

Uppingham Vanguard Board

Working Together to help Uppingham Become an Exemplar Market Town

Summary Notes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Uppingham Vanguard Board held at 10am on Thursday April 25th 2024 in The Falcon Hotel

In Attendance

Members/Representatives of – Uppingham Town Council (Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor), Ancer Spa; CPRE Rutland, Leicestershire Police, Rutland County Council, Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum, Uppingham Community College, Uppingham Surgery, Uppingham Business Forum, NPAG, Uppingham First, Langton Homes, CPRE Rutland, Residents Associations and UNP/Town Plan Groups.

Special Guests: Rupert Matthews (Police and Crime Commissioner); Dr Dan Pickering (Uppingham Surgery); Roger Ranson (Rutland Council Planning/Housing Policy Manager); Stephen Taylor (Uppingham School).

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Edward Baines, Chair of Uppingham First and the Vanguard Board, welcomed civic and other board invitees to the meeting and indicated he looked forward to positive discussion. Apologies for absence were received from Tracey Allan - Jones (Healthwatch), John Leslie (PPG), Janet Thompson (UNF/UF), Nick Townsend (UF/UHCLT) and Ben Cripps (Langton Homes). The Chair invited those present to introduce themselves and advise their strategic interests.

2. Declarations of Interest

The community, council and business interests of those attending were noted. Also, the residential addresses of those members living in Uppingham directly impacted by the UNP.

3. Vanguard Board Scoping Debate

At the invitation of the Chair, attending community partners and organisation representatives shared their thoughts on topic areas that might be addressed by future meetings of the board. The following were suggested. Research into the possibility of new apprenticeships and traineeships in the town; the case for a new sports stadium in the town; support for the concept of a town youth council; further developing the concept of the Vanguard Board; the need for a town 'data set' to inform future policy; further development of the town's visitor and tourism strategy identifying net attractors; the role of the state sector in community development; the strengthening of partnership working in the town; infrastructure, housing and highways development including the case for an additional bypass/relief road.

4. Rutland Local Plan update

Roger Ranson update board members on the likely publication date of the next draft of the new Local Plan. It was hoped that this would be in the public domain by September 2024.

5. Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan

Roger led feedback from the External Examiner on what further work on the draft plan was required to enable its progression to a community vote. See Appendix A. Following questions and subsequent discussion, developer representatives indicated that they were happy to provide such additional data was required.

6. Uppingham Bypass/Relief Road

An outline plan of the northern end of a possible future western town bypass relief road was circulated for board member information. It was noted that a meeting with the proposing developers and landowners had been arranged for late May.

7. Blue Light Services

Policing - The board noted that the 2024 PCC election was imminent and invited the current PCC Rupert Matthews to present his Action Plan to Cut Crime in Rutland. Rupert summarised his key proposals and then answered a series of questions which included concerns about evidence of more drug use in the town.

The Board further noted that five candidates had put themselves forward to be Leicestershire's new police and crime commissioner. Labour, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party have all put forward hopefuls for the role. The fifth space on the ballot is taken up by Leicester's newest political party, One Leicester. Mr Matthew's challenger from the Labour Party is Rory Palmer. Mr Palmer previously served as a councillor and later as deputy city mayor in Leicester before becoming a Member of the European Parliament. The Green Party has put forward Aasiya Bora, who previously ran to be a councillor for North Evington, coming in second behind the Conservatives. Ian Sharpe will be running for the Lib Dems. Mr Sharpe previously served as lead member for finance on Charnwood Borough Council. Fizza Askari is the candidate for One Leicester.

Note: Fire and ambulance representatives will be invited to a future meeting.

8. Health and Wellbeing

It was noted that Healthwatch would be attending a future meeting.

On behalf of Uppingham Surgery, Dr Dan Pickering presented an overview of the surgery direction of travel illustrated with a number of tabled statistics. Significant figures included:-

List size now at 12,647 Employees now number 49 (Excluding PCN staff)
Number of GP and other staff sessions now up to 79 per week
Telephone appointments up by 59.2 % since March 2014
Face to face appointments up by 25.9% since March 2014
National Surgery Audit Figures show that total appointments by the year are:-
2019 – 78897 2020 – 69601 2021 – 82468 2022 - 98570

In the absence of John Leslie (Chair of the PPG) due to a family funeral, Ron Simpson circulated copies of the recent Uppingham Surgery newsletter which provided a brief overview of the forthcoming Dementia Awareness Week in Rutland launch event. This was to be hosted by the Falcon Hotel in Uppingham and organised by Rotary in Uppingham in partnership with Uppingham Surgery.

9. Education in Uppingham

Geoff Thompson, Chair of the UCC board of governors, presented an update on recent developments at Uppingham Community College. It was noted that UCC was to become part of an Academy Trust. There was some discussion on the role of modern libraries in schools.

10. Uppingham Post Office

The meeting was provided with a brief overview by Uppingham First of the progress being made in the search for a successor to Robin Bromiley at the Post Office. Positive leads were being followed and the partnership was optimistic about the future.

11. Any Other Business

None

12. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed after the Uppingham First 2024 AGM.

Notes prepared by Ron Simpson BEM 19.5.2024

Note: The Uppingham Vanguard Board+ was created at the suggestion of a government advisor who was impressed by the town's forward-looking agenda. Its purpose is to share information with, and encourage collective debate between, organisations involved in the operation and forward development of Uppingham as an exemplar market town. The Board is administered by the award winning Uppingham First Community Partnership.

Please address all communications to Ron Simpson BEM E-mail: execdirector@uppinghamfirst.co.uk Tel: 01572 495050

Uppingham NDP Review - Examiner's Note on Outstanding Evidence - Appendix A

Context

This note follows on from the hearing held on 12 April and the subsequent meeting between UTC and RCC on 16 April 2024.

Outstanding Evidence Requirements

The way in which the sites proposed for housing development were considered and assessed*

The way in which the yield/densities for each site were determined (taking account of landscape and topographical issues and making the most effective use of land) *

The extent to which the strategic housing requirement for the town could be accommodated on a lesser number of sites at a higher density*

The level of information provided in Policies U-HA4 and U-HA5 including development criteria. Could the sites be addressed as reserve sites rather than Phase 2 sites? *

The agricultural land value of the sites concerned*

The ability of U-HA2 and U-HA3 to provide appropriate vehicular access from Ayston Road.

A general assessment of the way in which the Plan has proposed new retail development on both U-HA2 and U-HA3, whether there are sequentially better-performing locations closer to the town centre, and the extent to which the town could accommodate two new retail outlets.

A specific assessment of the type and size of retail store proposed for U-HA3 including whether its purpose would be to consolidate the existing development at the northern edge of the town including the GP surgery, or more generally to provide additional retail floorspace in the town (or both).

A Traffic Impact Assessment of the technical ability of any retail store on U-HA3 to secure direct access/egress to the A47 to the north. This also overlap with the wording of Policy BE1.

Notes:

- Any items marked with * could usefully be included within any revised/updated Environmental Report.
- The two items relating to retail development could build on the Rutland Retail Capacity Assessment already undertaken by RCC in 2023.
- RCC has raised the issue about the way in which the Environmental Report addressed the potential housing site at Gypsy Hollow Lane (SHELLA/UPP/07) and the way in which the owner withdrew the site from consideration as part of the neighbourhood plan. It would be helpful to have some clarification on this matter.

The Next Steps

Based on the outcome of our meeting on 16 April I trust that this note provides the representatives of the Town Council with the relevant information to discuss more widely with other Town Council members and the developers concerned.

In this context, I will tidy up the general elements of the report whilst the Town Council considers the various points raised. Hopefully the planned meeting on 3 May will provide an update of progress and a likely direction of travel

As I mentioned at the meeting, I acknowledge that this information will be assembled in different ways and at different times. However, I would recommend that consultation takes place on the additional information at the same time. This will provide clarity to all concerned. It will also provide me with a timetable when I will be able to see the results of the consultation process and finish the fact-check report

Andrew Ashcroft - Independent Examiner - Uppingham NDP Review - 17 April 2024