

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

Wednesday March 24, 2021

**Please remember for all the latest on our services
visit [rushcliffe.gov.uk](https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)**

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

Vaccination update



The local COVID-19 vaccination booking system is currently open to people **aged 50 and over**.

Those eligible for an appointment can book using the [swift queue link](#) or by calling 0115 883 4640 without waiting for a letter to arrive.

Regular lateral flow testing has been outlined for [eligible groups and individuals](#) by the Government.

As more pupils and students return to the classroom the Government has asked that all

adults who live in households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, test themselves twice a week. All the latest [is on our website](#).

All the latest is on our website www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus including as below, a community collect site at East Leake.

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

Community Testing Site successfully established in Cotgrave



A new rapid mobile community testing site successfully completed its first visit to Cotgrave over the weekend, providing local residents with easy, regular access to asymptomatic testing.

Located at Cotgrave Hub Car Park, next to the police station, it will visit every Wednesday and Saturday between 10am and 5.30pm.

The site completed over 50 tests on its first day and 18 requests for community collect home testing kits from parents, with ward councillors Cllr Leo Healy and Cllr Richard Butler visiting the facility at the weekend.

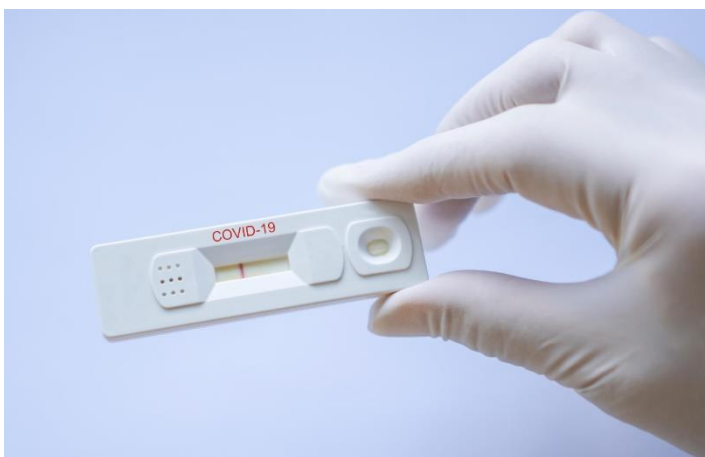
Around one in three people infected with Covid-19 show no symptoms at all and could potentially spread the disease without knowing it.

The new mobile sites give anyone the opportunity to get tested, including working aged residents, with no symptoms, who have to travel to work. No appointments are necessary at the testing site, visitors will simply be asked to register to get their results.

Please continue to encourage your constituents to take a regular COVID-19 test, a full list of asymptomatic test sites is available here: <https://bit.ly/3qIoIGo>

Find out more about the site by visiting www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/communitytesting

Rapid COVID-19 home tests available for collection in East Leake



Households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles can collect two free rapid COVID-19 tests per person, per week on selected days in East Leake from tomorrow, March 25.

A community collect station will be in place at Gotham Road car park in the village on the following dates:

- Thursday March 25, 9am to 3pm
- Friday March 26, 9am to 3pm
- Wednesday March 31, 9am to 3pm
- Thursday April 1, 9am to 3pm

Further possible dates are being assessed and will be publicised once confirmed.

Loud fireworks to be discontinued at our events



Our Cabinet has agreed a recommendation to discontinue the use of loud fireworks at our events.

It was decided at their meeting on March 9 that all future events will look to replace the celebrations with quieter alternatives to protect pets and residents with disabilities from the potential noise pollution they can cause.

We are also set to encourage external event operators and households in the Borough to adopt a similar approach and we're among

the first local authorities to make such a decision.

Lower noise fireworks are an alternative for those looking to celebrate whilst also considering vulnerable members of their local community and are available from retailers.

Those affected by loud fireworks can include those with sensory processing disorders, hearing conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder and with respiratory conditions such as asthma, as well as pets, farm animals and wildlife.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and the Environment Cllr Abby Brennan said: "Whilst fireworks can be a fun and enjoyable way of marking special occasions for some, we also understand louder fireworks can cause concerns for residents and their pets.

"By being one of the first Councils to make this decision across the UK, we hope that many other local authorities and organisations follow suit.

"We would also encourage event operators in Rushcliffe to also look at possible alternatives at their events."

Reminder to complete Census



A reminder that households across the Borough are now being asked to take part in Census 2021.

The once-in-a-decade survey gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

It is the first to be run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter in

the coming days with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

The data which will inform not only councils but central government, charities and businesses, when making decisions to put services and funding in the places where they are most needed in the borough. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes.

It will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity.

For the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, assisting our Armed Forces Covenant work, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

Register to vote before elections in May



We're reminding residents to register to vote and ensure their voice is heard ahead of the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner and County Council elections on Thursday May 6.

In order to vote in these important elections, residents must be on the electoral register. Therefore, we're encouraging anyone who has not registered at their current address to make sure they are registered in time.

The deadline to register to vote is midnight on

Monday, April 19.

This year, residents in Rushcliffe will go to the polls to vote in two different elections and will select:

- County Councillors, who represent their local area and residents, and contribute to the development of policies in areas such as transport, social care and children's services
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who oversees your local police force and ensures they are prioritising what matters to you

Kath Marriott, our Deputy Returning Officer, said: "Make sure you can take part in these elections by registering to vote before the deadline.

"It's 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.

"If you're not registered by April 19, you won't be able to vote."

Ailsa Irvine, Director of Electoral Administration and Guidance at the Electoral Commission said: "You can't have your say in these important elections unless you are registered to vote. It's quick and easy – [it takes just five minutes to apply online](#)

"If you have recently turned 18 or moved home, it is particularly important that you act to ensure that you are registered to vote.

"If you were registered to vote in the last election and your details have not changed, you don't need to take any action. If in doubt, you can check with your local authority on 0115 981 9911."

Voters have a range of options for casting their ballot – in person, by post or by appointing someone they trust to vote in their place, known as a proxy vote. For those who choose to vote in person, polling stations will be safe places to vote on May 6.

The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on April 20, and for a proxy vote the deadline is 5pm on April 27.

For information on elections in their area, how to register to vote, or how to apply to vote by post or by proxy, [voters can visit the Electoral Commission website](#). This page will continue to be updated ahead of the polls.

£20,000 funding boost for Armed Forces Project



Alongside Charnwood and Melton Borough Councils, we have successfully bid for £20,000 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund to support vulnerable veterans in our areas.

We'll use the funding boost to increase our understanding of issues faced by military personnel in each respective geographical area and to also improve the level of support available.

Our partnership was awarded the Gold Award from the Armed Forces Covenant [Ministry of Defence Employer](#)

[Recognition Scheme](#) last year, acknowledging our awareness of the variety of transferable skills reservists, veterans and current personnel can bring to the civilian workplace.

The new project is set to support veterans to reduce isolation and promote integration into society and promote post-COVID-19 recovery in Armed Forces communities at risk of social isolation.

Former members of the Armed Forces that will require care support, those that are part of the LGBTQ+ community and those living in rural locations are also set to be the focus of the project's work.

Teams from each Council will look to work with care companies and agencies to identify and support veterans by linking them to charities and other Armed Forces services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and The Environment and Covenant Champion Cllr Abby Brennan met with Bingham Royal British Legion member and RAF Veteran Bart Luckhurst (pictured above) to chat further about the scheme.

Cllr Brennan said: "It is brilliant to receive this funding towards a project that will provide vital support to vulnerable veterans in Rushcliffe.

"We are incredibly keen to offer as much support as possible to those who are serving or who have served in our Armed Forces.

"These funds will allow us to continue to do everything we can to support those with a military background and to explore further ways we can assist hard-to-reach veterans and their families with the support they may require."

Electric car parking space work continues



Eight bays and the walkway at Walkers' Yard car park in Radcliffe on Trent are currently unavailable as we start work to adapt them to green, flexible electric car parking spaces.

The remainder of the car park remains accessible and we hope to reopen the spaces and walkway by Saturday, March 27.

Power station sites 'in the running' as potential fusion energy plant nomination



Our Cabinet passed a recommendation on March 9 to endorse an expression of interest for STEP at the Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station site.

It is one of several sites being put forward in the East Midlands to the STEP programme that sees two existing coal-fired power station sites included as part of a national search to find potential sites to design and build what is hoped to be the world's first

prototype fusion plant by 2040.

The proposal complements other opportunities being progressed for the redevelopment of the site, including the proposals for a Development Corporation and the recently submitted Freeport bid.

The ambitious Government project - *Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production* - known as STEP, is the first but important stage in the UK's bid to be the first country in the world to commercialise fusion energy, which is expected to generate clean energy to meet future needs.

Fusion offers a virtually limitless source of clean electricity by copying the processes that power the sun.

Part of the site at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station and West Burton A, based near Retford, look likely to fit the criteria set by UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) for the first stage of the site nomination process which is due to close on March 31. This includes capacity to provide sufficient land for the project's construction.

Both sites could be put forward as Nottinghamshire's nominations for potential sites.

The County Council is coordinating this nomination process for the county working with several partners, including the landowners of these sites.

A Uniper spokesperson said: "Uniper, in conjunction with local stakeholders, including Nottinghamshire County Council, is at the early stages of exploring options to submit part of its Ratcliffe on Soar site to be considered as a possible location for a fusion power station in the next decade or two, as part of the government's Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP)

programme. This project is one of a range of options being considered for development of the site."

East Leake student nurse publishes children's poetry book



A student nurse from East Leake has turned her talents to poetry and published a short book for children.

Jenny Carey's passion for poetry began after one of her many placements as a student nurse, where she wrote the ward a short poem to thank them for their support. It proved a huge hit with the matron and Jenny hasn't stopped since!

Jenny (pictured above with her book) is keen to reach more people with her poetry and is hoping to sell further books as events like fairs and local markets resume post-lockdown.

If you'd like to purchase a copy of Jenny's book and support her efforts, please email jenny.carey1@ntlworld.com

The book costs £12, with a £2 charge for postage.

Steps for staying safe at Rushcliffe parks, open spaces and play areas



We're encouraging residents visiting our parks, open spaces and play areas to follow some simple steps to ensure they enjoy a safe trip with their household.

As spring weather arrives, it is anticipated many sites including Rushcliffe Country Park and Bridgford Park will remain very popular, with more people looking to explore the great outdoors during their leisure time.

That's why we're asking residents to observe the following steps for staying safe, to ensure everyone can enjoy

visiting the locations.

- Follow the on-site signage and remember to socially distance from others at all times
- Wash your hands before and immediately after visiting
- Only one parent or support bubble member should accompany a child at any play area
- No one should visit a site if they feel unwell
- Consider returning at a quieter time should you arrive to find parks or facilities already busy

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- Follow current guidance to use open skate parks in line with Skate England advice at <https://bit.ly/3r4WQN0>
- Outdoor gym equipment remains open in line with the latest government guidance.

If visiting Rushcliffe Country Park, don't forget its mass of parkland has lots of places to explore in addition to the children's playground.

Sanitisation of facilities at all play parks takes place routinely and any feedback on the sites is requested to be sent to facilities@rushcliffe.gov.uk
