



UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Lead Coordinators held on Sunday June 28th 2020 at 5pm

1. Online Roll Call

Seven of the 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

A Shaw.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Communications Update

- a) **Government** – Updated 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). The 'Open in Uppingham' webpage to support local business continues on the Uppingham First website at www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk led by Emergency Plan Coordinator and Uppingham First director Mark Shaw and his staff. Coordinators continue to monitor observance of government guidelines particularly in the town centre following the re-opening of many businesses
- b) **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
- c) **Rutland County Council** - 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. It was noted that help had been given by the Business Forum to establish a new county council webpage supporting businesses reopening
- d) **Uppingham Town Council** – It was recorded that UTC continues to receive private briefings from the county council on Covid 19 developments. The actions of the Town Council in creating a new working group (in collaboration with the Business Forum and the county council) to support the re-opening of the high street were applauded and its actions to date noted. Also the support offered by its Love Uppingham and town council websites. The erection of 2m distancing signage in the town centre by the county council was recorded and supported. It was agreed that the ongoing monitoring of the high street should continue and discussions with hospitality venue proprietors on the need for any further action regarding the re-opening of their venues in July should be ongoing
- e) **Uppingham Surgery** - Information updates and relevant communication continues 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
- f) **Blue Light Services** – The apparent absence of any visible policing in the town centre in recent weeks was recorded with concern. It was noted, however, that PC Josh Ace had responded to co-ordinator Mark Shaw regarding the excessive number of motorcycles gathering on the pavements at the garage on occasions, thereby creating a hazard and a potential breach of government guidelines. Additional policing has been promised. In further discussion concern was also expressed that Leicester City not opening its pubs on 4th July and delaying this for 2 weeks meant that the A47 would be a gateway to Uppingham. It was unanimously felt that the town should definitely have a 'police presence' on Saturday July 4th just to be sure of no civil disorder.

- g) **General Public** – Following the widely praised public meeting of the UNF via Zoom to share information and air concerns, coordinators indicated their pleasure at the efforts being made by traders and members of the public to observe government guidelines and move about the town safely. Shopping queues were being monitored with one pinch point being noted in the centre of the high street. There was particular praise for the market traders and their efforts to support social distancing.
- h) **Volunteer teams** – The committee has continued to support regular Zoom exchange of information meetings with UppWatch and Hopper volunteer teams chaired by UNF Chair and Uppingham First director Janet Thompson. A final meeting, to be followed by a letter of thanks to all volunteers, was agreed for Sunday July 5th 2020. It was acknowledged that demand for additional volunteer support has now significantly reduced as the community emerges from lockdown and the high street re-opens. It was further agreed that permission to retain volunteer contact details until the end of the year be sought so as to enable the Covid 19 volunteers to again be deployed in the event of any resurgence of the virus or resumption of demand.

5. Response Control Room

Emergency Plan coordinator Margaret Simpson has continued to lead on the day to day operation of the Committee's UppWatch Covid 19 Control Room. All has operated smoothly to date with the number of incoming calls now reducing. Calls for help to date have included requests to volunteer and address loneliness, IT problems, TV problems, DIY problems, medicine delivery, bank visits, foodbank donations, shop opening hours and help with shopping. It was agreed that the committee's emergency radios continue to be located at twin centres to strengthen communication resilience.

6. Uppingham Covid 19 Support

Scrubs and mask manufacture has continued at a high rate in Uppingham with applause regularly received for the efforts of all manufacturing volunteers.

7. 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. The bus was also now being used to transport some children to school, collect prescriptions, deliver medicines and support local market and shop deliveries

8. Newsletter and Covid 19 Support Survey

Production and delivery of a Covid 19 edition of the UNF Newsletter (complete with Covid 19 support survey) to every household in the town was noted. A significant number of volunteers supported the delivery in record time.

9. Schools Re-opening

Government guidance to schools on a re-opening timetable was noted. The movement of large numbers of local and international students throughout the town from the autumn was seen as having significant wellbeing implications for the community. Publication of the document 'Keeping Uppingham Safe' and receipt of a letter from Dr Maloney, Headmaster of Uppingham School, inviting information sharing was welcomed. Following extensive discussion on the issues that may arise from unsupervised movement of students in town, particularly on the London Road, it was agreed that the committee write to the heads of all schools and the RCC highways portfolio holder inviting joint discussion on the best way forward.

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