**Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group**

**Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on 22nd October 2020 at 7.30pm DRAFT**

**Present:** Chris Merricks, Dave Ainslie, Sharon Aumais, Edward Baines, Christine Edwards, Kath Gilbert, Dick Reeve, Pat Taylor, Mark Shaw, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, Howard Thompson, Janet Thompson

Also present was Peter Leppard (Town Clerk’s office).

1. **Apologies for absence:** these were received from Andrew Jenkins, Steve Rozak, Miranda Jones, Tony Streeter, Stephen Taylor and Geoff Thompson.
2. **Declarations of interest:** There were none.
3. **Chair’s opening statement:** Chris Merricks commented on the worthwhile progress since the last meeting, and thanked those involved in the various subgroups and in obtaining the Locality grant.
4. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020:** It was resolved unanimously to confirm these as a correct record.
5. **Public speaking:** No members of the public were present.
6. **Neighbourhood Planning Champion’s update:** Ron Simpson spoke about current national discussions about how Neighbourhood Planning (especially the ability for local communities to decide site allocations) might fit within the government’s proposed new planning regime. He also mentioned the importance of designing wisely the proposed algorithm for deciding new-build housing numbers.
7. **Locality Grant:** It was noted that a £10,000 grant had now been awarded through Locality towards our Plan update (which must be spent by 31 March, or else it must be returned).

It was resolved to recommend to full Council that elements 1, 2, 3 and 4c of the quotation (dated 1st October) for consultancy support from design:midlands now be accepted, subject to desired minor variations of scope wording to be agreed with design:midlands at a meeting with this Advisory Group once full Council authority is received. **Action: DB** (Council agenda) **and PL** (meeting with consultant)

1. **To receive updates from sub-groups:**
2. **Housing:** David Ainslie spoke about (a) current progress towards publishing the Call for Sites and (b) possible ways forward re avoiding new housing-build in a potential protected corridor for a possible future bypass. It was resolved to seek the opinion of the design:midlands consultant (see minute 7 above) re how best to address the latter. Chris Merricks asked that information re RCC’s Strategic Transport Assessment in 2010 be circulated to the Advisory Group.
3. **Transport:** Howard Thompson summarised the sub-group’s written update, commenting specifically on disabled-access and cycle-track issues.
4. **Amenities:** Janet Thompson summarised the sub-group’s written update. She also proposed, and the Group agreed, that the Transport sub-group and Amenities sub-group be merged going forward.
5. **Environment:** Miranda Jones will be reminded to circulate an update from this sub-group.
6. **Economy:** Ron Simpson summarised the sub-group’s written update.
7. **Sites/Zones:** It was agreed that publishing the Call for Sites is now urgent. **Action: DB**
8. **Timeline/dependencies:** It was agreed that the previously-shared timeline document is satisfactory.
9. **Date of next meeting:** This was agreed to be as soon as possible after full Council’s 4 November meeting, on a date to suit design:midlands, by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.