

## Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group

### Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on 20 April 2021 at 7.30pm **DRAFT**

**Present:** Chris Merricks (chair), Dave Ainslie, Edward Baines, Christine Edwards, Miranda Jones, Andrew Mankowski, Dick Reeve, Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, Tony Streeter, Pat Taylor, Geoff Thompson, Janet 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 Steve Rozak, Andrew Jenkins, Howard Thompson.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Mark Shaw declared his involvement in the company building the Group's website. Chris Merricks and Miranda Jones declared their involvement with Leighfield School. Geoff Thompson and Andrew Mankowski declared their involvement with Uppingham Community College.
3. **Chair's opening statement:** Chris Merricks welcomed the continued encouraging progress.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2021:** It was resolved unanimously to confirm these as a correct record.
5. **Public speaking:** Nil
6. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion's update:** Ron Simpson drew attention to several useful items in Locality's latest Neighbourhood Planning newsletter, and described a recent group meeting of Station Rd businesses, from which some proposals may soon emerge.  
Ron proposed and it was unanimously resolved that NPAG requests the Town Council to support a bid to Locality for up to £15k for policy and financial support for the inclusion of a new strategic policy in the refreshed Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan, detailing a town-centre regeneration & improvement scheme incorporating social infrastructure support.
7. **RCC's recent decision on Housing Infrastructure Fund monies:** The implications of this for the timescale, and possibly the content, of Uppingham's refreshed Neighbourhood Plan were noted. It was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Town Council that, in light of this, the deadline for carrying out site evaluations for the Neighbourhood Plan be changed from 31 May to 30 June.
8. **Recent correspondence/discussion between UTC and RCC:** The contents of these were noted. It was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Town Council that (a) the technical evaluations of each site now be carried out within the next 3 weeks, so as to ensure that this is prior to the results of the current public consultation being available (the evaluations will thus be unable to be influenced by the latter) and (b) those evaluations should include relevant sites already included in the existing Neighbourhood Plan.
9. **Locality grants:** Peter Leppard noted that neighbourhood-planning grants for FY2021/22 could not be bid for prior to 15/4/21. He will shortly be submitting a bid.
10. **Updates from sub-groups:**
  - Transport & Amenities The sub-group had been investigating how GP provision will be expanded to meet the needs of an expanded future population.
  - Environment Miranda Jones explained how the sub-group is developing a paper for the next NPAG meeting.
  - Housing The sub-group has yet to discuss development of design guidelines.
11. **Education:** Geoff Thompson submitted 3 papers to the meeting, relating to the possibility of CIL funding of projects for Leighfield School and Uppingham Community College. It was resolved (9 for, 5 abstentions) to remit these papers to the Town Council for their consideration.
12. **Development of Neighbourhood Plan website:** The nearly-complete site was felt to be have a good look and feel.
13. **Chair and Vice-chair of NPAG:** It was resolved (9 for, 5 abstentions) to recommend to the Town Council that Chris Merricks be appointed Chair of NPAG for 2021/22. It was unanimously resolved that Ron Simpson be Vice-chair of NPAG for 2021/22.
14. **Any Other Business:** None.
15. **Date of next meeting:** This was agreed to be on Tuesday 25 May at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.