

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



UppWatch – Safeguarding and Supporting the Uppingham Community

1. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the proposed construct, purpose and character of UppWatch, a next generation community safety and resilience scheme founded on good neighbour principles. Founding partners are the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum and the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Council. The scheme will operate within the electoral parish of Ayston and Uppingham.

Subject to any modification by the UN Forum Executive at its meeting on Monday December 12th 2016, this report will be presented to the January public meeting of the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum as part of the scheme's launch arrangements. It will also be used to support presentations around the UK intended to promote Uppingham as a sustainable next generation community with a progressive business/community relationship.

2. THE FOUNDING PARTNERS

Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum is a fully constituted, neighbourhood infrastructure network which brings together residents and a number of the town's charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups. In addition to acting as the voice of civil society and the voluntary sector for Uppingham, the Forum is the vehicle by which voluntary sector directors are nominated for the board of Uppingham First, the town's elected Community Partnership. The Forum is a founding Trustee of the virtual Rutland Consortium www.rutlandconsortium.org.uk and is governed by an Executive Committee elected at its AGM. The Forum has its own community bank account and communicates with the Uppingham community via quarterly public meetings and newsletters; also, a number of websites including www.uppinghamfirst.co.uk (community forum pages) and www.uppinghamonline.co.uk (news items). The Forum also supports 'Uppingham' on Twitter and 'Uppingham Rutland' on Facebook. Its distribution lists, online contacts, 'followers' and 'friends' now exceed 2000. The current Forum Chair is Janet Thompson. UNF leads for the UppWatch Project will be UNF Executive Members and Rotary Paul Harris Fellows, Margaret and Ron Simpson. Margaret and Ron will be happy to step back if other experienced UNF volunteers wish to lead the project.

Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council www.ruralcc.org.uk is part of the ACRE Network, a registered charity **No 1077645** and a company limited by guarantee **No 3665974**. It provides a range of impartial training, advice and support services to communities as well as a range of consultancy services. The charity is governed by a board of trustees drawn from business, local government and the voluntary sector. Its Chair is Martin Traynor OBE, Former Group Chief Executive of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and a Non-Executive Director of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. Uppingham and Rutland have a presence on the RCC board through Rutland County Council's representative, local businessman and Uppingham First Community Partnership Vice Chair, Cllr Edward Baines. LRRCC has its main office in Leicester but also supports a local office in Oakham, Rutland. LRRCC staff support for the UppWatch project will be led by Sue Renton, Manager of Round Rutland, a county wide service to build community capacity and strengthen community support networks for vulnerable and isolated individuals.

3. INTER AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

In determining the final construct and modus operandi of UppWatch the following agencies, groups and organisations have been or will be, notified and/or consulted:-

- a) The Uppingham community - via newsletter, website and public meeting
- b) Locality – UppWatch proposal was runner up in a national funding competition
- c) Age UK – Local reps have indicated they are happy to collaborate to avoid duplication
- d) Rutland County Council (Relevant officers) – Liaison important to avoid duplication
- e) Uppingham Residents Associations – Will encourage and support local volunteers
- f) Uppingham Business Forum – Sponsorship and links to Business Watch explored
- g) Uppingham First – Web and Social Media support offered
- h) Uppingham Hopper Team - Links to be created with the Uppingham Hopper
- i) UNF Executive Member Organisations – Offers to help with publicity
- j) Leicestershire Police – Beat team has said it is happy to work with UppWatch
- k) E J Toon Charitable Trust – Wishes see support offered to its beneficiaries
- l) Rotary Club of Uppingham – Has offered funding and ComVoc collaboration
- m) Uppingham Surgery – Liaison via Janet Thompson
- n) Rutland Resilience Team – New local resilience network to be created
- o) Elected Members of Uppingham Town Council - to be advised
- p) Elected Members of Rutland County Council – to be advised

4. WHAT IS UPPWATCH?

UppWatch is a physical and virtual good neighbour and community safety network offering community support, monitoring and guidance to all households and families who request it but with a particular emphasis on the elderly, those who live alone and those in need of assistance for whatever reason. The network will also provide a supplementary community resilience communication framework to alert participating residents in the event of any major civil emergency, health alert or emergency situation notified by the statutory authorities. The Network will also support, where possible, the Home First philosophy of health care currently being developed by the NHS East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG.

See <http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/pdf/Leicester%20Leicestershire%20and%20Rutland.pdf>

5. WHAT SERVICES WILL IT OFFER?

In collaboration with other agencies it is anticipated the range of services offered will develop to include:-

- a) An insured, street based, physical support network of registered DBS checked good neighbour volunteers and home visitors
- b) Signposting to existing charity and statutory sector support services
- c) A virtual communication network utilising phone, web and social media
- d) A smart phone text based alert system enabling outgoing and incoming alerts
- e) A telephone and e-mail helpline
- f) A home monitoring and crime prevention service
- g) A text based smartphone alert system available, initially, to the over 80s
- h) Town centre CCTV monitoring staffed by volunteers for special occasions
- i) Special access to the town's defibrillator network
- j) Community safety information and support
- k) A domestic equipment loan scheme
- l) Registered access to community transport
- m) Funded community events to tackle social isolation and bring people together
- n) Integration and collaboration with existing charitable services to avoid duplication.

6. HOW WILL IT BE FUNDED?

UppWatch will initially remain a UNF project with funding and accountancy matters being operated through the UNF community bank account. In the longer term it is likely that, if successful, the project will mature into a local charity or social enterprise.

Start-up funding of £250 from the Big Lottery is being offered by the Rural Community Council. Continuity funding of up to £500 is being offered by the Rotary Club of Uppingham as part of its 2016/17 Community Support Programme. Marketing and IT support is on offer from local businesses. Communication and distribution services can be delivered by the Neighbourhood Forum. Funded volunteer training and DBS checks are on offer from the Rural Community Council. Residents' Associations have agreed to secure the first pool of volunteers for training. RCC has submitted a capital grant application to the Melton Mowbray Building Society Charitable Fund to pay for a smartphone based resilience support network. Some monies can be earned via the proposed equipment loan fund but, initially, further grant applications are likely. Significantly, a number of the proposed services can be offered at minimal cost. UppWatch will also be eligible for Town Council grant aid and further support is possible from Rotary and local businesses.

7. INITIAL ACTIONS REQUIRED

- a) Approval by the UNF Executive – Establish pilot group of street based good neighbours
- b) Secure list of pilot volunteers from Resident Associations/Community Groups
- c) Fix training date for initial volunteers and execute training
- d) Arrange volunteer insurance
- e) Prepare and distribute newsletter to call a January 2017 meeting of the UN Forum at which a public presentation will be made on the project with a view to public engagement and their view on project priorities
- f) Agree project imagery and develop simple support website at www.uppwatch.uk with the help of RCC
- g) Establish help line and prepare suitable promotional literature
- h) Commence drafting of an emergency communication protocol with the Resilience Forum
- i) Prepare and agree next action steps at the next meeting of the UNF Executive

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The UNF Executive Committee agree the establishment of UppWatch from January 2017
- b) The Committee endorse an initial spend of up to £750 supplemented by any grant secured
- c) The Committee agree initial training arrangements
- d) The Committee agree lead volunteers for the project in consultation with the UNF Coordinator and Chair

9. SUMMARY

The Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum has achieved a great deal in its first five years. Uppingham has a strong heritage and an exciting future. Collaboration between community groups and volunteers will be one of the keys to success. Given the aging nature of our community and rapidly diminishing public service budgets, strong locally led support networks will be a vital part of ensuring no citizen in need goes unnoticed. UppWatch will be a bold and imaginative next step to enhance community safety and ensure community resilience at difficult times. During consultation, the concept of UppWatch has been well received. Now it is time to turn words into actions. UppWatch can only enhance Uppingham as a desirable and safe place to live, work and play.

Ron Simpson
Coordinator
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Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum - The Voice of Civil Society in Uppingham

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