

Councillors' Connection

11 May 2020

Headline - Next week's Council meetings live-streamed

Tuesday 12 May: A virtual meeting of the Cabinet will take place at 2pm via Zoom

Thursday 14 May: A virtual meeting of the Planning Committee will take place at 2pm via Zoom

Meetings will be live streamed via Rushcliffe's YouTube channel for the public to listen and view, <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>

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

Bulky waste collections resume



Rushcliffe's bulky waste collections are now safely resuming on Saturdays.

As part of the plans to deliver as many refuse collection services as possible during COVID-19, re-opening of the service was from this Saturday, May 9.

Large items of furniture, mattresses and other large household items can

be collected by calling 0115 981 9911 only with online booking available again as soon as possible.

Residents are asked to be patient to book a collection as it is anticipated the service will be popular and will be asked to clarify the items requested to be collected before a booking is confirmed in line with our standard charges.

Large electrical items can be collected by Streetwise Environmental Services by calling 0115 914 8408.

Residents should always use a reputable licensed waste carrier for disposal of any waste from their homes and request to see the relevant documentation from the Environment Agency before agreeing to use a service.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre on Rugby Road in West Bridgford is operated by the County Council who are working with central government on when its services could resume.

Business rates revaluation postponed



The Communities Secretary has announced that a revaluation of business rates will no longer take place in 2021.

Legislation had been introduced to bring the next revaluation forward by one year from 2022 to 2021, but following the recent economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, ministers want to ensure businesses have more certainty during this difficult time.

The government is continuing work on the fundamental review of business rates, with the key aims of reducing the overall burden on businesses, improving the current business rates system, and considering more fundamental changes in the medium-to-long term.

The call for evidence for the review will be published in the coming months.

Business owners yet to claim grant support requested to call Rushcliffe Council



Rushcliffe are continuing to pay out vital COVID-19 business rate grant support to eligible businesses across the Borough, but owners are being further encouraged to contact them as soon as possible.

There are still those yet to claim the support and they should call the Borough Council on 0115 981 9911 if they think their enterprise is eligible around the criteria at

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus.

The payments available are £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 with some exceptions operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality industries.

Free webinars and digital assistant available for business owners



HMRC are continuing to hold free webinars over the coming days for business owners on:

- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) rebate scheme
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- Running a business through the coronavirus pandemic

They have also created a digital assistant to help the public find information about the coronavirus support schemes available.

Webinars can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-is-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19> and the digital assistant at <https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/ask-hmrc/virtual-assistant/support-for-coronavirus?VA=GOVUK>

Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub



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. 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**.

Community Fund continues to distribute funds in Rushcliffe



The Nottinghamshire County Council COVID-19 Community Fund is continuing to distribute funds to volunteer groups and community efforts across Rushcliffe.

There's still time for community efforts to apply for funding using the following link:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/community-and-voluntary-sector/supporting-voluntary-sector/covid-19-community-fund>

A reminder that Councillors' Community Support Grants can also now be used to fund COVID-19 related projects. Please contact Richard and Sue on mallender1968@gmail.com susan.mallender@googlemail.com

The importance of social-distancing



Those concerned about private social gatherings or individual's behaviour that flouts government guidance should [contact Nottinghamshire Police via their non-emergency channels](#).

Rushcliffe's Environmental Health teams are on hand to support and enforce the closure of any non-

[essential businesses](#) attempting to operate during this time.

The latest guidance on COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

A reminder that the government 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.

Further expansion of access to testing



Central government announced that anyone in England with symptoms of coronavirus who has to leave home to go to work and all symptomatic members of the public aged 65 and over will now be able to be tested.

Members of their households with symptoms – a new continuous cough or high temperature – will also be eligible for testing.

NHS staff, care home staff and care home residents will equally be eligible for testing whether or not they have symptoms.

A network of mobile testing units is also travelling the country to reach care homes, police stations, prisons and other sites where there is demand for testing.

Anyone eligible for testing can book a test using the online portal at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Never suffer in silence with domestic abuse



The Borough Council are encouraging residents to never suffer in silence with domestic abuse and signposting support available.

Domestic abuse is not a private issue so in an emergency, residents should call the Police on 999.

If anyone should need to call the police silently, using a landline they can dial 999 and information about their location are made automatically available to call handlers.

Using a mobile, dial 999, residents should wait until the call is answered then stay silent. The call will then go through to the operator where individuals can press 55. The operator will transfer the call to the relevant police force as an emergency.

Those at risk of injury or harm in their homes are allowed to leave and move between households during COVID-19.

Those suffering from domestic abuse are also able to access safe spaces at Boots pharmacies' consultation rooms where they can make contact with specialist domestic abuse services.

There are also number of organisations that can help individuals including:

- The National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247. This offers free, confidential support 24 hours a day to victims and those who are worried about friends and loved ones.
- Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327. Confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them.
- JUNO Women's Aid have a free 24h Free Helpline on 0808 800 0340. www.junowomensaid.org.uk
- Equation domestic Abuse for Men can be contacted on 0115 960 5556. www.equation.org.uk
- Galop National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse - 0800 999 5428. www.galop.org.uk
- Childline for children or young people up to the age of 19 - 0800 11 11. www.childline.org.uk

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