

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group

Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on 11 March 2021 at 7.30pm **DRAFT**

Present: Chris Merricks (chair), Dave Ainslie, Christine Edwards, Andrew Jenkins, Andrew Mankowski, Dick Reeve, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson, Pat Taylor, Howard Thompson

Also in attendance were Peter Leppard (Town Clerk's office), and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Edward Baines, Steve Rozak, Margaret Simpson, Stephen Taylor, Janet Thompson.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Chris Merricks and Mark Shaw declared their involvement in (separate) website-design businesses.
3. **Chair's opening statement:** Chris Merricks welcomed encouraging progress since the previous meeting.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2021:** It was resolved unanimously to confirm these as a correct record.
5. **Public speaking:** Nil
6. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion's update:** Ron Simpson gave a distillation of a national workshop for Neighbourhood Planning Champions held the previous day, focusing on growth, regeneration and sustainability aspects of neighbourhood plans.
7. **Updates from sub-groups:**
 - Economy Ron Simpson described the questions and issues which the sub-group is posing to businesses, to which responses are starting to be received.
 - Transport & Amenities The sub-group had met recently and the minutes had been circulated to NPAG; work on developing solutions to issues is ongoing. The sub-group will shortly be expanding its scope to include Health Centre aspects. Andrew Jenkins described progress towards achieving cycle racks in Mercers Yard.
 - Environment The meeting asked Peter Leppard to enquire of Miranda Jones if the sub-group is making progress.
 - Housing Dave Ainslie reported that the Town Council, at its 4 March meeting, had endorsed all of this sub-group's February recommendations. The meeting asked Peter Leppard to now share the site-scoring models with RCC Planning, in the interests of full transparency. The Housing sub-group will shortly develop some Design Guidelines for the Neighbourhood Plan; any other NPAG members are welcome to contribute if interested.
8. **Education:** No member in attendance was able to give an update on this.
9. **Next steps:**
 - a. Dave Ainslie described current progress in designing and producing the Housing public-consultation booklet; the consultation questions (which will also ask about proposed-bypass matters) will be able to be answered either on paper or via Survey Monkey. Ron Simpson offered to arrange a £100 prize from Uppingham Community Forum, to be drawn at random, to encourage a high response rate by residents.
 - b. It was noted that quotations being received for setting up a consultation website will enable an award of this work shortly.
 - c. A quotation from Design:Midlands (at £550/day) for professional writing/editing of the revised Neighbourhood Plan was viewed by the meeting as acceptable. Peter Leppard is about to engage with Locality on possible grant funding to cover this and other elements in financial year 2021/22.
10. **Any Other Business:** An update was given on Arup's current study of bypass options. Peter Leppard was asked to arrange a further discussion with Arup representatives.
11. **Date of next meeting:** This was agreed to be on Thursday 22 April at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.