

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group.
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2023

Present: Ron Simpson (in the chair), Christine Edwards, David Casewell, Nick Townsend, David Ainslie, Liz Clarke. Mike Fish, Godfrey Jennings. Tony Streeter.

Also In attendance Sharon Coe, Town Clerk, and Cynthia Ondeng, Administration Assistant.
2 members of the public.

1. **Welcome**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Received from Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Edward Baines, Janet Thompson.
These were accepted.
3. **Declarations of interest.**
These would be declared if an item of interest on the agenda became apparent.
4. **An opportunity for members of the public to speak (limited to 15 minutes total)**
A member of the public wished NPAG and the Council to reconsider the decision not to pause the Neighbourhood Plan. They argued that there were three choices.
 - a. Not to have a Neighbourhood Plan
 - b. To pause the plan
 - c. Or to tie the Council to legislation that would be overcome.A request was made to consider option b.
The Chairman thanked the public for their contribution and the Chairman reiterated that there was indeed a mechanism to pause the plan if that was the wish of members of NPAG to take forward as a recommendation to Full Council.
5. **To receive the minutes of meeting of 27th April 2023.**
The minutes were received as a true copy. Proposed Dave Ainslie, seconded Tony Streeter. **Resolved unanimously.**
6. **To consider the two requests from community groups to join NPAG.**
The Clerk outlined the two requests.
One from Tod's Piece Allotments (Bob Fisher) and one from Rutland Health and Social Care Policy Consortium. (Ramsey Ross) . The Clerk confirmed that both applications conformed to the rules of membership of NPAG and could therefore be considered to be formally recommended to the Full Council meeting if NPAG agreed to do so.

RESOLUTION NPAG would like to recommend to the Town Council to formally admit the above two applicants to NPAG. Proposed by Ron Simpson, seconded by Christine Edwards. **Resolved unanimously.**
7. **To receive an update on the meetings held with RCC and Vanguard.**
The Vanguard minutes had been circulated. The Chairman reiterated that we were in a really good position with RCC and the developers at the Vanguard meeting had been really positive about the housing numbers.

8. **To receive the Consultation statement for Information.**

Clive our consultant overviewed the next two items and gave background information of how we had reached this position. There was a lot of red font in the submission version of the NP which had taken account of meetings with RCC, developers and the public and statutory consultees. This had resulted in steady and substantial progress to bring us to this point. These comments had been collated and considered and technical meetings of NPAG had discussed how they may be incorporated into the plan and what changes may be necessary. Three documents have to be produced to RCC, the plan, the Consultation Statement, and the basic conditions statement. The Consultation Statement was essentially a story board of that journey. More recently meetings had been with senior officers at RCC concerning both the Local Plan (LP) and this NP. The officers were still working on the consultation of the new LP in early autumn and getting it submitted as soon as possible. The officers were keen to know what our NP would look like as that is what they were going to base the policies for Uppingham on in the new LP. David Ainslie was thanked for the enormous amount of work he had produced.

An agreement was reached to take out some areas of rhetoric and just keep to the statistical facts to make it completely factual. The maps were discussed and will be tweaked to make them even clearer. A question was raised about meeting the developers, the chairman answered that there had been several meetings over the consultation period. The Vanguard Board had met (minutes tabled) and the Mayor/Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk had all been present to represent the Town Council. David Casewell wished the minutes to reflect that he felt that communication with the Vanguard Board could have been better. All Vanguard meetings had been reported to Council.

Proposed by Nick Townsend, and seconded Christine Edwards, that we receive the Consultation statement with minor changes, such as move table to the left, add comma etc. This would be presented to Town Council with the appropriate changes. Resolved (7 for,2 abstentions)

9. **To consider the submission version of the NP. To include emphasis on the amended/added details following Reg 14 Consultation and outcomes and how they relate to the Consultation Statement.**

The Chairman invited Clive to take NPAG through the submission document page by page with particular emphasis on the added/amended details following the consultations. A reminder was made that the County Council had urged Uppingham to make pace so that the submission version could be seen at RCC. The lead planning officer had confirmed that they could build their LP around our submission version of the NP.

A question was raised about the implications of pausing the NP. The Town Council had formally through the Town Clerk asked our Consultant and Clive explained the rationale behind this. The conclusion was there was a number of reasons why a pause might not be in the best interests of the community and planning systems in Uppingham. The five reasons are included in the submission version of the plan in the backing documents which will all be publicly available.

Earlier in 2016 when the plan was started the intention was to sit alongside the RCC LP. This RCC Local Plan collapsed and this had meant other communities had had planning decisions imposed upon them without any basis to argue on density. In Uppingham there is coordinated approach that's inclusive and engages the community and developers. The danger of pausing is that the LP might not come forward in the form that's anticipated, or the LP may become prescriptive and then we will not have the same degree of input.

NPAG considered the plan carefully page by page requesting clarification where required.

Salient points

- Some policies had been expanded.
- How do we monitor developers?
- Of the 510 dwellings mentioned in the plan 183 were in the existing plan and were therefore commitments.
- Infrastructure – Education, Health, references are throughout the document.
- Phasing of development.
- Consultation of the documents.
- Affordable housing.
- Density.
- To be part of the Development Infrastructure Plan with RCC.
- A long-term coach park (ambition)

10.

To agree that these documents should be formally put to the Town Council and a timescale for discussion to RCC.

Npag would like to formally put these documents to the Town Council at its next meeting for adoption of the Submission document.

Proposed by Nick Townsend, seconded by Tony Streeter. **Resolved unanimously.**

The meeting closed at 5.55pm

Signed Chair of NPAG.

Dated

