

**UPPTOWN NEWS**  
**UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**  
**WEBSITE: [www.uppinghamtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamtowncouncil.co.uk)**  
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The Town Hall  
High Street East  
Uppingham  
Rutland, LE15 9PY

**OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

MON	CLOSED		
TUES	9—12	2—4	
WED	9—12	2—4	
THURS	9—12	2—4	
FRIDAY	9—12	2—4	

TOWN CLERK  
Susan Awcock  
01572 822681  
**JANUARY 2012**  
**SPECIAL EDITION!**

**UPPINGHAM TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The residents and businesses of Uppingham have been offered a unique opportunity to have a greater say in future planning of the town. A Task Group comprising of town organisations is now working on the development of a **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** which should be able to outline the planning preferences of the town in its future development. In order to progress this plan it is important that as many of the residents and businesses of the town have their say on how they would wish the town to grow and develop to meet the particular challenges of the next 20 years, and the more general ones beyond that.

**In support of this process Uppingham Town Council in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Plan Task Group will be holding a CONSULTATION DAY on SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY in the Town Hall. All residents and businesses are welcome to attend either the morning session 10 am-12 noon or the afternoon session 2.00 pm-4 pm** Both sessions will start with a brief explanatory presentation, before small table discussion sessions where all will have their chance to have their say. It would be helpful, but not essential, if you could let the clerk know of your intention to attend a session (contact as per the head of this newsletter). To give some structure to this consultation exercise, discussions will centre on a series of 7 themes, and questions within these themes. The questions are only a guide, and any thoughts are welcome!

**THEMES**

**1)THE LOCATION OF NEW DWELLINGS.** The county council are already in the process of consultation over the location of an envisaged 250 extra dwellings in the next 20 years in Uppingham in their "Site Allocation" document which has been on display in the town library and

recently debated at length by the Town Council. Whilst the Town Council has responded over each of the proposed development sites in the town, the general thrust of their response has been to reject large scale estate developments in favour of smaller developments dotted over the town. Where would YOU want to see housing development? What sort of dwellings?

**2) THE APPEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE SHOPPING AREA.** One of the great attractions of our town is the heritage of our high street and other shopping areas. How would you like to see this develop in the next 20 years? What about the Market Square? How should it be used? What are your views on shop frontages, advertising, security, and of course...parking!

**3) THE LOCATION OF INDUSTRY.** We are where we are as regards the location of industry, but where would YOU like to see future developments? What should they look like? How should road access be developed for current and future developments?

**4) THE TOWN'S INFRASTRUCTURE.** A vibrant town needs an infrastructure that helps it run smoothly and be able to sustain its way of life. Broadband is an essential requirement of both home and business life. Does Uppingham have enough capacity in this regard? Is our sewage system adequate? Do we need a North /South bypass? Uppingham is reasonably well served with bus transport (during the day!) but the majority of movements within and to and from the town are by car, or by foot or pedal. How well does the town cope with this pattern? Do we need more one-way streets? Do we need more car parks? If so where? How do pedestrians fare? Are they safe? Should parts of the town be a pedestrian precinct? Would an internal "hopper" bus service improve the quality of life? Is Uppingham a cycle friendly town? If not, how could we make it one?

**5) THE TOWN'S OPEN SPACES.** Uppingham has several "green spaces" within the town, which add to the character of the town, but cost money to maintain. What priority should we give to these sites? Could they be better used? Tod's Piece is possibly the jewel in Uppingham's crown, but are we using this space to best effect? How might we improve this area to the benefit of all?

**6) COMMUNITY SERVICES** Does Uppingham give enough access to the community services that we all need at some time? Is the current health provision adequate? In the right place? Do we have enough dentists? What about our schools? Are they appropriate for our community? Does the town NEED a library? Where is it? Does the Town Council serve the community's needs? Is the Town Hall fit for purpose? Are we happy with policing arrangements, including the new location of a Police Office at the Town Hall?

**7) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSITY.** In order for a small town such as Uppingham to survive it must avoid a dependency on a single industry or employer and look for futuristic new industries. The shopping area must avoid becoming a carbon copy of all high streets by offering a diverse selection of retail experiences. How does Uppingham stand up to this picture? What should be done to ensure that it can continue to develop rather than stagnate, and offer a unique retail offer to both residents and visitors alike?

**YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOME ON ALL THESE THEMES AND QUESTIONS, and indeed on any other aspect of the Town's development not mentioned above.**

**YOU CAN DO THIS BY:**

- **WRITING/E MAILING To the Clerk to Uppingham Town Council (address at the head of this newsletter)**
- **ATTENDING one of the two consultation sessions on SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4th and joining in the discussions. If necessary, just drop in, and you will be made most welcome.**

**OR ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE!**

**THIS IS A BIG OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TOWN. PLEASE GET INVOLVED AND LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS**

Before the plan can achieve formal status there will be a community vote to approve the content of this plan which will require a minimum of 50%+1 approval. We therefore need to get it right BEFORE this vote so PLEASE get involved NOW!

**SOME FURTHER BACKGROUND:** The Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan activity is one of a small number of "Path Finder" projects acting as a pilot for other parish and town councils and is funded by a £20000 grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government stewarded by Rutland County Council The grant was originally obtained by Uppingham First who have formed a task group chaired by County Councillor Edward Baines to progress the project in collaboration with other Town Organisations . **Full membership of the task group can be found on the Uppingham Town Council web Site.**