

UPPTOWN NEWS

UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

BUMPER SPRING EDITION 2014

WEBSITE: www.uppinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

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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

MEMBERS OF UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR OF UPPINGHAM

DAVID CASEWELL 01572 821566

DEPUTY MAYOR OF UPPINGHAM

DAVID AINSLIE 01572 821232

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LINDSAY COOPER 01572 822434

ALEC CROMBIE 01572 822280

CHRISTINE EDWARDS 01572 823532

SAM FINDLAY 01572 821239

PETER IND 01572 823570

JULIE LEWIS 01572 823754

ALAN PICKERSGILL 01572 822302

PETER REES 01572 822347

RICHARD REEVE 01572 823911

IAN SALT 01572 821048

ROBIN SCHLICH 01572 823543

RON SIMPSON 01572 823465

CORNELIUS VINCENT-ENRIGHT 01572 822800

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

CAROLINE CARTWRIGHT 01572 822233

MARC OXLEY 01572 822334

LUCY STEPHENSON 01572 823906

UPPINGHAM TOWN MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 7.30PM TOWN HALL

Come and have your say on the Town Council's proposals on:

- Parking
- the Market Place
- 2014-2015 Town Council priorities
- Town Hall.

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

All in Town Hall .All open to the public!

- April 16 Town Meeting 7.30 pm
- May 1 Town Council Meeting
- May 14 Town Council AGM

LOCALISM:

As mentioned in the Mayor's report, your Town Council is currently negotiating with Rutland County Council (RCC) over various issues including parking and the Market Place. It is also in the early stages of considering how the Town Hall might be developed.

PARKING:

Your Council is proposing to take control of the 3 car parks in the town and some aspects of street parking. In return for a fixed fee to the RCC the Town Council will gain the entire off street parking revenue; and would be able to impose its own parking fee structure, impact upon the culture and volume of enforcement and set fees for resident's parking.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MARKET PLACE:

Your Council is currently working on a twin track approach. It is taking legal advice as to the correct ownership of the Market Place following many local government re-organisations. In parallel it is seeking a licence agreement with RCC(should this be necessary) to gain control over events that take place in the Market Place.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



TOWN HALL

Your Council is currently bidding for central government funding to develop an architectural view and a business case for a possible re-development of the Town Hall so that it may extend its ability to serve as a community hub , housing community services and offering useful space to the town.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to my annual Mayor's report. This will also be my last report as I shall finish my term of office in May, and thus I should like to reflect on how your town council has moved forward to meet the new political landscape of localism offered by the 2011 Localism Act. A detailed review of activities against our agreed objectives and priorities will appear in our annual report.



The town council has had to face quite a decision; whether to embrace the opportunities of localism with all the associated challenges, or to continue pretty much as we were. The desire to acquire local control wherever appropriate meant that the concept of localism is now central to much of the council's activities. This has meant many lively, informed and impassioned debates fuelled by the wisdom, knowledge, and experience of my fellow councillors. I just wish more residents came to council meetings to witness these debates.

So what have we achieved?

First, let's deal with an obvious gain which has given me great pleasure. We have FINALLY completed the painting of the Tod's Piece railings! I wonder how many have noticed this terrific improvement to the look of the town.

Next I want to linger on two activities which have achieved a considerable amount through the collaboration of town organisations. The first of these is the town's new Heritage Trail, including yet more railing improvements, this time in the market place, and Hog Hill!. The Town Council Heritage Trail committee consisted of representatives of many organisations including the Uppingham Town Partnership and the Uppingham Local History Study Group, and have produced a heritage trail of which the whole town can be proud. The second is, of course, the town's Neighbourhood Plan, which at the time of writing will be going for External Assessment prior to a town referendum. Cllr. Ron Simpson is to be congratulated on successfully steering this project. This is a ground breaking exercise in localism, which, if all goes well,

will give Uppingham a powerful say as to the way the town develops. Again it is the product of many town organisations apart from the Town Council including residents' associations, Uppingham First, Uppingham Town Partnership, and Business forums. Unity is strength!

We have also made progress on other aspects of the localism agenda. If you ask people in the town what aspects of town organisation they would wish to improve, car parking comes high up the list. Whilst we have not, at the time of writing, completed negotiations, the Town Council is working with RCC towards taking control of the charging policy, running and enforcement of most parking within the town. Similarly we are working towards developing a fresh agreement with RCC to take local control of events in the Market Place.

Public buildings always need review, and whilst working on the Neighbourhood Plan, it became obvious that high quality rooms for public meetings, displays and social activities are a high priority for the town. To this end the council has used some central government funding to assess how to move forward from a variety of options, and following this we are now bidding for further central funding to gain professional advice as to how we might re develop the town hall to offer greater facilities and flexibility. Nothing is fixed, but we need to look into the future to see how we can meet the needs of the town in the long term.

None of the above could be achieved without the active support of all the Town Councillors. We do not always agree, but generally manage to come to amicable outcomes which reflect the combined wisdom of my fellow councillors. I need to mention the work of the council's sub committees which do a large amount of work behind the scenes. The Amenities and Outdoor Committee, chaired by Cllr Julie Lewis, has achieved a great deal to improve the quality of our open spaces, Tod's Piece and our Cemeteries. They are currently actively working to provide much needed toilet facilities on Tod's Piece. The Planning Committee, chaired by Cllr Dick Reeve, has met regularly to comment upon local plans, and will welcome the support and framework of the Neighbourhood Plan when, hopefully, finally locally approved. The Finance & General Purpose Committee, chaired by Cllr Dave Ainslie, has worked hard to manage the finances of the Town Council, and to recommend precept rates to full council which serve both the interest of community and the Council. The Staffing Committee, chaired by Cllr Sam Findlay, has a responsibility for the wellbeing of the council's staff and has met as and when necessary

I must acknowledge the unstinting work of the Deputy Mayor Cllr Dave Ainslie, who has both wholeheartedly supported both the council and myself, and has also served

to curb any rash endeavours I might have undertaken; and of course, that of all my fellow town councillors, without whose support the job of Mayor would be impossible.



Finally, last but not least, I need to publically acknowledge, the enormous support given to the work of the Town Council by Susan Awcock the Town Clerk. Her knowledge

of all things legal to do with her role is prodigious, and it is a testament to her energy and efficiency that Uppingham Town Council is the only accredited "Quality Council" in Rutland. Thank you Susan.



As I said, I am near to the end of my time as Mayor. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve the town. I wish my successor the best of times.

David Casewell

PRIORITIES:

In November 2012 your Town Council approved a set of strategic aims and objectives to guide its activities. The strategic aims were

1. To have housing and new build dwellings in the quantities and quality to meet our needs
2. To have a vibrant Town centre and High Street. The Market Place to retain its character whilst ensuring it is a community asset
3. To support economic development and sustainability for the town
4. To further develop the physical and social infrastructure of the town
5. To reflect the wishes of the people of Uppingham in respect of the use of open spaces especially Tod's Piece.
6. To ensure the adequacy of the capacity of the Town council to cope with current and future demands.

Actions against these aims and related objectives are reported in the Council's Annual report available on line, from the Town Clerk and at the Town Meeting .
WHAT SHOULD THE AIMS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNCIL BE 2014-2015?

You can let us know your views on all the above at the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 16, or prior to that event, by email or letter to the Town Clerk.
Help us to help you!

The Uppingham Town Partnership's Antique Brocante



Sunday May 4th 2014

10.00am-5.00pm

**30 Antique Dealers selling
Antiques and Collectables in
the heart of Uppingham**

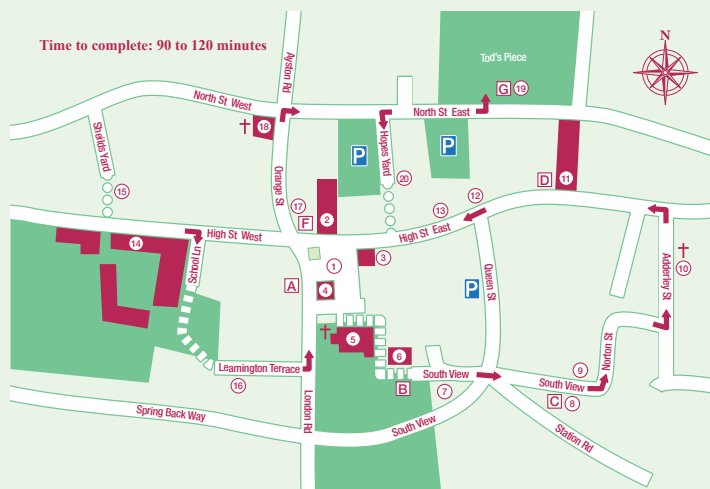
**To be held on the Mercers Yard Car Park and
on Crown Yard in collaboration with The
Rutland Antiques Centre
For more details phone 01572-822334**

YOUR INVITATION GRAND OPENING

UPPINGHAM HERITAGE TRAIL

MAY 4TH
NOON - 4PM
UPPINGHAM MARKET SQ.

GUIDED TOURS
LIVE MUSIC
LOCAL FOODS
BEER TASTING



We will also have a celebrity speech along with words from Uppingham's Mayor and Rutland's High Sheriff, a Viking display, Morris Dancing and Rutland Radio's Rob Persani hosting.

This is an opportunity to see some of Uppingham's most beautiful heritage spots with the chance to ask questions, answered by local historians and experts. We welcome all Rutland locals and visitors to our beautiful county, to this opening event.

50% OFF

Food from the Vaults*
for all tour walkers on the day
Vouchers given by tour guides
*only applies to food sold in the market square



We look forward
to seeing you all!

FREE FOR ALL THE FAMILY



For more information about the grand opening go to

www.uppinghamheritagetrail.org.uk