

## RECOMMENDATION TO UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL RE. TOWN PAVEMENTS.

FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION BY AMENITIES COMMITTEE.

**Background:** The pavements of the town are mostly of heritage style small slabs punctuated regularly at right angles by iron drains associated with guttering down pipes. The heritage 'look' of the town has recently been enhanced with the replacement of street- lights with Heritage Lighting. Cllrs Rees and Casewell have carried out a detailed survey in 2020 of the Town Centre pavements, the notes of which form a background paper to this recommendation. There have been several instances of pedestrian stumbling/falling in the current year (including that of Cllr Casewell!!)

The survey revealed that there is a strong case for a complete renewal of the Town Centre pavements. Some areas are priority:

- High Street East (South)
- Market Place surrounding pavement
- Orange Street
- Baines Corner

The main damage noted was sunken slabs, cracked slabs, missing slabs infilled with tarmac, and severely damaged iron 'rain-ways'. There are also some specific areas of damage with more localized causes.

**The causes of damage to the paving,** over and above general wear, are

- Vehicle parking on/driving over pavements, particularly by heavy delivery vans and lorries. Where this is difficult/impossible the associated paving slabs are generally in good condition: e.g. High Street West: South Side (raised kerbing) High Street East: -North Side (parking)
- Contractors/RCC repairs to paving after installing street furniture, typically using concrete/tarmac rather than cutting slabs

### **Recommendation to Council:**

1)UTC commence negotiations with RCC for a 'make over' of all Uppingham Town centre pavements with a prioritized focus upon

- High Street East (both North & South for a balanced aesthetic, but a priority for the South Side if necessary)
- Orange Street, and paving around Dairy Corner ...possibly extending to Falcon to avoid 'pinch parking' (see 2 re raised kerbing)
- Market Place surrounding pavements
- Baines Corner

This would require either new slabs or relaying of existing slabs or, most likely, a combination of the two. There is

2) Consideration be given to raised kerbing as in High Street West to prevent damage by vehicle parking. These raised kerbs could be at intervals to allow wheelchair/buggy access but close enough to prevent vehicles accessing pavement, giving a 'castellated' appearance

3) Consideration be given to methodology re repair of iron 'rain-ways'. E.g.s. Existing in the town are

- Open cleanable iron channels (as outside Don Paddy's)
- Concrete runs (as on High Street West -North Side)
- Other .... e.g. under pavement

4) That council consider the use of CIL monies as a contribution towards the cost of such works

5) That this proposal be shared with Uppingham County Councilors to garner their support re RCC funding. Also shared with NPAG to gain their views/support.

6) That should this recommendation find favour, extensive consultations take place with residents/businesses who might be possibly affected with works, with particular focus on the issue of shop deliveries. A more general consultation (survey monkey?) be undertaken with residents to judge views as to expenditure of a considerable proportion of CIL monies. This proposal should also be viewed in the context of other current plans to improve Market Place toilets, and possible cleaning of the Victoria monument in the Market Place.

7) The timing of such works is important, with the clear need to carry out such works in the winter months when visitor footfall is lowest. Early spring would be ideal avoiding clashes with Fat stock Show, Xmas in Uppingham, and New Years- eve/day.

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