

# RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

**Wednesday February 24, 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](mailto:media@rushcliffe.gov.uk) with any enquiries.**

**Please continue to follow national lockdown measures**



Thank you for continuing to play your part as the pandemic continues.

The Prime Minister has outlined a four-step plan to release England from lockdown and all the latest for residents and businesses is available on our website [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus).

We're still encouraging everyone to follow 'Hands, Face, Space' in our communities.

**Test sites continue – please encourage residents to get regularly tested**



We're continuing to signpost residents and business owners to COVID testing sites so everyone, including employees of businesses based in the Borough, are encouraged to be regularly tested.

A full list of asymptomatic test sites is available [on the NHS website](#).

Test sites continue at our Rushcliffe Arena base and at County Hall on Loughborough Road in West Bridgford for symptomatic testing.

## COVID-19 vaccine latest



Anyone over 65 is now encouraged to book their COVID-19 vaccine online using [the Swift Queue link](#) or by calling 0115 883 4640 without waiting for a letter to arrive.

Vaccine letters are also going out to people under 70 who are clinically extremely vulnerable. People will need to bring this letter or their shielding letter as proof that they are eligible.

Those in JCVI Cohort 6 are now being invited for vaccination. They can also book using the above link or telephone number without waiting for a

letter to arrive.

Cohort 6 includes 'all individuals aged 16 years to 65 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality' - this is often called "Clinically Vulnerable".

It also includes those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

It encompasses younger adults in long-stay in-patient, nursing and residential care settings.

For more information on who is eligible please [view the Cohort 6 Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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

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: [Covid-19 How You Can Help](#)

## Our garden waste service now open for new and existing customers



Our garden waste service is now open for new and existing customers with the price held from 2020 that gives gardeners regular green bin collections for less than 77p a week.

All can apply or re-subscribe now [on the webpage](#) or by calling 0115 981 9911.

Residents can place grass cuttings, hedge clippings, twigs and small branches, weeds with excess soil shaken off, flowers, plants, leaves and bark in their green bins to help create a great garden in 2021.

The garden waste scheme will also help remove the need for additional trips to the tip, a great way for residents become more 'Carbon Clever', reducing their carbon footprint.

Households can also manage their garden waste collections with MyAccount, a one stop shop for many of our services.

It means they can sign up, pay for additional green bins for their property and check when their next green bin collection is due, all in the same place.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods Cllr Rob Inglis said: "In line with our commitment to our valued customers last year, we have held the price of the service for this year, meaning it represents great value for money and is far cheaper than other private collection options.

"We would encourage residents to sign up using MyAccount, where not only can you manage your garden waste collection, you can report anything from a missed bin collection, to an overgrown hedge with just a few clicks online.

"The green waste we collect is subsequently recycled and reused at a site just outside the Borough in Oxtun meaning it's great for the environment too."

The service costs £40 which entitles green-fingered residents to year-round fortnightly collections apart from a short period over Christmas and New Year and extra bins cost £25 each.

After applying to the scheme, residents will be issued with a sticker which is placed onto the rear of the bin to identify that it has been paid for to waste collection operatives.

View a [list of Frequently Asked Questions](#).

## Discarded face masks among fines handed out for littering offences



The littering of face masks in public locations are among the latest fines handed out, thanks to a new partnership.

Our work with Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement (WISE) began on January 5 and has so far resulted in hundreds of fixed penalty notices for environmental related offences.

It has also seen 10 fixed penalty notices issued for discarding face masks.

We have now tasked WISE with undertaking increased environmental crime enforcement which sees its officers employed seven days a week.

They will investigate all forms of environmental crimes including fly-tipping, waste offences, littering and dog fouling.

WISE are targeting those who don't dispose of their waste in a responsible way, or hand it over to non-registered waste carriers or create eyesores through dropping litter or failing to pick up after their dog's waste.

Anyone caught fly-tipping can be issued with a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice or if they are observed littering or failing to pick up after their dog's waste, will be issued with an on the spot £100 fine.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods Cllr Rob Inglis said: "We're pleased with the level of action since the partnership began showing we will not tolerate fly-tipping, dog fouling or littering in Rushcliffe.

"The issues are a real frustration for many residents and it's particularly disappointing that a minority of people still believe it is okay to just dump their rubbish wherever they fancy including face masks.

"Dumping waste is anti-social behaviour and impacts on our environment. There is never an excuse to mess up our Borough in this way and these fines show that we will not hesitate to take action."

Failure to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice may result in prosecution being brought and a much higher fine being imposed by the Court as well as a potential criminal record.

## Over 250 trees planted to enhance wildlife and recreational space



We've planted over 250 native trees in West Bridgford to help enhance wildlife and further improve recreational space and create an even greener environment for local residents.

Our grounds maintenance contractors Streetwise Environmental Ltd oversaw the planting of 260 trees, including crab apples, native cherries, oak and limes at Collington Common, off Collington Way, on available land in the residential area.

Streetwise teams will now ensure the saplings are watered and properly maintained as they grow.

As new additions to the open space, the trees will ensure a greener, more sustainable space for local residents to enjoy that also offers opportunities for wildlife, such as shelter and new habitats.

Our Portfolio Holder for Community and the Environment Cllr Abby Brennan welcomed the news that the trees had been successfully planted, celebrating yet another example of the Borough's green credentials.

She said: "I'm delighted that we've been able to further enhance Collington Common and provide local residents with a pleasant and environmentally-friendly space on their doorstep.

"These trees will both diversify the landscape of this residential area and create a wonderful recreational space for people as the saplings grow and mature.

"In Rushcliffe, the environment is one of our key priorities and we're dedicated to making sure the Borough is great place to live, both now and in the years to come."

Managing Director of Streetwise, Nigel Carter, said: "These trees are a brilliant addition to the Borough, and we're thrilled to once again be working with the Council to enhance the greenery across Rushcliffe.

"Our teams will continue to visit the site in the weeks ahead to check on the saplings and ensure they're watered and supported as they grow into a brilliant wooded area for the local community."

Each sapling is supported by a small wooden trellis and has been secured with recyclable padding and protectors, installed to help support them as they get established.

The project at Collington Common forms part of our work to become [Carbon Clever](#). Planting more trees and enhancing the natural resources on site will help to capture and store carbon from the atmosphere, which in turn will help to tackle climate change.

So far, this initiative has included our free tree scheme, which has seen over 7,000 trees distributed to residents, Town and Parish Councils and groups for free since 2018.

It also forms part of our strategy to provide sustainable and enhanced environments in line with the Borough's significant housing and employment growth in the next decade.

## We've bucked the national trend by distributing 100% of COVID-19 business grants



We've bucked the trend by distributing all of a vital central government COVID-19 grants support stream to local businesses, compared with more than 80 per cent of the payments yet to reach businesses nationally.

According to the Events Industry Alliance, £1.3 billion of the £1.6 billion allocated for the Additional Restrictions Grants announced by government since October has yet to be paid, in contrast to the authority ensuring all payments have reached eligible local businesses.

Its research suggests some councils across the UK are distributing the funding in tranches which could last until March 2022 but our teams ensured we were in a position to distribute all funding quickly and effectively as grants were released following Tier 3 restrictions and closures last year.

All Rushcliffe businesses can still access COVID-19 related support on [our business support webpage](#) that includes business support programmes with workshops and one to one coaching on marketing, shopper experience and reopening non-essential businesses safely when restrictions allow.

Our Leader Cllr Simon Robinson said: "The news on these figures highlights the excellent performance of our revenues and other teams over the last few months to reach out to so many businesses who have been closed or affected by the pandemic for long periods.

"We understand fellow local authorities' strategies for the funds reaching businesses are different and in line with what they feel works best.

"Our position from the outset was clear though, to ensure no time was wasted and the payments being distributed were a priority. We recognise businesses need support now. We would like to have helped out more and whilst Government support has been substantial such funds are limited.

"We know businesses are facing such stark pressures and we're committed to helping them wherever we can. We would encourage all business owners to look at what assistance is still available through the business support programmes."

Business owners with any COVID-19 trading questions should [email Economic Development](#) for more information.

Eligible high street businesses or established business groups can also apply for a COVID Digital Recovery Grant that can further help them adapt and improve their online presence or sales.

Small to medium size retail, hospitality, personal care, leisure, tourism and other enterprises in the Borough can now access up to £1,000 over and above existing central government grant support by visiting the [funding webpage](#).

This allows businesses to create or improve a website, seek advice and support on the improving their social media presence or create greater online transactional capability.

It can also aid local retail groups or traders' associations supporting or enhancing the development of, for example, an online marketplace for their town or village.

## Development Corporation updates all in one place



We now have a [webpage dedicated](#) to the Development Corporation project at Ratcliffe on Soar to ensure local communities are signposted to the latest on its plans.

It includes the current power station site being transformed into an international centre for the development of zero carbon technology with the capacity to create up to 20,000 jobs.

Their PR team Baker Baird have also created a newsletter now distributed to local Parish Councils available to view on

the page.

For any questions on the project going forward please email [media@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:media@rushcliffe.gov.uk)

## Census information event for residents next week



A census information event is available for households across the Borough to attend next week.

The session on Tuesday March 2 from 11am to midday will outline how residents can complete the questionnaire with a unique access code whether on computers, phones or tablets after they receive their invitation through the post.

Local Manager Leia Morales, working on behalf of the Office of National Statistics, will inform the community about the guidance on and how to give friends and family the confidence to complete it effectively.

Residents can book [on the eventbrite website](#).

For information this is set to be the same update that will be given at Town and Parish Forum on March 4.

## Join Rushcliffe 100 to hear expert advice on how to build business resilience



Rushcliffe business owners are invited to an online event next week, which will bring together over 100 businesses to help learn more about personal and business resilience.

The virtual gathering will take place on Friday March 5 from 10am to 12.30pm.

It is a chance for businesses to learn more about how they can manage their budget in 2021, an open discussion on the future of high streets and an overview of the business

support available from the D2N2 Growth Hub.

Keynote speaker John Dabrowski will also be sharing his new online masterclass, specifically designed to help people deal with stress induced by COVID-19 and demonstrating how to change the way they process negative situations.

John is an international speaker, author and expert on mental resilience, overcoming adversity and succeeding in his early years to become a basketball international player.

Business owners can book a place by visiting <https://bit.ly/3a9ZOtu> for a fee of £10, proceeds from the tickets sales will be donated to local charities.

The charities include Meet, Greet and Eat in West Bridgford, Bingham Helping Hands and the Keyworth Community Project who have all been working hard to support their communities during the pandemic.

## Free wildflower seeds available to parish councils and communities



Following the success of the community tree scheme and wildflower seed packets to residents, we are now extending the offer of free seeds to Parish Councils and communities.

We can provide up to 3kg of the wildflower general purpose mix seed which can cover approximately 330 square metres per 1 kg, equating up to 1,000 square metres or a quarter of an acre for the full amount.

To apply email our Environmental Sustainability Officer Paul Phillips [pPhillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:pPhillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk) by Friday

March 5.

In the email applicants need to outline:

- How much seed they would like to apply for
- Delivery address
- Contact telephone number

Any applications received after this date may be retained for future schemes.

The seed will be distributed by Streetwise in late March and early April. Guidance on planting the wildflower seeds is provided by the supplier and parishes and communities will be required to be responsible for obtaining and preparing a planting site.

Please email Paul for further advice on this.

## Steps for staying safe at Rushcliffe parks, open spaces and play areas



We're encouraging residents visiting our parks, open spaces and play areas to follow some simple steps to ensure they enjoy a safe trip with their household.

As spring weather arrives, it is anticipated many sites including Rushcliffe Country Park and Bridgford Park will remain very popular, with more people looking to explore the great outdoors during their leisure time.

That's why we're asking residents to observe the following steps for staying safe, to ensure everyone can enjoy

visiting the locations.

- Follow the on-site signage and remember to socially distance from others at all times
- Wash your hands before and immediately after visiting
- Only one parent or support bubble member should accompany a child at any play area
- No one should visit a site if they feel unwell
- Consider returning at a quieter time should you arrive to find parks or facilities already busy
- Follow current guidance to use open skate parks in line with Skate England advice at <https://bit.ly/3r4WQN0>
- Outdoor gym equipment remains open in line with the latest government guidance.

If visiting Rushcliffe Country Park, don't forget its mass of parkland has lots of places to explore in addition to the children's playground.

Sanitisation of facilities at all play parks takes place routinely and any feedback on the sites is requested to be sent to [facilities@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@rushcliffe.gov.uk)

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