

Councillors' Connection

Monday, March 30

Please note, Councillors' Connection will be published twice weekly, on Mondays and Thursdays, until further notice.

Please continue to send your queries to media@rushcliffe.gov.uk and the team will work to respond via email as quickly as possible.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Residents asked to leave bins out for 6.30am to help our waste crews



Residents are being asked to leave their bins out for 6.30am on collection day to help our waste crews ensure everyone's bins are collected as normal.

Our refuse collection teams are now working longer hours to help make sure essential frontline services continue, despite the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Teams will be visiting properties from the new time each morning in a bid to collect the increasing tonnes of waste produced by households, as people follow government advice and stay at home.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety Cllr Rob Inglis said: "We're requesting that residents make sure their bins are available for collection earlier until further notice, as our teams adapt to growing demands on our waste collection services.

"Despite the challenges of the current COVID-19 situation, our teams are continuing to show resilience and determination in fulfilling their roles and delivering an essential service for residents throughout the Borough.

"Please help our waste teams to collect your grey, blue and green bins as normal."

While some collections in Rushcliffe have been rescheduled to meet demand in recent days, we're reassuring households that their bins will still be collected as soon as possible.

Car parks free to use



A reminder that all our car parks remain free to use with time limits lifted until further notice in light of COVID-19.

We're not enforcing parking restrictions but asking all motorists to continue to observe disabled bay parking bay rules.

We'll review this decision monthly, with signs now in place highlighting the arrangements for car park

users and advice on observing social distancing in line with government guidelines.

FINANCE AND BUSINESS

[website.](#)

For all the latest, visit the [business pages on our](#)



Reminder on support for self-employed

A reminder that government have announced assistance for the self-employed in the form of the COVID-19 Self-employment Income Support Scheme.

The scheme allows eligible applicants to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.

We're encouraging self-employed residents to [visit the Government's guidance pages for more details and information on how to apply.](#)

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

COVID-19 Community Support and Volunteering Hub

WE



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

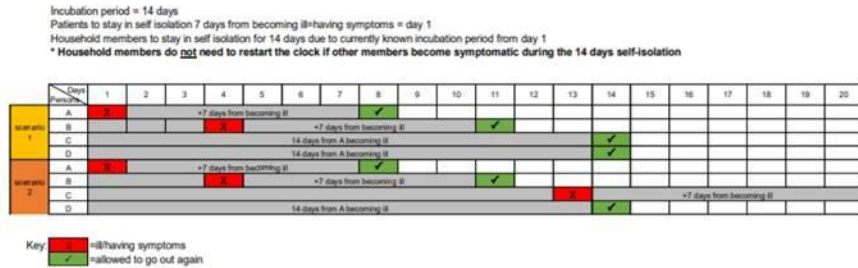
Nottinghamshire County Council are continuing to work with all seven District and Borough Councils to further their COVID-19 Community and Support Volunteering Hub.

Lots of details are available on their website, which welcomes emails or phone calls from

volunteers, as well as those seeking support for free between 8.30am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday: **0300 500 8080**

Please promote this service in your community wherever possible.

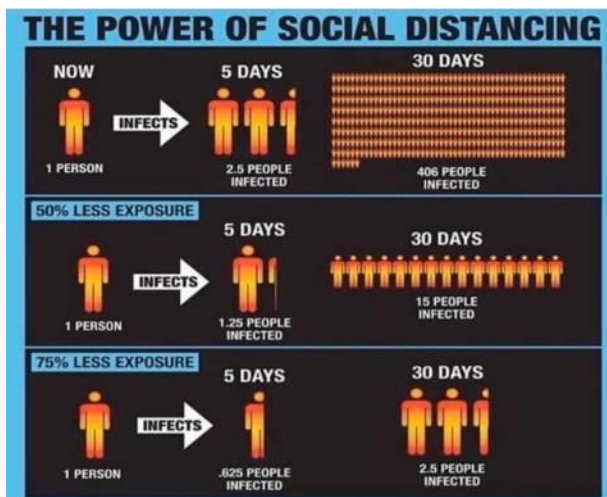
Please remember government's self-isolation guidelines



The

government guidance is as follows:

- If you live alone and have the symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms started
- If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms then you must stay at home for 7 days, but all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14 day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill, please see above
- Anyone else in the household who starts displaying symptoms need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared



The graphic to the left highlights how social distancing can be vital in slowing down infection rates.

Guidance includes:

1. Work from home where possible
2. Avoid all unnecessary travel
3. Stay away from crowded places
4. Avoid gatherings with friends and families where possible
5. Stay two metres apart from other people

You can find out more about the measures we should all be taking to reduce social interaction in order to reduce the transmission of Coronavirus [on the government's website](#).

Please advise residents to take extra care to not drop litter

We're

Clr



We're advising residents to take extra care to not litter anywhere in the Borough but particularly any medical related items.

also encouraging businesses in the care sector and those making deliveries to dispose of these types of items responsibly.

Tina Combellack got in touch today highlighting how she had discovered items strewn on the roadside in her ward.

She said: "Last week I took the attached photographs of latex gloves, worn for protection then selfishly thrown onto the grass verge on Bridegate Lane, in Hickling.

"All rubbish thrown into the countryside has the potential to be contaminated and should be disposed of responsibly.

"We still do not understand whether this disease can be transmitted to animals, so just imagine if those latex gloves infected wild life. There could be no stopping the infection rate."

Keep in touch with family and friends



At this difficult time, it's really important to get in touch with friends and family and make sure they're not facing challenges alone.

Perhaps spend some time today to consider those connections in your phonebook who might be staying at home alone and relying on a phone call for their next conversation.

Even if it's only a few minutes in between activities to keep the kids entertained, or a short half hour after dinner to update them on your day – a phone call to a loved one could make a huge difference to their wellbeing this week.

If you're particularly concerned about a friend or family member who is by themselves at the moment, please consider visiting [Nottinghamshire's community support and volunteering hub](#) to see what further support is available.

Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp



Central Government has launched its [Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp](#).

The free service is an automated 'chatbot' that will provide information on coronavirus prevention and symptoms, the latest number of cases in the UK, advice on staying at home, travel advice and myth busting.

It aims to further reduce the burden on NHS services, including 111, combat the spread of the virus and ensure people stay at home and save lives.

Please publicise to residents where possible.

SERVICE SPECIFIC ISSUES

Update on Police and enforcement powers



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE
PROUD TO SERVE

The government yesterday has strengthened police enforcement powers in England to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

If members of the public do not comply the police may:

- Instruct them to go home, leave an area or disperse
- ensure parents are taking necessary steps to stop their children breaking these rules
- issue a fixed penalty notice of £60, which will be lowered to £30 if paid within 14 days
- issue a fixed penalty notice of £120 for second time offenders, doubling on each further repeat offence

Individuals who do not pay a fixed penalty notice under the regulations could be taken to court, with magistrates able to impose unlimited fines.

If an individual continues to refuse to comply, they will be acting unlawfully, and the police may arrest them where deemed proportionate and necessary. However, in the first instance the police will always apply their common sense and discretion.

Buying or selling of homes



Guidance has been published for all parties involved in the buying or selling of private residential homes. All those involved are urged to adapt and be flexible to alter their usual processes.

Where the property being moved into is vacant, the transaction can be continued although the guidance on home removals below should be adhered to. Where the property is currently occupied, all parties are encouraged to do all they can to amicably agree alternative dates to move, for a time when it is likely that stay-at-home measures against coronavirus will no longer be in place.

In the new emergency enforcement powers that the police have been given to respond to coronavirus, there is an exemption for critical home moves, in the event that a new date is unable to be agreed.

UK Finance have confirmed that, to support customers who have already exchanged contracts for house purchases and set dates for completion, all mortgage lenders are working to find ways to enable customers who have exchanged contracts to extend their mortgage offer for up to three months to enable them to move at a later date.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/government-advice-on-home-moving-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Latest retailer activity



The British Retail Council is providing a daily update on the actions taken by retailers to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The update covers new and further measures by supermarkets to support social distancing as well as changes made to opening hours to support NHS and emergency staff.

The update can be found here: <https://brc.org.uk/news/corporate-affairs/coronavirus-latest-retailer-announcements/>

Compliments

Cllr Tina Combellack praised our waste team in light of news reports in recent days of local authorities receiving criticism for performing their roles.

She said: "I watched the news about bin men being abused. I sincerely hope this is not happening in Rushcliffe. Our refuse collectors are wonderful and always go the extra mile. Please make sure they know they are valued particularly at a time like this."

Councillors' queries

Each edition we'll be addressing Councillors' queries to help provide answers to common questions regarding COVID-19. Please email your questions to media@rushcliffe.gov.uk to be featured in this section.

Q: "What exactly is Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Humanitarian Aid Cell?"

A: The Local Resilience Forum is made up of partners including ourselves, all other local authorities in the county and key partners including police, fire, ambulance and clinical commissioning groups.

Q: "We have noticed that the police have begun pulling over cars to prove they are on essential business. Could the Borough offer something similar to the Foodbank for our volunteers, so they don't find themselves with a fee?"

A: We are currently liaising with Nottinghamshire Police regarding these checks to support those needing to travel across the Borough at this time.

Due to the number of volunteer efforts currently active across Rushcliffe, we are unable to safely distribute any form of ID to groups across the Borough. However, the police are aware of the immense voluntary efforts taking place, so it may be best for volunteers to explain their individual circumstances as necessary.

Q: "Our volunteer group really need a definitive answer re the County's food parcels. We are receiving calls from people asking who will be entitled to them and as a group we have wondered how they will be delivered? Will it be weekly? Is it open to anyone who is required to self-isolate?"

A: Unfortunately, the answers are not yet clear as the County Council are waiting for information from central Government. As soon as we have any further information, we will let you know.

Q: "Is there any way we could help NCC with this? Maybe we could ask some of our volunteer network (now over 300 eager people!) to help sort and deliver in Ruddington if required?"

A: Our understanding currently is that the County Council will send items to a central location to be sorted, it could be at that stage we assess those volunteers who have identified themselves and coordinate deliveries accordingly. Again, as soon as we have a clearer idea about the food parcels, who they are for and how they will be distributed, we will let you know.

Q: "As a community group we also need sound, definitive advice on what to do if vulnerable people don't (or can't) pay for the shopping that the volunteers have collected for them. We don't want any volunteer to be out of pocket. Is there a way we could reimburse should this unfortunate situation happen? Could the Borough offer a small pot of money that could be accessed should this happen?"

A: We are aware that this could be a challenge for volunteers and our teams are currently considering how best to support those who could be affected.

Q: "I realise difficult decisions will have to be made as Corona virus spreads and services may have to be reduced, however, the continued provision of green bin collection is particularly important to elderly residents, possibly more so than the recycling bin collection" Will this be retained?

A: Our bin collections are currently continuing as normal. Our teams are working hard to keep services going in these difficult times, and many recognise gardening is one of the few pleasures left.

However, if resources become depleted then green waste is the least important waste service in terms of public health, as this waste can at least be composted or bagged prior to service resumption.

We will, of course, keep you informed if there are any service changes that are required.

Q: "Age UK have indicated that Metropolitan Housing may have access to food parcels for vulnerable adults. Should we contact them directly or wait to hear more from Nottinghamshire County Council?"

A: We currently understand that the County Council will coordinate Metropolitan's efforts into the overarching project, again we will update Councillors as soon as are any further details.

All the latest information for residents is available at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.