

## Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group

### Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on 21 January 2021 at 7.30pm **DRAFT**

**Present:** Chris Merricks (chair), Dave Ainslie, Edward Baines, Christine Edwards, Andrew Mankowski, Dick Reeve, Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, Tony Streeter, Pat Taylor, Stephen 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, Steve Rozak and Rachel Watts.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Although it was not expected that any specifics of the Trust's proposals would be discussed during the meeting, Dave Ainslie, Edward Baines, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, Geoff Thompson and Janet Thompson declared that they are members of Uppingham Homes Community Land Trust. Stephen Taylor declared that his employer, Uppingham School, owns land abutting one of the potential housing sites to be considered (though not at this meeting) by the Group.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2020:** It was resolved unanimously to confirm these as a correct record.
4. **Public speaking:** Keith Webster noted an inaccuracy in a map tabled in the meeting papers; this will be corrected.
5. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion's update:** Ron Simpson noted that national-level multi-party discussions are continuing on Government's proposals for Planning reform, with considerable pushback as to their desirability. He also noted positive progress with the AECOM-led project to produce a national Housing Design Toolkit.
6. **Updates from sub-groups:**
  - Economy Ron Simpson reported that conversations with individual businesses have been taking place, the results of which the Economy sub-group will be pulling together shortly.
  - Transport & Amenities Howard Thompson reported Arup's commencement of the bypass routing study.
  - Environment Peter Leppard reported Miranda Jones' intention to hold a sub-group meeting shortly.
  - Housing David Ainslie presented a paper which the Housing sub-group had prepared proposing their strategic approach to (i) assessing the data obtained from the Call for Sites and (ii) public consultation on the outcomes from that assessment. The meeting endorsed the paper (with one minor change – the results of the public consultation to be published by 31 May, not 30 April), with a **recommendation to the Town Council** to adopt it as policy. Ron Simpson undertook to obtain advice as to (a) the extent to which the current Neighbourhood Plan revision may or may not overturn policies in the original Neighbourhood Plan, and (b) whether, in our Neighbourhood Plan, we have power to make stipulations which would have the effect, at a future date, of removing approved housing sites from the agreed Plan if certain criteria had not been met by then. It was noted that one of the submissions in response to the Call for Sites had arrived after the 31 December deadline. The Group agreed that this submission should nevertheless be accepted, with a **recommendation to the Town Council** to adopt the same stance.
7. **Date of next meeting:** This was agreed to be on Thursday 18 February at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.