

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group

Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on 24th September 2020 at 7.30pm DRAFT

Present: Chris Merricks, Dave Ainslie, Sharon Aumais, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, Stephen Taylor, Howard Thompson, Janet Thompson

Also present were Town Cllr Dick Reeve (in the capacity of a member of the public) and Peter Leppard (Town Clerk's office).

As the Group's chair, Chris Merricks, had temporarily lost his voice, it was resolved that Ron Simpson (the Group's vice-chair) would chair the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** these were received from Pat Taylor, Andrew Jenkins, Steve Rozak, Miranda Jones, and Geoff Thompson.
2. **Declarations of interest:** There were none.
3. **Chair's opening statement:** Ron Simpson commented on the work of this Group in the context of other more national planning issues currently changing or under review. He reminded everyone of the timescales the group needs to achieve.
4. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2020:** It was resolved unanimously to confirm these as a correct record.
5. **Public speaking:** Dick Reeve said that sensible development of the Neighbourhood Plan should start with allocating a footprint for a future A6003 bypass and only thereafter decide how remaining land should be allocated to various uses. He urged that a pre-feasibility study be undertaken to identify a suitable bypass route.
6. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion's update:** Ron Simpson stressed the need for each sub-group to now develop proposed policies and actions, and for data collection – the latter should be submitted for collation in the project's database.
7. **To receive updates from sub-groups:**
 - a. **Transport:** Howard Thompson summarised the sub-group's written update. Since it was written, a new bike rack had been installed in the town centre. Further issues to be looked at include disability access around the town, provision of new cycle paths, and levels of pollution from the A6003. It was also unanimously resolved to recommend to full Town Council that a pre-feasibility study be undertaken to identify a suitable bypass route. (This study however is unlikely to be fundable within the rules for Neighbourhood Planning grants, so would need other funding.)
 - b. **Housing:** David Ainslie summarised the sub-group's written update. It was noted that the number of new houses needed in Uppingham will depend heavily on decisions on the future of the St George's site at North Luffenham. It was unanimously resolved to recommend to full Town Council to instigate a Call for Sites as soon as possible; this should include encouraging landowners who had previously expressed their stance to do so again, to ensure maximum current clarity.
 - c. **Environment:** Miranda Jones will be asked to circulate an update from this sub-group.
 - d. **Economy:** Ron Simpson will circulate an update from this sub-group soon.
 - e. **Amenities:** Janet Thompson summarised the sub-group's written update. Since it was written, the CCTV on Tod's Piece was now working; other issues on Tod's Piece need to be further looked at. The market-square Toilets refurbishment is a few months away yet.
8. **Sites/Zones:** It was agreed that these had been discussed as necessary under minute 7.
9. **Timeline/dependencies:** Chris Merricks had shared a timeline document at the previous meeting. He urged members to give him further feedback on how it can be improved.

10. Grant application: Peter Leppard explained that the preliminary stage of our application had been received and acknowledged by Locality, but the main application form now needed to be completed within the next week or so, which he would ensure happens (Ron Simpson offered to assist in fine-tuning our responses). It was agreed that the application should include funding for evidence gathering, policy-development training, and the Call for Sites, as well as other items.

11. Date of next meeting: This was agreed as Thursday 22 October at 7.30pm, by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.