

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee – 24th August 2017 (Meeting commenced at 6:30pm)

1. **Chairman's opening remarks:**

David Casewell welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He advised attendees that the meeting would be recorded and made available at some point in the future for members of the public to hear.

The Chair emphasized that items 6 & 7 are concerning themselves with RCC's Local Plan Review. We have not yet started on the revision of our Neighbourhood Plan. Both are being revised. Currently our Neighbourhood Plan holds precedence, but will be 'trumped' by revised the Local Plan, until our revised Neighbourhood Plan is 'made'. Whilst we can produce Neighbourhood Plan proposals outside the revised Local Plan, it is much easier if the two documents are in 'general conformity'. Our response to the new RCC Local Plan should be thus to challenge those proposals that conflict with our current plan, or those that might inhibit developments within our revised Neighbourhood Plan. Our difficulty is that, to date, we have had no discussions or consultations regarding our new Neighbourhood Plan and cannot really put new Neighbourhood Plan ideas forward as objections to RCC's Local Plan.

Since last meeting 10 July there has been a flurry of activity. Chair/Vice chair agreed to hold off issuing wide Local Plan consultation as it was felt it would cause confusion between Local Plan consultation and later Neighbourhood Plan consultation. Town Councillors attended RCC Parish Forum to hear a Local Plan presentation on 17th July 2017. Further RCC presentation attended by Town Councillors 3rd August 2017 and Uppingham Town Council met on 16th August to consider RCC's Local Plan response. Uppingham Town Council arrived at three important outcomes:

1. Gave the green light to possible expenditure to gain supporting evidence to either challenge parts of LP and/or support the new NP
2. Stressed the importance of using the Uppingham perspective in our response to RCC.
3. Set up an advisory group of Councillors to prepare a detailed set of responses to help inform our discussion this evening

This Advisory group met 22 August, asked David Ainslie to Chair its proceedings and prepared a discussion document to help tonight's discussion focus on the primary issues. The outcomes of this are the subject of items 6 and 7.

The outcomes of tonight's meeting will go in the form of a proposed response to the RCC Local Plan from Uppingham Town Council, supported by the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Committee. This will then be debated by the Town Council on Wed 13th September 2017 before the agreed response is forwarded to RCC ahead of the response deadline of 24th September 2017. No doubt other town groups and individuals will also be submitting responses. I can only stress that the more commonality and evidence there is in these responses, the more likely that RCC will take notice.

If everyone is comfortable I suggest we take items 6 and 7 together with the assistance of David Ainslie.

2. **Attendance Register**

Present: David Casewell (Chair & Uppingham Town Council), Margaret Simpson (Beches Residents Association), Ron Simpson (Uppingham Town Council), Pat Taylor (Limes, Firs & Spurs Residents Association), Christine Edwards (Uppingham Town Council), Richard Reeve (Uppingham Town Council), Pam Dalby (Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum), David Ainslie (Uppingham Town Council), Ryan Breslin (Uppingham School), Kath Gilbert (Uppingham Business Forum), Edward Baines (Uppingham First), and Jane Lang (Uppingham Business Forum).

3. **Apologies for Absence** – Sharon Aumais (Uppingham Town Partnership), Miranda Jones (Uppingham town Partnership), Chris Merricks (Leighfield Primary School), Howard Thompson (Limes, Firs & Spurs Residents Association), Stephen Taylor (Uppingham School), Mark Shaw (Beeches Residents Association) and Mark Evans (Uppingham Business Forum) - these were noted.

4. **Declaration of Members Interests and Requests for Dispensation:** None.

Janet Thompson (Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum) joined the meeting at 6:40pm

5. **To confirm the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee on 10th July 2017.**

Resolution: Minutes recommended to be approved. Proposed by David Ainslie, seconded by Christine Edwards, 11 in favour and 3 abstentions.

6. **Update and feedback from Local Plan Response Advisory Group.**

David Ainslie ran through the ‘response tracker’ document reviewed on 22nd August by the Local Plan Response Advisory Group.

7. **Discussion and development of the response to Rutland County Council’s Local Plan.**

David Ainslie and David Casewell received comments, suggested amendments from attendees and then supplied additional comments to be included at the end of the form. All comments will be transposed on to an RCC approved submission form for review by Uppingham Town Council on 13th September and then submitted.

LOCAL PLAN RESPONSE TRACKER

Ron Simpson wished to have recorded his concern about the naming of a supplier in relation the provision of high speed broadband.

Resolution: Proposed by David Ainslie that the Clerk be empowered to spend up to the approved budget of £5,000 to commission reports to support the response to the Local Plan and refresh of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan. Seconded by Alec Crombie and unanimously agreed.

Resolution: Proposed by David Ainslie that David Casewell, Ron Simpson and the Clerk be empowered to develop the brief for any third parties to produce specialist reports to support the response to the Local Plan. Seconded by Alec Crombie and unanimously agreed.

8. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion Update.**

Ron Simpson advised the group that advice on refreshing existing Neighbourhood Plans was starting to emerge and an update was posted to the Locality website 2 weeks ago. Link to be included when minutes are circulated by email for all attendees.

Meeting closed at 8.11 pm.