

Uppingham NPAG:

Notes from our Sub Group: Amenities, Community Facilities, Services and Open Spaces Group.

Dated: Monday 19th October 2020.

Team: Pat Taylor, Sharon Aumais, Janet Thompson. As we are now only a team of 3 we discussed via email if we should merge with the Transport Group (which only has 3 members also).

NB: This is something we would like to put the main NPAG at the meeting scheduled for 22nd October 2020.

Areas of discussion which we feel are still part of this group's remit:

A: Toilets	B: Post Office	C: Library	D: Car Parking ***
E: Transport ***	F: Bike Racks	G: Youth Facilities	H: Allotments
I: Tod's Piece & Parks	J: Litter & Dog fouling	K: Town Hall & Tourist Information	

A: Town Toilets: Market Place and Tod's Piece.

We understand from the Town Clerk that the refurbishment of the Market Place Toilets is now not due to commence until January 2021. It is intended to have the 'cash point' positioned next to the toilets and this requires further authorisation from Barclays. We feel that at least there is some progress in this long-awaited refurbishment and that residents will be pleased. It is imperative that hand washing facilities are adequate, and soap and sanitiser is required, and the updating is implemented in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The toilet in Tod's Piece is not in the ideal location and it should have signage to indicate the location along with details of the times when it is available.

B: Post Office

The Post Office is not a town council property but a private enterprise, it is used extensively by residents, even more so now that we do not have any major banks in town. The interior has been reconfigured by the Manager, however there isn't any disabled access to the building. The pavement is not very wide but needs to sustain a ramp.

- **Action point:** Further investigation is requested by this group and the NPAG for a County Council appointed Surveyor to investigate the viability and move forward on providing access from the right-hand side of the building or far left side. ONGOING.

C: Library: This building is very old and is not used to its full capacity. Discussion has taken place over many years as to the viability of relocating it to the Town Hall. The issue was discussed by the group, but it was felt that the existing Library building could be used for other purposes (see section 'G').

- **Action point:** survey should be conducted with the residents to ascertain what percentage or how many people frequent the library. Following the outcome, we should look at the possibility of closing the library and instigating the visits from the 'Mobile Library'. Residents could order online or on the phone for specific requests. *The group request any further updates.*

D: Car Parking ***

UPDATE: This is being picked up by the 'Transport Group' and will be dealt with in the main plan. So we do not wish to duplicate the discussion.

E: Public Transport ***

UPDATE: This is being picked up by the 'Transport Group'. However, our group still requests the following action point.

- **Action:** UTC should apply to RCC Covid-19 Fund for a grant towards the running of the Hopper Bus which provides an invaluable service to many residents.

F: Bike Racks.

The Council discussed the possibility of installing a temporary 'bike rack' during Covid-19 to assist residents to shop. This has been installed in the Coop car park.

It was felt that a permanent one should be installed nearer to the Market Square. Janet Thompson put a proposal to the Council in July with the main suggestive location being Mercer Walk (in between The Falcon and Uppingham Books and adjacent to the Market Square). Discussions have taken place between UTC and RCC and hopefully this will go ahead if permission is granted by Uppingham School who own the walkway.

Action: UTC to provide an update to NPAG regarding this proposal.

G: Youth facilities.

There is a lack of facilities for bored teenagers. Youths just 'hanging around' has been a problem in the town. A lengthy discussion took place and many attempts to create a 'youth hub' have been tried in the past. We discussed using the Library building to create a 'youth café' which provided structure, refreshments, games, relevant interesting career talks for youngsters. This would have to be funded rather than being reliant on volunteers.

- **Action:** A youth facility is still required and further discussion for future planning is required to be put into our long-term planning. However, during the covid-19 pandemic that groups of youngsters meeting together outside of school is encouraged.

H: Allotments.

There are 3 sets of Allotments within the Town at £25.00pa each plot. Many are well used but many are also unkempt and very overgrown.

- **Action:** A monitoring system should be put into place and the state of the plots checked on a regular basis and owners made to adhere to the regulations. A note of the current regs should be sent from the Clerk from the Council's database to all plot owners. The plot owners should be encouraged to set up their own 'Allotment Association'. This action still stands.

I: Tod's Piece & Parks.

The Elm's play area is now complete, and Tod's Piece is also well-used area by residents, the football club and the youth groups from the Scout Hut. There has sadly been issues of vandalism in Tod's Piece and the skate park.

- **Action:** For the protection of residents, children and for the apprehension of vandals, we propose to request more CCTV cameras in the area. Note: Our local Police have agreed to monitor and check on the park areas.

J: Litter bins & Dog fouling

This is an increasing problem and currently a major problem on Tod's Piece. More bins are required along with polite notices. Again, CCTV systems would act as deterrent and would also help to catch offenders.

The dog fouling problem is not helped by the fact that RCC no longer have a commissioned 'Dog warden' and RCC and Police are reluctant to issue any fines. There is a dog bin outside the Scout Hut which is not ideally suited and would be better placed elsewhere.

- **Action:** More bins are required around town and the main roads. More signs re 'anti dog fouling' from RCC should be made available and posted around town and especially in communal areas/parks. This action still stands.

K: Town Hall

The use of the Town Hall is already documented in the existing NPAG but it is not a building which is very welcoming and can not be used for all the community. It is however, extensively used for private hire and brings most needed income to the Council. It could be used in a better form for Tourist Information.

- **Action:** More discussion needed.