



# Uppingham Town Council

Mayor's Annual Report

31st March 2021

# Contents

1. The past year . . . . .	Page 2
2. Our Finances . . . . .	Page 3
3. Our community . . . . .	Page 3
4. Strategic . . . . .	Page 5
5. Looking forward . . . . .	Page 5
And finally. . . . .	Page 5

## 1. The past year - 2020



What a year Uppingham and the world have been through! Who would have thought back in 2019 what would happen to us in 2020. Just after becoming Mayor I was asked about the pandemic and how it would impact us all. My response was that we can never choose the time we live in, but we have to manage the best we can through it. I think that's what all of us have done through 2020 - we have all done the best we can under the circumstances.

And so, I would like to pause a moment and reflect on the impact Covid has had on us.

I can't even start to imagine what families and businesses have had to endure through this year. My thoughts go out to you all.

As I write this report, the town is slowly awakening from its long sleep through the winter months, and we start to come out of the current national lock-down. By mid-June, if all goes well, we should be moving into our new 'normal state', whatever that means.

Your Town Council has still been functioning over the year, operating mainly remotely with the Town Hall closed and our meetings held on-line. During this time, we have still been able to operate and have delivered in a number of areas – more on this later.

We are also thoughtful of the recent death of Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, the events planned for his funeral and the bereavement of Her Majesty The Queen.



## 2. Our Finances

We had a difficult year in 2020, with revenue from our major sources of income down. Our Market has not been operating at full capacity throughout the year, with times when we have had to reduce the number of stall holders in line with Covid rules.

Our main revenue from letting the Town Hall has also suffered, as for many months we have had to close the building with significant impact on our income.

Some of our costs have increased due to temporary staff being employed as a result of staff sickness.

However, on the good-news front, we have decided as a Council not to increase our precept for the 2021/22 year. This has been possible for a number of reasons:

- More dwellings (Bloor Development)
- A scaling back of our budgets for 2021/22
- Potential of additional revenue from the leasing of new land as a result from the Bloor development

## 3. Our Community

Your Council has delivered in a number of areas in 2020. It was felt by Council that 'community' was an important area to focus on, particularly while we lived through the pandemic.

### Grants and Aid

The Council annually set aside money from its budget to support its Grant Aid programme and we continued this in 2020.

### Grants supporting local groups in 2020 were:

- Rutland Community Ventures
- Root and Branch Out
- Uppingham Bowls Club
- Uppingham First
- Uppingham Town Partnership Events
- Uppingham Children's Christmas Party
- Uppingham in Bloom

### Covid support and the Covid grant aid scheme

The Council decided in 2020 to set aside further money to support the opening of local businesses from the first lockdown. We had an added bonus of receiving money from central government, managed by Rutland County

Council, to further help us. We decided this pot of money would be used to help opening up of businesses and to aid residents wanting to get out and about in town safely.

We therefore set up a group to manage this fund, and the money was spent on a range of things.

A simple grant process was set up for local businesses, allowing them to apply for money to help in the costs of reopening

Other money was spent on signage, bike racks, Christmas shopping leaflets and banners, and also helping Uppingham First to have their Social Sunday events through the summer.

### Children's play equipment

It was pleasing to complete the children's play area on Tod's Piece this year. This was opened in June 2020 by our High Sheriff and it is good to see the area being well used by the children.

### Supporting local community groups

Uppingham Town Council were approached by some local charities who were struggling during the year. Although the Town Hall was closed to social activities, we able to help by opening up the building for them.

Root and Branch now operate out of our kitchen area, distributing food to local people.

We also offered our Town Hall to the Rutland Clothes Bank who were struggling to manage the mass of clothing being received. They used the Town Hall area to store, sort and distribute the clothes for a short time.

### Events

Many events were lost in Uppingham in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. It is hoped that as we move out of lockdown many of these will return in 2021. None the less, there were a few events that did happen in 2020.

It was good to see the poppy display at the Town Hall again, commemorating VJ Day. It was also good to see many residents holding garden parties to celebrate the event. (Social distance rules applying!)

Remembrance Sunday was another event that took place, with representatives of the Armed Forces and the traditional musical contributions. It was well organised by the parish church.



## 4. Strategic

It is pleasing to note that the remaining houses on the new Bloor development “The Elms” have now been sold and the estate is complete. This was one of the developments identified in the first Neighbourhood Plan.

We are delighted to welcome our new residents of this estate to Uppingham.

### Neighbourhood Plan Refresh

The Council's NPAG (Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group) continues to work through our neighbourhood plan and is working to have the 'refreshed' version completed by the end of this financial year, 2021/2.

As I write, you will have received the booklet which shows potential sites for development and the developer's views of what might be able to be built. It's important you have your say in order to help in the decision-making process.

It is interesting to note that the Local Plan for the county is also under review due to the recent decision regarding St George's Barracks. Your Town Council is keeping a close eye on the decisions Rutland County Council make regarding the local plan, and how any changes made to it may impact Uppingham.

## 5. Looking forward

As we move out of lockdown, the council intends to return to face to face meetings again and the Town Hall will reopen for public use.

There are a number of priorities to consider:

- Balancing the budget
- Supporting our residents and businesses as we open up from lockdown
- Recruiting a new Town Clerk
- Taking ownership of the Market Square toilets and renovating them
- Delivery of the refreshed Neighbourhood Plan
- Investment in exercise equipment for Tod's Piece
- Supporting the annual events being planned for the town in 2021

## And finally

Being Mayor of this town is a great privilege, but to get through this year I have relied on the support of the other Town Councillors and our staff.

Our current Clerk left us this month and I would like to offer her and her family best wishes for the future.

This year has been hard for us all, and now we have the vaccine programme fully mobilised let's hope we all look forward to a happier year.

**Stephen Rozak**  
Chair



# Uppingham Town Council

Provisional financial results, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	£177,082	£207,742 (includes. £44,526 unbudgeted CIL, £11,032 unbudgeted grants)
Expenditure	£177,082	£183,331
Surplus		£ 24,411

Without the unbudgeted CIL funds and grants, the deficit for the year was £31k. The principal contributor to this was loss of Town Hall lettings at £20k.

The principal cause of overspend was employment of additional staff to cover for an extended period of sickness.

The Council's funds in hand, including reserves, at 31.3.21 were £301,192. This included £173,756 of as yet unallocated CIL monies.

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Local Councils must publish their annual accounts by 1 July each year, following which there is a period of time for the public to scrutinise the accounts.

## Uppingham Town Council Financial Information

Information about the Town Council Financial Regulations and other supporting information can be found on our website at [www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Uppingham Town Council  
Town Hall  
49 High Street East  
Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9PY  
Telephone: 01572 822681

[www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.loveuppingham.org.uk](http://www.loveuppingham.org.uk)  
Twitter: @UppinghamTC & @LoveUppingham

You can also find the Town Council and Love Uppingham on Facebook and Instagram