



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.

Rapid COVID-19 home test collection continues



We're continuing to encourage everyone to take a regular COVID-19 lateral flow test (LFD).

Here in the County, we can all now collect home testing kits from a [community asymptomatic testing site](#) a [local Pharmacy](#), or [order online](#) direct to your home.

New local collection sites are being set up regularly so please revisit the links for updates and here in the Borough they include the testing site at our Ruscliffe Arena base, Cotgrave Hub on Wednesdays and Saturdays and Bingham market place on Tuesdays.

On each visit two kits can be collected, each containing seven tests.

It is recommended you take a supervised test at an asymptomatic testing site before receiving your test kits.

If you have any queries please email LFDTestingPH@nottsc.gov.uk and as ever please visit www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus for the latest.

Also, please remember **Hands Face Space Fresh Air** whether at home or out and about.

Vaccination appointments now available for over 36s



The local COVID-19 vaccination booking system is currently open to people **aged 36 and over**.

Eligible residents can book their Covid-19 vaccine by calling 119 or visiting the [National Booking Website](#).

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

Residents that live in the Borough, or other parts of Notts, can take part in a new COVID-19 vaccine study through University Hospitals Nottingham.

Volunteers in the study will receive two doses of either a new COVID-19 vaccine or a licensed COVID-19 vaccine in 28 days.

[Find out more information.](#)

Have your say on electoral wards in the Borough



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has launched a public consultation inviting proposals to maintain the current pattern of electoral wards for the Borough.

This includes their recommendation that 44 councillors should be elected to the Council in future instead of our previous proposal it could increase to 46 in line with our increasing populations.

They are now inviting proposals from interested parties and members of the public until July 19, 2021 and you can have your say [on the LGBCE website](#) which contains links to guidance and maps of the current wards.

The Commission are also giving more information about the review and answering questions at a community online briefing on Monday May 24 at 6pm designed to inform a wider group of stakeholders about the current position and gain a better understanding of our communities' make-up.

You can watch the [live briefing](#) and ask questions and the video will be available after the meeting.

The authority have highlighted in drawing up a pattern of electoral wards, they must balance the three statutory criteria they are required to follow:

- Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances

Views can also be submitted by email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

They plan to publish proposals for new electoral arrangements in October with further consultation planned between then and December and intend to publish final recommendations in March 2022.

Assisting hospitality businesses to reopen indoors



We are working with Nottinghamshire Police to actively support the hospitality sector reopening indoor spaces again safely across the Borough, with the guidance of an updated fact sheet to help staff further safely welcome back customers.

The guide has now been sent to over 200 premises across Rushcliffe with the vital information government has set out on how to operate in a COVID secure way, as restrictions continue to lift in the coming weeks and as indoor hospitality opened on Monday May 17.

Available [on our webpage](#) it highlights businesses must continue to collect contact details of all customers or direct them to the Test and Trace QR code on smart phones to log their visit to any outlet.

In line with current guidelines, food or drink may be consumed inside hospitality businesses but table service must remain in place with social distancing between tables and when using toilets and facilities and booking of a maximum of six people or two households per table.

If the premises does not serve alcohol, customers can order and collect food and drink from a counter however they must consume food and drink while seated.

Customers using the toilet or baby change facilities inside a premises must wear a face covering when doing so.

If the premises does not serve alcohol, customers can order and collect food and drink from a counter however they must consume this while seated.

[Read more on our website.](#)

Join the Great British Spring Clean and make your local community even tidier



We are pledging our support for this year's Great British Spring Clean, which aims to further clean up the streets, parks and open spaces in Rushcliffe and nationwide

The annual campaign, run by the charity 'Keep Britain Tidy' runs this year from May 28 to June 13 which will see people from all over the UK come together to save the environment as well as keep their local communities clean and safe.

Here in the Borough, we are calling on groups and individuals to join the effort and volunteer to litter pick in their community for as little as an hour or however long they can give.

All the necessary COVID secure equipment is available from our grounds maintenance partners Streetwise Environmental Services Limited by calling 0115 914 8408 or [emailing](#).

[Read more on our website.](#)

Working with E.ON to bring empty homes back into use



We are working with E.ON with the aim of helping owners of long-term empty homes bring them back into use.

We joined up with its Empty Homes Team to provide a comprehensive package of support, financial assistance and project management to accelerate action on homes that have been empty for over six months or more.

We have been working on returning empty homes to use since the adoption of our Empty Homes Strategy in 2019.

This is a further tool to reach out to those who are having difficulties in returning their properties back to occupation for reasons of finance, knowledge, finding tradespeople or having the time to refurbish their property.

Rushcliffe currently has around 500 privately owned empty properties which have been empty for more than six months and over 150 of them have been empty for more than two years.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning Cllr Roger Upton met with Dr Jon Kirby, E.ON's Head of Commercial Services at an empty home in the Borough.

Cllr Upton said: "The Council is committed to bringing empty homes back into use wherever possible as they bring nothing to the community they are in.

"They can attract complaints, vermin, anti-social behaviour and dereliction. It also brings an increased financial liability on owners as after a period they are charged twice the rate for council tax.

"The alternative is that when a house is brought back into use it brings value to the community as a home, where occupants can contribute to the local economy and local services.

"This joint scheme is a good opportunity for empty home-owners to engage with us, receive the support they need and bring back a property into use for the good of the community."

Dr Kirby said: "By working with Rushcliffe Borough Council we aim to tackle the problem of empty properties and help to bridge the gap in the current UK housing shortage by bringing these properties back into a habitable condition.

"At E.ON we offer a range of solutions to meet our customer's needs to ensure homes can be as energy efficient as possible and this is an example of us looking at how we can provide a more holistic approach to supporting wider communities."

Residents that have a home that has been empty for six months or more and require further information can [contact the Council's Empty Homes Officer by emailing](#) or calling 0115 914 8314 or can also [visit our empty homes webpage](#).

Parliamentary constituencies review guide announced



In January 2021, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced the start of a review of the Parliamentary constituencies in England.

The BCE has now published [a guide for this review](#) and required to report to Parliament by July 2023.

The Guide aims to explain:

- The policies that the Commission will work to in conducting the review within the statutory framework;
- The changes that were most recently made to the law governing Parliamentary constituency reviews by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020;
- The details of the process that the 2023 Review will follow.

The Initial Proposals for new constituency boundaries are set to be publicised on Tuesday June 8.

For any queries please email information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

Ellerslie Cricket open day for over 50s



Ellerslie Cricket Club are inviting over 50s to a range of cricketing activities.

The introductory session takes place at Ellerslie Cricket Club, Little Bounds, West Bridgford NG2 7QA on Sunday May 23 from 9.30am to 12pm.

Previous experience, kit and skill are very much optional and all activities will take place with a soft ball with light refreshments also available.

If you have any queries, contact Ian Dipaulo by emailing ian.dipaolo@nottsccc.co.uk.

Regular walking cricket sessions also commence at the Arena every Sunday 1pm to 2.30pm from June 6.

Census hits targets



This year's Census has reached the end of its field follow-up operation across England and Wales that seen it surpass its expected household response rate targets.

Director of 2021 Census Operations Pete Benton said: "We've had a great response to the census reaching a response from 94% of occupied households nationally and at least 80% in every Local Authority.

"In fact, our operational management information suggests we have achieved 97% response nationally and over 90% in every Local Authority. We have also exceeded our target of minimising the variability in response between areas within every Local Authority.

"This puts us in a good place as we start the Census Coverage Survey (CCS). This starts this week and is a short, separate, interviewer-led survey that follows the main census.

"This will enable us to get a final view of the response rates we have actually achieved and, in conjunction with the census data, enable us to produce population statistics for every Local Authority that are adjusted for any census under (and over) coverage.

"The next stage where we will want to engage local authorities is the quality assurance process for the census population estimates. Our aim is to release the first results within a year of Census Day in March."

All the latest information for residents is available on the [Coronavirus webpages](#) or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.