID - 19 laws were noted
- h) **General Public** – Very positive feedback on the recent UNF newsletter and public meeting on Zoom was noted by the committee. The COVID - 19 reporting and discussion element of the meeting was proving most valuable
- i) **COVID – 19/UppWatch Volunteer Teams** – The committee noted that it may soon be necessary to reactivate the town's COVID – 19 volunteers and UppWatch Control Room procedures if new restrictions are introduced by government. It was agreed to further consider the matter following the next government announcement.

## 5. Uppingham Hopper

It was noted that the Uppingham Hopper was now back in full operation running to its regular timetable, albeit at a reduced capacity due to government and CTA guidelines. Passenger numbers were now climbing but income is still below operating costs. The bus continues to be used to deliver medicines and support the local market and online ordered shop deliveries (UppShop)

## 6. Newsletter Delivery

Production and delivery of the latest UNF Newsletter (complete with COVID -19 items) to every household in the town was noted. The efforts of a large number of volunteers made this possible.

Notes dated: 21 9.2020

## Addendum 22.9.2020

Publication of these notes was delayed to acknowledge any significant changes in the law or regulations announced by the Prime Minister today. The additional restrictions announced, while significant, (early closures, masks indoors, renewed emphasis on working from home etc.) were not felt by Coordinators to necessitate the recall of the full committee or the reactivation of the additional COVID-19 volunteer teams at this time.

Developments in the town, including pupil movement and public compliance with the updated regulations will continue to be monitored and action taken if appropriate.

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