

19 May 2020

Councillors' Connection

Headline - Last week's Rushcliffe Borough Council meetings can be watched on Youtube:

Cabinet - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDIyv8kHu1o>

Planning Committee - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4huE5eTWrQs>

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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.

Car parks at open spaces, tennis courts and skate parks now open



Some car parks at open spaces, tennis courts and skate parks in the Borough have been reopened. All visitors to the sites are asked to ensure physical distancing of two metres is maintained at all times.

Play parks remain closed at all sites but the following facilities are now open:

- The car park at Rushcliffe Country Park where parking is free and its refreshment kiosk and its picnic benches but with increased spacing between benches.
- Tennis courts at Bridgford Park and West Park in West Bridgford.
- Skate parks at both Rushcliffe Country Park and Lady Bay Skate Park in line with Skateboard GB's and Skateboard England's updated advice which can be viewed at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus

Edwalton Golf Course now open



Edwalton Golf Course has now safely re-opened for play.

In line with central government advice, the main course and par three course are now open from 07:00 to 7pm, seven days a week.

The extended opening times are set to maximise the opportunity for local people to enjoy a game whilst reducing the likelihood of queuing on tees and the

driving range is also expected to open soon once further risk assessments are completed.

Tee off times are now available to book at <https://bit.ly/3bway2H> and will be restricted to two balls and golfers are requested to not arrive any earlier than 15 minutes before their tee time.

Measures to ensure safe play in line with government advice include:

- Members of the same family can play together or a maximum of two people from different households with appropriate social distancing
- Specific advice on golf equipment around the course from England Golf UK guidance

The clubhouse remains closed until further notice. Walkers who have safely used the course as a place to exercise during COVID-19 can continue to use the area but are asked to keep to the signposted footpaths around the course and be extra vigilant of golfers' games.

Face coverings advised in enclosed public spaces



The public is advised to consider wearing face coverings in enclosed public spaces where they may be more likely to come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

Face coverings may be beneficial in places where it is hard to maintain social distancing measures. This applies when using public transport, such as trains, buses and metro systems, or when visiting shops.

Guidance on wearing and making face coverings is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

Discretionary Business Grants Scheme



Earlier this month, the Government published guidance for Councils to develop and implement a Discretionary Business Grant scheme.

This grant is aimed at small businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund.

The first discretionary grant payment will be received by eligible businesses

by early June at the latest.

Once finalised, this scheme and the Grant application process will be published on the borough council's Business Support pages: www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus/

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

 HM Government



A reminder that the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) is available for self-employed individuals, or members of partnerships whose business has been adversely affected by coronavirus.

Eligible applicants can access a grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits.

Payments will be made in a single instalment, covering three months and capped at £7,500.

All successful applicants will be able to access the funds by May 25, or within six days of a completed claim.

To read more and submit an application, please visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme

Grant finder for Rushcliffe businesses



The Borough Council are working with Open 4 Business, a grant finder portal which allows small and medium businesses in Rushcliffe to quickly search for and find funding and grants available to them.

The portal is updated regularly with new local, regional and national funding announcements and can be easily searched by businesses on the basis of their industry, region and business size.

The facility then provides information on how to apply for funding and contact funders directly.

Rushcliffe businesses can sign up and view the funding portal on the [Open 4 Business website](#).

Homelessness response fund



The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) last week published information on how charitable homelessness and rough sleeping organisations can apply for funding to support their response to coronavirus.

Homeless Link will be distributing £6 million of emergency funding on MHCLG's behalf to facilitate this much needed support to the sector, allowing organisations to focus solely

on their mission of supporting vulnerable people.

The fund is now open and funding will be allocated by June.

For further information, please visit:

<https://homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2020/may/12/covid-19-homelessness-response-fund-2020-21>

Advice on scams from National Trading Standards



National Trading Standards Scams Team have put together advice to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams during COVID-19.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits
- Vaccines or miracle cures – there is currently no vaccine or cure
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect against Coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products
- Shopping or medication collection services
- Home decontamination services

Further advice is to question communications and encourage others to do the same:

- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information
- Don't assume everyone is genuine, it's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. If in doubt, speak to someone you trust
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front and if someone tries to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

The Rushcliffe Borough Council Scams team are also asking that you share this information with family and friends, especially those who may be vulnerable. More information is available on the [Friends Against Scams website](#).

Are you involved with a group reaching out to tackle loneliness in Lady Bay?



The Reach Rushcliffe fund provides funding to support communities.

The fund, dedicated to supporting projects across the Borough that tackle loneliness and isolation, is available for any town and parish councils, local groups or organisations to apply.

Local groups can apply for part of a fund for up to £50,000 if they could create, sustain or expand projects that may help reach out with a friendly face to those in need.

Proposals must demonstrate how they will tackle loneliness and make a difference to the health and wellbeing of participants, be community-led and sustainable. More information available at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/health/reachrushcliffe/>

Applications can be made by completing an application form using the link above, and initiatives could also work in conjunction with Rushcliffe's GP practices and the established Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service.

It is not anticipated the fund would extend to the running costs of an existing organisation but start-up costs for a new initiative may be considered.

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**.

Community Fund continues to distribute funds in Rushcliffe



The Borough Council continues to receive requests for information on grants from local groups and organisations.

The County Council's COVID-19 Community Fund is among the places they should apply for funding as it can

distribute funds to volunteer groups and community efforts.

Applications can be made here: <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 email Richard and/or Sue on mallender1968@gmail.com susan.mallender@googlemail.com with any queries.

Warm Homes Hub launched to further improve energy efficiency



The Warm Homes Hub has been launched to help further improve the quality of heating and energy efficiency of households across Rushcliffe, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The borough council are working with partners to ensure residents enjoy warmer, healthier homes through the hub.

Ensuring a home is warm and energy efficient can both reduce the amount spent on fuel and improve health and wellbeing for residents as well as reducing carbon emissions.

Support from the Warm Homes fund can offer free first-time installation of a gas central heating system, alongside a gas connection where necessary, and insulation measures for eligible properties.

The hub also provides free advice on energy efficiency, to help residents to take steps that could save money and make their property more environmentally friendly.

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

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