



Uppingham in Rutland

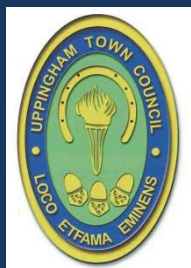
Managing Local Development

Physical, Social & Economic

What Can Local Councils Contribute?

Ron Simpson BEM

Neighbourhood Planning Champion



Political Background

- Government now pro parish - a big change
- Increasing national interest in how parish powers might help empower communities and deliver citizen choice
- Increasing interest in partnerships and collaboration with the business and voluntary sectors
- Diminishing budgets and a desire for value for money
- Parishes remain uncapped but monitored
- Rising community discontent with the planning process
- Councillor role/potential undervalued and underemployed
- Rising status and achievements of parish staff
- Rise of the LSP and the LEP requiring parish engagement
- Concept of localism becoming politically popular

Localism Act 2011

- New freedoms for local government
- New powers for local communities with the right to challenge, right to bid and right to build
- General power of competence for qualifying parishes
- Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders - Must be in 'general' conformity with the 'strategic' policies of the Local Plan – A huge opportunity for parishes and parish councillors
- Recognition as the qualifying body for a 'community led' plan a huge responsibility requiring an enhanced skill set at political and professional level - Are parishes rising to the challenge?

Some Neighbourhood Planning Achievements

- Respect from government for achievements to date
- Enhanced respect for the complexity of local planning
- Joint working with principal authorities
- The emergence of 'bottom up' Local Plans
- Parish as an 'enabler' rather than a 'controller'
- Power over, and respect from, developers and landowners
- Controlling the location and character of development
- Influence over education and the emergency services
- Lower housing density to respect rural character
- Empowering quality broadband and wifi
- Supporting neighbouring communities
- Enhancing community safety, environment & sustainability

Some Neighbourhood Planning Achievements

- Strengthening the high street and the local economy
- Protecting and enhancing greenspace
- Empowering sporting/youth facilities and community services
- Strengthening community spirit
- Enhancing employment prospects and addressing skill shortages
- Protecting wildlife and rural habitats while enabling renewable energy projects
- Promoting tourism and the local economy
- Moving a parish toward earned income and away from precept
- Securing huge support for, and interest in, the parish council by consulting and delivering much of what the community actually wants

Councillor Roles and Opportunities in Planning

- Community Leader
- Community Champion
- Community Advocate
- Community Negotiator
- Community Mediator
- Community Defender
- Arbitrator
- Point of contact
- Consultant
- Conciliator
- The chance to be remembered as some who acted rather than just talked – Useful at election time.



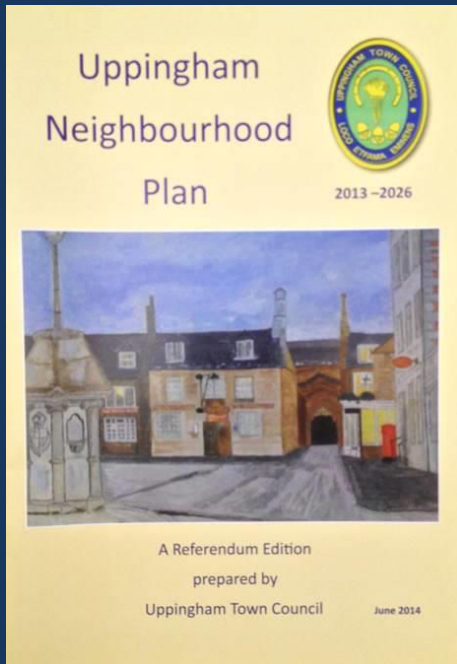
Further information on Uppingham at:-

www.uppinghamneighbourhoodplan.info

www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk

www.uppinghamonline.co.uk



A final question? What about the other Uppingham?
How will N Planning contribute to Virtual Uppingham?

Chalice of Success



