

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

Monday March 30, 2020

For all the latest updates on our services during COVID-19,
visit www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

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

Latest Coronavirus updates on our website



The page on our website [here](#) highlights information on the latest health advice, Council services, bin collections and homelessness.

**CORONAVIRUS:
PUBLIC
INFORMATION**

Please check this page regularly for the latest updates.

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.

Find out more 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 encourage all support and volunteer efforts to make themselves known to this hub.

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.

Our waste services continue as normal



We're reiterating to residents all of our waste services are continuing as normal until further notice.

Fellow local authorities in the county are readjusting parts of their services but Rushcliffe bins, including green waste, are unaffected currently.

Rushcliffe play areas remain closed



All of our managed play areas will remain closed until further notice.

We are also advising Parish Councils to close play areas wherever possible.

However, parks are still open and residents are asked to utilise these spaces in line with central government advice on social distancing:

- keeping a distance of two metres between others
- one exercise session per day
- only leaving the house to buy essential goods.

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.

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

Business grants set to be distributed to businesses by April 10



We are reassuring business owners in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors that central government grant support will be ready to be distributed by April 10.

We have started to contact businesses on how to claim the grant in line with safe financial protocols.

Its two levels will see £10,000 grants for properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or less and £25,000 grants for properties with a rateable value of more than £15,000 but less than £51,000.

The latest information on this and all the support for businesses, our services and communities is available at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Update for employers making changes to their workforce



Department for Work & Pensions

The Department for Work and Pensions are working in partnership with D2N2 and the National Careers Service to support businesses that need to make changes to their workforce as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Businesses should direct any individuals impacted by changes to workforce or company structure to email NationalCareersServiceNCC@futuresforyou.com or call 0800 917 94 19.

For large scale changes, additional support is also available employers. In these circumstances, businesses are invited to use the same contact details as above, but also include:

- Notification of changes
- Number and job roles affected
- Last day of work for affected individuals (if known)

For general guidance and links to further information for both employers and employees, please visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/redundancy-help-finding-work-and-claiming-benefits

Any business seeking to fill urgent vacancies, short or long term, to meet changes as a result of COVID-19, can also register their vacancies with John Blankley, Senior Employment Support Adviser via email John.Blankley@futuresforyou.com

Any emails regarding vacancies should include the following information:

- Nature of work
- Number of vacancies (can be approximate)
- Necessary or desirable skills requirement
- Location of vacancies
- Any current recruitment routes being used

Government announces support for self-employed



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.](#)

Supermarket keyworker vacancies available



We have been alerted by the County Council on supermarket keyworker vacancies that are available around the county.

These includes positions at Asda, B and M, Iceland, Aldi, Deliveroo, Just Eat, Lidl, M and S, Ocado, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Co-op, Morrisons and UberEats.

We appreciate this possibly contradicts the current central government 'stay at home, save lives' message as residents potentially apply to these

posts but we are balancing this with the understanding how many people are currently facing employment issues.

Therefore please signpost residents as you see fit to more on these vacancies at <https://www.nottinghamjobs.com/various-retail-vacancies.html>

Vacancies for care workers



Nottingham City Council are urgently recruiting for Care Workers.

These would be on Casual Assignment Basis and pay would be £9.94/hour plus casual enhancement of 12.04%.

- These roles will involve personal care, as well as getting people in and out of bed, cooking light meals, medication checks, etc.
 - They will take walkers and drivers - people will be working within a one mile radius of their postcode so will not need to use public transport.
- No previous experience required – training will be provided.
 - Minimum age is 18.
 - Care workers are classed as Key Workers and your children will be eligible for a school place during your shifts, although the guidance is that children stay at home where possible to protect out frontline workers.

Name and phone number should be sent to: asc.vacancies@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Interviews will be conducted via telephone with a start ASAP.

They are able to carry out a DBS Adult First check that is typically processed within two days and will enable people to start working very quickly.

For any queries please contact fiona.robinson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or call Nottingham Jobs on 0115 876 4508.

COVID-19 cyber protect messages



The East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU) have collated the following advice to help raise awareness amongst businesses and members of the public during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

If you require any further information, assistance or guidance please contact the EMSOU Protect Team by emailing EMSOU-Cyset@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk or contacting your local Force Protect team.

Phishing emails/Fraud/Ransomware

Action Fraud has received over 1,000 reports of coronavirus-themed phishing attempts. People are being duped into opening attachments, which then compromise their personal information, email logins, passwords and banking details.

Some of the tactics being used by fraudsters in phishing emails include:

- Purporting to be from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO) and offering to provide a list of active infections in specific areas. Corrupt links will take victims to a credential-stealing page or makes involuntary payments into a Bitcoin account.
- Publishing misleading articles about the virus outbreak with a link to a fake company website where victims are encouraged to click to subscribe to a daily newsletter for further updates.
- Sending investment and trading advice to take advantage of the coronavirus downturn.

What to look out for:

- Many phishing emails have poor grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Poor design and overall quality.
- Is it addressed to you by name, or does it refer to 'valued customer', or 'friend', or 'colleague'? Are the latter generic ones, the scammer?
- Asking you to act urgently? Be suspicious of words like 'send these details within 24 hours' or 'you have been a victim of crime, click here immediately'.
- Does the sender sound legitimate? Or trying to mimic someone?
- Sound too good to be true? It probably is. It's most unlikely that someone will want to give you money, or give you access to a secret part of the Internet.
- Your bank, or any other official source, should never ask you to supply personal information from an email.
- If unsure, check any claims made in the email through some other channel.

Wider fraud

The NFIB (National Fraud Investigation Bureau) has suggested, that the following fraud types could increase during the COVID-19 outbreak:

- Online shopping and auction fraud
- Computer software service fraud

- Lender loan fraud – people look to quick loans to see them through tough times
- Mandate fraud – with more people working from home, it may be easier to impersonate senior decision makers and request a change in direct debit or standing order payments.
- Investment fraud including pension liberation fraud – fraudsters could create bogus investments in commodities in high demand, e.g. oxygen or anti-bac gel.

Computer software service fraud

Criminals may cold call you claiming there are problems with your computer and they can help solve them. They often use the names of known and trusted companies such as Microsoft and Apple, they may also use the name of your Broadband provider.

The criminals may ask you to complete a number of actions on your computer, and may even be able to demonstrate an "error". Then they tell you they need remote access and ask you to download software, this is known as a Remote Access Tool.

This give the criminal complete access to everything on your computer. They can access and copy your data or download malware to monitor what you do in future.

Never give an unsolicited caller remote access to your computer.

Trending

Banking Trojan being disguised as 'ways to get rid of Coronavirus', convincing potential victims into downloading malware.

Fake websites masquerading as coronavirus tracking maps. When users visit the fake site, they're infected with malware designed to capture sensitive information, including logins for banks, email accounts and social media platforms.

Reporting

Reporting to Action Fraud can be done online or by calling 0300 123 2040.

To report offers of financial assistance from HMRC, contact phishing@hmrc.gov.uk

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.

Bingham and West Bridgford markets cancelled until further notice



Regular markets in Bingham and West Bridgford are cancelled until further notice.

Both the weekly traditional market on a Thursday, and the monthly farmer's market every third Saturday of the month in Bingham, will no longer be taking place at the Buttercross in the centre of the town.

Equally, the twice monthly Farmer's Market at West Bridgford is also suspended.

Our Deputy Leader, Cllr Debbie Mason said: "After consideration, we have decided to cancel the

regular markets in Bingham and West Bridgford.

"We are working closely with market managers to assess where we could provide this invaluable local service through home delivery and collections. We are committed to adapting services where possible whilst prioritising keeping people safe in these unprecedented times.

"We will continue to support our fantastic range of traders however we can to help them return to the market once we are able to ensure the safety of both them and their dedicated customers."

Update from the Leader, Cllr Robinson



We're in exceptionally challenging times and my sympathies are with, and best wishes go out to, all residents and their families and friends who are in any way affected by this virus.

It's been heartening to see so many of our communities mobilise local efforts to help those vulnerable, elderly, in need or self-isolating within hours of central government outlining its plans of how to deal with the outbreak at the start of last week.

People are setting up very local support networks with neighbours to keep an eye on each other and this is invaluable. If you haven't already got a WhatsApp group or similar in place for your street please consider setting one up.

Many people have already been helped but this situation will continue for some time and I would encourage people seeking assistance who haven't got support in place, or those who wish to volunteer locally, to call the County Council's Community and Volunteer Hub on 0300 500 8080. They will be co-ordinating this support centrally and then Rushcliffe Borough Council staff will be involved in assisting locally.

Please follow the latest government advice to stay home and save lives, whilst going out once a day if you can for a walk, run or bike ride. Our parks remain open in line with the current advice to support exercise but please remember to follow the guidance to ensure you're always two metres away from others when in public spaces.

We know livelihoods are also at stake for so many of our wonderful Rushcliffe business owners and their staff. Our teams are contacting businesses to distribute information on vital business grants. There is also information on our website at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk about this.

All those eligible will be contacted in the coming days on how they can receive this support and there will be more help for council tax payers soon too through the central government hardship fund.

It is incredibly challenging for all organisations, not just the public sector but as I have said, businesses and self-employed residents too.

The Council's senior officers are involved in supporting county wide work with other agencies such as Nottinghamshire County Council, the NHS and Police to provide a joint approach to supporting vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 crisis.

At the Council, staff continue to be redeployed to maintain refuse collection services and ensure that we can pay business grants in a timely way. We are endeavouring to maintain services as normal wherever possible with the latest information on the website.

Thank you to residents for your patience and understanding when you are contacting us. Your spirit has been incredible in the face of such uncertainty and difficulty as we hear of so many who are tackling huge challenges at home and work.

For you still to take the time to safely show your thanks and appreciation of services, for example to our waste teams when performing their essential roles in the community, is inspiring. Youngsters creating posters of rainbows of hope and waving at our crews when they carry out the bin collections continues to add a spring to their step.

Please make sure you stay safe and let's hope we can reach a more stable and safer environment as soon as possible.

My thanks again to all who are safely helping others and very best wishes.

Wish to include an item in this update? Email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

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