

28 January 2021

Councillors' Connection

Contents

- **Bin update following ice and snow on Monday**
- **Planning online system update**
- **Please continue to follow national lockdown measures**
- **COVID-19 vaccine – please wait to be contacted and then respond promptly**
- **COVID-19 infection rates – clarification of report in Nottingham post by Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Council**
- **COVID scams**
- **COVID Winter Grant Scheme support available for individuals and couples without children**
- **Voting safely at this year's elections**
- **Local Business Support Grant now available for eligible business owners**

All the latest information is available on the Rushcliffe [Coronavirus webpages](#) or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.

• Bin update following ice and snow on Monday



The teams are really pleased to have caught up on all but a handful of grey and blue bins, following disruption from snow and ice on Monday.

Crews have been working incredibly hard to reach areas across the Borough which were inaccessible to the collection vehicles earlier in the week, when sub-zero conditions froze bin lids and covered the roads in snow.

After collecting hundreds of

additional bins in just a few days, the crews have managed to catch up on all blue and grey bin routes as planned.

Thanks to all residents again for their patience. Anyone with outstanding concerns about a missed bin please report it here: bit.ly/3aa31rK. The Borough is asking residents to try and leave their green bins until the next scheduled collection, to assist the wider service.

• Planning online system update

The Borough has been alerted to a technical issue with the planning online system which affects the ability to open certain documents.

You may be unable to open documents in any application when clicking on the 'view' icon in the right-hand column. Upon doing so, you may be presented with an error message.

This issue appears to have occurred recently following an upgrade to the system.

The teams have contacted the supplier of the system who advised that this is a known issue, and ICT teams are continuing to work with them to seek a resolution to the problem.

An alternative way in which documents can be opened is outlined on the site as follows- "We have identified a technical issue with this system and you may experience difficulties accessing some documents when opening them by clicking on the icon in the View column.

“If an error message is displayed the document can be accessed by clicking in the box to the left of the Date Published column and clicking on Download Selected Files at the bottom of the column.

“We hope to resolve this issue as soon as reasonably practicable, in the meantime we would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.”

- **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 'Hands, Face, Space' and to only leave your home for essential reasons.

All the latest can be found on Rushcliffe's webpages

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus.

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



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](#).

- **COVID-19 infection rates – clarification of report in Nottingham Post via letter to councillors from the Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Council**

You may have seen reports in the media of Rushcliffe having an increase in rates of coronavirus cases – and this being equated to the ninth highest rate of increase in the country.

I have received the following update from Public Health this afternoon to put this in some context:

“The increase in rates from a rate of 256.7 per 100,000 to 276.9 per 100,000 is not statistically significant, so on our dashboard will show as similar rather than an increase. This represents an increase in cases from 306 to 323, whilst every case would want to be avoided and increases are worth noting, this is in absolute terms a small number. Rushcliffe remains well below the England (436.5) and Nottinghamshire (367.7) averages in rates per 100,000, and has had low rates for at least the last fortnight. Whilst many other areas are showing a decrease this is from a starting rate that was much higher.

“Ruddington has had a high percentage of recent cases. We are not currently aware through the Local Resilience Forum local outbreak control cell of any significant workplace outbreaks in Ruddington, or Rushcliffe. However if we remove positive cases that are associated with care homes, the rate for Ruddington is in line with the rest of Rushcliffe. Furthermore, much of the recent Rushcliffe increase can be attributed to cases in care homes. If all care home cases are removed the rate is 235 per 100,000. Unfortunately there are care home outbreaks across the county and country so clearly it is not the only factor driving rates and community transmission remains an issue. It is therefore important to keep reiterating the messages to all residents to remain following all the guidance, to keep washing hands, wearing a face mask and maintaining our distance.”

The rollout of the vaccination in care homes has been extremely successful. It is important to note though, that a vaccinated person may still test positive for the virus – but won't ordinarily display symptoms.

Katherine Marriott
Chief Executive
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Tel: 0115 914 8291

- **COVID scams**



The graphic features the NHS logo in the top right corner. The main title 'COVID-19 VACCINE FACT CHECK' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title, there are two red circular icons with white symbols inside, each crossed out with a red diagonal line. The first icon shows a pound sterling symbol (£), and the second shows a smartphone with a signal strength indicator. To the right of each icon is a line of text explaining the fact.

Scams include fake invites to a COVID-19 vaccine appointment asking for bank details and financial information.

Whilst the scam may appear convincing, the links to book an appointment soon ask for the individual to provide payment information, which the NHS will never do.

The vaccine is free of charge on the NHS. The NHS will never ask for:

- your bank account or card details
- your pin or banking password
- copies of personal documents to prove your identity, such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips

If you think you have been a victim of fraud or identify theft, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

- **COVID Winter Grant Scheme support available for individuals and couples without children**



Please contact your Borough Councillors Richard and Sue Mallender if you think you may benefit from the government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme (CWGS). susan.mallender@googlemail.com and mallender1968@gmail.com

To date, the Department of Work and Pensions has granted 80 per cent of its funding for the scheme via County Councils to provide assistance to vulnerable families with children and other vulnerable households, and has

administered support via schools, early years and further education settings.

Now the remaining 20 per cent of the CWGS can assist households without children and vulnerable individuals or couples who are identified as being in need of support.

Rushcliffe Borough have received £23,800 to this effect, some of which has been distributed to established community groups and organisations who were able to assist with food parcels and other essentials supplies in recent weeks.

It saw £2,500 distributed to each of the Friary, Meet, Greet and Eat, Cotgrave Community Kitchen, Bingham Helping Hands and East Leake COVID response, administered by East Leake Parish Council.

The Borough wishes to identify even more couples and individuals who could benefit.

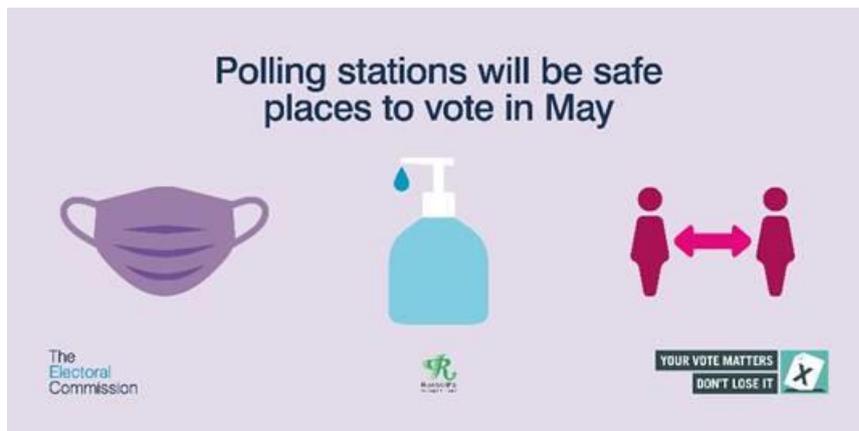
The [Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub](#) can help quickly identify more specific support for an individual or couple.

Nottinghamshire Energy Partnership can also assist with energy and water bills as a referral through the Hub.

It can include two fuel payments of £49 each and/or a £80 water bill payment through to further support on boiler repair service and practical fuel support for a household.

- **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, the Borough Council are already making plans to help residents stay safe while casting 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.

Rushcliffe 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”.

You 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 one with any questions can also contact Rushcliffe's elections team by emailing elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk

- **Local Business Support Grant now available for eligible business owners**



A reminder that the Borough Council is 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.