

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

Thursday January 28, 2021

**Please remember for all the latest on our services
visit rushcliffe.gov.uk**

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

Please continue to follow national lockdown measures



Thank you for continuing to play your part by staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives as the pandemic continues.

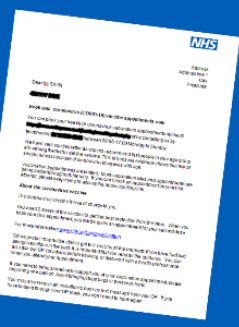
Please remember to keep informing residents of 'Hands, Face, Space' and to only leave their home for essential reasons.

All the latest can be found on our webpages www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus.

COVID-19 vaccine – please wait to be contacted and then respond promptly

Covid-19 vaccinations

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Clinical Commissioning Group



- ✓ Letters are going out to over 80s asking them to book
- ✓ When you get your letter please book your appointment on the website as quickly as possible
- ✗ Please don't contact the NHS until you have received your letter

Locally, letters are beginning to be sent out to the over 70s this week as the NHS continue to roll out the vaccine programme.

Health bosses are continuing to ask those aged 70 to 80 to wait for their letter before contacting the NHS to book an appointment.

They have now stated that all over 80s, registered with a GP, should have received

their appointment letter. Anyone over 80 can book using [the swift queue link](#) or by calling 0115 883 4640.

No one should call their GP or turn up at A&E or a doctor's surgery – the only way to get an appointment and the job is to follow the instructions in the letter.

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

Supporting our communities during flooding



Following last week's flood warnings, our teams worked hard to support communities and prepare for potential flooding across the Borough.

Alongside our partners Streetwise, we distributed over 1,500 sandbags to households at imminent risk of internalised flooding.

Officers also attended the Nottinghamshire-wide Tactical Co-ordination Group to ensure teams and

resources were working with residents and flood wardens on the ground in high-risk areas.

All of these efforts built on our team's already very good understanding of the areas and homes that can be at risk of flooding, based on previous events dating back to 2000.

We remain ready to respond with support on 0115 981 9911, or for any questions email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Digital devices donated to pupils in need



We donated over 20 digital devices to local schools last week, to help ensure that pupils in need can continue their education from home during the current national lockdown restrictions.



We identified schools including Robert Miles Infant School in Bingham, Cotgrave Church of England Primary School, Candleby Lane Primary School in Cotgrave and Cropwell Bishop Primary School as

requiring the additional devices.

The donations included Samsung Galaxy and Microsoft Surface tablets, ready for pupils to access learning at home.

It follows the Government's pledge to provide over one million devices to educational institutions to help ensure students have access to high-quality remote education should they need it.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance Cllr Gordon Moore said: "We're answering the call of the Government to help further support our schools, teachers and young people with technology that can keep learning on track, whilst keeping educators and young people safe.

"Our brilliant IT team has been able to source and prepare over 20 tablets and laptops for local schools during this challenging time and I'm delighted that these devices will help students get online and access classes remotely during lockdown.

"We appreciate that many more children in Nottinghamshire may benefit from an additional device and so we're calling on businesses and organisations to join us and donate whatever they can in the coming weeks."

Each of the four schools in the Borough have received six digital devices to now make available to pupils.

Businesses and organisations can donate digital devices to help further assist local schools by media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Group and restaurant connected to provide meals to vulnerable residents



Our Reach Rushcliffe project has connected a volunteer group with a West Bridgford restaurant to provide hot meals as a vital food package for vulnerable residents.

The Meet, Greet and Eat project and Portello Lounge in West Bridgford worked together to provide the home delivered meals for individuals across the Borough.

The group previously received funds from us for their work which helps tackle social isolation and loneliness by delivering the

meals weekly and engaging with the residents who are elderly or in need.

Staff at the Portello Lounge kindly offered to cook the meals to safely put their professional kitchen to good use during current lockdown restrictions.

It has allowed the Meet, Greet and Eat group's dedicated volunteer chefs a valuable breather to their weekly cooking sessions which have continued throughout COVID-19 at their base at Welbeck Hall in West Bridgford.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and the Environment Cllr Abby Brennan met with Project Coordinator Farah Jamil, project volunteers and Portello Lounge Manager Bobby Holmes at the restaurant to see the partnership in action.

Cllr Brennan said: "It is brilliant to see the Portello Lounge and Meet, Greet and Eat Project working together to provide these vital meals to vulnerable or elderly residents and families who may be at risk of social isolation.

"From our work with partners throughout this pandemic we know that there are many groups and individuals who really benefit from projects like this and we know that it goes beyond the important job of providing nutritious hot meals.

"It also helps tackle loneliness and makes sure people have regular contact with the outside world - we are delighted to be able to connect people and enable them to support one another.

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

Warm Homes Hub winter grants for utility bill payments



Residents across the Borough affected by the pandemic can take steps to reduce their utility bill this winter, thanks to the Warm Homes Hub's COVID Winter Grant Scheme, which offers grants of up to £178 per household.

Those who have experienced job loss, loss of income, increase in energy debt, increased fuel use, self-disconnection, or a detriment to health and wellbeing in

Nottinghamshire could be eligible for the scheme.

We're currently working alongside partners to refer any eligible residents to the Warm Homes Hub, but are encouraging anyone who's experienced the circumstances listed above to contact our Customer Services team on 0115 981 99 11 or customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk if they feel they need additional support.

The Warm Homes Hub also offers a wide range of additional free and subsidised services to residents throughout the Borough, including financial support, energy efficiency advice and boiler repairs and replacements.

To find out more please visit the [Warm Homes Hub website](#).

Voting safely at this year's elections



Residents in the Borough will go to the polls on Thursday May 6 to have their say on who represents them at the Police and Crime Commissioner and County Council elections.

While the elections are some time away, we're already making plans to help residents stay safe while casting your votes.

There are a number of ways to have your say in the elections - you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote.

Our Chief Executive Kath Marriott said: "The elections are very important, they're an opportunity to make your voice heard and have a say on who represents you on issues that directly affect day-to-day life here in Rushcliffe.

"We're thinking about these elections now so that, however you choose to cast your vote in May, you can do so safely.

"We're putting arrangements in place to help you stay safe at the polling station; you can expect many of the measures you've become used to in shops and banks over recent months, such as hand sanitiser, social distancing signs and face masks. But you also have the option to apply to vote by post or by proxy."

Ailsa Irvine, Director of Electoral Administration and Guidance at the Electoral Commission said: "The choice on how to vote at this May's elections is yours – you can have your say in person, by post or by proxy.

"If you're thinking about voting by post, you can apply now. This will make sure your application is processed early, and your postal vote can be sent to you more quickly. It's easy to apply and you can find out how by visiting the Electoral Commission website.

"You need to be registered to vote in order to have a say at the elections – the easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote"

Residents can visit the Elections 2021 page on the website at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/elections/> to find out more. The page will be updated with new information as it becomes available.

Any residents with any questions can also contact our elections team by emailing elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Local Business Support Grant now available for eligible business owners



We're now inviting applications for the Local Business Support Grant, designed for those currently impacted by reduced trading conditions operating in specific sectors.

Businesses in the hospitality, accommodation, beauty and leisure sectors, as well as non-essential retail and their supply chains can consider applying to support them in meeting

operational costs, or to help maintain the necessary COVID secure measures during and after lockdown.

Applications for eligible business owners who have not previously applied can be completed at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus

Eligible businesses could receive a one-time payment if occupying a property with an annual property charge as below:

- £2,250 if rent is up to £15,000
- £6,000 if rent is over £15,001

Businesses that are not liable for business rates and don't pay a rental charge may be entitled to a fixed grant of up to £1,500 if they have been forced to close business due to COVID restrictions and temporarily ceased trading, or £750 if they are still operating.

Please visit www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus for more information.

Be aware of Amazon scams



We've received reports of residents sadly falling victim to Amazon related scams.

It involves an email or text request from individuals posing as a local neighbour or friend to assist them with an Amazon purchase on their behalf.

The email or text then requests to get in touch by phone before asking for money to be taken

via payment card to assist the delivery of the imaginary item to the neighbour or friend.

In another scam, individuals contact residents stating their Amazon account is due for renewal at £70+ or to press 1 to stop the payments resulting in confusing them to hand over payment information.

As we have outlined in our previous 'Take Five' messages, we ask everyone to take five minutes to always ensure they do not fall victim to these fraudulent attacks by phone, text, email or online.

Everyone should always take five minutes to reflect and step back from the situation if a phone call, message or online exchange requests personal or financial information.

Even if an individual says they are the bank or other trusted organisation, residents still need to take the time to stop and think about what's really going on.

Remember:

1. A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. Only give out your personal or financial details to use a service that you have given your consent to, that you trust and that you are expecting to be contacted by.
2. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.
3. If you're approached with a request for personal information, don't provide it. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.
4. Don't assume an email or phone call is authentic. Just because someone knows your basic details such as your name and address or even your mother's maiden name, it doesn't mean they are genuine.
5. Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision. Under no circumstances would a genuine bank or some other trusted organisation force you to make a financial transaction on the spot. They would never ask you to transfer money into another account.

Please continue to Shop Local, Shop Safe



We're reminding residents that there's still every reason to Shop Local, Shop Safe in Rushcliffe and support our essential local traders.

Many businesses have brilliantly adapted so you can still use takeaway services when you are out for essential reasons.

For all the latest business support visit www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus

Support for disadvantaged children's education at home



In response to the current restrictions preventing schools from opening, BT has introduced a connectivity support scheme which provides a range of support including help for disadvantaged children to continue their education at home.

The support scheme includes:

- Free unlimited mobile data for those families and carers supporting children with no internet access, to help access remote education, as part of DfE's Get help with Technology programme.
- Free WiFi vouchers for schools and charity partners for access to the 5 million BT WiFi Hotspots across the UK. These can be accessed [on the BT website](#).
- Zero rating of some of the most popular educational websites designed to support home learning, before the end of the month.
- Updated online educational resources, tech tips and digital skills with BT Skills for Tomorrow programme.

Full details are available [on the BT website](#).

Grant available for elite Rushcliffe athletes



Elite athletes across the Borough are being invited to apply for grant funding to support their efforts in their chosen sport.

Our Elite Sports Grant is available with grants of up to £400 that aim to reduce some of the financial burden of competing at an advanced level that can often create a barrier to achievement.

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.

The grant could be used when much elite sport fully resumes once Central Government announces it is safe to do so.

Applications to the grant scheme are being encouraged from athletes who are currently performing at international level within their sport with priority given to competitors in sports or disciplines represented at the Olympic and Paralympic Games or Commonwealth Games.

Applicants have until February 8 to apply [on our website](#) and must be:

- a resident of Rushcliffe Borough or go to school within the Borough
- 14 years old or over
- competing in a Sport England recognised sport
- competing for their country/in the national training squad in their chosen sport
- have amateur status

- fully endorsed by their National Governing Body and National or International coach who must be suitably qualified and affiliated.

To accompany the application, a confirmation letter from their National Governing Body confirming an athlete's level of performance is also required.

Check our social media for important mental health messages



TOP TIPS FOR DEALING WITH ANXIETY **NHS**

TIP 01
Try a short breathing exercise

TIP 02
Learn how to manage anxious thoughts

TIP 03
Keep a mood diary

**WHEN THINGS AREN'T SO GOOD OUT THERE...
MAKE INSIDE FEEL BETTER.**
Visit **Every Mind Matters** for more tips and advice

Better Health every mind matters

We're continuing to promote Public Health England's Every Mind Matters campaign this week, designed to help everyone manage their mental wellbeing more positively.

We'll be sharing the campaign's important messages on issues such as stress, anxiety, sleep and low mood over the coming weeks on our social media channels, to help direct residents to this new, engaging form of support.

Please encourage your constituents to check our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for helpful hints and tips on improving their wellbeing during lockdown.

Residents can also visit the [Every Mind Matters website](#) for further guidance, or to create a free NHS-approved 'Mind Plan' and receive tailored advice for

their mental wellbeing.

Rushcliffe Country Park featured on Channel 5



Regular viewers of Channel 5's 'Walking Britain's Lost Railways' may have spotted our very own Rushcliffe Country Park in recent weeks!

In an episode with host Rob Bell, our park is showcased due to its historical links to a secret wartime factory, that was once connected to a high-speed railway in the East Midlands.

The episode features an interview with members of the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park, who share some of the dramatic history of the site.

To hear from our local volunteers, please scroll to 10 minutes in the episode on the [Channel 5 website](#).