

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

Wednesday February 10, 2021

**Please remember for all the latest on our services
visit [rushcliffe.gov.uk](https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)**

Please email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk with any enquiries.

Please continue to follow national lockdown measures



Thank you for continuing to play your part by staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives as the pandemic continues.

Please remember to keep informing residents of 'Hands, Face, Space' and to only leave their home for essential reasons.

All the latest can be found on our webpages www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus.

COVID-19 vaccine latest



Anyone over 65 is now encouraged to book their COVID-19 vaccine online using <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/nottinghamc19ypatient.php> or by calling 0115 883 4640 without waiting for a letter to arrive.

Vaccine letters are also going out to people under 65 who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

People will need to bring this letter or their shielding letter as proof that they are eligible.

Transport is available for people who meet criteria, please visit the [Nottinghamshire County Council website](#) for more information on this service.

For all enquiries on Vaccination appointments please visit [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's CCG website](#).

Nottinghamshire County Council are also supporting the NHS to deal with 'non clinical' vaccination questions from the public across the county and city.

Please email enquiries@nottsc.gov.uk call 0300 500 80 80 or [view Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please remember for all the latest on COVID-19 visit our webpages www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus.

There is also now a helpful guide if you know someone who is eligible for their vaccination, there are different things you can do to assist them.

Find out more here: <https://nottsccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-programme-what-you-can-do-to-help/>

Green Growth Freeport Bid



We have supported an East Midlands bid for Freeport status which has been submitted to the government by the two Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The bid would deliver a unique inland Freeport at the heart of the UK with unrivalled rail connectivity to all UK ports and bring significant investment to develop and drive innovation, alternative energy

sources and green technologies, creating close to 60,000 new skilled jobs to areas of deprivation in the East Midlands.

In response to the Government's Freeport prospectus, the region has put forward a compelling proposition based around the East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster (EMAGIC) in North West Leicestershire, Uniper's Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station site and the East Midlands Intermodal Park (EMIP) in South Derbyshire.

Our Leader Councillor Simon Robinson, said: "This is a hugely significant project that we're delighted to support, an environmental and business opportunity that would further enhance Rushcliffe as a great place to live attracting high skilled jobs.

"We're committed to low carbon initiatives and any such as this that complements plans for the Development Corporation so well, attracting potential international investment, is one we warmly welcome for the East Midlands."

Read more [on our website.](#)

Rushcliffe set to continue to have lowest council tax rate in Nottinghamshire



Our Council tax level is set to continue to be the lowest in Nottinghamshire after its Cabinet discussed its 2021/22 Budget Strategy.

At a meeting of the Cabinet yesterday (February 9) it suggested the authority set figures which means it will remain in the lowest quartile of Council tax charges in the country and again the lowest in the county.

Set at £147.36 for a band D property from April, an increase of £4.62 from last year, or less than 9p a week, the rise is necessary to ensure our services

and resources are sufficient to meet both current and future needs.

The report noted the considerable risks and uncertainty that prevails in the current financial environment with the full impact of COVID-19 yet to be determined and the further impact on both businesses and the community.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance Cllr Gordon Moore said however an ambitious £38m capital programme on key projects is still planned for the coming years, despite the pandemic.

He said: "Those in a Band D property in the Borough still pay among the lowest figures of anywhere in the country despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19.

"The budget focuses on economic recovery and growth, supporting the most vulnerable in our community and ensuring that health and wellbeing, carbon reduction and supporting the environment remain high priorities.

"We're pleased to set out this plan that will see the Council continue to invest significant capital within the Borough with major investments such as Bingham Hub, the crematorium, an upgrade of facilities at leisure centres and support for affordable housing."

A Full Council meeting on March 4 will now further discuss the proposed budget.

Working together to deliver a successful Census 2021



We are working with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – which runs Census 2021 – to deliver a successful census and help local services to meet future needs.

Understanding the needs of the nation helps everyone from central government to local organisations, such as councils and health authorities, plan and fund public services across

England and Wales. Census outputs inform where public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health – on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries.

The census, taking place on 21 March 2021, will shed light on the needs of different groups and communities, and the inequalities people are experiencing, ensuring the big decisions facing the country following the coronavirus pandemic and EU exit are based on the best information possible.

Rushcliffe resident, Leia Morales, has been employed by the ONS as a Census Engagement Manager.

She said: "it has been amazing over the last few months to get to know many of the community groups and charities in Rushcliffe and working with the council to raise awareness of Census 2021. I'm looking forward to the data being published next year."

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and The Environment Cllr Abby Brennan said: "Households will begin receiving letters with online codes in March explaining how they can complete their online census. People can also request a paper questionnaire if they'd prefer to complete the census that way.

"In areas where lower online completion is expected, around 10% of households will receive a traditional paper form through the post.

"There is plenty of help available, with people also able to complete the census over the phone with assistance from trained staff via the ONS' free phone contact centre. The ONS also aims to provide in-person support to complete the census online through Census Support Centres where it is safe to do so."

Cabinet discuss further councillors proposal as our communities grow



Our Cabinet has discussed a Local Government Boundary Commission review to ensure residents are adequately represented as the Borough's communities continue to grow.

They recommended an increase of two councillors, taking the total number of elected members for the Borough from 44 to 46, to help represent the expected 18% growth of the electorate between 2020 and 2027.

This increase takes the average number of electors per councillor from 2,058 to 2,558 by 2027, with the majority of growth focussed in two or three areas where large housing developments are planned.

The change was discussed at yesterday's (February 9) Cabinet meeting and will assist us in continuing to represent residents fairly and equitably in line with its Local Plan housing allocation numbers.

The draft submission which has been drawn up, with cross-party consultation, is now set to be presented at a Full Council meeting on March 4.

The proposed changes will be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for consideration, with a review of ward boundaries across the Borough conducted following their decision.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Robinson said: "This submission provides us with a really important opportunity to ensure fair and equal representation of our residents both now and in the future.

"As a Council we welcome the opportunity to review our local arrangements, in light of the substantial population growth the Borough is expecting over the coming years.

"Changes to our ward boundaries will help us cater for our growing population and help to make their voices heard as our communities develop and evolve."

Sale of fire-damaged property to tackle empty home



A disused, fire-damaged house has become the first property to be sold through enforcement action, as part of our strategy to tackle empty homes in the Borough.

Prior to the sale, the abandoned semi-detached property in Lady Bay, West Bridgford, had suffered extensive fire damage and was causing issues for a neighbouring house.

Despite us serving the former owner with notices in relation to these problems, the homeowner failed to comply and the authority organised extensive works to fix the damage.

After determining that the previous owner was unable to pay for the necessary improvement works, keep the property in a state of repair, or sell to someone who would, the authority sought to sell the property under their Enforced Sale Procedure.

All the costs of the previous works and carrying out the sale have been deducted from the property's final sale value, and the remaining sale proceeds will be passed on to the previous owner if and when they come forward.

An enforced sale is an enforcement option which allows us to sell an empty property in order to recover debts owed to them.

Read more [on our website](#).

Two Nottinghamshire venues closed and fined after flouting COVID rules



A pub and a restaurant have been shut down after ignoring lockdown laws by serving alcohol to customers inside.

The owners of the Wheatsheaf Inn in Cropwell Bishop and Indian Nights in East Bridgford have also been given £1,000 fines, while three customers found drinking at the Wheatsheaf were each given £200 fines.

A prohibition notice for each venue means both premises are banned from allowing even takeaway customers to enter.

Nottinghamshire Police officers found three people sitting drinking with the landlord present when they visited the Wheatsheaf on Wednesday January 27.

A customer was also found drinking alcohol as they waited for their food to be prepared at Indian Nights, when our environmental health and licensing officers visited on the same evening.

On inspection, our council officers found over a dozen empty beer and wine bottles, leading them to believe the outlet had also previously served other customers with alcohol.

A further £200 fixed penalty notice was also issued to the owner for obstruction of a council officer but the venue has since worked positively with the council following the breach.

Read more [on our website](#).

Honours list nominations now invited



Councils have now been invited by the MHCLG to put forward recommendations for the Queen's New Year 2022 Honours List with a deadline for nominations of 10am on Tuesday 6 April.

Please see a [letter from MHCLG](#) and [some guidance on the process](#) to assist making a nomination, before completing this [online form](#) and send two letters of support to honours@communities.gov.uk.

Further information from MHCLG, including examples and top tips for drafting a citation, is available here: [Honours - Start of Process documents](#).

Whilst the Honours celebrate all achievements, MHCLG is especially interested in people who are working or volunteering in their community.

They could be working with the homeless or in housing more widely, supporting community integration and interfaith work, or working in local government over an extended period to achieve the council's local ambitions.

Nominations should reflect the best from across the whole of our diverse British society, drawing nominations from as wide a pool as possible.

To give your nominee the best chance of success, the citation should set out their achievements with two or three good and recent examples setting out what it is that they have done that makes them stand out.

You should also include information about their personal contribution and what they did that changed things, the impact of their actions and details of the outcomes that they achieved. MHCLG also suggest including details about whether it was their idea and if they faced adversity.

For any queries regarding the process please email honours@communities.gov.uk

Issues viewing documents via planning online



Our planning online system is currently experiencing technical issues, affecting the ability to open certain documents.

You may be unable to open documents in any application when clicking on the 'view' icon in the right-hand column. Upon doing so, you may be presented with an error message.

This issue appears to have occurred recently following an upgrade to the system.

Our teams have contacted the supplier of the system who advised that this is a known issue, and our ICT teams are continuing to work with them to seek a resolution to the problem.

We have identified an alternative way in which documents can be opened and have posted the following message on the search page of the planning online system to assist members of the public.

The message reads: "We have identified a technical issue with this system and you may experience difficulties accessing some documents when opening them by clicking on the icon in the View column.

"If an error message is displayed the document can be accessed by clicking in the box to the left of the Date Published column and clicking on Download Selected Files at the bottom of the column.

"We hope to resolve this issue as soon as reasonably practicable, in the meantime we would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause."

We will continue to work with the supplier to seek a resolution to this issue and provide a further update as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Please continue to encourage residents to Shop Local, Shop Safe



We're reminding residents that there's still every reason to Shop Local, Shop Safe in Rushcliffe and support our essential local traders.

Many businesses have brilliantly adapted so you can still use takeaway services when you are out for essential reasons.

Find out more about some of the great local businesses offering this service in East Leake in [this short video](#).

FOSAC goes virtual!



A series of five family-friendly live programmes celebrating nature and wildlife in Nottinghamshire

Part of the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity

Monday 8 - Friday 12 February, 4-5pm Notts TV and @NottsFOSAC Facebook

Despite every challenge, the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity is back this February with a packed programme of events and activities accessible for all the family.

With lots of activities online and a super interactive magazine, the Festival has adapted to restrictions on live events with invention and imagination.

The sixth Festival of Science and Curiosity started today and runs until February 17 across the city and county.

We're proud to be supporting this festival, to bring science activities to local families.

The festival is working with local schools in Rushcliffe, linking pupils with scientists to do their own investigations and offering careers Q&As with scientists for secondary schools.

Among the highlights is Wollaton Watch, an hour-long programme about nature and wildlife going out on NottsTV every evening this week.

With young people and volunteers sharing nature in their neighbourhood across Nottinghamshire, Wollaton Watch features hedgehogs, deer and even an item on 'left-handed' snails.

Rushcliffe residents will recognise some of their best-loved green spaces in the programme so keep an eye out!

Full details are online at nottsfosac.co.uk and follow the Festival on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok @NottsFOSAC #CuriousNotts
