

Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group.
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022.

Present: Ron Simpson (in the chair), Christine Edwards, David Casewell, Nick Townsend, Margaret Simpson, Kath Gilbert, Andrew Mankowski, Stephen Taylor, Mark Shaw, Edward Baines, David Ainslie, Liz Clarke.

Also In attendance Sharon Coe, Town Clerk, and Cynthia Ondeng, Administration Assistant.

1. **Welcome**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Received from Chris Merricks, Jim Day, Howard Thompson, Janet Thompson, Tony Streeter.
These were accepted.
3. **Declarations of interest.**
These would be declared if an item of interest on the agenda became apparent.
4. **An opportunity for members of the public to speak (limited to 15 minutes total)**
No members of the public were present
5. **To receive the minutes 24th August 2022**
The minutes were received as a true copy. Proposed Mark Shaw, seconded Christine Edwards. **Resolved unanimously**
6. **To consider the updated maps and environmental policy for inclusion into the Regulation 14 document.**

Cllr Simpson (chair) acknowledged the huge amount of work that had gone into the maps and Cllr Ainslie wished to place on record the incredible amount of work and help given by Xell at Uppingham school who had produced such great documents for us. Our consultant had also drafted the requested strategic environmental policy which was included in the “hot off the press” draft plan which members of the advisory group had received this evening.

Cllr Simpson outlined the plans for this discussion item. The aim was to review the maps and policy tonight with changes if required. There was a Town Council meeting tomorrow evening (Wednesday) and councillors would receive the minutes from this meeting, and any changes required. The Town Council would then have a period of three weeks until 7th December (next scheduled meeting) to consider the documents before a final sign off.

Members of the advisory group were asked for comments. There was a wide-ranging discussion, small changes within areas were clarified and would be amended for clarification.

Salient points:

- a) Potential bypass route was for illustrative purposes.
- b) Significant green spaces were shown.
- c) Minor wording changes.
- d) Dates would need to be agreed and publicised for public consultation.

A proposition was made that we recommend that this draft Regulation 14 document to the Town Council for review subject to the small changes suggested. Proposed by Nick Townsend, seconded by Mark Shaw. **Resolved unanimously.**

To receive an update on the meeting held with AECOM.

7. A meeting had been held with AECOM to instigate the production of the SEA and possible HRA. AECOM understood our tight time scales and been really helpful in trying to tie together the documents needed to make this happen. Both the SEA and the HRA would sit alongside the draft plan as this progressed. A further meeting was arranged for Thursday 10th November to update AECOM on the changes.

To receive the strategic environmental scoping report from AECOM.

8. All members of the advisory group had received a digital copy of the SEA and Cllr Simpson overviewed the process. The scoping report essentially is used as an interrogation document of our DNP. It was noted that there are a few places which needed additional clarity but overall, it was considered to be a good document. Cllr Simpson urged members to let the Clerk know should there be any gaping omissions that could be fed back to AECOM. Within the meeting on the 10th, we would ask AECOM if they considered there were any showstoppers in our DNP. Nick Townsend picked up that there may be an issue over the agricultural and landscape value. It was agreed this would be put to AECOM. It was felt important to note at this time that this was not a new plan but a refreshing of the existing plan. The Clerk had received that morning the HRA which was very positive and presented no problems for the neighbourhood plan. It would now form part of the NP evidence base.

Summary of next steps including the critical path.

9. As previously mentioned, the Clerk would facilitate the changes requested before presenting the document to the Town Council at the meeting on 9th November. We were still on target to get to sign off this reg 14 version of the plan in November or early December. The community groups and also Town Council needed to feed back to the Clerk with the proposed dates for consultation. It was proposed by D Casewell and unanimously agreed that NPAG member organisations be formally invited to participate in the Reg 14 public consultation.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

Signed Chair of NPAG meeting
Dated

