

Questions and Answers

1. Would a Facebook page be a good idea for the village?

UPC have discussed having a Facebook Page in the past but it was discounted due to administration issues. Any comments would need checking for any abusive content and this could potentially take a very long time. However, there is nothing to stop an individual setting up an Ufford Facebook Page. These work very well in other villages.

2. The text in the PUNCH is too small

If you have issues reading the printed version of the PUNCH you can always try looking online at the electronic version. A link to this can be found at <http://www.uffordpunch.org.uk> and the text can be expanded upon to aid reading. If you do not have a computer at home, the internet is freely accessible in Woodbridge Library.

3. Why are some PUNCHLine reports hysterical?

The three PUNCHLine administrators do try to keep headings sensible but on occasions 'eye-catching' words are used to alert readers to very important articles.

4. An outdoor Gym would be excellent...

At the Play Park two pieces of Adult Gym equipment are installed. In addition to this, did you know that around Ufford Park Hotel is a circular walk with pieces of outdoor gym equipment placed periodically? Why not take a healthy walk, do a little gym exercise and then call in to the hotel for coffee!

5. The Community Hall should be expanded to include a larger hall for badminton and dances/bands.

The Parish Council will be discussing options for the Community Hall now that ownership has finally been established. We will need to balance the needs of the community against facilities already provided by neighbouring villages (such as Bromeswell and Wickham Market) to ensure we do not provide a facility that is already available.

6. The Community Hall Car Park needs attention

Good news. Refurbishment of the Community Hall Car Park is the next big project on the Parish Council's list. We already have a healthy fund established and we will be looking towards grants in 2018.

7. We need CCTV at the Recreation Ground to combat the vandalism to the Play Park

Your wish is our command! Three CCTV cameras have recently been installed at the Recreation Ground and within the first 24 hours of being operational they detected a crime.

8. Not everyone is fit and well; how do we combat social isolation and loneliness?

This is perhaps the most important comment to come out of the review. UPC will initially seek the opinions of organisations such as Age UK to see what steps can be taken. The idea of a 'Welcome Club' has been suggested, where tea, coffee and cake are taken alongside board and card games, or just social chit-chat, at a minimal cost.

9. Why are the tennis courts not free for everyone to use?

Although the tennis court sits on the Recreation Ground it is not owned or run by the Parish Council. The Ufford Tennis Club fully fund the court and have to pay for repairs and maintenance of both the court and the fence. However, they are very keen to engage with new members and costs are not as expensive as you think. If you are interested in playing Tennis please contact Dan Lever on 01394 420156

10. How do I find out about all the footpaths in Ufford?

Firstly, visit the Church or one of the pubs and pick up both the 'Ufford Footpaths' and 'Ufford Heritage Trail' leaflets. These leaflets are also available in external containers at the Community Hall and St Mary's Parish Hall. In addition to these there is a link to the definitive map in the Ufford Web Site.

11. Bus frequencies have improved recently but we never know if the bus is going to arrive or if it is running late

UPC will be contacting the bus companies in the next few weeks to see if interactive display boards can be installed at the bus stops and/or an App can be developed to allow people with a Smart Phone to track the bus on its journey (this happens in other towns). We will also be asking if an evening service would be possible.

12. The junction at the top of The Avenue is so dangerous; there are 'near misses' there every day and soon someone is going to get seriously injured or even killed. Why doesn't the Parish Council do something about it?

The unusual layout and confusing priority system on the junction at the top of The Avenue causes the most letters of complaint and concern to the Parish Council. As you may be aware, UPC are not the highway authority (that is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council (SCC)) so legally we are not permitted to take any action. However, we *can* and *do* report the ongoing issues to SCC; providing them with details of near misses, photographs and accounts of accidents.

Recently a SCC Highways inspector visited Ufford to speak about a separate matter and, when he was leaving, he witnessed another 'near-miss' on this junction.

The official line from SCC is "*...although there continue to be near misses these don't result in collisions and as such it becomes difficulty to justify spending money on a solution. We have all looked at options but these tend to be expensive*".

It is an unfortunate fact that **until** (and sadly not before) someone is killed at this junction then money will not be spent improving it.

13. Is it possible that Spring Lane could be designated a 'Quiet Lane'?

This is possible. However, due to a lack of resources SCC cannot commit any manpower to Quiet Lanes at present. It is also worth noting that the designation of a road as a 'Quiet Lane' makes no statutory difference to the types of vehicles that can use it, nor does it alter the speed limit. It simple alerts drivers to the fact that they may come across someone walking, cycling or horse riding along the lane and to take extra care.

14. Can we have a 20 mph speed limit along some roads?

Put quite simply, no. SCC only install 20 mph speed limits in residential urban areas where there is a history of significant accidents.

15. We need a south bound entrance on to the A12 at the north end of the village, this will stop all Wickham Market traffic travelling through Ufford

This has been raised with SCC on a number of occasions. However, the cost would run in to £10m's and they simply do not have the funds to pay for such work.

16. We need a roundabout on the A12 at the south bound entrance (near Grove Farm) to allow traffic to turn north and stop all Melton traffic travelling up through Ufford

Please see answer to question 15.

17. A proper election of Parish Councillors would give a stronger sense of democracy

We agree 100%. However, despite re-elections of Parish Councillors happening every 4 years (and these being heavily advertised), for as long as can be remembered there have only ever been 11 or fewer candidates for the 11 positions on the Parish Council. When this is the case an election is not necessary and SCDC simply appoint each of the candidates automatically.

If you are interested in standing as a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk and you will be notified individually when the elections are coming up (next scheduled elections are May 2019)

18. Could we have an additional notice board near the re-cycle bins, as most people go there?

There is a notice board near the re-cycling bins, just to the right of the entrance to the Community Centre

19. Why can't a Village Fete be combined with the very successful Garden Club Annual Show?

The magnificent Gardening Club annual show gets better every year and we understand the committee are looking for new ways to expand it to open it up to more residents.

20. This survey breaks all the rules of surveys with its leading questions; any conclusions drawn from it are likely to be highly misleading.

So sorry if we have offended you. The statements in each question were constructed in such a way to deliberately provoke people in to reacting to them. We hope the added ability for comments to be left would allow people to explain their answer if they agreed with part of the statement but not all of it.

21. What about a Village Festival or Cameo Evening?

Hold that thought! An Ufford Arts Festival is presently being planned for later in 2018 and we hope this will be an annual event.

Ufford Parish Council

January 2018

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