

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group

Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on 18 February 2021 at 7.30pm **DRAFT**

Present: Chris Merricks (chair), Dave Ainslie, Edward Baines, Christine Edwards, Andrew Jenkins, Andrew Mankowski, Dick Reeve, Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, Tony Streeter, Pat Taylor, Geoff Thompson, Howard Thompson, Janet Thompson

Also in attendance were Peter Leppard (Town Clerk's office), Keith Webster and Nick Townsend.

1. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Miranda Jones and Steve Rozak.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Geoff Thompson declared his involvement with Uppingham Community College and Rutland Learning Trust. Chris Merricks declared his involvement with Leighfield Academy. Chris Merricks and Mark Shaw declared their involvement in (separate) website-design businesses.
3. **Chair's opening statement:** Chris Merricks noted the Group's ongoing progress, stressing the need for a clear understanding on timescales and spending to emerge during the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021:** It was resolved unanimously to confirm these as a correct record.
5. **Public speaking:** Nil
6. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion's update:** Ron Simpson noted (a) the current focus nationally on emerging Design Codes, and the need to include some wording on this topic in our finalised Neighbourhood Plan and (b) the focus in recent Locality publications on the importance of including affordable housing. He also drew attention to growing concern in several parts of Rutland that RCC Planning Officers may not be giving due weight to Neighbourhood Plans in their decision-making.
Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Chair of RCC's Planning Committee and the relevant lead Officer be asked to meet with representatives of this Group and the Town Council to discuss and review how the criteria laid down in Neighbourhood Plans are being applied by RCC Planning Officers.
7. **RCC 'Design Guidelines' consultation:** Dave Ainslie presented to the Group the Housing sub-group's recommended response to this consultation.
Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to recommend this response to the Town Council for adoption.
8. **Updates from sub-groups:**
Housing Dave Ainslie presented 3 draft documents developed by the sub-group: (a) scoring model for large proposed housing sites, (b) scoring model for small proposed housing sites and (c) public feedback form on developers' proposals.
Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Town Council that (a) those 3 documents be endorsed for use and (b) population of the scoring models be carried out by a group consisting of Chris Merricks, Andrew Mankowski, Andrew Jenkins, Dick Reeve and Howard Thompson.
Transport & Amenities The sub-group had circulated the written outputs from its recent meeting (including important points re disability) and these were endorsed. It was agreed that Peter Leppard will circulate the outputs so far of Arup's study of possible bypass routes. (As these are not yet complete, they are not for wider circulation.)
Economy It was noted that the sub-group will be meeting shortly.
Environment It was noted that the sub-group will be meeting shortly.
Education Although there is no Education sub-group, Geoff Thompson explained that he will be liaising with the schools in Uppingham to produce some outputs for consideration at the next NPAG meeting.
9. **Next steps:**
Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to seek Town Council approval for the Group to commit to spending on the following before 31 March, subject to remaining within unspent funding remaining from the £10k Locality grant:
 - Production of public-consultation booklet
 - Development of consultation website
 - Professional writing/editing of the revised Plan
 - Advance contract for printing the revised Plan
10. **Date of next meeting:** This was agreed to be on Thursday 11 March at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.