

PARISH OF UPPINGHAM
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022

The Annual Town Meeting was held in the Town Hall at 7pm on 6th April 2022 with Cllr Stephen Rozak, Town Mayor, in the chair. Town Cllrs David Ainslie, David Casewell, Liz Clarke, Lindsay Cooper, Sam Findlay, Tom Johnson, Charlie Pallett, Dick Reeve, Mark Shaw and Ron Simpson were present, also 15 other electors, 2 representatives from Orms (Architects), 1 representative from Uppingham School, and the Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews. Sharon Coe, Town Clerk, was also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Cllr Christine Edwards.

The Mayor **welcomed** everyone to the meeting and reflected it was the first time in two years that we were able to hold this meeting face to face. He also welcomed Mike Fish who was present as a newly elected Town Councillor.

The **minutes** of the Annual Town Meeting of 29th April 2021 were approved as a correct record.

The mayor referred to the recent **Uppingham Town Newsletter** which formed, in part, his annual report, as well as other important events in the life of the Town. This had been delivered by Councillors to all houses in the Town. He asked for questions on his report. A member of the public enquired about the proposal to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in the Town on the allotment land at Tod's Piece and queried if this was the right place. The mayor explained that no decision had been made, the Town Council were investigating possibilities and there would be consultation and due process to be followed prior to any decision. No further questions were forthcoming.

A presentation was then delivered by Orms about the proposals for the Cricket Pavilion which included:

- A brief history
- How it is now and the aspirations of what could be achieved.

The pavilion had been a feature of Uppingham since 1864, famous names from the Town included Percy Chapman and Jonathan Agnew. It was designed by Sir Walter John Tapper and originally had a fine façade with a timber veranda and a scorer's box, sadly long gone. The interior club room is still intact, but the changing rooms need modernisation. The aspirations are to sensitively extend the pavilion, preserving and reinstating the balcony and terrace and to create an underground changing facility.

English Heritage had noted that the two facades of the building were equally important. It was the aim to restore the building to be an asset to Uppingham.

Questions posed:

Was there a planning application? – Not yet submitted, this would be later this year.

What would be the energy requirements and had solar energy been considered? - It was not envisaged that the energy requirements would be any more than the present usage. As a listed building, solar panels and photovoltaics could not be used.

Would it be exclusively for the school, or would there be any public access? - It would be for the school.

How long would the work take if planning approval was given? - Approximately a year.

Would there be any disabled access to the upper balcony/scorer's box? – Unfortunately, no.

There being no more questions, the mayor thanked Orms for their presentation and they left at 7.30pm.

The Mayor then welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner to address the meeting.

Mr Matthews gave a historical overview of the original Rutland Constabulary being formed in 1840, starting with one constable. By the 1950's, Rutland had increased its police force to 52 officers! Various

amalgamations then followed until Rutland was merged with Leicester in 1967. It is now known as Leicestershire Police and is part of the Leicester/ Leicestershire and Rutland family. Mr Matthews recounted several witty anecdotes explaining the more amusing adventures he had witnessed whilst learning his role. Mr Matthews confirmed that since his election he was committed to getting publicly accessible police bases in Rutland. Many were hidden away and people were not aware of the police presence, even though in reality they were around in our communities. He reported that he is now seeing success in reassessing the force's attitude and culture towards Rutland. His aims were to provide rooms/spaces that were functional for the officers to use, front desks that were open, and the fact that no one should have to drive for ½ hr to see the Police. He spoke about the current facility in the Town Hall and that, if Council agreed, the Police would move to the front of the building (current Members' Room) making them more accessible, front facing and visible to the public. Crime in Uppingham mainly consisted of ASB and speeding and the issue of visibility. Mr Matthew was thanked for his overview and asked the floor for questions.

Questions posed:

If there was to be a front desk would this be point of delivery and maybe shared services? - This is something that could be looked into, but security would be an issue depending on location. Volunteers could be used to staff the desk. If a front desk was placed in a different location, the aim would be to have this always tied to a police station in case of more complex queries.

Were there any plans to increase CCTV or the quality of the images? - The Police used CCTV to gather evidence and information, it was a useful tool and a powerful deterrent to discourage illegal activity. There were various sources of funding available from local Councils to Police bodies.

Were there any plans for a joint blue light service? - This had been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. All options were open.

There being no further questions, Mr Matthews was thanked for his time and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.