



# UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## Uppingham Community Emergency Plan

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Lead Coordinators held on Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 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. Update

It was noted that the Coordinator Group was meeting immediately following the government announcement of a nationwide lockdown bringing Rutland into line with the rest of England. It is understood that this will last at least until March 2021 and perhaps beyond. Coordinators agreed therefore to reintroduce their regular pattern of meetings, commencing on Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 4pm.

The closure of schools and loss of other public services, the NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy and Delivery Programme for Uppingham, UppWatch support for those forced to stay at home, community and public transport, medicine and food delivery, closure of the town's non-essential businesses including hospitality venues, local policing, and the community's physical/mental health and wellbeing were all now considered appropriate spheres of interest for the Emergency Plan team.

It was noted with pleasure that a member of the team was to be involved in the vaccination programme, and that all of the team were actively involved in other Uppingham organisations providing community support in compliance with the Covid-19 regulations. It was further noted that the Chair had taken prompt action on social media to update the community that the Uppingham Hopper was still operating to transport those wishing to attend a surgery appointment as well as delivering medicines and food. It currently operated in accordance with guidelines issued by the Community Transport Association and further advice relating to the new lockdown was awaited.

### 5. Action Plan

In discussion, a number of matters were noted by Coordinators and actions agreed: -

- a) Regular liaison with the community, local businesses, RCC and UTC continues, with minutes of these meetings being published online on the Neighbourhood Forum pages at [www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk)
- b) It was agreed that a second UppWatch support services leaflet (already printed) be distributed in the town
- c) The success and future prospects of the newly created Christmas Meal 2020 project was noted
- d) Communication on The Elms has improved with the creation of The Elms Residents' Association (TERA), with a donation to The Hopper from the proceeds of their carol singing evening welcomed
- e) Community funding from the Co-op, HSBC, Uppingham residents and local company ClockedIn to the work of UF and UNF was welcomed
- f) The UppWatch control room continues to operate supported by a team of visitor volunteers. The first call for help following the announcement of the 2021 lockdown has already been received (A food and medicine request)

- g) It was agreed that the Committee's wireless communications equipment be tested prior to the next meeting
- h) Following an update on the position of nursery, primary and secondary schools, it was agreed that the expectations of Uppingham School be ascertained
- i) It was noted that the Uppingham Hopper team are on standby to support residents called to attend the vaccination centre in Oakham. It was agreed that the NHS and RCC be notified of this fact
- j) Coordinators were pleased to note the absence of panic buying at the town's food shops, despite shortages of fresh vegetables at certain times. The Co-op's public response advising on the fresh and other food delivery timetable was considered most helpful
- k) Mental Health and Wellbeing – Following significant debate on the mental health and wellbeing implications of a lengthy lockdown, the further support that might be offered in town by Emergency Plan Coordinators was considered. It was agreed that the Creative Arts could play a significant role in sustaining the spirit of the whole community as well as those living alone. It was therefore agreed that Uppingham First and its community partners be invited to host a series of 2021 events commencing with an evening of online musical entertainment on Valentines Night on February 14th 2021.

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