

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



Notes from The Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum Meeting on

Thursday 16th January 2025 at The Falcon Hotel.

Welcome:

Janet Thompson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself. It was stated that there was a full and interesting agenda, she specifically welcomed PCSO Andy Wylie, PC Jake Spruce and Inspector Darren Richardson- who would be speaking shortly.

The new format for the Newsletter was made available to those present and had been displayed in strategic places around town and on resident associations' notice board.

Janet informed those present that the Forum is run by Volunteers and that she was pleased to announce that 2 more community groups had joined the committee; Youth Space (Rep Harriet Bryan), St. Johns & St. Annes Charity Housing (whose representative Geoff Thompson would be speaking later).** Note: the Forum had held a meeting on 9th January with representatives from some of the community groups to update them on 'the way forward' for the Forum.

Janet mentioned that there are a lot of events going on in Uppingham this year and that leaflets from Uppingham in Bloom, A Valentines Concert, The Surgery Newsletter, The NHS app course and our Newsletter were available from the table at the back of the room and encouraged those present to help themselves to the leaflets. Also, if anyone wanted to speak privately to any of our guests then she asked them to seek them out after the meeting.

Approx 45 residents attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Jill Cannings, Liz & Nick Clarke, Helen Swift, Sue & Tony Streeter, John & Elizabeth Rankin. Harriet Bryan.

Police and Crime Update; Janet introduced Inspector Darren Richardson who mentioned that he knew Uppingham very well and had been a Sergeant previously in this area. He spoke of his desire to place a Police Constable permanently back in Uppingham following the transfer of PC Rebecca Angel to Oakham. He had been working hard to achieve this through Leicestershire Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner. He assured us that Uppingham's safety was very important to him. He explained that at present we have a PCSO permanently in Uppingham and is supported by PC Jake Spruce. He then asked for any questions and Lynne expressed her deep

concern regarding the youngsters who hang around Tod's Terrace and that she has spoken to them on many occasions in an attempt to get them to move on and to stop causing disruption. Lynne requested that there is Police presence and patrols around the area and especially the park during 3.30pm-5.30pm when the students leave school and congregate in the area. This issue is of great concern to Tod's Terrace residents. The Inspector and PC Jake Spruce assured those present that they do patrol the area and agreed that the lighting around the area and especially the disabled toilet at the back of the Football Club needs to be addressed (**Council please note**).

Janet moved the meeting on so that we could see the Crime Stats. PC Spruce discussed the figures on the screen (*These are available from the Police or UNF*). It was stressed that if you have an issue that you wish to discuss please bring it to the Police.

Pam asked the Police if it would be a good idea to ask the Uppingham School Patrol vehicles if they could 'drive' around all of the Town (especially the cul-de-sacs) so that residents feel safe and to try to deter criminals. The Police commented that it is not in their jurisdiction to be able to ask the Private School to do this although they have no obligation. (**This is however a good idea and maybe the Council could contact the school**).

Janet thanked the Police and assured them that if they need to leave that that would be understandable. The Inspector and PC took leave and PSCO stayed for the duration of the meeting.

Health & Wellbeing: Part 1): John Leslie informed the residents that the new Surgery Newsletter is available and presented the slides regarding the NHS app, it's benefits to our residents in obtaining information from the GP surgery, blood tests and sending messages. He spoke about the NHS training afternoon on 6th February at The Falcon and that you need to book your session (ie 1.00pm-1.30pm etc up to 5.00pm) or by using the QR code on the leaflet. The training session is being sponsored by the Surgery, Uppingham First & Cube Purple. This training session is being set up because of public request and this is a great opportunity to understand how to get your NHS facilities quicker. Please sign up for the course as soon as possible to secure your place via the GP surgery or 111.

The NHS are also conducting a survey in Rutland so that residents can have their say on how services are delivered in Rutland. The NHS's aim is to create a Minor Illness and Injury Service at Rutland Memorial Hospital operating 7 days per week for 8 hours a day for non life-threatening conditions. The details to participate were on display at the table at the back of the room.

The Hopper bus will be running it's normal route during the afternoon so if you are unable to drive or walk please take advantage of this facility, the Hopper afternoon

driver Helen has agreed to continue until 5.00pm and will be in the Market Place between 4.00pm-5.00pm to assist you.

Part 2): Our High Sheriff Richard Cole presented his slides on dementia and how distressing dementia is for the person and also for their family and carers and that it sadly affects every family one way or another. He then presented information to the audience on the Dementia Course for Rutland which is being organised by our MP Alicia Kearns, it is aimed that Rutland will be the UK's first Dementia Friendly County. The issues being dealt with are carer support, advocacy, loneliness, early onset dementia.

Richard also acknowledged that AGE UK also run dementia courses and that there is a dementia van at Rutland County Council to educate staff on the extra care and support that people with dementia and their carers may need.

(John and Richard's presentation slides are available).

St. Johns & St. Annes Housing Trust: Geoff Thompson explained that the charity's CEO Doreen Woodward was unable to attend and that he is their Chair of Governors. He informed us that the charity has a very long and amazing history which dates back to 1399 when it was known as "Hospital of St. John the Evangelist and St. Anne in Okeham" (Almshouses). The Charity aims to provide social housing for independent living for those of retirement age or nearing retirement age. The apartments are well looked after and very well run, Geoff's slides showed some of the facilities and some testimonials from existing residents. There are 103 homes in Oakham and Uppingham (Bonner & Taylor House in Johnson Road). There are some vacancies at present and on average 10 places per year become available. Further details on their criteria and how to apply was available from the leaflets on the table.

Geoff's presentation slides are available.

Uppingham Frist Update (UF): Following Edward Baines' retirement Janet introduced their new Chair Lucy Stephenson who is his daughter. Lucy stated that the position is not hereditary. Lucy explained that Uppingham First has gone through some changes but will continue to support and provide services that are not able to be run by our Council. With regards to the streamlining of services we have looked at the existing facilities that it runs and that:- (1) The Vanguard Board which has run for many years to be a liaison between residents and the housing developers and schools and the residents has now served its purpose and has been disbanded. (2) UF has proposed that the 'Emergency Plan' that they set up should now be run by the Town Council and that we are in negotiation with the Council to do so. This item is scheduled for discussion at the February Town Council meeting. The equipment which was purchased by UF via a

grant will hopefully also be donated to the Town Council. (3) The Business Forum has been put on hold.

Lucy informed those present that UF have decided to share the responsibilities into sub-groups ie: Governance, Finance, Events (Feast, Social Sundays etc), Amenities (Hopper, Defib, The Surgery Group PPG etc) and each Director will take on their sub-groups and will involve residents with those specific abilities to join them whilst ensuring that the ethos of UF continues to uphold it's high standards of supporting our local community.

Mike Fish requested to be informed about the issue with Late Night Shopping (LNS) and UF in December 2023. Lucy stated that whilst this issue was very unfortunate and distressing, she had already met with the organizer of LNS in 2024 and this was not the time and place to discuss this and that we are moving forward in a positive manner.

There were 2 more comments from the floor and Lucy concluded her talk and it is noted that Uppingham First and it's volunteer Directors will continue to work with other community groups to promote and support Uppingham's residents.

Hopper Bus Update: Mark Shaw (Director of UF and Hopper Bus co-ordinator) explained how our existing bus is very old and tired and suffering maintenance issues. The bus provides an invaluable service to our residents which it's normal Monday to Friday schedule of 10.00am-5.00pm, also some evening and weekend private books for Uppingham residents. UF are in active negotiations with Rutland County Council for a new Electric Bus which was confirmed in July 2024 media press release by RCC that it would be given to Uppingham but as yet it has not been received. We hope that we can acquire the new bus as soon as possible once a satisfactory agreement has been reached with RCC who have had the bus in their possession for 6 months.

Mark expressed his thanks to our 14 amazing volunteer Hopper bus drivers and we are looking for more drivers to join our team. Being a Hopper bus driver is a great way to support our community so please let us know if you can spare a couple of mornings or afternoons a month.

Any other Business: Alec Crombie commented that he felt that the Police should be held accountable. PCSO Andy Wylie took on those comments.

Events: Janet mentioned once again about the leaflets and advertisements at the back of the room regarding the Uppingham In Bloom (UIB) Winter Warmer on 22nd February in the Town Hall from 12.00midday to 2.00pm, The 'Crazy in Love' Concert on February 14th at Lyddington Church in aid of The High Sheriff Charity. The NHS app course on 6th February in The Falcon, St. Johns & St. Annes Housing Trust and The NHS 'have your say' survey.

Janet thanked everyone for coming and bade them good night.

Additional notes following the Meeting.

The notes of this residents' meeting are available on the Forum page of the Uppingham First website (www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk), any requests for copies of the speakers slides can be obtained directly from the speakers or from the Chair (Janet Thompson).

**Membership is open to all community groups in Uppingham, therefore, If any other community organisation wishes to join the Forum Committee please let the Chair Janet Thompson know on (janetthompson169@gmail.com)

Please remember that the Forum Committee are all volunteers who give up their time to serve and support our community.

Some of the community groups who have chosen to be part of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum Committee are:- Uppingham In Bloom, Uppingham Rotary, Mothers Union, Methodist Church, Parish Church, Limes Firs & Spurs Residents Association, The Beeches Residents Association, Uppingham Surgery Patient Participation Group, St. Johns & St. Annes Charity Housing Trust and Youth Space.

Harriet Byran (who had sent her apologies) from Youth Space wanted to share their report to our residents:-

Youth Space have been running some brilliant sessions including making gifts, creating tie-dye t-shirts and bags with a local artist, meeting with our neighbourhood police and learning about their role in our community, all while continuing our regular offerings of snacks, support and safe space. We were extremely proud of our young people's contribution to a wreath for Remembrance, which was laid by one of our wonderful regular attendees. In the coming weeks we will be running sessions on teen health and wellbeing, litter picking and going for a trip to a trampoline park (which they are very excited about!). Our weekly lunchtime session at UCC continues to be popular and a valuable hub for students. Youth Space is kept going by volunteers, and as we have seen a great upturn in attendance we could do with a wider pool of people to contribute. So, if either you or someone you know, could spare an hour or two a week to assist in the running of either of our sessions please come along to the town hall next Wednesday between 3pm and 5pm. Any and all help is welcome!

Thank you.