**UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

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**Notes from the Forum Residents’ Meeting on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting was very well attended with approximately 85 residents present.

**Introduction**

Janet Thompson introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, she stated that the Newsletter would act as the Agenda to save paper and that copies of some of the presentations were available to collect at the end of the meeting and all our presentations will be available on the Uppinghamfirst.co.uk website shortly after the meeting.

Janet informed everyone that she had been voted as your chair from the ‘committee meeting’ held prior to this session. It had been considered previously about becoming the Forum becoming a Charity or CIC but we have the support of The Falcon, Uppingham First and also now Warner Midlands publishing who have very kindly offered to cover the printing costs, we therefore do not need to fund raise and can concentrate on the main aim of supporting and cascading local information to you.

Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum Committee and are non-political and we are all volunteers so courtesy is expected from tonight’s session

We have apologies from Nick Townsend, Cllr Christine Wise and Liz Clarke.

**Janet reported on Uppingham First**

UF ran a very successful ‘Stilton Cheese Car Run’ in April mainly due to the hard work and support of Mark Shaw and John Leslie, thanks also to all the other volunteers. It really puts Uppingham on the map and drivers who are not local are sure to visit Uppingham again.

UF are now looking to recruit to new volunteer member, one for IT/Systems and one to assist with the Hopper bus section. We are also looking for an Admin person to join us on a paid basis. We wish to be totally transparent and to that end we have booked a slot at the Friday Market on 20th June, so come along and have a chat with us.

UF current board consists of Lucy Stephenson Chair, myself as Vice Chair, James Torbell, John Leslie, Nick Townsend (legal) and Geoff Thompson (Education and Finance). Geoff is the only board member who is also a town councillor. We all have Uppingham’s best interest at heart and spend a lot of time supporting Uppingham in many areas.

UNF: Hopper Update:

Janet stated that in the Newsletter provided good news about the White EV bus being on the road. Sadly this is not the case, we collected the bus on 4th April and it has been on the roads for a total of 6 days!!.Whilst we appreciate RCCs help and support in getting the bus we had a malfunction, the Quad Cam Filter broke, who knew what ones of those was !!? well I do NOW. We now have a ‘software’ problem. It goes on and on and it is not the only thing that is breaking down.!.

We were able to **loan the blue** bus from RCC and hope that we can continue to use the loaned blue bus. I am currently in negotiation with RCC and also EMV company. Who knows what will happen now…I will keep you posted.

Uppingham First support and continuing to raise money and apply for grants to keep it on the road. We are also members of the Dof T Community Transport Association.

We also offer support for local community organisations in way of a private booking**.** We can not ‘hire’ the bus and it is not a ‘taxi’ but it gives us please in being about to take groups out to community and charity events. All **donations** received to Uppingham First go towards all of our community projects which does include the Hopper bus, we can be contacted on hopper@uppinghamfirst.co.uk

We are hoping to set up a ‘text’ messaging service to inform residents of any updates or off-road issues, if you wish to be included in this please let me know.

This can only be provided if we have sufficient volunteer drivers, which at present we are 5 drivers down for various health, business and family reasons**. We therefore reach out to you, if you or anyone you know can spare 3 hours per week when your time will be most appreciated by our passengers. We will provide training and pay for MIDAS (minibus drivers awareness scheme certificate). So if you want to help our community please let me know.**

Our drivers receive so many comments of appreciation from our lovely passengers on the Hopper bus service. The good news is that we hope to continue Uppingham Hopper so that we can provide a service to our Town.

Janet then concluded with an introduction to the following agenda items:

* Policing and crime update: Janet gave apologies from PC George Pears and PCSO Andy Wylie and their powerpoint presentation was displayed by Geoff Thompson for all to view.\*\* Copies of the presentation are available. Any questions are to be directed to the Beat Officers.
* Vista Charity, Janet introduced Jemima Hankins; Copy of her presentation are available.
* Uppingham PPG Surgery update, Janet introduced John Leslie,; copy of his presentation are available. A comment was made from Val in the audience that the Surgery now have consulting rooms upstairs in the surgery .
* Neighbourhood Plan Update: Janet gave Dave Ainslie’s apologies but was able to provide a video of his presentation, so that he could attend ‘virtually’. A transcript of his presentation is available along with the website details to obtain copies of the actual plan.
* Local Government Update, Janet introduced Clls Lucy Stephenson who gave her presentation (copies are available) Lucy stated that the information she provided is for the audience’s benefit and that she is in no way expressing her own opinions and thoughts. Our other 2 Ward Councillors were not present at the meeting but were invited.
* Events; Janet ran though the items in the Newsletter which provided invitations and information about our community organisations and upcoming events. It was also noted that Uppingham First will be holding a market stall in Uppingham on Friday 20th June from 9.00-12.00noon to meet the public and provide information as requested.

Janet thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded by 9.00pm.

Copies of the Presentations available at [www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk) under Forum section.