

Why I think I would be a good choice for Chair of NPAG

The Neighbourhood plan is about the future of this town. Despite only living here for the last 12 years, I have a good appreciation of what the town is about, and where it is going in the future. Having worked on the first Neighbourhood Plan, and the core participants from the outset, I am able to discuss it comfortably.

As Uppingham is our “last move”, and we are bringing up young children here, we have a vested interest in seeing Uppingham be the best that it can be. It is important to have a consideration of all demographics in the town, and ensure there is a good provision for all, for us that’s certainly whilst our family is young, and definitely, when I get old! I’m sure many in the community share this need to feel catered for, and I am committed to ensuring we hear those voices.

As someone who runs their own company, I’m mindful of the fact that we need to support those who overtly do business, as well as those of us who work from home and have different needs.

Leading the Neighbourhood Plan is about bringing the ideas and input from local community groups and ensuring that we encourage those who may be less vocal, but have an opinion, to share their views and ideas, and presenting the best version of that to the town to vote on. We must therefore guide the town council, and help protect it from criticism, by ensuring we have a clear strategic plan, and that it is carried out in a timely manner, consulting regularly and widely.

Uppingham needs to maintain a strong identity into the future, and I believe I have the skills and experience to chair this organisation to make that happen. We cannot rest on our laurels. Locally and nationally we have set a strong example, and I’m keen that we follow this up for the betterment of the town, its residents and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Merricks