

UPPINGHAM



PARISH PLAN

OCTOBER 2007

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Introduction

In April 2006 a steering group was formed with the support of the Rural Community Council and Uppingham Town Council to prepare a plan for the future of Uppingham. We are grateful to the staff of both Councils for their help and encouragement. The group prepared a questionnaire that was delivered to all households in the town early in 2007. The responses to this questionnaire were analysed and it is relevant that more than 50% of respondents described themselves as retired.

The views of the respondents form the plan and it is clear that they like their town and are concerned about changes taking place without consultation. However they accept that if changes must take place such changes take into account their views and the character and history of the town. The plan is to be taken into account by the Town Council, Rutland County Council, National Government and statutory service providers in matters affecting Uppingham.

The group has considered it important to provide a background to the plan by reference to history and the town at the present time. We believe all facts to be correct and apologise if there are any errors or omissions.

Neil Hermsen – Chairman of the Steering Group

A little local history

Although Uppingham does not appear in the Domesday Book there is little doubt that a settlement existed for many years before the Norman Conquest. The name, deriving from the “Ham of the Yppingas” meaning “people of the upland”, indicates that it came into existence by the early 6th century but the settlement may have come into being even earlier. Its origins were no doubt in farming but also because it was situated on the east to west road from Stamford to Leicester (Peterborough was of minor interest then).

The town did not develop as a crossroads town as the north to south route from Nottingham to London was to the east through Glaston. Not until perhaps the 18th century did the main route move west to go through Uppingham although a north to south route had passed through for many years. Even then because of the steepness of the hills to the south travel was southeast out of Uppingham and via Lyddington and possibly to the southwest by way of what is now Newtown Road. Only when the Nottingham to Kettering Turnpike was created in 1802 did traffic go south on what is now London Road.

Thus the growth of Uppingham from a settlement to a market town was not because it was an important crossroads. The more likely explanation is the market which was most likely already in existence when a charter was granted by Edward I in 1281 and attracted custom from villages as far away as Corby, Slawston and Billesdon. The town was never fortified and the castle, which stood to the west of the town in the 13th century, was not to protect the town or its people and no noble family lived there. It is more likely that it was to protect the forester of Beaumont Sale (Chase) whose job was to keep out unscrupulous neighbours, poachers and trespassers from the woodland, which was extensive at that time.

In addition to an agricultural economy there were various craft industries with iron workings frequent in the area and as early as 1285 Peter Le Irinmanger was a craftsman in the town. Uppingham became known for manufacture of trenchers or wooden plates, which resulted in a local proverb “as round as an Uppingham trencher”. The goods were probably made in the local woods and sold in the town.

The town prospered so that in the reign of Henry VIII the population reached 1400 and there are many buildings that date from the 16th and 17th centuries, which demonstrate this prosperity. Two buildings of note built in the early 17th century are The Hall in High Street East and the Manor House, now the Thring Centre. In the 18th century, as it became a trading town of some fashion like Stamford, more substantial properties were erected which give the town a Georgian look. The ironstone from which many houses are constructed was quarried locally.

In 1584 Uppingham School had been founded by Archdeacon Robert Johnson, who also founded Oakham School in the same year, but the number of pupils remained very small until the 19th century. Expansion began under Henry Holden who opened the first boarding house apart from his own original School House, and then more significantly under The Rev. Edward Thring who raised the number of pupils from 43 to more than 350 in 34 years. The growth of the School has continued. Girls were admitted to the Sixth Form in 1976 and the school became fully co-educational in 2001. With the recent opening of additional boarding houses for girls the number of pupils has now reached about 750.

The arrival of the railway in 1894 as a branch line from Seaton was important as it provided transport for pupils and parents of Uppingham School and bulk items such as coal, but with the arrival of motor transport its use decreased, so that its loss in 1963 made little difference to the town. The population increased slowly but steadily from the 16th century figure to exceed 2000 residents by 1851. The rate of increase subsequently quickened to reach nearly 3900 by 1991 but has since slowed and had not exceeded 4000 by 2001. Uppingham has shown an ability to adapt as necessary to change such as the use of metal and earthenware for plates that ended wooden trenchers. The character of the town has, however, remained substantially the same over the years with the latest change being the growth in the number of antique dealers replacing lost retail businesses.

Uppingham in 2007

Uppingham is a country market town situated mainly on top of a hill about 150 metres above sea level. The Civil Parish contains several farms and a horticultural nursery as well as the town but the boundary does not include much woodland. The A47 main road from Peterborough to Leicester by-passes the town to the north while the A6003 between Oakham and Kettering runs north to south through the town. The High Street running from east to west crossing the A6003 is lined with mainly stone built properties and the majority of the town's shops.

The historic market place is just off the north to south road and a weekly retail market takes place on most Fridays with a farmers' market nearby once a month. There is an annual Fatstock Show held before Christmas, which celebrated its centenary in 2005, and is the only such show in the country still held in a town market place. The parish church adjoins the square and the Post Office is situated here whilst across the A road is the Health Centre. Many buildings are listed and are detailed in the **Appendix**.

The western end of the High Street is dominated by Uppingham School but the boarding houses to the west, south and north of the town blend into their locations. The Police station is towards the western end of the town but is not normally manned while the Fire Station is on the A6003 and is crewed by retained fire-fighters.

The population of little more than 4000 is well served with 7 shops selling food, drink etc, 2 chemists, 2 hardware stores, several clothing shops and a cobbler. In addition there are a number of art and bookshops and numerous antique dealers. The town also has 2 banks, 3 hotels, 6 public houses and excluding the hotels 2 restaurants with another 4 premises providing takeaway food. There is also a service station retailing fuels and also selling cars and motorcycles, a travel agent and an undertaker.

In addition to the parish church there are Methodist and Congregational churches. State Education is served currently by 2 primary schools and a secondary school (Uppingham Community College) covering ages 11 to 16, which means that pupils over 16 years have to travel out of town for their education. There are several nurseries for pre-school children. There is also a public library.

There is a central football pitch on Tod's piece used by the Uppingham Football Club. The Community College and Uppingham School permit use of some of their sporting facilities such as cricket and tennis. More details are given later in this report. There are two play areas for children adjoining the football pitch and several smaller areas on some of the housing

estates. A skateboard/bmx facility is situated by the football pitch, as is the Scout Hut. The Town Hall has facilities for small meetings of about 50 persons and larger meetings or functions for up to 150 persons and it is a popular venue for dances.

The major employer in the town is Uppingham School. The other schools and a small industrial estate on the old railway station site also provide employment and there are offices near the by-pass. Otherwise employment is mainly provided by a large number of small employers such as shops, hotels etc.

Uppingham has been twinned with Caudebec-en-Caux in Normandy (France) for the past twenty-five years.

More detailed information about facilities and services will appear later in this report.

Housing

Uppingham has a wide variety of housing ranging from one-bedroom flats to multi-bedroom detached houses. The ages of properties vary greatly ranging from possibly the 14th and certainly the 16th century to the present day. About 18% of homes were built before 1919 and only some 6% added up to 1944. Many houses have been added since the Second World War with about 12% added up to 1964, nearly 28% in the next 20 years, and another 24% by 2000. In the past 6 years more than 150 houses and flats have been built so that the majority of houses are less than 60 years old.

More than 53% of homes are detached, 23% are semi-detached and 17% terraced, with less than 7% either flats, maisonettes or bedsits.

Details of house prices in Uppingham are not readily available but recent Rutland figures indicate the average price of detached houses to be about £305,000, semi-detached houses about £175,000, terraced houses nearly £150,000 and flats and maisonettes over £125,000.

In the social housing sector Rutland County Council has 208 homes ranging from 25 bedsits to a 6-bedroom house. Nottingham Community Housing Association has two-bedroom flats at The Firs of which 14 are let and 5 are on shared ownership terms. Vacancies are filled either by nomination from the County Council or from a date ordered waiting list. The De Montfort Housing Society has 38 units all rented and subject to the housing association's waiting list but it also accepts tenants from the Council's waiting list. The Minster General Housing Association has 6 one-bedroom flats all rented and subject to 100% nomination rights held by the County Council.

In addition there are 42 properties owned by the Thorpe, Archdeacon Johnson and St John and St Anne charities and currently providing accommodation for mainly local persons of post retirement age. At the time of writing this report there were 5 vacancies.

Transport

About 17% of respondents use public transport at least once a week but some 48% use it occasionally whilst 35% never use it. Of those who use it, less than 1% use it to get to and from school, 11% for work; 40% use it for social and recreational activities but more than 60% for shopping. Over 40% of respondents use a car as their main means of transport for travel to

work, 72% for shopping and nearly 69% for social and leisure purposes.

Brief information of available facilities is given below but the times given may have changed before this document is read and current timetables should be consulted by those wishing to use buses or trains.

Buses

All buses stop in North Street East and generally provide a good interchange service.

Route RF1 provides an hourly service between Oakham, Uppingham and Corby passing through many of the villages on and off the direct road route. The first buses in each direction leave Uppingham at 07.25 with the last bus to Oakham leaving at 18.25 and the last bus to Corby at 18.30. There is no service on this route on a Sunday.

Route 12 provides 6 buses each way to Stamford at approximately 2 hourly intervals with an extra service on school days and again there is no service on Sundays.

Route 747 provides an hourly service to Leicester with the first bus leaving at 07.25 and the last bus at 19.25. Again there is no Sunday service.

Route R47 provides 1 bus to Peterborough at 07.30 returning from Peterborough at 16.00 and there is no Sunday service.

Rutland residents aged 60 and above are eligible for a travel pass entitling them to travel free on buses within the travel scheme boundaries. This includes travel within Rutland and for journeys to and from Nottingham, Leicester, Corby and Peterborough provided that these start or finish in Rutland

Rail

The railway line to Uppingham was closed in 1963 and the nearest railway station is at Oakham from which trains run to Stansted Airport via Stamford, Peterborough, March, Ely and Cambridge in one direction and in the other direction to Birmingham via Melton Mowbray, Leicester and Nuneaton. Many more destinations are available by changing trains at Peterborough, Leicester and Birmingham.

The first service to Stansted is at 06.55 and the last service at 19.04 but later trains up to 22.22 travel as far as Cambridge from Monday to Friday. There is a more limited service on Saturdays and Sundays. The first daily train to Birmingham leaves at 06.39 and the last train at 22.20 and again the services are reduced on Saturdays and Sundays.

Whilst Kettering is more than 14 miles from Uppingham a half-hourly service to London is available and, although more than 20 miles away, trains to London are also available from Peterborough as well as to the north of England and Scotland.

Taxis and Private Hire

A review of local telephone directories reveals only one taxi operator with an Uppingham number but three private hire operators are shown.

Voluntary Transport

Voluntary Action Rutland provides transport facilities for the frail, elderly and disabled enabling them to visit doctors, dentists, opticians, chiropractors, hospitals, lunch clubs etc. The service is mainly provided by volunteers using their own vehicles and is free to those travelling to NHS Hospital appointments who are on certain benefits including Income Support. In other cases a small charge is made subject to reduction where patients are entitled to concessions. There is, however, currently a shortfall in volunteers so that the service may not always be available. In addition 2 minibuses are available for hire for older and disabled people as well as an adapted Renault Kangoo, which can carry two passengers plus one in a wheelchair.

Parking

Uppingham has three Pay and Display Car Parks with Long Stay facilities available only in North Street East where there are 40 spaces including 3 for Disabled Users. Also in North Street East there is a park with 47 Short Stay Spaces including 3 for Disabled Users with the third park in Queen Street accommodating only 10 spaces including 1 space for disabled users and a motor cycle parking space. The parking charges are 10p for up to one hour, 50p for up to 2 hours and 80p for up to 3 hours for all parks and in addition £1 for up to 5 hours and £1.50 for all day parking in the Long Stay Park. Parking is monitored by parking attendants shared with Oakham.

In addition to the Car Parks there is on street parking in marked bays with time restrictions. There is also free parking in the Market Place and by Tod's Piece at Gainsborough Road and there are approximately 250 free spaces in the town. Permits are available from the County Council for residents in the town centre without parking facilities. Only the Police including Community Support Officers can take any action regarding illegal parking.

80% of respondents are able to park their vehicle at home in a personal parking space or garage and a further 13% are able to park near home in a garage or parking space. Only about 7½% have to park on the road or in a public car park.

Education

In the state sector there are three schools, two primary and one secondary. The primary schools cover age groups 5 to 11 with Leighfield School arranging after school activities and Uppingham Church of England School providing a Breakfast Club and after school clubs. Uppingham Community College covers ages 11 to 16 and has after school clubs varying according to season and interests. Its sports facilities have some public use and an all-weather Astro turf pitch. In addition day and evening adult classes are arranged. Over 16 years of age pupils have to travel for education, some to Oakham but others further away depending on courses available and abilities. All schools are co-educational.

In the private sector Windmill House School covers years 3 to 11 with 14 places for pre-school children and provides after school clubs. Uppingham School provides co-education for years 13 to 18 with some 750 pupils, almost all boarders, accommodated in fifteen boarding houses but with some day pupils. The school operates for 7 days a week for about 33 weeks. Outside term time and principally during the summer months the facilities are used

for residential lettings, courses and events for both children and adults. Its facilities include playing fields, tennis courts, sports hall, swimming pool and theatre that are open to the general public regularly. The School also plays host to Uppingham Concerts, which are a series of concerts by visiting musicians from September to April each year. The very high quality of the school's music side is demonstrated by regular lunchtime recitals by pupils and staff in the Parish Church on Wednesdays in term time.

There are 4 nurseries in addition to the facilities at Windmill House with Stepping Stones attached to the C of E School and Upp-starts attached to the Community College. Pebbles and Westways Nurseries are not attached to other schools.

Health Care

There is a Surgery or Health Centre situated in the centre of the town with wheelchair access to the ground floor and a stair lift available for access to the first floor. There are currently 6 doctors in the practice, 2 male and 4 female, and a nursing team qualified in general nursing procedures, health screening, blood pressure monitoring and immunisation.

The practice offers several clinics operated mainly by the nursing staff including: -

Asthma/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorders

Diabetic/Initiate Patient Diagnostic, Insulin

Coronary Heart Disease/Annual review, Cholesterol, Diet, Exercise, Weight Control etc

Well Woman and Man Screening

Family Planning

Child Immunisations

Children's Clinic

There is also a phlebotomist and some of the doctors have special interests including Minor Surgery, Joint injections and Sporting Injuries

There is also a number of attached staff: -

District Nurses

Health Visitor

Midwife

Practice Therapist for common Mental Health problems

Podiatrist

Dietician

Smoking Cessation Counsellor

Community Mental Health Team

MacMillan Nurse

Private therapists including Physiotherapy, Osteopathy and Osteoporosis screening are available at the surgery.

Out of hours medical services are provided by Melton, Rutland & Harborough Primary Care Trust.

There is provision in the town for Reflexology, Acupuncture, Massage and Chinese Medicines etc but these are outside the National Health Service.

The ambulance service is based in Leicester and operated by the Leicester & Rutland Ambu-

lance Service providing currently a 3 level service, Accident & Emergency, Emergency Care and Community Paramedics, and currently if the patient is conscious he or she is taken to the hospital of their choice. The practice at the time this document is prepared is likely to change and reference should be made to the Service for up-to-date information. The Service also provides transport for patients attending G.P's, surgeries and hospitals similar to that provided by Voluntary Action Rutland.

There are Defibrillators based at the Falcon Hotel and on the Beeches Estate available for community use and there are persons trained to use them in emergencies.

There are 4 Dental Practices of which one provides NHS facilities and all also provide hygienist services. There is one optometrist providing a full eye-care service and one Surgical Chiropodist. Finally there are 2 pharmacies in the town providing prescription and over-the-counter services and a dispensing facility at the Surgery that serves patients living more than a mile from it.

In addition to the provision of human health care the Rutland Veterinary Practice covers the care of animals.

More than 93% of respondents are at least satisfied with local healthcare services.

Services for the Elderly

Voluntary Action Rutland provides transport services as detailed in the Transport Section as well as many other services for the whole community.

Age Concern provides on a national basis advice and information on a wide range of topics including welfare benefits and assistance in completing forms. Insurance services are also provided. On a local basis outings are arranged throughout the year with details available at the Age Concern shop and at Age Concern activities and events. Home security services including the fitting of locks and spy holes and an Odd Job Scheme are provided. Home Care services are available from Age Concern Leicestershire and Rutland.

Monthly there is a Tea Dance in the Town Hall the dates of which are available from the Age Concern shop and there are walks no longer than 3-5 miles that normally end with a pub lunch. Also a fish and chip social afternoon is held on the last Friday of each month. Weekly an Indoor Bowls group meets in the Town Hall and Swimming is available for limited numbers. A "Drop In" coffee morning is held each Friday in the Church Hall and there are Luncheon Clubs twice weekly.

There is excellent local authority sheltered housing for the elderly in Uppingham and there are two privately owned residential homes.

Provision for Young People

In addition to other facilities a Cellar Bar is open for two or three nights each week between 7.00 and 9.30 pm. There is also a Cellar Football club that plays on the Community College Astroturf on Thursdays from 7.00 to 9.30. A youth worker is also available at other times to help young people who are not participating in any other provision and will engage with them on their territory wherever that may be. In particular this service is aimed at those who

may be vulnerable to involvement with crime, violence or drug or alcohol abuse

Churches

The churches are well used with 73% of respondents having attended one within the past year. The reasons for attendance include 57% attending funeral services, 52% Sunday services, 52 % attending concerts or recitals, 27% weekday services, 12% Baptisms, 9% weddings, with 33% attending for other reasons.

The Congregational House Church is an independent church with services on an informal inter-active basis twice a month; charity coffee mornings are held bi-monthly.

The Methodist Church provides a full range of religious activities and has Sunday services and a Sunday School for under 11's. The church also hosts baptisms, funerals and weddings for the Congregational Church. Regular bookings include a Mother and Toddler group meeting on Tuesdays in term time, W.E.A., Political Group, Choral Society, Youth Drama Workshop, Writers' Group, a coffee morning on Fridays, a Lunch Club and service and an ecumenical Men's Breakfast.

The Grade II* Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul provides a full range of religious activities with services daily. Activities include an active Sunday School, Youth Group and several Adult Study groups, Bell Ringers, Choir and a Mothers' Union that meets monthly. Weekly musical concerts feature Uppingham School pupils and the church hosts other concerts on a regular basis. The Church Hall also provides facilities for a Theatre Company, Play group, W.I. and a weekly Age Concern coffee morning. The church produces a monthly magazine Quartet.

Shopping and Local Services

About 90% of respondents use the food shops at least weekly with only 1% never using the shops. Similarly the newsagents are well supported with more than 85% of respondents using them at least weekly and about 1% never using them. The hardware stores are used less frequently but over 60% of respondents use the stores at least monthly and only 2% never using them. Other shops are less well supported but are used at least weekly by 20% of respondents and less than 1% never use them

Some 82% of respondents use the weekly market and 56% use the monthly farmers market. About 28% of respondents use the service station for fuel at least monthly, with another 38% using it occasionally but 25% never use it. Some 17% use it for food, drink, newspaper or magazine purchases at least monthly with 28% using it occasionally for these items. The Post Office is well supported with over 66% of respondents using it at least weekly and the remainder of respondents using it at least occasionally. The Banks are used at least weekly by more than 55% of respondents but only 5% never use them.

About 55% of respondents use the Public Library at some time in the year with 32% using it at least monthly. About 10% use the Internet facilities of the Library.



The Environment

The town is surrounded by rolling countryside, mainly farmland, with some woodland to the west. In the town the main open area is Tod's Piece where the local football team plays and where there is a skateboard/bmx facility and two play areas. The play areas include swings, slide and various climbing frames. Apart from this there are two small open but sloping areas on the south side of the town known as Hog Hill and Beast Hill reflecting their market uses in the past.

On the Beeches and the Firs estates there are small open areas with facilities for small children and there are also open spaces on Ayston Road, Stockerston Crescent, Newtown Crescent and Ash Close. To the east there is the Uppingham School cricket field and to both the south and west other Uppingham School playing fields. Out of the town centre there are many established trees providing shade on sunny days.

South of the church is the original cemetery and near to this are extensions one on each side of London Road. A new cemetery will be available in Leicester Road near to the A47. Near to Tod's Piece are some of the 75 allotments, owned by the Town Council, with the other plots situated off Leicester Road, and there are 6 private allotments off South View. Public footpaths lead east from the town to Bisbrooke, south to Lyddington, west to Stockerston and north to Ayston in one direction and Wing in another. Uppingham is noted for its floral displays and flower beds which are supported by voluntary labour for Uppingham in Bloom.

Street cleaning and refuse collection is the responsibility of the County Council and only the town centre is cleaned weekly. The Council will respond promptly to complaints made on weekdays about specific areas. The cemeteries are mowed by the County Council and grass verges around the town are cut 10 times per season with other grass areas 16 times. More than 78% of respondents are happy with the condition and management of open spaces in the town.

Refuse collections are made weekly at present but there are no kerbside recycling collections, leaving respondents to use car park or super-market recycling sites or Civic Amenity Sites at Luffenham or Cottesmore. Public support of recycling facilities is good with up to 84% using bottle, can, paper, plastics and clothing banks and 80% using council tip facilities. About 68% also use litterbins.

Business & Employment

There is a small amount of industry in Uppingham mainly based in Station Road on the site of the old railway station and with a few businesses in Glaston Road. The number of retail businesses is perhaps surprisingly large having regard to the size of the population and is probably attributable to the number of shoppers coming into town from elsewhere in Rutland, visitors to Uppingham School and tourists. There are several hotels supported by a number of bed and breakfast establishments as well as some restaurants, teashops and take away restaurants.

The town has a substantial number of antiques, collectables, art and book shops which attract some of the visitors. Hair and beauty is looked after by six businesses. Properties can be purchased or rented through eight agents and there are a number of financial and professional businesses. There is a Service Station, which is also a Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealer, and sells used cars.

There are some seven farms within the parish although some also involve land outside the parish and one or more farmers outside farm partially within. Farming is substantially arable supported by sheep and to a lesser extent cattle. Modern farm economics mean that the number of employees in farming is minimal.

Uppingham School provides employment for about 490 with the state education sector employing over 120. Arnold Wills & Co Ltd employs over 100 with NFU Associa the next largest employer. Apart from these employers there are few who have staffing above single figures.

Over 50% of respondents are retired and about 47% employed or self employed but of these only 37% are employed in Uppingham. More than 20% of respondents employed outside the town would like to find work in Uppingham. About 65% of employers have no employees from Uppingham.

Sport and Leisure

Mention has already been made of activities at the secondary schools and Town Hall and to show what goes on in and around Uppingham some details follow: -

Uppingham Community College-

Netball, Football, Badminton, Kickboxing, Tae Kwon Do, Tennis, Cricket, Dance/ Ballet, Drama, Music. Model flying, Fencing, Judo and Archery

Uppingham School-

Aerobics, Basketball, Badminton, Cricket Nets and Cricket Courses, Tennis, Swimming including lessons. The Theatre holds a full programme of shows for all ages and hosts Rutland Musical Theatre and Uppingham Theatre Company shows every year.

Town Hall-

Aerobics, Yoga, Power Tai Chi, Weightwatchers, Tae Kwon Do, Quilting, Bowls, Patchwork, Tai Chi, Line Dancing and Folk Club

Shows and concerts in Uppingham Theatre are supported by some 50% of respondents and the Uppingham Concert series by more than 25%. The Wednesday recitals in the parish church are attended by about 15% of respondents. 19% of respondents take advantage of public opening hours at Uppingham School swimming pool.

Uppingham Town Football Club-

Plays matches on Tod's Piece and supports two teams. It has a clubhouse near the pitch.

Uppingham Town Cricket Club-

Plays matches on Uppingham School Middle Field and supports five teams. It also uses both Uppingham School and the Community College indoor facilities and nets and has an excellent youth policy involving up to 150 young people aged 6 to 14 years.

Uppingham Bowls Club-

Has a three-quarter length indoor rink adjoining Tod's Piece.

Rutland Hockey Club-

Play on the Astro turf pitch at the Community College.

There are also several clubs, societies and organizations meeting in Uppingham including Womens Institute, Rotary, Probus and Local History Society. Annual events include the Farmers Ball, Flower and Produce Show, and the Uppingham Feast and "Fringe"

Tourism

The historical features of the town are not usually sufficient to attract sightseers by the coach load but the attractive High Street and its environs do attract visitors including special interest groups arriving by coach. In addition Uppingham School attracts parents and prospective parents of pupils who spend some time in the town. Other attractions for visitors include the Annual Fatstock Show and Christmas markets allied with the monthly Farmers' Market and the main weekly markets. The growing number of antique, collectors and art shops also attract visitors.

It appears likely that the effect of visitors is to provide additional business for the shops, hotels, restaurants etc which might not otherwise be sustainable having regard to the small population of the town. This subject might be controversial and as this part of the report is intended to be factual no further comment is given.



What the residents of Uppingham think about the town

Policing

Uppingham is perceived by respondents as a safe and relatively crime free town. Over 98% of respondents to the questionnaire felt safe in daylight hours while more than 82% felt safe at night. Less than 9% of respondents had been affected by crime in the past two years. Of those who have had to report a crime to the police within the preceding 12 months less than 19% were not satisfied by how the police dealt with it.

Nevertheless there is some concern about drunkenness and groups of youths deemed to be threatening after dark and a wish for more visible policing. Young people have similar concerns about groups of youths and under age drinking.

Traffic & Parking

Speeding in the Ayston, Leicester, London and Stockerston Roads is a major concern and a flashing speed sign on Ayston Road would be welcomed. Some respondents to the questionnaire would like to see a 20 mph speed limit in the town centre. There is also a lot of concern about speed bumps particularly in Stockerston Road with a view that these are damaging vehicles and discomforting to passengers. Access to London Road from South View suffers from restricted visibility and a mirror might assist drivers.

Parking on Ayston Road restricts traffic flow through the traffic lights at times and parking on pavements concerns respondents. Despite the nominal 10p charge for 1 hour's parking some object to any charge and there are suggestions that this might be refunded by Somerfields for those who shop there. There should be signs in the Market Place directing drivers to the other car parks in the town and parking restrictions should be enforced more strictly.

Whilst the majority of respondents consider there are enough grit bins provided for icy weather there was a substantial number (7%) who consider bins are required at the entrance to The Beeches and in Elizabeth Way.

There is also concern that the elderly and incapacitated have difficulty in reaching the Surgery with no lay-by or public parking facility. It has been suggested that the space in front of the Rectory should be cleared for parking primarily for patients visiting the surgery. There is also criticism of parking in connection with Uppingham School and suggestions that the School should provide more parking spaces on its own land for staff, pupils and parents.

Concern about facilities for cyclists was expressed by more than 28% of respondents. The majority wish to see cycle paths or lanes particularly on school routes. There is also criticism of the lack of places where cycles can be parked and locked.

More than 52% of respondents wish to see a North to South Bypass (A6003) of the town particularly following the success of the Oakham bypass in relieving the centre of that town of traffic and having regard to the continuing growth of Corby and Kettering, which generate increasing heavy goods traffic. It is relevant that any heavy vehicle restriction through the town requiring heavy vehicles to travel via the A47 and A43 roads would increase journeys to Kettering by up to 18 miles and thus substantially add to journey times and costs. A substantial majority of respondents would like a bypass to be routed to the west of the town and that provision should be made now in the local plan for such a route.

Footpaths and Pavements

Many respondents consider there should be improved maintenance with levelling particularly mentioned. A repeated concern is the width of the pavements by the westbound bus stops in North Street East where there is no room for pedestrians to pass queuing passengers without stepping in to the road. Another repeated concern is the quality of the pavement in Ayston Road between the Fire Station and Sycamore's Service Station and the problems of crossing North Street East by the traffic lights. This is of concern to both adults and children and it is almost impossible to cross here with a wheelchair or pram/push chair. A-boards (sandwich boards) on the pavements are also a subject of complaint particularly when associated with pavement parking in Orange Street.

Several young people criticize the pedestrian crossing in North Street East and the apparent speed of approaching traffic. The crossing is not clearly visible to traffic from an easterly direction and is also too close to Gainsborough Road. The public footpath that attracts most criticism from both adults and young people is the ancient north-south path that runs through the town from the A47 to the Community College and beyond. The condition of the tarmac is of concern particularly for the elderly and handicapped as is the failure to cut back hedges, trees and weeds. The failure of some dog owners to collect dog waste is also a problem.

Public Transport

Nearly two thirds of respondents to the questionnaire use public transport at least occasionally but only 17% use it at least weekly. This no doubt reflects the fact that 80% of respondents own a car.

Public Transport usage is overwhelmingly for shopping with social and leisure activities be-

ing the next greatest use. Of the 22% of respondents who have difficulty travelling, Peterborough was the main problem destination. It is clear that the need for an improved service should be investigated with the suggestion of revised timing to allow for shopping or hospital visits and perhaps an improved service on one or more days of the week.

Some would like a service to Market Harborough and the Rural Rider service on Saturdays is of no use because the service comes from that town in the morning and returns in the afternoon. Young people would like more frequent services and evening services to Leicester. There is concern that the Rutland Flyer service to Oakham does not go as far as the railway station and the hospital.

Local Facilities

Whilst some 90% of respondents shop at least once a week in Uppingham some 75% also shop elsewhere. Corby and Oakham are the most visited towns no doubt reflecting the hourly bus service to each.

The Library is used by some 55% of respondents but this reflects occasional use also and only about 30% use it at least monthly. Users are generally satisfied but there is concern about an excessive selection of light romance and insufficient up to date and reference books. Opening hours are also of concern. About 75% of respondents are aware of the Internet facilities but these are only used by about 10% of respondents. Less than 20% consider there is a need for more such facilities in town.

The public Toilets in the Market Square are criticised by almost half of respondents and upgrading to include baby-changing facilities is considered necessary. The opening times are also an issue. Some would like toilet facilities at Tod's Piece but the potential problem of vandalism and drug use for a site out of continual public vision is relevant.

Information Boards are sometimes useful and new boards in the Market Place and near Somerfields would be welcomed. Information to be shown could include dates of markets and other public events, bus times, local interest groups and contact telephone numbers for police, doctors, vets etc.

Tod's Piece is viewed as an important breathing space in the town and most consider that it should substantially remain unchanged. There are, however, many suggestions for improvement including some landscaping and planting and more seating. Fencing of the older children's play area is requested to keep out dogs. There is criticism that the distance separating the older and younger children's play areas causes problems for parents with more than one child and who need to use both areas.

Young people would like the play equipment to be updated, pointing out that there are no swings for older children and that a climbing wall would be welcomed. Some would like to be able to play football and there are requests for permanent goalposts and a mini-football pitch. There are requests from adults for a community/leisure centre with sports facilities and for greater use of the area for community events including the annual fair.

Whilst there are play areas for young children on the Firs and Beeches estates older areas have no such facilities. The Brook and Ash Close area is one brought to our attention. Younger children are more content with local facilities. They say they can walk about safely

and find the town a friendly place to live. Teenagers are less content, considering that there is nothing for them to do and some are concerned by older youths appearing aggressive and noisy in the evenings.

There is general agreement by adults that there are insufficient facilities for teenagers but no consensus as to what should be provided. The Cellar Bar is popular but use is restricted by its small size and a larger replacement is urgently needed. About 20% of young people who responded to the questionnaire want a cinema. Several would like an improved swimming pool open for longer hours to the public.

In other towns and villages provision of a shelter with a wall against which balls can be kicked has been one answer to teenagers' problems. Provision of a coffee or milk bar professionally staffed should be considered, possibly run as an Internet café. Adults also suggest the provision of activities that catch the interest of young people, but no specific examples have been provided. The absence of places where whole families can go for social activities has also been mentioned as well as a need for a venue for hire without the restrictions of the Town Hall.

Uppingham Theatre is well supported with more than 50% of respondents using it. Over 27% attend the Uppingham Concert series and more than 15% the Wednesday recitals in the Parish Church. Nearly 20% use the Uppingham School swimming pool at some time.

The Environment

Up to 85% of respondents use the local recycling facilities but these are mainly only available to those having their own transport. The addition of cardboard recycling would be welcomed. Refuse collections are considered to be good but the idea of fortnightly alternate recyclable/non-recyclable collections is very unpopular. It is relevant that some 75% would recycle more if there were kerbside collections. There is criticism that the refuse collection day should coincide with Market Day and a wish to change the day, especially for trade refuse collection.

About 45% of respondents consider that there is a litter problem in Uppingham but that this is restricted to school routes, Tod's Piece and the High Street. The environment could be enhanced by an anti-litter campaign aimed particularly at young people although they highlight the problem in their questionnaire answers. They also suggest the need for more litter bins.

Street lighting is generally acceptable although some improvements could be made in Stockerston and Leicester Roads and some alleyways. Excess lighting or noise troubles only about 15% but nearly 18% consider lighting could be reduced between midnight and 6am.

Local Development

There is support for controlled quality growth of the town conserving its unique charm and character without ossifying it. Regard must be paid to its historic background and its present population balance. More than 60% of respondents consider that young people born in Uppingham usually are unable to find affordable homes in Uppingham and that there are not enough "starter homes" for couples and young families. More than 30% also consider that people delivering key services for Uppingham such as teachers and nurses cannot afford to live here. It is, therefore, not surprising that nearly 40% consider that future development

should concentrate on affordable new homes primarily for local people and that social housing should be restricted to those with a strong Uppingham connection.

Only about 8% consider there should be no new houses with a similar percentage seeking a good mix. Among retired citizens there is considered to be a demand for more bungalows and sheltered housing. A significant number suggest that new developments should have gardens and reasonable size rooms. Nearly 20% of respondents suggest that new housing should be sited west of the town off the Leicester Road with about 3% suggesting the east side off Seaton Road and a similar percentage suggesting north near the A47 road and the NFU/Associa site.

Suggestions for development of brown-field sites without identifying such sites lead to consideration of the Station Road Industrial estate. There is an ongoing problem with traffic to this site having regard particularly to the access to and from South View and London Road. Consideration should be given to redevelopment of the Station Road site for housing with additional access from Seaton Road and relocation of industry to a site adjoining the A47.



No Parking outside the Surgery



Narrow Ayston Road and Parking



Hazard in crossing road by Traffic Lights



Lack of visibility when emerging from South View



Spot the pedestrian crossing in North Street East ?



Tod's Piece main play area– under fives area in distance

Summary of Matters for Action

- 1) Crime & Community Safety: -
 - a) More visible policing – linked with (a) particularly in evenings
 - b) Action to deter drunkenness in young people; their gathering in groups is perceived as threatening

- 2) Traffic & Highways: -
 - a) Action on speeding in Ayston, Leicester, London and Stockerston Roads – consider road markings approaching “30” signs and flashing signs on roads other than London Road
 - b) Parking in Ayston Road – consider widening road from fire station to the traffic lights at the junction with North Street
 - c) Parking direction signs – especially in Market Place & at traffic lights
 - d) Lay-by and/or parking for surgery
 - e) Enforce parking restrictions more strictly
 - f) Improvement of access to London Road from South View – consider mirror
 - g) Provision for North/South By-Pass route – to be included in Rutland plan before further housing development considered
 - h) Provision of grit bins in The Beeches and Elizabeth Way
 - i) Introduce cycle lanes and provide cycle parking facilities such as racks

- 3) Footpaths & Pavements
 - a) Improvement of crossing for pedestrians on east side of traffic lights in North Street East
 - b) Move the North Street East pedestrian crossing at least 20 metres west of its present site and improve the visibility of the Beacons on both sides of the road by re-siting on the kerbside.
 - c) Widening of footpath by bus stops in North Street East
 - d) Improvement of footpath in Ayston Road near Sycamores Garage
 - e) Removal of A (sandwich) boards on pavements
 - f) Improve the surface etc of the public footpath from the Community College to A47 especially the section between Tod’s Piece and Ayston Road

- 4) Public Transport
 - a) Improve Peterborough bus service – the one bus daily is of use only to school children and of no use to shoppers, hospital visitors etc – consider extra services on at least one day each week
 - b) Introduce some evening and Sunday bus services
 - c) Extend Rutland Flyer 1 service to Oakham Station and Hospital

- 5) Local Facilities
 - a) Improve range of books available in Public Library and extend opening hours
 - b) Improve public toilets to include baby changing facilities and extend opening hours
 - c) Landscaping improvements to Tod’s Piece – flower beds and shrubs could make the area more welcoming
 - d) Make more seating available
 - e) Improve play facilities and avoid separation of facilities for different age groups

- f) Introduce facilities for teenagers e.g. climbing wall or frame
 - g) Provide for greater use of Tod's Piece for community events
 - h) Provide seating along Leicester Road between the Town and the new cemetery
 - i) Provide information boards in Market Place and near Somerfields
 - j) Find larger premises to replace and improve the Cellar Bar for teenagers
- 6) Environment
- a) Change refuse collection in town from Friday which is Market Day with food on sale
 - b) Provide more litter bins on school routes including the footpath from the Community College playing fields to South View
 - c) Promote an anti litter campaign
 - d) Provide for cardboard recycling in town
 - e) Introduce kerbside collection of all recyclable items with a view to reducing the carbon footprint of Uppingham residents who recycle
 - f) Improve street lighting in Leicester and Stockerston Roads as well as in alleyways
- 7) Development
- a) Future development must pay attention to the historic background and population balance
 - b) More starter and affordable homes are required to enable Uppingham children to stay in the town after they have left their parents, and to help others to return.
 - c) Future housing developments should be balanced and include a mix of property sizes and types.
 - d) Brownfield sites should be considered for housing development including the possibility of removing the Station Road industry to a new site nearer to main road access.

Uppingham Action Plan

Key

RCC = Rutland County Council

TC = Town Council

	Title	Action	Timescale	Lead	Partners	Priority
	Crime & Community Safety					
1	Visible policing	More visible policing, especially in the evenings	Early	Leicestershire Constabulary	Neighbourhood Watch	High
2	Anti-social behaviour	Deter under age drinking and groups of youths	Early	Leicestershire Constabulary	Neighbourhood Watch, TC, Local Schools Uppingham School Constable	High
	Traffic & Highways					
3	Speeding	Reduce speeding on Ayston, Leicester, London & Stocker- ston Roads by introducing approaching “30” signs and Vehicle Activated Signs	Early	RCC	TC	Medium
4.1	Parking	Widen Ayston Road from the Fire Station to the traffic lights at the junction with North Street	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium

4.2	Install direction signs to other car parks at the traffic lights and in the Market Place	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium
4.3	Creation of lay by or new parking for the surgery	Early	RCC	TC Primary Health Care Trust	High
4.4	Parking restrictions should be enforced more strictly	Early	RCC	TC	Medium
5	Access/visibility improvement	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium
6	Grit Bins	Before Winter 2007/8	RCC	TC	High
7.1	Cycling	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium
7.2	Facilities i.e. Bike racks to be made available	As early as is feasible	TC	RCC	Medium

8	Future Development	Provision of route for North/South by-pass included in the Rutland Plan before further land allocated for housing development	Immediate provision of route in County Plan before development authorised	RCC	TC	High
	Footpaths & Pavements					
9.1	Pedestrian Crossing	Improve the crossing for pedestrians on east side of traffic lights in North Street East	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	High
9.2		Move the North Street East pedestrian crossing at least 20m west of present site	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	High
9.3		Improve the visibility of beacon on both sides of the road in North Street East	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	High
10	Widen footpaths	Widen footpaths by bus stops in North Street East	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	High
11	Footpath improvements	Improve the following footpaths: a) By the bus stops in North Street East	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium

		b) Ayston Road near Sycamores Garage c) From the Community College to A47								
12	A (Sandwich) boards	Removal of A-Boards on pavements	As early as is feasible	TC	RCC				Medium	
	Public Transport									
13	Peterborough bus service	Introduce extra bus services to Peterborough	As early as is feasible	Local bus companies	RCC TC				High	
14	Weekend bus service	Initiate evening and Sunday bus services	Trial run ASAP	Local bus companies	RCC TC				High	
15	Rutland Flyer	Extend the Rutland Flyer service to Oakham Train Station and Hospital	As early as is feasible	Local bus companies	RCC TC				Medium	
	Local Facilities									
16.1	Library	Improve the range of books available	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC				Medium	
16.2		Extend opening hours	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC				Medium	
17.1	Public Toilets	Upgrade the toilets to include baby changing facilities	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC				High	
17.2		Extend opening hours	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC				Medium	

18.1	Tod's Piece	Landscaping & planting improvements More seating available	Ongoing	TC	RCC	Medium
18.2			As early as is feasible	TC	RCC	Medium
18.3		Greater use of Tod's Piece for community events	Ongoing	TC	RCC Community groups	Medium
	Young People					
19.1		Upgrade & improve play equipment	As early as is feasible	TC	RCC	Medium
19.2		Avoid separation of play facilities for different age groups	As early as is feasible	TC	RCC	Medium
19.3		Introduce play facilities for teenagers e.g. Climbing wall	As early as is feasible	TC	RCC Youth workers	Medium
19.4		Find larger premises for Cellar Bar and equip as necessary	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC Youth Workers Community Groups	High

20	Public seating	Provide seating along Leicester Road between the Town and the new cemetery	Before new cemetery is brought into operation	TC	RCC	Medium
21	Information Boards	New information boards in the Market Place & near Somerfield's	Early	TC	RCC	Medium
	The Environment					
22	Waste Management	Change refuse collection day in town from a Friday (Market day)	Before doorstep recycling introduced	RCC	TC	High
23.1	Litter	Provide more litter bins on school routes including footpath from the Community College playing fields to South View	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium
23.2		Promote an anti-litter campaign	Early	TC	Local schools RCC	Medium

24.1	Recycling	Introduce kerbside recycling	Early	RCC	TC Environmental groups	High
24.2		Addition of cardboard recycling to be made available	Early	RCC	TC Environmental groups	High
25	Street Lighting	Improvements to street lighting in Leicester & Stockerston Roads as well as in alleyways	As early as is feasible	RCC	TC	Medium
	Development					
26	Future planning and development	Future development must pay attention to the Town's historic background and population balance	Ongoing	RCC	TC Local heritage group	High
27.1	Housing	More starter & affordable homes for Uppingham residents and those with a connection to Uppingham	Ongoing	RCC	TC Midlands Rural Housing	High

27.2	Social housing should be restricted to people with a strong a Uppingham connection	Ongoing	RCC	TC Midlands Rural Housing	High
27.3	Future housing should be balanced and with a mix of property sizes and types	Ongoing	RCC	TC	High
27.4	Brownfield sites should be considered for housing development	Ongoing	RCC	TC	High
27.5	Relocate the Station Road Industrial Estate to a new site adjoining the A47	Ongoing	RCC	TC Station Road Industrial Estate	High

Appendix

Listed Buildings

Congregational Church		Adderly Street
Manse to Church		“ “
Old School (Grade 1)		North Side of Beast Hill
Pinfold Retaining Wall		“ “ “ “ “
1 & 3		High Street East
5 & 7 & Falcon Hotel Annexe	*	“ “ “
9	*	“ “ “
Falcon Hotel		“ “ “
11 & 13		“ “ “
15		“ “ “
17		“ “ “
19 & 21		“ “ “
23 & 25		“ “ “
27		“ “ “
29 & 31		“ “ “
33 & 35		“ “ “
37		“ “ “
39 & 41		“ “ “
43		“ “ “
45 (Sundial House)		“ “ “
47		“ “ “
2		“ “ “
4 (& 9 Market Place)		“ “ “
6		“ “ “
8		“ “ “
10		“ “ “
12 & 14		“ “ “
16		“ “ “
18 & 20		“ “ “
22		“ “ “
32 & 34		“ “ “
42 & 44		“ “ “
50 & 52		“ “ “
54		“ “ “
56 (The Hall)	*	“ “ “
North Boundary Wall to 56		“ “ “
Wall & Gate Piers to 56		“ “ “
Coach House to Hall		“ “ “
Stable to Hall		“ “ “
Retaining Wall south of Hall		“ “ “
64 (Wagon & Horses)		“ “ “
1		High Street West
3 & 5		“ “ “
7 & 7A		High Street West
11		“ “ “
13		“ “ “

15				High Street West
6			“ “ “	
8	*		“ “ “	
26			“ “ “	
28			“ “ “	
Pump to rear of 38			“ “ “	
46			“ “ “	
50			“ “ “	
52			“ “ “	
54			“ “ “	
58 & Shop adjoining			“ “ “	
60			“ “ “	
The Manor House			“ “ “	
Barn & Wall to Manor House			“ “ “	
New School House		Uppingham School	“ “ “	
Chapel	*	“ “	“ “ “	
School Room	*	“ “	“ “ “	
Art Studio, Library		“ “	“ “ “	
Library	*	“ “	“ “ “	
Offices & Common Room		“ “	“ “ “	
Science Block & Victoria Tower		“ “	“ “ “	
Hall & Classrooms		“ “	“ “ “	
Studies & Boundary Wall		“ “	“ “ “	
Wall & Gateway		“ “	“ “ “	
2 (The Old Cottage)				Hopes Yard
4			“ “	
1				Leamington Terrace
5 (Mole End)			“ “	
6 (Leamington House)			“ “	
Boundary Wall to former rectory			“ “	
3 to 6 (Thorpes Terrace)				Leicester Road
Church of St Peter & St Paul				London Road
Churchyard Wall			“ “	
Cemetery Wall			“ “	
Edward Thring Monument – Churchyard			“ “	
John Beaver Monument		“	“ “	
War Memorial		“	“ “	
4			“ “	
Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain				Market Place
2 (Post Office)			“ “	
Pharmacy			“ “	
The Vaults Public House			“ “	
5 & 6				Market Place
Two former granaries rear of 5 & 6			“ “	
7 (Bank)			“ “	
8 (Restaurant)			“ “	
44				North Street East
10,12 & 14				North Street West
Milestone			“ “ “	
7				Queen Street

Royal Oak Public House (Formerly Cross Keys)	Queen Street
Milestone	Red Hill
1	School Lane
3	“ “
5	“ “
11 & 13	South View
19	“ “
31	“ “
28	Stockerston Road
46	“ “
The Lodge	“ “
Beaumont Chase Farmhouse	“ “

All are listed Grade 2 except where marked * which are listed Grade 2* and The Old School (Beast Hill) which is listed Grade 1

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Uppingham

