

## Uppingham Town Council

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**From:** Adrian Haigh <adrian.haigh@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 10 October 2017 10:57  
**To:** kerry.coupe@liffepublishing.co.uk  
**Cc:** Lesley Baldam; Rachel Burkitt; Uppingham Town Council; K Bool; Mrs Lucy Stephenson; Marc Oxley; Peter Rees  
**Subject:** 'Letters to the Editor' - ref. the Uppingham Hopper bus.  
**Importance:** High

Gd Morning Kerry, ref: '**Letters to the Editor**'.

### 'Here We Go Again'?! - May We ask When?

'There's always another bus'?! - an Israeli Doctor said to me whilst I was in France when he'd observed me concernedly looking at my watch & wondered When?

However, Yes, Sue( Mrs Sandel - former Youth Work colleague & an Uppingham resident) I've just been back to 'that place'(The Taize Christian Community) since my letter entitled 'Dora's desirable Transport' was featured by both your Rutland newspapers, and again - would you believe it, the early bus had left the railway station, but a Young Moslem gave three of us a lift in his car to our respective destinations.

Ron Simpson of Uppingham First <[secretary@uppinghamfirst.co.uk](mailto:secretary@uppinghamfirst.co.uk)> has also been crossing borders into Portugal when I phoned him for an up-date on the Hopper financial situation - upon return his immediate reply was that **the fund now has £15k of the £25k.** needed in order to re-instate/in-augurate the Hopper bus service(which includes monies left in a Town person's Will to the 'Over 80's', which has since been donated by the recipients to augment this fund)

(Ron's reply being so noticeable because **neither Uppingham Town Council nor Rutland County Council have deemed fit nor had the descency to respond** - also in the interim seeing the Oakham Hopper bus timetable in Tesco's sponsored in part by Rutland County Council)

### Why? Why? oh Why?! - Thrice, I Ask 'Why'?!

Remember the £25k put into Uppingham Town Council Reserves in April 2017? & 'Remember, Remember, the 5th of November - Why? because likewise Rutland County Council's scribes & pharasee's' are on an un-written vacation with their £10 million pounds de-valuing everyday in reserves! - **Please from whatever 'funding source' just £10k!** (if this figure is correct - verify with Ron Simpson, to put the Uppingham Hopper back into service)

- maybe Dora doesn't but I still have to rub on the ointment for arthritis in order to get to the right knee going in order to have a comfortable 300 yard walk(I'm glad that I'm still able) to the Surgery to put in the latest requests(new government edict) to get our repeat perscriptions repeated down at the Pharmacists in Town(remember the relevant Hopper bus route)

ACTION needed before 'THIS THE 'FURTHER' WINTER OF DISCONTENT' - 'THINK ON'T!' - (Has anything changed since these words were written?! - my apologies to William Shakespeare for any of the para-phrasing)

Adrian of 'Pickles End', 65 Branston Road, Uppingham(address info. available)



# UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Neil Wedge

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Rutland LE15 9PY

Adrian Haigh  
Pickles End  
65 Branston Road  
Uppingham  
Rutland

25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Adrian

**Ref: Hopper Bus Correspondence**

Thank you for your email received 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

It would appear from your email that you have not been made aware by representatives of Uppingham First about the content of a letter the Town Council sent to them back in September of 2016. To bring you fully up to speed I enclose a copy for your information which specifically addresses the point you raise.

As you can see Uppingham Town Council fully supported the pilot phase of the Hopper Bus and within the powers it has also made clear how it can support going forward with a permanent solution. Many organisations get regular grant aid support for projects benefitting the community; it's a simple uncomplicated process which is on the council website and is available for consideration by members to Uppingham First for this project.

I hope you can see that the council is happy to support such initiatives, maybe you would like to update the Rutland Times and Mercury accordingly.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Neil Wedge

Town Clerk, Uppingham Town Council



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Mr. R. Wills  
Chairman, Uppingham First Ltd  
The Falcon Hotel  
Uppingham  
Rutland  
LE15 9PY

Wednesday, 28 September 2016

Dear Robert

**Ref: Uppingham Hopper Bus Pilot**

Following a recent council meeting I have been asked to summarise how Uppingham Town Council can support a permanent solution moving forward of the Hopper Bus. Before I do that, I understand from the most recent Hopper Bus Report and emails that the end of this week sees the return of the bus on loan from Rutland County Council. Uppingham Town Council have been pleased to support this initiative with Rutland County Council and Uppingham First in its pilot phase, to answer key questions about the demand for such a service. So far Council has provided £4,250 over the last 12 months to support this initiative.

What is clear from the pilot is that there have been a high number of passenger journeys for a distinct number of regular users in the community, who no doubt had found the route and service invaluable.

We wish Uppingham First success in their search for a suitable vehicle and grant for a permanent solution and look forward to updates on the progress being made.

As it has indicated in recent meetings, Council would welcome requests for financial support in the future using the grant aid framework we have in place and will consider any such requests alongside others it receives during the course of the year. Council has the power to support community bus services under section 106 A (1) of the Transport Act 1985 and has £12,000 allocated annually for Section 137 payments. The grant aid submission forms are held on our website along with the guidelines. If I can be of any further help please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Wedge

Town Clerk, Uppingham Town Council

**Copies:** Ron Simpson, Uppingham First; David Ainslie, Uppingham First; Dave Brown, Rutland County Council

