

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group.
Minutes of meeting held over Zoom on Thursday 9th December 2021.

Present : Ron Simpson (in the Chair) Dave Ainslie, Christine Edwards, Dave Casewell, Andrew Mankowski, Dick Reeves, Stephen Taylor, Howard Thompson, Nick Townsend, Janet Thompson, Mark Shaw.

Also In attendance Sharon Coe Town Clerk.

1. **Welcome**
The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and reflected it seemed a long while since the last meeting, but the work had been ongoing.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Received from Margaret Simpson and Tony Streeter.
3. **Declarations of interest.**
None declared.
4. **To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (9th September 2021)**
These were received as a true copy. It was agreed to minute formally that UTC had resolved to press ahead with the work on the NP. A full list of all sub groups and members would be forwarded to the Clerk for her understanding.
5. **An opportunity for members of the public to speak.**
An item was brought to the groups attention which had been received by Janet Thompson from the Headteacher of UCC and is included here for clarity.

The UCC wish to develop a 'Climate Strategy' and hope to facilitate this for Uppingham and for it to be included in the discussion for the Neighbourhood Plan. They wish to develop a 'solar farm' which they can carry out without planning permission but also wish to establish a 'wind farm' with one Windmill and this would require planning permission."
6. **To consider a request for an additional piece of land adjacent to site B (Leicester Road) to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan review.**
An overview was given, and the group discussed the request. It was decided that all such smaller sites would be dealt with when the updating of the plan took place next year. (See next minute)
7. **To consider the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Site allocations paper. (Draft)**
A comprehensive overview was given by Dave Ainslie detailing the collaborative approach being taken wherever possible. The methodology was based on Locality's "Toolkit for Neighbourhood planners". All possible sites had been considered taken from the current Neighbourhood plan, the RCC Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Report (SHEELA) and a renewed Call for Sites by Uppingham Town Council in December 2020. No sites were sifted at this point but were made known to the public to encourage

participation and gather the views of the community. Community engagement had taken the form of survey booklets, developer mornings and the Town Council website. A new N Plan website had been commissioned for the public to access (www.uppingham-neighbourhood-plan.com). All data collected would be considered for publication and would help inform planning decisions that would need to be proposed in the Public referendum of the Plan at a future date. Advice from Locality is that sites should only be ruled out if there are “showstopper” constraints, examples of which could be statutory environmental designation, no access or where sites are unavailable. By default this is essentially the “sift” process that led to the conclusion of which sites to be passed forward to create the list of sites considered suitable, achievable and available. This will be subject to further public consultation to allow finalisation of the list of preferred sites.

It was proposed that in order to move the site allocations process forward NPAG should be considering the large sites only at this time, returning to the smaller sites early in the New Year. The sites are therefore

Uppingham Gate(SHEELA/UPP/02)
Goldcrest Road (SHEELA/UPP/11)
The Beeches (SHEELA/UPP/01 and UPP 13)
Cricket Club Leicester Road (SHEELA/UPP04)
Ayston Road (Larkfleet) (SHEELA/UPP 05)
Land North of Leicester Road (SHEELA/UPP08)
Land South of Leicester Road.(SHEELA/UPP08 as above)

The group considered the above and asked questions and received answers. It was further acknowledged that some members of the group live close to some sites. The group acknowledged that a sensible strategy needed to be followed to enable a balanced development throughout the Town which was collaborative for all. It was proposed the next steps were to present this paper to the Town Council. This was voted for unanimously. Roger at RCC was happy with the methodology and strategy applied and would be addressing the next meeting of NPAG on 13th January 2022.

The Chair thanked the sub group for the hard work and progress that had been made.

8. **Neighbourhood Planning Champions update.**

Ron Simpson overviewed meetings he had attended. The rural sparsity groups had been working very hard and he had been included a Neighbourhood Champions briefing with Government ministers where it was confirmed that there would be no planning bill but instead a levelling up bill. Key points were that Neighbourhood Plans were still valued but CIL/S106 could be replaced with a new levy. The Neighbourhood Plan could still receive the levy allocated, and it was acknowledged that UTC benefited greatly from this money. Meetings with developers had been fairly positive, and it was noted that Uppingham is way ahead of many others with the development of its plan, and positioning. Questions were received and answered.

9. **Updates from Sub Groups**

Town/Centre – Locality bid had been submitted and reached the next stage, they were looking for ways in which to support the Town. A further meeting had been

set up to progress this. It was suggested that there could be overlap with the CIL groups at Uppingham Town Council and this would be addressed with the sharing of knowledge.

Transport – Valuable work had been done surveying car parking spaces, this work and data would be invaluable going forward. Parking in Seaton Road and the through routes of the B6003 could be looked at again. The data collected would now be analysed and reported back to the group. NPAG would continue to work smartly and again take advantage of possible overlap with other groups.

Environmental -The Clerk would forward the comments regarding the wind farm to the subgroup.

Site assessments- This was discussed in the previous agenda item.

10. **NPAG Website – an update on its development.**

David Ainslie had given a memory stick to the interim Clerk and the website had been loaded to a point, but there was still holding text to be updated, along with other items. The clerk would look at retrieving the memory stick.

11. **AOB.**

It was noted that the original consultant was retiring but had been contacted and was prepared to keep working with NPAG for continuity. Allocation of budgets to progress the plan would be key.

12. **Summary of next steps.**

It was proposed that we would have a least a monthly meeting to take these plans forward as it was a critical time, there may be the need for ad hoc meetings on specific findings or issues. It suited most people to have these on the second Thursday of the month. The Clerk would look at getting dates together to share with the group at the next meeting.

13. **Date of next meeting**

This would take place on 13th January 2022 at 6pm with Roger Ransom from RCC would be present to address the group.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm.