

# RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

**Wednesday August 5, 2020**

**Please remember for all the latest on our services during COVID-19 please visit [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)**

**Please email [media@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:media@rushcliffe.gov.uk) with any enquiries.**

## **Eat Out to Help Out scheme launched**



The Government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme launched on Monday (August 3), with businesses across the Borough welcoming back customers.

Those eating a meal at participating establishments will be able to enjoy up to £10 off each diner's food and non-alcoholic drinks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until August 31.

Over 3,000 outlets have so far signed up for the scheme in East Midlands, with even more options available for consumers once larger businesses

with more than 26 outlets are taken into consideration.

Across the UK more than 72,000 individual outlets were signed up by the end of July, providing customers with an exciting range of choices for dining out this month.

[Find participating outlets in the Borough](#), or discover more about the Eat Out to Help Out scheme [on the Government website](#).

## **Free Business Support Programmes available for local businesses**



Business Support Programmes are now available to provide local businesses with free training, guidance and advice to help them reopen or continue to trade securely and successfully following COVID-19.

Thanks to funding from the European Regional Development Fund, the project aims to help high street businesses recover and operate safely in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The opportunities include one to one coaching support to help business owners improve their digital marketing and online training to introduce digital technology to a business.

A range of webinars are also available to help businesses focus on the customer experience to readjust in difficult times and optimise marketing performance.

Businesses can find further details and book their place on the Business Support Programmes on the [Business Resources webpage](#).

## Face coverings mandatory in shops and supermarkets



On July 24, updated Government advice on face coverings in England came into effect, meaning many are now required to wear a form of face covering when entering shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres and transport hubs.

Our Portfolio Holder for Business and Economic Growth Cllr Andy Edyvean visited Ruddington business Britmask to collect his personalised Rushcliffe face covering and help remind residents of the new guidance.

The public have been asked to be mindful of people who are exempt from wearing a face covering.

The list of exemptions, which has been in place since face coverings became mandatory on public transport, includes hidden conditions such as anxiety or panic disorders, autism, breathing difficulties, dementia or reduced vision.

People are not required to prove they are exempt, and it is for individuals to choose how they would want to communicate this to others.

For those who would feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering, exemption cards have been published and can be accessed [here](#) together with a list of exemptions.

From Saturday August 8, the Government is also expanding the list of businesses and establishments where face coverings are needed, including public areas in hotels and hostels, places of worship, libraries and public reading rooms and community centres. View the full list [here](#).

## Leisure centres begin phased reopening



Our leisure centres have now reopened, with Rushcliffe Arena, Bingham Leisure Centre and Cotgrave Leisure Centre operated by Lex Leisure began phased reopening on Saturday July 25.

There will be further updates to outline the reopening of pools at each site and this phased approach will see more facilities opening in the coming weeks.



All questions on visiting these centres can be found on their Frequently Asked Questions pages at <https://www.leisurecentre.com/welcome-back>

The phased opening of East Leake Centre operated by Mitie has seen gym space, reduced group exercise classes, tennis courts and casual badminton available.

All questions on visiting the East Leake Centre can be found on their Frequently Asked Questions pages at <https://east-leake.co.uk/lc>

We're still awaiting a confirmed date when Keyworth Leisure Centre operated by Lex Leisure can look to reopen safely.

## New emergency fund to help Nottinghamshire groups support residents



A new emergency fund to help Nottinghamshire groups support residents who are struggling to afford essentials due to COVID-19 has been launched this week by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The new Emergency Assistance Fund offers a share of £858,000 of emergency funding to groups and organisations already helping communities through the crisis.

Applications are now open to established local charities and community organisations who have been delivering essential COVID-19 related services, meaning they can apply for grants towards the cost of

getting food and other essentials to those who need it the most.

To apply and find out more, please direct applicants to: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/assistancefund](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/assistancefund)

The funds form part of the Government's £63m emergency support to help families struggling since the outbreak.

## Reminder for residents to complete their annual canvass form



Residents are being reminded to complete their annual canvass form when it arrives through the post, should it require any changes.

With County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections set to take place in the Borough next year, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The form ensures that we can keep the electoral register up to date and identify any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so.

This previous canvass process was widely recognised to be outdated and cumbersome. The one-size-fits-all approach, incorporating numerous prescribed steps, took little account of differences within and between registration areas.

Therefore the changes to the new form have now taken place and include a reformed process incorporating a data matching step in which registered electors are compared against data held by the Department for Work and Pensions to see if they match.

All residents are asked to follow instructions on the form but only need to respond if any details have changed.

Where a response is needed, they need to complete the form online at [www.householdresponse.com/rushcliffe](http://www.householdresponse.com/rushcliffe).

Those who have moved address recently are particularly encouraged to keep an eye out for the form and check the details.

Research by the independent Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those that have lived at the same address for a long time.

Across the country, 94 per cent of people who have been at their property for more than 16 years will be registered, compared to 40 per cent of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at [elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk) or by phoning 0115 981 9911.

## Have your say on NHS services in light of COVID-19



The NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other NHS organisations have made changes to the way services are delivered during Covid-19.

They have been made to help the NHS cope with the impact of the pandemic and to keep patients and staff safe.

Some of the changes seen during the pandemic include:

- An increase in the use of telephone and online consultations with health care professionals
- Reduced attendances at the Accident & Emergency Department
- An increase in the use of NHS111 or 111 online
- A new discharge assessment to speed up hospital discharges.

The CCG is now seeking the views of local people on these changes and all are invited to complete a survey [here](#) to assess how they can be implemented even more effectively.

## Applications for the COVID-19 Community Fund



The County Council's COVID-19 Community Fund is still inviting applications to aid volunteer and community efforts as we adapt to the pandemic.

Applications can be made on [the Nottinghamshire County Council website](#).

A reminder that Councillors' Community Support Grants can also now be used to fund COVID-19 related projects. Please email [media@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:media@rushcliffe.gov.uk) with any queries.

## COVID mobile testing unit sites identified



Through the Local Resilience Form we are now supporting the military to identify three or four suitable sites for COVID-19 mobile testing units which can be stood up in the event of any local outbreak.

Sites being explored at present include the Arena with the office car park section behind the barrier, the University campus car park at Sutton Bonington, Gotham Road car park in East Leake and a further site to be confirmed in the Bingham or Langar area.

## Commemorations for 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day



August 15 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day Japan surrendered on the same day in 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War.

For many Victory in Japan was a more muted celebration, in contrast to the jubilation of Victory in Europe Day.

Due to COVID-19, sadly many organisations that would have held commemorative events are longer able to do so.

National broadcasters will be scheduling a range of themed programming to mark the occasion and various Nottinghamshire organisations will

be holding virtual commemorations online, with more details available closer to the date.

We're also signposting residents to our webpage at [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/vj75](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/vj75) that highlights further information and activities to safely celebrate VJ Day.

## Social inclusion and isolation grants available from The Armed Forces Covenant



The Armed Forces Covenant Fund has introduced a new local grants programme awarding one-year grants of up to £20,000 for projects that seek to promote social inclusion and support Forces

communities to become less isolated.

Their Force for Change programme will support local Armed Forces communities as they address the needs that have arisen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This new programme will also support volunteer-run projects, benefiting Armed Forces communities, that need some additional help.

In early 2020, the Trust ran an open consultation to explore how they should make small grants locally. The feedback from this informed their decision to fund grants of up to £20,000, as they had done under an earlier programme.

Mental health, veterans being at higher risk of isolation and support for Armed Forces families were the top three issues that emerged from the responses received.

Applicants need to show:

- Why their project is needed and that it won't duplicate other work
- How their project will help people from the Armed Forces community become less isolated and more active in their local communities
- How the idea for your project has been shaped by the people it will benefit.

Projects can be considered that support serving personnel, veterans and Armed Forces families.

Find out more on the [Covenant Fund website](#).

## Census change to include Armed Forces Community



We're pleased that the Government has announced that a new question regarding the Armed Forces will feature in the 2021 Census, following a successful campaign led by The Royal British Legion and Poppyscotland.

Legislation passed last month now means that next year's Census will include a question allowing residents to provide information on whether someone has served in HM Armed Forces.

The Royal British Legion, which led the campaign, is at the heart of a national network offering a range of support and services to the Armed Forces community.

Including the question on the 2021 Census will provide the Legion, as well as public bodies, local authorities, and other military charities with valuable information to ensure they can best meet the needs of serving personnel, veterans and their families.

Our Deputy Leader and Armed Forces Champion Cllr Debbie Mason said: "We welcome this historic change which will help us further our understanding of the needs and support required by veterans in Rushcliffe.

"This new information will aid our efforts to ensure our services are appropriately tailored for serving personnel, veterans and their families wherever possible.

"I look forward to further supporting our local Armed Forces Communities with the help of this new and significant update to next year's Census."

Charles Byrne, Director-General of The Royal British Legion, said: "This is an extremely proud moment for the Legion.

"After leading a successful campaign, the fact that a military question will be in the 2021 Census will significantly improve our understanding of the Armed Forces community which up until now has been very limited.

"We are delighted and are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported the campaign and helped us to achieve this historical success."

Residents can find out more about the campaign by visiting [the Royal British Legion website](#).

Those wishing to show their support for the successful campaign are invited to share a pledge of support on social using the hashtag #CountThemIn.

## Social distancing guidance for young people updated

The guidance for young people on social distancing [has been updated](#) in line with the most recent government advice. It provides an overview of a range of topics, including:



- Protecting different groups of people
- Social distancing and avoiding close contact
- Handwashing and respiratory hygiene
- Face coverings
- Travelling
- Getting care
- Going to work, education or childcare

## Have your say on proposals for the National Rehabilitation Centre



A public consultation is providing residents with the opportunity to give their opinions on a potential NHS National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) on the site of the DNRC at Stanford Hall.

The exercise is part of the formal NHS decision-making process and is asking people for feedback, until September 18, in regards to their views on how the new facility could help reorganise patient care and rehabilitation services within the NHS East Midlands region.

If approved and built, the NRC could be created on the same site where a specialist Defence rehabilitation centre (the 'Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre') has already been built, operated by the MoD.

The results from the public consultation will feed into an overall business case for the centre which is expected to be finalised later this year. If approved by NHS commissioners, the target is for the centre to be operating and treating patients in 2024.

The public exercise is being coordinated by the regional NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups. Find out more and complete the survey on their website: [www.nottscg.nhs.uk/rehab-centre-consultation](http://www.nottscg.nhs.uk/rehab-centre-consultation)

## Arena illuminated to support Nottinghamshire Pride



On Saturday July 25 we illuminated the Arena for a second year running in vibrant rainbow colours to celebrate and support Nottinghamshire Pride.

The lights shone brightly as part of a display of support for the LGBTQ+, Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer and related communities both locally and nationally and as part of Pride events taking place in Nottingham city centre.

## Rushcliffe smoking rates among lowest in England



Data from Public Health England has revealed that smoking rates across the Borough are at 5.9 per cent, making them amongst the lowest in England.

According to the figures, we have the lowest prevalence of smoking in adults aged 18 or over in the East Midlands. We also rank 307 out of 315 districts nationally, having one of the lowest smoking prevalence in the country as measured by the Office of National Statistics.

Our Deputy Leader Cllr Debbie Mason said: "We're pleased that the data from Public Health England

reflects our ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and the importance of our work with Rushcliffe's Clinical Commissioning Group and partners to educate smokers on the benefits of quitting.

"Early research into COVID-19 also indicates that smokers may be at greater risk of developing severe symptoms should they contract the virus, making this a hugely important time to consider quitting.

"We are not complacent and will continue to work closely with partner organisations to help further residents make this significant, positive lifestyle change and give up smoking for good."

Read the full story on the [West Bridgford Wire website](#).

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