



Uppingham Town Council

UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2024

Message from your Mayor, Cllr David Ainslie



Welcome to this latest edition of the Uppingham Town Council Newsletter. As we are now in the Season of Goodwill to all I wanted to thank all my fellow Town Councillors for the hard work that they do on your behalf. Please remember that all the councillors are unpaid volunteers and take on their duties out of a love for the town of Uppingham. We all accept that at times we will make decisions that won't please everyone and that it is only right and proper that we are subject to scrutiny by the people that we serve. This does not, however, mean that it is acceptable for critics to resort to personal attacks on councillors or staff and in my opinion it is very important that unsubstantiated accusations and innuendoes coming from a small number of activists need to be addressed with facts.

In June of this year seven of our fifteen councillors chose to leave their posts triggering formal elections for those seven vacancies. Despite what you may have read on the Social Media Platform Nextdoor, no-one has been co-opted onto the council but we have managed to fill four of the posts by un-contested elections (this means that not enough candidates came forward to force a public vote). Three vacancies remain and these will continue to be advertised until they are all eventually filled. If you wish to join us in serving the community please feel free to contact our Town Clerk Adam Lowe for more information about what is involved.

This brings me to the subject of our Town Clerk and we were delighted to welcome Adam to the team following the conclusion of the recruitment process in August. Adam brings some much valued experience of local government and we are already seeing the benefits of this as we continue to deliver the things that matter such as new Christmas Lights for the High Street, repaired fences, additional bins, replacement benches, much needed groundworks on the allotments and so on (more of which is highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter).

Finally I wanted to bring you up to date with our Neighbourhood Plan. As you will know our refreshed Neighbourhood Plan was sent for Independent Examination as part of the normal process. The Examiner held a public hearing in April and since that time we have been working with him and Rutland County Council to address the issues that he raised. Things have been complicated and delayed by a combination of factors including the need to change our Planning Professional Advisor (because of health matters) and the uncertainty around housing numbers following the change of the National Government. We believe that we are now back on track and hope to be able to move to the next stage of the process early in the New Year, with a referendum in the first half of 2025.

Wishing you and your families a very peaceful and joyful Christmas.

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Uppingham Sparkles with Brand-New Christmas Lights!

This festive season, Uppingham's town centre has been transformed into a magical winter wonderland, thanks to the installation of stunning new Christmas lights! These much-anticipated decorations, fully funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), are a long-overdue replacement for the town's aging illuminations, bringing a fresh sparkle and undeniable charm to our streets.

The new lights represent more than just a seasonal upgrade—they symbolize a renewed sense of community pride and the dedication to making Uppingham a welcoming and vibrant place for all. With their dazzling glow, they create the perfect backdrop for holiday shopping, family outings, and festive gatherings, making our town the ideal destination to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

This exciting project highlights the positive impact of strategic investment in our local community, and we extend our gratitude to everyone who played a part in making it a reality.

We invite you to stroll through the heart of Uppingham, soak in the festive atmosphere, and experience the magic of the season under the enchanting glow of our new Christmas lights. Let's celebrate this beautiful transformation together and make this holiday season one to remember!



Please note: This image is for illustrative purposes only

Dates for your Diary - 2024 / 25

Full Council Meetings:

Wednesday 4th December
2024

Wednesday 8th January
2025

Wednesday 5th February
2025

Wednesday 5th March
2025

Wednesday 2nd March
2025

Committee Meeting

E, I & A Committee
11th December 2025

F & G P Meeting
16th January 2025

F & G P Meeting
20th February 2025

Please check our website for more dates and information

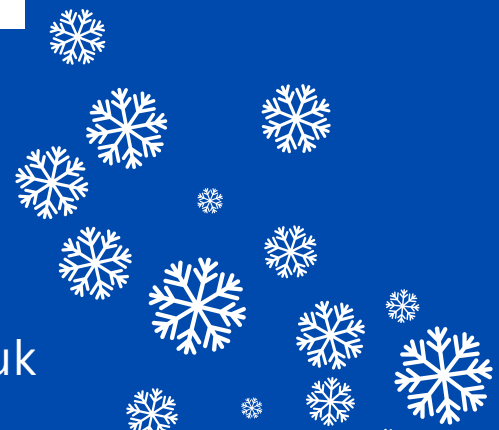


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Council Update

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan

Update on the Refreshed Plan and Moving Forward

Our consultant Colin Wilkinson of Planit - X has been working hard on our behalf together with the Town Council on providing information to the Examiner following the queries he has regarding our refreshed Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan. This information is virtually complete and is expected to be ready early December 2024. Rutland County Council then intends to hold another six weeks of consultation on our proposed amendments before submitting them to the Examiner.

The Town Council is very optimistic that the Examiner will find the further information acceptable as we have also been working closely with Rutland County Council to ensure all parties agree on the proposals. Assuming the Examiner then finds our Modifications to the refreshed plan acceptable the next stage will be to hold a Referendum for the electorate. We estimate that the process of arranging the Referendum taking Christmas into account will result in a poll taking place in April/May 2025, the actual date and the poll will be arranged by Rutland County Council.

The Town Council obviously hope the electorate will agree with the proposals and that the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan comes into force as part of the development plan alongside the Rutland Local Plan. However, the work will not stop once the refreshed plan has gone to Referendum. We are aware the new Labour Government are bringing forward proposals to increase the number of dwellings to be constructed in the Country. Our present understanding is that our allocation of dwellings is likely to be increased by 114%. To put this into context our current refreshed plan allows for 314 dwellings to be constructed, so, possibly under the new legislation we would have to accommodate circa 672 dwellings. With large development of this magnitude it is imperative that we have the ability to determine where this development takes place and what the Town needs to accommodate its impact.

The Town Council has therefore agreed that a new approach is needed to carry out the next refresh of the Neighbourhood Plan and has set up a Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee. This committee will be chaired by the Town Council chair of the Planning Committee and will further comprise the Mayor, five other Town Councillors and representatives from organisations across the town which include Tod's Piece Allotment Society, Rutland Morris/CAMRA, Uppingham in Bloom, Leighfield Primary School, Uppingham Community College, Uppingham School, Uppingham Rotary Club, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum, Uppingham First, Uppingham Surgery, Limes Firs & Spurs Residents Association, The Elms Residents Association, Beeches Residents Association. It is anticipated that the Sub Committee will have its inaugural meeting in January 2025. Taking into account the current refresh will have taken nearly eight years, work needs to commence on the next stage as soon as possible!

Cllr Barry Hobbs

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan



Council Update

Finance Committee

I have been a councillor since June 2023 and was honoured to be elected as Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee just over a year later. Prior to retirement I had a forty year career in Commercial and Corporate Banking.

The role of the Chair, ably supported by my five fellow committee members, is to oversee Uppingham Town Council's finances. We follow The National Association of Local Councils model financial regulations. It requires a delicate balance of fiscal responsibility, strategic planning, team work, and a deep commitment to delivering for our community. At our Finance Committee meetings I actively promote debate amongst all members in order to facilitate the making of clear resolutions in the best interests of Uppingham residents and visitors to our great town.

We work closely with our new Town Clerk Adam. As Uppingham's Responsible Financial Officer he and his assistant Cynthia implement financial policy, strategy, and operations across the Council's services by working with Councillors, staff, contractors and external bodies. The consistent economic challenges faced by local councils require strong stewardship of limited resources to extract the best value for money on behalf of all Uppingham's residents and visitors.

Council responsibilities include essential jobs like the upkeep of public spaces to the funding of community-driven projects and addressing emerging local priorities alongside day to day business. Ensuring a balanced budget while meeting these many and varied demands is complex. With careful planning and a clear vision, the Chair of Finance and the committee are tasked with guiding the council through these complexities.

A significant area of focus is identifying sustainable ways to fund key services while maintaining high levels of transparency and accountability. In these uncertain times, with inflationary pressures and rising service costs, prudent financial management is more important than ever. The council's dedication to upholding a robust financial framework will ensure that every pound spent is maximised for the benefit of Uppingham's residents.

The road ahead will not be without its challenges. The council must continue to navigate a complex maze of limited public funding, income generating services, specialised grant opportunities and fluctuating costs. As Chair of Finance, working in close collaboration with the Town Clerk, fellow councillors and the community, I aim to lead efforts to tackle these issues head-on. My desire is not only to maintain but also to enhance the town's services, ensuring Uppingham remains a vibrant and thriving place to live for future generations.

Cllr Trevor Colbourne



Community Update

Uppingham Youth Space: Nurturing our teenagers

Uppingham Youth Space stands as a cornerstone of community support for our town's young people, offering a dynamic and inclusive environment where creativity, collaboration, and personal growth thrive. Now well into its third year, Youth Space has a small group of volunteers, over 30 regular members aged 11 to 16, meeting in the Town Hall throughout the year, and a lunchtime group at Uppingham Community College following the success of the after-school group.

From engaging workshops including cooking, art, drama and eco crafts, sports such as table-tennis and football (in the summer), to board games and the much-loved pizza and crisps, social events and discussion sessions, Youth Space is designed to inspire and encourage the young people of our community. And it's all free!

More than just a venue, it's a safe place for young people to connect, explore their potential, and feel valued. The initiative wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support of local residents, businesses, and volunteers, whose contributions ensure the Youth Space continues to flourish. Outings have been possible with the Hopper Bus too. We have been blessed with a significant Community Lottery Fund and a grant from the Co-op which have allowed two paid youth leaders to be involved for a few hours a week.

We have great ambition to allow kids who live outside Uppingham and rely on school buses for transport to be able to come, but that takes a lot of organising! Meanwhile, Uppingham Youth Space is shaping confident, community-minded young individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world. For those who wish to learn more or support this vital initiative, we warmly welcome your involvement.

For further details, please complete the enquiry form on the website

Together, we can continue to build a brighter future for Uppingham's youth.

Councillor Liz Clarke & Alice Johnson, Youth Leader



Council Update



Honouring Herbert Knight: Restored Sundial Memorial

Herbert Knight, known for his many contributions to Uppingham, is remembered through a restored sundial at Tod's Piece. Originally installed by townspeople after his death in 2014, the sundial was vandalised but has now been replaced, thanks to his sons Edwin and Stephen and support from a mystery sponsor.

The new sundial, unveiled on October 18, features a plaque reading: "Herbert Henry Knight 30/01/31 - 14/07/2014 Who Gave So Much To This Town." It stands alongside a memorial bench in honour of Herbert and his wife, Frances. This tribute celebrates Herbert's dedication to Uppingham, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire.

Revitalising Tod's Piece Allotments

Uppingham's Tod's Piece Allotments are receiving a fresh lease of life, thanks to a collaborative community effort. Mayor Cllr Dave Ainslie, Deputy Mayor Mark Shaw, Bob Fisher, and members of the Tod's Piece Allotment Society recently joined forces to clear several abandoned plots. Their hard work has transformed neglected spaces into vibrant, ready-to-use allotments for local residents.

This initiative underscores the Council's dedication to enhancing community resources and encouraging sustainable, locally grown produce. By revitalising these allotments, the project not only supports green living but also strengthens the bonds within Uppingham's community.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or eager to start your first plot, the rejuvenated allotments at Tod's Piece offer an exciting opportunity to grow, connect, and contribute to Uppingham's shared spaces.

For information on how to apply for an allotment, please contact Uppingham Town Council.



Connecting with Uppingham Town Council

Uppingham Town Council is here to support the community and welcomes inquiries from residents and visitors. Whether you need assistance, have a question, or want to learn more about our initiatives, you can reach us via email, phone, or by visiting the Town Hall during office hours. For regular updates, meeting details, and town news, visit our website. Your input is always valued as we work together to enhance life in Uppingham!

Town Hall Update

Did you know?

We offer excellent facilities for birthday parties for children and adults alike.

The Town Hall is very busy with various community groups, with a choir, Pilates, ballet, history lectures, aerobics, yoga and painting classes. The Town Hall is also a focal point for the Community fridge who offer a Souper Space every Friday for local residents who can socialise and catch up.

The Council manages the allotments, Market Place stalls on a Friday, the Cemeteries, and open green spaces.

Some of the essential work undertaken at Uppingham Town Council assets have included a new fence at the London Road Cemetery, a number of allotments cleared which was work undertaken by the Deputy Chairman.

There are continuous plans to improve the facilities at the Town Hall making an open and accessible facility for all users, and there are spaces and times for more classes or events, please contact us



Notable Event - May 2025



More information to follow

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Meet Our Staff



Adam, our new Town Clerk has adopted a very open-door policy and welcomes members of the community who need help addressing issues in the Town, recently this included having a lasting memorial of a sun dial to a local resident now passed installed on Tod's Piece. The Clerk comes to the Council with 14 years' experience working with local Councils having been a County Councillor himself for a number of years. He has a work history that spans over 40 years having worked with the Royal Air Force, served as Territorial or Reservist Soldier with the Royal Anglian regiment, Special Police Constable with Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Police and more recently served as a Probation Service Officer in Leicester before settling into the role at Uppingham serving his adopted community.

Cynthia joined Uppingham Town Council in September 2022, bringing a wealth of expertise in supporting the Town Clerk across a range of administrative and governance functions. Most recently, she successfully obtained the ILCA qualification and is now preparing to undertake the more advanced CiLCA certification which is recognised as the industry standard for professionals in local government.

Prior to her appointment at the Town Council, Cynthia established a successful career in the fields of Manufacturing, IT, and Finance. She has held positions with prominent organisations such as Unilever, Virgin Media and Capita, where she developed and refined her skills in business operations, management and strategic decision-making.

Cynthia is dedicated to her professional development and continues to enhance her knowledge in local government administration with the aim of delivering the highest standards of service to the community of Uppingham.



Merry Christmas from Uppingham Town Council

The councillors and staff of Uppingham Town Council extend their warmest Christmas wishes to everyone in our community. As the festive season fills our homes with joy and togetherness, we reflect on the year gone by and look forward to the opportunities the New Year will bring.

May this holiday season bring peace, happiness, and cherished moments with your loved ones.

Here's to a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead for all in Uppingham.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 🎄🌟