

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

Wednesday July 22, 2020

Please remember for all the latest on our services during COVID-19 please visit www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

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

Leisure centres reopening dates announced



Dates for our leisure centres to reopen have been announced that will ensure as many of our residents can securely resume participation in activities at the sites in line with our contractors' operating needs.

Customers are set to be warmly welcomed back and asked to follow all guidelines when arriving at each site.

Subject to any changes, which will be further outlined, the following centres are set to open:

Saturday July 25

Phased opening of Rushcliffe Arena, Bingham Leisure Centre, Cotgrave Leisure Centre operated by Lex Leisure.

Gym space and reduced group exercise classes will be available to comply with both the social distancing guidelines and participation rates.

Repurposing of the gym space, fitness suites and sports halls at each site means we can maximise participation for group exercise.

At the Arena, for example, this involves relocating some gym equipment to the sports hall and the bowls hall now hosting exercise classes. These measures we feel are the best way to support our contractors to enable them to do what they can to maximise the number of people that can safely return to enjoying the centres.

There will be further updates to outline the reopening of pools at each site and this phased approach will see more facilities opening in the coming weeks.

All questions on visiting these centres can be found on their Frequently Asked Questions pages at <https://www.leisurecentre.com/welcome-back>



Phased opening of East Leake Centre operated by Mitie.

Gym space, reduced group exercise classes, tennis courts and casual badminton will be available.

All questions on visiting the centre can be found on their Frequently Asked Questions pages at <https://east-leake.co.uk/lc>

To be confirmed:

Keyworth Leisure Centre operated by Lex Leisure.

The Centre cannot operate currently given its smaller size and until central government social distancing guidance is reviewed.

Visit <https://www.leisurecentre.com/promotion/centre-reopening> for updates for when it will reopen.

Our Leader Cllr Simon Robinson said: "We continue to work closely with our leisure centre contractors to take the necessary steps to ensure facilities can reopen securely and at the right time.

"The pandemic has had a significant impact on the whole of the community and the economy with the leisure sector being hit particularly hard.

"Therefore, we wish to maximise the ability for Rushcliffe residents to participate in leisure activities whilst making important decisions on the timings of centre openings.

"Wherever possible we are repurposing gym space, fitness suites and sports halls at each site to maximise participation for group exercise, complying with both social distancing guidelines and participation rates.

"We thank local groups and clubs who use our facilities who have been engaged in this process.

"We need to open the centre at Keyworth at a later date when it is safe to do so but we will keep all residents and leisure centre users fully up to date on when this could reopen."

Leader's Update



Leader's Update
July 2020



Our Leader Cllr Simon Robinson has given his latest video update [here](#).

It focusses on support for businesses, the success of Reach Rushcliffe to tackle social isolation, the new crematorium, volunteers, leisure centres reopening and the need to continue to be safe in our communities.

Second phase of discretionary COVID-19 grants available until July 31



We are continuing to invite applications from eligible business owners on a second phase of COVID-19 Discretionary Business Grants Scheme designed for those yet to receive central government financial support.

This grant is aimed at small businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund payments in April and who may have been unsuccessful with applications to the first phase of discretionary support outlined in June.

This central government support has now been reviewed with newly revised terms and previous applicants do not need to reapply with us contacting them should they now be eligible for the funding.

Otherwise, new applications for eligible business owners can be completed until July 31 at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus

The new terms include small and micro business owners who have ongoing property related costs of more than 5% of overheads, compared with 15% previously and those in the with a rateable value of less than £100,000 in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

The eligible fall in income threshold has also been lowered to 60%, compared with 80% in the first phase.

This will be assessed when compared to April and May last year and businesses must still not be eligible for other business rates based grants.

Businesses also need to have been trading on March 11 this year and will have to provide supporting information and documents to complete the process.

Mayor travels to engagement in line with her carbon goals



Our Mayor Cllr Sue Mallender is continuing to conduct the role in line with her aims to be carbon neutral wherever possible.

On July 13 she attended a 100th birthday party in Rempstone, catching the bus from West Bridgford to and from the village to celebrate with Wendy Pytches, who has been an active member of the local community for over 50 years.

Cllr Mallender presented her with flowers and joined the celebrations while observing social distancing measures, as residents played music outside her house and raised the village flag in a toast to her.

If you would like the Mayor to safely or virtually attend an event in your ward, please call 0115 914 8481 or email mayor@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Rushcliffe rogue fly-tippers operation launched



An operation has been launched to tackle rogue fly-tippers who are blighting landscapes in Gotham, Barton-in-Fabis and Thrumpton and surrounding areas in Rushcliffe.

We joined forces with Nottinghamshire Police and Parish Council

representatives to stop vehicles on the A453 Remembrance Way, Green Street and Fox Covert Lane on July 7 completing checks on trade waste and other drivers.

It follows an increase in fly-tipping in the area in the last six months and is the start of ongoing overt and covert exercises aiming to reduce large amounts of trade waste and household items being dumped that are littering laybys and verges.

Vehicles were stopped both in transit and parked on the roadside with two scrap metal merchants brought to our Environmental Health team's attention. Both did not possess a licence to collect in the Borough which will be further investigated.

A further traffic offence report was recorded on one driver for speeding and a warning given for possession of cannabis.

Residents and businesses are reminded to check that any company or individual they employ to dispose of their waste holds the relevant Trade Waste Carriers' licence to avoid their unwanted goods contributing to fly-tips.

This can be completed by them showing the relevant licence in person and checking it with the Environment Agency's listings of registered businesses [on their website](#).

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods Cllr Rob Inglis joined ward councillor Cllr Rex Walker, Gotham Parish Council Chairman Barbara Walker, Thrumpton Parish Meeting Chairman Ben Wilson and Nottinghamshire Police officers at the launch to view the checks taking place.

Cllr Inglis said: "This operation sends out the message to fly-tippers who flout the rules, we are watching you and will take action and prosecute wherever we can if you dispose of your waste illegally.

"This is the start of ongoing work to target those selfish individuals who blight these areas of countryside with waste and with Police and fellow councils we'll continue to monitor and undertake these unannounced checks.

"Residents can play their part too in decreasing fly-tipping. They should always check anyone they pay to take items away from their home is a registered waste carrier by requesting to view the appropriate Environment Agency licence."

We're also operating a new checking system in the area focused on fly-tipping hotspots, with new signage and larger bins being installed in laybys to encourage people to dispose of their litter responsibly.

Parish Councils and residents are working with us to combine resources and share information to support even more local action, including camera surveillance and fly-tip watch groups.

Reach Rushcliffe funding helps walking group to combat social isolation



A walking group that helps to combat social isolation and loneliness has received vital funding from Reach Rushcliffe.

Rushcliffe Ramblers is receiving funds as part of our initiative which was launched in May aiming to tackle the issues.

The group will use the funds to encourage more participants to join their health walks, which are aimed at residents recovering from illness, with low self-esteem, who have poor physical health

or are socially isolated, as well as to the Ramblers' general sessions for those who enjoy walking and socialising.

The project is one of six successful applications that have benefitted from over £8,000 to help those in need.

Rushcliffe Ramblers will also use the funding to purchase leaflets, allowing them to extend and promote their group to more residents.

Our Deputy Leader Cllr Debbie Mason met Rushcliffe Ramblers' committee member Trevor Griffiths at the starting point of one of their frequent walking routes.

She said: "It is brilliant to award funding to another local organisation, which will help them to reach more residents at risk of health conditions or social isolation as well as helping them to reap the benefits of getting out into the fresh air.

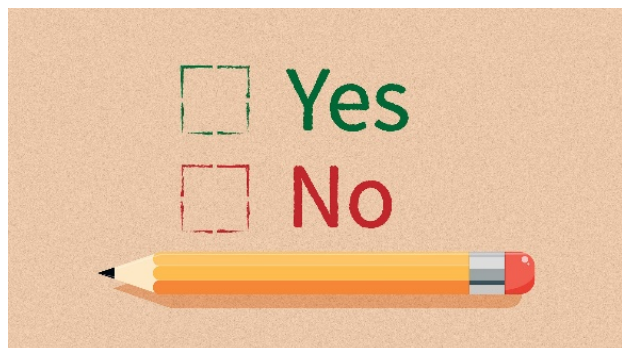
"We know that exercise is incredibly important and especially to those with health conditions or at risk of being disconnected to their community, with this group also adding a social aspect so members can meet new people and walk together.

"We would encourage any organisations also looking to reduce social isolation in their part of Rushcliffe to apply for funding through Reach Rushcliffe by visiting www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/health/reachrushcliffe/."

Mr Griffiths said: "It is great to receive funding through Reach Rushcliffe and the Borough Council as we can now extend our group to reach more residents across the Borough.

"Our health walks especially help those who may have been ill or struggling with their mental health, so to be able to promote that further is fantastic."

Latest list of COVID-19 can and can't dos



With COVID-19 lockdown measures continuing to change, the latest list and advice of can and can't dos for the public is now available [here](#).

Environment role created to further our goal to be carbon neutral



We are taking further steps towards our goal for our operations to be carbon neutral by 2030 with the creation of a Team Manager for Environment in the Community Development team.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 we are continuing with our green priorities to recruit to the role and demonstrate our commitment towards recovering from the pandemic in line with its further investment in its Climate Change Action Reserve.

We are seeking an ambitious, forward thinking individual to lead a team in delivering the Council's commitments to achieving carbon neutral status including in its Carbon Management Action Plan that is tackling Property Assets, Fleet, Policy and Regulation in the organisation to reduce emissions over the next decade.

The position will also play a key role in influencing our communities, internal stakeholders, groups and businesses to take similar steps towards reducing their emissions.

In March our Cabinet approved plans to become 'Carbon Clever' and reach the 2030 deadline with an added £1m towards the reserve in conjunction with an innovations from an internal working group that is now implementing changes.

Future Carbon Clever activities could include developing a tree planting plan for Council land, enforcing minimum energy standards in the private rented sector and the promotion of carbon reduction policies to developers working in the Borough.

Our Green House Gas Report 2018-19 was also released earlier this year that announced that the organisation had cut emissions by 40% since 2008/9, exceeding its previous target for 2020 by 10%.

Our Deputy Leader Cllr Debbie Mason said: "The work already completed by our internal working group is very exciting and sets us challenging but achievable targets for the future and we wish to recruit an individual to drive this project further.

"We are looking for someone who can demonstrate a real passion for the environment, show experience of working in partnership with partners and stakeholders to achieve real results and in line with governmental regulations and environmental sustainability best practices.

"As the recent Green House Gas Report demonstrates, we have a clear commitment to the environment and we will continue to support other organisations in making positive changes to become Carbon Clever themselves."

The Carbon Management Action Plan is set to evolve in line with technological innovations and has been developed to integrate with the overarching D2N2 Energy Strategy in the region.

Interested applicants can apply at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/jobs/jobtitle,53706,en.php> or contact the Council's Community Development Manager Derek Hayden on 0115 9148270 for an informal discussion on the role.

The closing date for applications is Sunday August 9.

Support for businesses from outside government outlined



The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has updated the list of organisations that have produced additional resources that may be useful to employers and employees.

The list now [details the support](#) offered by the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses.

Rushcliffe households could receive free central heating installation



Households in Rushcliffe could enjoy free first-time installation of a central system to help them switch to a more affordable, energy efficient method of heating their home, thanks to the Warm Homes Hub.

The £4.3m Hub launched earlier this year and is set to provide eligible homeowners and tenants with a range of benefits to improve the warmth and comfort of their homes over the next two years.

The initiative works to further improve the quality of heating and energy efficiency of households across the county and was launched by charities Nottingham Energy Partnership, Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire alongside energy company E.ON.

Under the improvements, residents could secure a free gas connection, free first-time central heating system and free cavity wall or loft insulation.

Households are encouraged to connect with the Warm Homes Hub and make the switch to gas heating, which can see significant improvements in health as it reduces the risk of cold related illnesses and decreases the chances of damp and mould developing.

The Hub can also save residents up to £5,000 on the installation costs of such improvements and create further long term savings on energy bills.

Those who already have central heating systems in their property but are struggling with broken or faulty heating can apply for grants from the Hub towards heating replacements and repairs to help address the issues.

Our Deputy Leader Cllr Debbie Mason said: "The benefits, support and advice provided by the Warm Homes Hub can ensure we all enjoy warm, safe and comfortable homes throughout Rushcliffe.

"If you need to secure a gas connection, are looking to switch to gas central heating, or simply want advice on how to improve the energy efficiency of your household, the Warm Homes Hub is there to help.

"As we all assess the impact of COVID-19, the Hub is continuing to provide vital support regarding heating, household income and energy costs as a result of the pandemic and is available for any residents seeking additional guidance during this time."

Residents can apply for support from the Warm Homes Hub and find out more about the free advice available on [Warm Homes Hub](#) website or by calling 0115 985 3000.

Nottinghamshire flood hardship fund open until July 31



Please remember to signpost residents who have been affected by flooding to the Nottinghamshire flood hardship fund.

Funds raised by community groups, organisations are match funded by the Government, and applications are open until July 31.

To find out more, please visit [the Lincolnshire Community Foundation website](#) or read the press release from the foundation here: [Nottinghamshire flood hardship fund reopens \(PDF - 99KB\)](#)

Reminder for residents to complete their annual canvass form



Residents are being reminded to complete their annual canvass form when it arrives through the post, should it require any changes.

With County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections set to take place in the Borough next year, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The form ensures that we can keep the electoral register up to date and identify any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so.

This previous canvass process was widely recognised to be outdated and cumbersome. The one-size-fits-all approach, incorporating numerous prescribed steps, took little account of differences within and between registration areas.

Therefore, the changes to the new form have now taken place and include a reformed process incorporating a data matching step in which registered electors are compared against data held by the Department for Work and Pensions to see if they match.

All residents are asked to follow instructions on the form but only need to respond if any details have changed.

Where a response is needed, they need to complete the form online at www.householdresponse.com/rushcliffe.

Those who have moved address recently are particularly encouraged to keep an eye out for the form and check the details.

Research by the independent Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those that have lived at the same address for a long time.

Across the country, 94 per cent of people who have been at their property for more than 16 years will be registered, compared to 40 per cent of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk or by phoning 0115 981 9911.

Have your say on new Strategic Plan for the Greater Nottingham Area



A reminder that residents, organisations and businesses in the Borough are being asked to have their say on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan to help shape future planning for the area.

We have joined Broxtowe and Gedling Borough Councils and Nottingham City Council in developing the joint plan which will help guide future development across their combined areas and all can now have their say by visiting www.gnplan.org.uk

The consultation lasts for ten weeks ending on September 14, 2020 and asks for views on what should be included in the plan.

The consultation document does not include any draft policies or identify how much or where future development will take place. These will come later when a draft Strategic Plan is published next year, when there will be a further opportunity to comment.

Have your say on NHS services in light of COVID-19



The NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other NHS organisations have made changes to the way services are delivered during Covid-19.

They have been made to help the NHS cope with the impact of the pandemic and to keep patients and staff safe.

Some of the changes seen during the pandemic include:

- An increase in the use of telephone and online consultations with health care professionals
- Reduced attendances at the Accident & Emergency Department
- An increase in the use of NHS111 or 111 online
- A new discharge assessment to speed up hospital discharges.

The CCG is now seeking the views of local people on these changes and all are invited to complete a survey [here](#) to assess how they can be implemented even more effectively.

Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub

WE



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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

Details are available on their [website](#), which welcomes emails or phone calls from volunteers, as well as those seeking support for free between 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday: **0300 500 8080**.

Applications for the COVID-19 Community Fund



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

COVID-19 Community Fund

The County Council's COVID-19 Community Fund is among the places that volunteer groups and community efforts should apply to for funding during the pandemic.

Applications can be made on [the Nottinghamshire County Council website](#).

A reminder that Councillors' Community Support Grants can also now be used to fund COVID-19 related projects. Please email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk with any queries.
