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Residents reminded to get ready to vote tomorrow



With less than 24 hours left until voters in the Borough go to the polls tomorrow, May 6, we are urging voters to get ready to vote at the Police and Crime Commissioner and County Council elections.

Polling stations will be safe places to vote and people voting in person are encouraged to keep themselves and others safe by:

- wearing a face covering
- bringing their own pen or pencil
- cleaning their hands when entering and leaving the polling station
- keeping a safe distance

Voters should not attend the polling station if they have symptoms of COVID-19, or if they have been asked to self-isolate.

Anyone who develops symptoms or is asked to self-isolate shortly before polling day, has up to 5pm on polling day to apply for an emergency proxy vote. This allows them to nominate someone they trust to vote on their behalf.

Kath Marriott, our Deputy Returning Officer said: "Your poll card will tell you where to find your polling station.

“Make sure you check the information on your polling card, as your polling station might have changed since the last elections.

“You do not need your poll card to vote, however, we encourage you to bring it with you to make the process quicker and more efficient.

“Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday May 6. Voters who have opted to vote by post must return their postal ballot pack by 10pm and can hand it in at their polling station if they don’t have time to return it by post.”

For further information on how to apply for an emergency proxy, voters should contact our electoral registration team emailing elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk or calling 0115 981 9911.

Rushcliffe Arena’s leisure facilities will be limited on Friday May 7 as the County Council election count takes place at the venue.

The leisure centre will close from 7.30am to 5pm but gym sessions and lane swims can still be booked outside of these hours on [the Rushcliffe Arena website](#).

The leisure centre will then open as usual on Saturday May 8 with the possibility of reduced parking spaces due to the further election count for the Police and Crime Commissioner election.

Your vote is yours alone – protect it at the elections



We are supporting a campaign that has been launched by the Electoral Commission and Crimestoppers, the independent crime reporting charity, to help prevent electoral fraud ahead of local elections on May 6.

In any election in the UK, a person’s vote belongs to them alone. It is illegal for anyone to influence a person to vote against their will.

The impact of electoral fraud on voters can be significant. It takes away their right to vote as they want – whether through intimidation, bribery or by impersonating someone in order to cast a vote in their place. The *Your vote is yours alone* campaign aims to

raise awareness of what constitutes unacceptable pressure or influence on whether or how someone casts their vote.

Ahead of local elections in Rushcliffe we are encouraging voters to get to know the signs of electoral fraud and how they can anonymously report cases if someone tries to take their vote.

[Read more on our website.](#)

Rapid COVID-19 home test collection continues



We're continuing to encourage everyone to now take a regular COVID-19 lateral flow testing (LFD) in line with the government announcement that twice weekly testing is available to everyone over 18 in England.

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

Here in the Borough they include the testing site at our Ruscliffe Arena base and Cotgrave Hub on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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 40s



The local COVID-19 vaccination booking system is currently open to people **aged 40 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.](#)

Gresham football facilities to be revamped with £1.2m investment



Residents are set to benefit from over £1.2m fresh investment into local football facilities and playing fields in West Bridgford.

We have been awarded a grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation, to install a new full size floodlit 3G football turf pitch, refurbishment of its existing 3G pitch and upgrade of the existing grass pitches at the Gresham Sports Park facility.

We worked with the Football Foundation and the Nottinghamshire FA to secure the £458,275 grant towards the project. Further investment of developer contributions secured by local planning agreements for sport and leisure provision meant it can now invest a total of £1.26m to the project.

The Football Foundation is the UK's largest sports charity and exists to improve the experience of playing football for everyone, by championing fair access to quality facilities.

This grant will enable clubs across Rushcliffe and wider Nottinghamshire the chance to play football each week, to improve their playing experience and ensure that the authority continues to deliver great facilities.

Work started yesterday, Tuesday May 4 on its grass pitches and the new 3G pitch in time for new football seasons starting in September with outdoor facilities closed from this date at the site.

[Read more on our website.](#)

Resident fined £300 for not checking waste carrier that led to huge fly-tip



A resident has been issued a fine of £300 after failing to check who was disposing of his house clearance waste that led to an irresponsible waste carrier dumping hundreds of items on a footpath completely blocking its use.

We issued the fixed penalty notice to the householder after finding evidence belonging to the property owner in the waste at a bridge adjacent to the Grantham Canal at Fosse Locks under the A46 near Cropwell Butler, a popular location for walkers.

A huge pile of cardboard boxes, electrical and households items was found by us on April 6 following a number of reports from local residents and a further investigation into an individual operator connected with the fly-tip is ongoing.

Householders who employ individuals or companies to dispose of their waste must make the necessary checks or face a potential penalty if it is linked with a fly-tipping case. This is known as the householder's duty of care.

Residents can check whether a waste carrier is registered online on the [Environment Agency website](#) or by calling 03708 506 506.

Read more [on our website](#).

Big business join us for greater impact on carbon reduction



Partners and enterprise from across the Borough have come together for the formation of our Big Business Carbon Club, sharing learning, views and skills to make even greater impact on their carbon reduction journeys.

The club's inaugural meeting on April 28 chaired by us, saw a host of local organisations discuss common goals and priorities on where they could make short, medium and long term impacts on carbon levels within their operations and strategies.

Key influencers University of Nottingham, Artex, the British Geological Survey, Ideagen, DMRC, Spire Healthcare and MHR Global were among those attending, keen to hear and share learning.

They wish to support other businesses in the Borough and County, acting as future champions of low carbon to influence the actions for small and medium sized businesses, applying understanding and insight from local experts on priority areas for a wider action plan.

Part of our Carbon Clever mission and our key environmental priority, we are seeking to engage with many larger businesses who have over 250 employees to find ways to work towards becoming carbon neutral.

Our Director for Neighbourhoods and Deputy Chief Executive Dave Banks said: “A huge thanks to all businesses who participated so enthusiastically in our first meeting, it was fascinating to make comparisons of where we are on our respective carbon reduction journeys and identify solutions to the common challenges we face.

“We will now take forward opportunities for collaboration in areas such as business travel, offsetting emissions and lowering the carbon footprint of our workforce through further engagement.

“Such was the success of the session we have brought forward our next meeting to the summer months and wish to invite more organisations to join us by emailing their interest to communities@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

“It’s heartening to see so many key organisations in Rushcliffe making the environment one of their top priorities.”

Our car parks awarded Park Mark highlighting low crime and safety



A number of our car parks have received the prestigious Park Mark, the Safer Parking Scheme award that recognises car parks with measures in place that actively deter crime and the fear of crime in car parks.

Bridgford Road, Gordon Road, Nursery and Rushcliffe Arena car parks in West Bridgford, Needham Street car park in Bingham, Bunny Lane car park in Keyworth and Rushcliffe Country Park's car park have all reached The Safer Parking Scheme national standards.

A Park Mark is awarded to parking facilities that pass a rigorous risk assessment conducted by the Police and the British Parking Association.

They include passing management and maintenance standards of the facility, ensuring that there are appropriate levels of surveillance, lighting, signage and cleanliness. These criteria are known to reduce the opportunity for crime and create a safer environment for the motorist and their vehicle.

The news come after we announced our 'Free After 3' promotion that allows free parking after 3pm each day across Rushcliffe managed car parks in towns and village centres until further notice.

The car parks are part of only a quarter nationally to have received the accreditation and Park Mark helps drivers tell the difference with its bright blue box and big white tick signage designed to stand out, giving drivers assurance they are choosing a safer place to park.

Our Executive Manager for Neighbourhoods Dave Banks said: "The award highlights our car parks continue to be locations you can be confident to park and leave your vehicle and our teams work hard to make them ever safer, cleaner, greener and accessible.

"A safer environment for the motorist and their vehicle can only help our local economies too as our town and village centres benefit with increased and return footfall for shopping, working or visiting."

Personal safety and location have been cited as joint priorities when choosing where to park. There are currently 5000 car parks with the [Park Mark award throughout the UK which can be found on a designated website.](#)

Elite athletes granted vital funding in bid for Olympic and national goals



Elite athletes across the Borough have been awarded grant funding to support their efforts in their chosen sport as they reach for their Olympic and national goals.

Our Elite Sports Grant has been awarded to 19 athletes from the Borough to reduce some of the financial burden of competing at an advanced level that can often create a barrier to their achievements.

Funds may help with costs such as travel, training, accommodation, competition fees and equipment, specialist coaching and other specialist support deemed appropriate by the National Governing Body over the next year.

Those awarded the funding are competing in a number of different sports such as athletics, canoeing, archery, wheelchair tennis, ice hockey and swimming and with some awaiting to see if they take their place at Tokyo 2021.

Athletes include Barney Corral who is World Junior Champion after winning gold at the World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Switzerland in 2019 and was also Sports Person of the Year at the 2019 Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards.

Meanwhile, short track speed skater star Charlotte Hayward, whose ambition is to qualify for the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing 2022 and again in Milan 2026, is also among the recipients of the grant.

[A full list including information about each athlete is available on our website.](#)

Our Executive Manager for Neighbourhoods and Deputy Chief Executive Dave Banks said: “We are delighted to award these athletes with funding that can help towards the considerable costs of competing and training.

“We take pride in Rushcliffe having great sport and it’s wonderful to see these 19 athletes training in different disciplines at a high level and we hope this grant will allow their talents to flourish with less financial hurdles.

“Particularly in an Olympic year, it brings into focus how vital it is to support our local athletes who are at varying degrees of their journeys trying to reach the top of their sports.

“We also recognise that COVID-19 has caused many challenges for sport, with many international competitions, national training camps and talent days being cancelled. We were therefore happy to use evidence from 2019 and 2020 to help form a decision on grants being awarded.”

Mayor more than half-way through her 100km challenge



Our Mayor is more than half-way through a 100km walking challenge to raise money for her three chosen charities.

Cllr Sue Mallender is walking many parts of the Rushcliffe border, on the circular route around the Borough to raise funds for Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Musicworks and Trent District Community First Responders and has so far completed more than 67km.

The route comprises of six sections between 13 kilometres (8.4 miles) and 19 kilometres (12 miles), which can be [viewed on our website](#) the Mayor is completing in her spare time.

Madam Mayor said: “I’m delighted to have passed the halfway point of my challenge having completed the routes from Thrumpton to Shelton and Rempstone to Zouch.

“It’s been lovely seeing lots of Rushcliffe’s sites, including Sibthorpe Church, quartz and sandstone rock striations in East Bridgford, the River Mantle and King’s Brook and the weir at Zouch.

“It’s fascinating to see many parts of the Borough only accessible by some of these lovely footpaths.

“Thank you so much to those who have donated towards my challenge so far, as charities have really suffered throughout lockdown with most fundraising activities unable to take place, so any little helps towards their efforts.”

Those wishing to make a donation can [contact us by emailing](#) and to find out more about the charity’s work can visit [Nottinghamshire Willdlife website](#), [Musicworks' website](#) and [Trent Community First Responders website](#) respectively.

West Bridgford Farmers' Market returns to Central Avenue



West Bridgford Farmers' Market has now returned to the croquet lawn on Central Avenue in the town.

The popular feature had previously been located at Bridgford Road car park since January to allow for greater social distancing and due to ground conditions on the lawn but has now resumed its usual site with stalls still observing COVID secure measures.

There will continue to be extended space between each stall with hand-washing facilities on site for all traders, who will continue to follow central government advice on masks and gloves.

Thank you if you attend and support local businesses from 8am on the second and fourth Saturday of every month and we're asking where possible for payment to be made by card for further safe trading.

We are asking those attending to also ensure social distancing is maintained at all times.

'What Next?' campaign for teenagers leaving school launched



Nottinghamshire County Council have launched the 'What Next?' campaign for teenagers that will be finishing school this year.

They have put together a short selection of videos highlighting their choices including:

- Local colleges
- Local and some national employers
- Ideas for volunteering
- Guidance for CVs and interviews
- Information about apprenticeships/traineeships/internships
- Emotional support
- And more!

The videos can be viewed on their [YouTube channel](#).