

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council (extraordinary) Full Council meeting,
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present, Cllrs Liz Clarke, David Ainslie, Lindsay Cooper, Pat Dalby, Christine Edwards, Sam Findlay, Mike Fish, Barry Hobbs, Godfrey Jennings, Tom Johnson, Peter Rees, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson. Ray Sutton.

The Town Clerk Sharon Coe, Cynthia Ondeng Administration Assistant.

5 members of the public and RC Cllr Christine Wise

487/23 Mayor's opening remarks

The Mayor (Cllr Clarke) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that tonight's aim was for UTC to scrutinise the Reg 16 documents to enable these to be sent formally to Rutland County Council.

488/23 To receive apologies for absence.

It was proposed by Cllr Ainslie and seconded by Cllr Shaw that the apology from Cllr Colborne was accepted. **Resolved unanimously.**

**489/23 Declarations of members' interests and applications for dispensations
Cllr Shaw – dispensation for council term – Uppingham First, Uppingham Homes CLT and Beeches Resident Association.**

490/23 An opportunity for the public to speak, in accordance with Standing Orders 2.3.4 – 2.3.9
Q. A question was raised about the processes of the Neighbourhood plan consultation as the response was fairly minimal. Would the result be binding if the referendum followed the same pattern of responses? A. UTC have strived to make the consultations accessible to all (posting through every door) but had no control over the voting of residents. If the plan is approved to go forward to RCC then it would be published on RCC's website. If it was again a low turnout the result would stand.

A statement was made by a member of the public urging approval of the documents to go forward to the next steps in the statutory process. The hard work determination and commitment of NPAG were explained, and the fact that by approving the NP we were more in control of Uppingham's destiny than leaving it to the aspirations of the Local Plan. We were in a unique position to drive the Local Plan.

491/23 To consider the Submission version of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan with the associated consultation statements, and Basic conditions statement.

The Mayor outlined that the object of the debate to be held was in order that UTC are content to send the aforementioned documents to RCC.

The submission version was thoroughly debated, councillors had the copy at the last meeting two weeks previous and had been encouraged to mark their copies with any queries they wanted to raise.

Cllr Ainslie was invited to clarify the next stages of the process, so everyone was clear. The documents would go to RCC under Regulation 16, they will publish the document, the public will have a further six-week period to make representations to RCC. At the end of the period RCC will inform UTC of any comments received. UTC will then ask for the

document to go to the external examiner and there is another period of consultation. If everything is in order and the planning inspector considers that the plan meets all statutory obligations, it will then go to referendum. The whole town is then able to vote on the plan, it is a simple Yes or No vote. This is envisaged as January 2024. This is a democratic process; a question was raised about publication. The Clerk will ask RCC if some printed copies could be available maybe held at the Town Hall and the Library. This will be placed on the next agenda of council.

Discussions took place around the following.

The Localism Act and how much control did UTC actually have? The legislation had been driven by Local Parishes and afforded this level of local government a status rather than being a statutory consultee. UTC get the chance through timing to influence the emerging LP.

Points raised:

- Nondomestic rate payers would get a vote if it went to referendum.
- Infrastructure
- Affordability only 30% - we are required to be in general conformity with the LP.
- Social renting – Rutland has no council houses.
- Housing numbers. – The consultation statements explain the consultation behind these figures. There had been meetings and booklets produced.

The referendum is just a yes/no vote you can't pick and choose the bits individuals like. The numbers had been reduced and phasing had been implemented. We needed to look at the documents as a whole, the housing will be phased over the next 20 years.

Cllr Ainslie circulated maps for councillors as this had been an area of concern and explained that professional printing would make these clearer.

Where was the compelling evidence for the numbers and who are these homes for? Evidence was produced by our consultant in one of the background evidence papers which had been considered by NPAG. The homes are based on the census data and housing needs survey (background evidence papers). The policy thrust in the LP is to attract younger families and the balance and character of each site. This stage is to decide where the housing might go not the details, there may be changes with the political change at RCC.

Cllr Jennings wished to add the following Health Provision and Disability Access to the local priority needs.

Proposed Cllr Jennings, seconded Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously.**

- Would we want to push developers to have an appropriate Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating? These are planning matters not policy matters. We expect the new LP to fully endorse environmental aspects. UTC are keen to promote these areas.
- A discussion was held around UHA2 and previous disappointments.
- Is the roundabout committed on the Leicester Road - Yes, part of the S106 agreements.

- Can developers ignore the policies – The NP will give some protection, but it is not absolute. The Np will form part of the planning documents once its made and is better to have it, then not.
- Who is keeping a watch on developers? There was a gap between Policy Control and Development Control in the past at Rutland County Council (RCC) and a new post has been created at RCC to help this area and the Town Council is hopeful of better things. A suggestion was that we set up a committee to monitor how the NP is being administered at RCC. A careful eye would be kept on all planning applications coming through Uppingham by UTC. This had been alluded to in the draft NP.

The Mayor asked if everyone had asked all the questions they had and thanked all members for their contributions and time and diligence given to the subject.

492/23

To agree that the Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation statements and Basic Condition statements be formally submitted to Rutland County Council as the Local Planning Authority in accordance with Regulation 16 for Neighbourhood Plans.

The Neighbourhood Plan (as amended 21st June 2023), Consultation statements and Basic Condition statements be formally submitted to Rutland County Council as the Local Planning Authority in accordance with Regulation 16 for Neighbourhood Plans.
Formally Proposed as above by Cllr Ainslie, Seconded Cllr Simpson **(10 for 4 abs)**.

The meeting finished at 7.54 pm.

