



RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TOWN AND PARISH UPDATE

Wednesday October 14, 2020

**Please remember for all the latest on our services
visit www.rushcliffe.gov.uk**

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

Latest COVID-19 update



Nottinghamshire and Nottingham have entered the "high" alert level, announced by Government on October 12.

This means:

- **People must not meet with anybody outside their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.**
- **People must not meet in a group of more than 6 outside, including in a garden or other space.**
- **People should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible. If they need to travel, they should walk or cycle where possible, or to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.**

We are awaiting a full Frequently Asked Questions list from the Local Resilience Forum but in the meantime many common questions on the changes can be answered here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-high>

Please also continue to observe the following key behaviours:

- "Hands, Face, Space" which means:
 - Hands - wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds
 - Face - wear a face covering where required, unless you are exempt
 - Space - Maintain social distance of at least 2 metres from anyone you don't live with or 1 metre plus additional precautions such as extra ventilation, screens or face coverings
- When eating out at a café, pub or restaurant everyone should provide full and accurate contact details of everyone in your group. This NHS Test and Trace Service is important for tracking and preventing the spread. The help play your part the [NHS COVID-19 App](#) is available to download.
- Only car share with those in your household or support bubble.
- If you have COVID symptoms, get a test and self-isolate. Symptoms include a fever, a new continuous cough, or loss of your sense of taste or smell. Call 119 to book your free test or [book online via the NHS website](#)
- Download the app. The free NHS Covid-19 app is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community.
Go to the app store on your phone and search for the NHS Covid-19 app or visit [COVID-19 app information](#)

Face coverings must be worn:

- In retail premises
- On public transport
- By customers in private hire vehicles and taxis
- By customers in hospitality venues, except when seated at a table to eat or drink.
- By staff in hospitality and retail.
- By staff working on public transport and taxi driver
- People exempt from the existing face covering obligations include those such as with an underlying health condition.

Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards nominations deadline extended



We have extended the opportunity to acknowledge your unsung community, business and health heroes in the Borough Council's community accolades, the Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards, until Friday October 16.

In conjunction with media partner West Bridgford Wire, our wonderful volunteers, businesses, clubs, organisations, environmentalists and the best of our health and wellbeing and food and drink sectors are being sought to be recognised, mindful of the impact COVID-19 has had on every part of the

community and local enterprise.

Nominations can be submitted at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CRA2020>

Winners will be announced and celebrated in a ceremony to be confirmed later this year.

West Bridgford bar closed for COVID-19 breach that saw groups mix and prompt positive cases



A West Bridgford bar which had previously been fined on three occasions for breaking COVID-19 rules has been closed until further notice for a further breach that saw customers mix in groups, not socially distance and seven individuals later record positive cases.

We have worked with Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Police to close the doors of Zinc on Central Avenue in the town on October 9 having allowed multiple groups to congregate on the premises, just a day after its latest fine on September 25.

We continued to receive complaints from concerned members of the public which was confirmed after

officers from our Environmental Health Team witnessed CCTV of customers entering the premises in large groups and being unchallenged by the business.

People were also seen freely mixing between groups and shaking hands. Seven members of one of the groups later tested positive for Coronavirus.

It prompted us to seek immediate closure of the premises for a month for the serious and imminent risk to health the business was posing and continued evidence of non-compliance with the regulations.

It was also handed a £2,000 fine and its operation as a business will now be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods Cllr Rob Inglis said: "Good compliance is good business and the bar's owners have shown the opposite of this with a staggering irresponsibility to not operate in a COVID secure environment and protect their customers.

"It meant we had no option but to take this action despite our teams continuing to provide them with the advice and support since COVID arrived and after its first, second and third fines.

"We continue to work with bar, restaurant and hospitality business owners on the guidelines and have visited over 230 hospitality businesses in recent weeks to help them adapt to laws and the vast majority are doing a great job.

"We want to support them wherever we can to operate but we will not tolerate complacency when it comes to regulations that are designed to protect the health of our residents.

"It's hugely important that businesses remain diligent and implement all necessary measures to keep their premises secure for customers and help tackle the rising number of cases."

The wider support for all business owners is continually updated on our website and currently there should be no more than six people at a table, only table service is permitted with no service in bar areas and consumers should not mix between tables.

We are asking residents to play their part by [downloading the app](#) when they visit hospitality and public venues.

They are also asked to ensure a member of staff at each premise always asks for details, or if they are not requested, to inform us [emailing](#).

Cllr Brennan warmly welcomed to Cabinet role



Cllr Abby Brennan has been welcomed to our Cabinet, assuming responsibility for key projects and strategies to benefit the Borough's community and environmental focuses.

The Radcliffe on Trent ward councillor joins the authority's executive with a wealth of public and private sector experience having worked for government agencies in the UK and in Europe and also running her own businesses. She was elected to the Council in 2019.

Deputy Chief Executive of the former East Midlands Regional Development Agency, with a career that has also included roles at the European Commission, the United Nations University and with the Civil Service, she hopes this range of different perspectives will help drive forward her portfolio's priorities.

They will include steering direction on leisure, cultural services and health and wellbeing within the Borough, projects to benefit young people as well as the Council's progress on energy and carbon reduction and its climate change programme.

Links with Town and Parish Councils and the Armed Forces will also be under her remit.

Cllr Brennan said: "I am delighted to be able to take up this role. The resilience of our local communities has been tested over recent months as the pandemic has impacted them.

"Issues such as health and wellbeing, including mental health, are at the front of our minds. Loneliness and isolation have affected many people, especially the elderly.

"Young people have had their education disrupted and seen many of their opportunities for first and entry level jobs limited by the impact of COVID on industries such as hospitality.

"A key priority for this portfolio moving forward will be to help rebuild that community resilience and to support partners and stakeholders to reach out and support the most effected groups.

"Town and Parish Councils have demonstrated their ability to deliver and support communities on the ground through networks of volunteers and a responsiveness to their local areas. I look forward to working with and strengthening the Borough's relationship with them.

"The Leisure industry has also felt the impact of the COVID crisis. Leisure Centres are gradually reopening and customer confidence is growing, but it is important that we support this very important sector as we go forward to ensure they can operate on a secure footing.

"Our excellent leisure facilities across the Borough add greatly to our quality of life and are a key priority for us.

"Despite COVID, the Council has made clear its determination to fulfil its environmental goals. This remains a very important priority and we need to plough forward with this work.

"I think lockdown really brought home to many people how important the environment is to us and how our impacts on it can be felt very directly in our personal lives.

"I am pleased that Rushcliffe Borough Council will continue to invest in this agenda, keep it at the forefront of our thinking and recognise the contribution we can make to reducing fossil fuel energy consumption and carbon reduction.

"I also wish to build on the very successful work done to date in supporting our Armed Forces. All parts of the community need to feel involved and supported and we should celebrate the contribution diverse groups make to a strong and resilient community.

"I'm very keen to engage as many local councillors from across the Council in this agenda as possible, local elected representatives know their communities well and understand their needs and challenges.

"As we, hopefully, get on top of this virus we can use the Council's support systems to help build up our community strengths and be ready to respond if local situations change.

"Finally, our cultural and civic events have had to put on hold for the time being but I'm looking forward to a time, hopefully in the not too far distant future, when we can once again come together to enjoy the range of successful events that the Council puts on across the Borough."

She assumes the role from Cllr Debbie Mason who stood down from Cabinet at the last Full Council meeting after a remarkable 18 years.

Our Leader Cllr Simon Robinson warmly welcomed the new appointment.

He said: "Cllr Brennan brings exceptional insight from her background at such a crucial time for us as we adapt to the challenges COVID is throwing at us and our communities.

"Her focus and drive will be a huge asset to us as a Cabinet and Council as we tackle it head on and ensure we continue to deliver our priorities on the environment, quality of life, efficient services and sustainable growth."

Bereavement service receives crucial funding from Reach Rushcliffe



A bereavement service that provides support to those who have been affected by family members passing away due to the COVID-19 pandemic has received vital funding from Reach Rushcliffe.

Cruse Bereavement applied to our initiative earlier this year and will now use the funds to further reach out to those in need whilst tackling social isolation and loneliness.

The charity hopes it will provide more residents with the bereavement support, allowing for a further 250 telephone sessions and training for 10 volunteers.

Cllr Debbie Mason met with Cruse Bereavement Support Workers Ann Aljewicz and Karen Briden to find out more about the role they provide at such a crucial time to family and friends.

Area Chair of Cruse Jim Aleander said: "We are so pleased to have received funding through Reach Rushcliffe which means we are able to provide vital bereavement support to those who have been affected.

"The death of anyone close to them as a result of COVID-19, or those who have had their existing grief triggered due to the pandemic is something that we know affects many, many people.

"Our Bereavement volunteers are trained to support people through traumatic and sudden loss and they help residents across Rushcliffe and Nottinghamshire.

"By training volunteers to deliver one to one support over the phone we can provide a much-needed lifeline to those experiencing grief and loss compounded by the isolation and loneliness of lockdown restrictions."

Anyone wishing to access the free services can call 0115 924 4404 or visit <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

Great attendance for latest Town and Parish Forum



Our Town and Parish Forum took place on Friday October 2 as over 50 joined our latest virtual session hosted by our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and The Environment Cllr Abby Brennan.

Thank you for your time if you attended.

Topics included an update from Cllr Simon Robinson as Leader, the Queen's Birthday Honours List and the Government's proposed

reforms to the planning system and housing numbers.

Pub fined for holding birthday party in breach of COVID-19 rules



A public house in Ruddington has received a £1,000 fixed penalty notice for breaching COVID-19 rules after accepting a booking of 34 people for a birthday party celebration.

We fined The White Horse for hosting the booking of more than six people on September 26, contravening current restrictions for the hospitality industry.

The business admitted the error and paid the fine within 14 days, reducing it to £500, having initially refused an enquiry to host 72 at the event but still accepted 34 attending.

We continue to work closely with bar, restaurant and hospitality business owners across the Borough to advise and support on central government guidelines to operate in a COVID secure environment including collecting customer details for track and trace purposes.

We have visited over 230 hospitality businesses in recent weeks to help business owners adapt to new laws and written to all its licensed premises on how they can receive support.

Are you signed up for our free email subscription service?



Please play your part to tackle COVID-19



During the most recent 14 days to September 17, for which we have complete data, there were 58 confirmed cases in Rushcliffe.

The official headline seven-day incidence rate for Rushcliffe stands at 27.3.

This has increased from 21.3 since the previous seven-day period. Rushcliffe daily figures have not increased recently, the district is rated as green on PHE Exceedance reports as a result.

Don't forget to sign up for our free email subscription service, providing news and updates on our services direct to your inbox.

To sign up now and receive the updates please subscribe here: <https://bit.ly/RushcliffeSignUp>

Whilst our website and social media pages remain a great place to find all our latest news and updates, these email bulletins are a new no hassle channel that initially will provide a weekly digest on our great services.

Check your eligibility for this year's flu vaccination



HELP US HELP YOU
STAY WELL THIS WINTER

NHS

What's new for this year's flu season?

30 million people are now eligible including:

- **household contacts** of those on the NHS shielded patients list
- children of school **Year 7 age** in secondary schools (those aged 11 years on 31 August 2020)
- all health and social care workers who have direct contact with the people they care for
- those aged 50-64 years later in the season

Public Health England are reminding everyone to check if they can get the flu vaccine this autumn, as an estimated 30 million people are eligible for the free vaccination.

There is a particular risk of severe illness from catching flu for:

- older people
- the very young
- pregnant women
- those with underlying disease, such as chronic respiratory or cardiac disease
- those who are immunosuppressed

This year you are also recommended to have the flu vaccine if you are the main carer of an older or disabled person, a household contact of someone on the Shielded Patients List for COVID-19 or a child aged 2 to 11 years old on 31 August 2020.

Flu vaccination is important because:

- if you're at higher risk from coronavirus, you're also more at risk of problems from flu
- if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill
- it'll help to reduce pressure on the NHS and social care staff who may be dealing with coronavirus

If you've had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It'll be effective at helping to prevent flu.

Find out more about this year's flu vaccinations [on the NHS website](#).

Tips for staying warm and saving money this winter



The Local Authorities' Energy Partnership have put together the following advice on how we can stay warm and save money as more of us are working or spending time at home over the winter months.

Reduce the price of your energy

One of the easiest things to do is to look at switching to a better tariff for your gas and electricity.

A host of switching sites are available, including [Uswitch](#), [Money Super Market](#) and local charity [Nottingham Energy Partnership](#).

Once you have a shortlist of the best offers available you can check out their customer service, and how 'green'

their energy is, using independent comparison sites, such as [Which?](#) or [Simply Switch](#).

Easy, low cost ways to use energy more efficiently

Effective home energy saving tips are available from [Which?](#) and the government's [Simple Energy Advice site](#) covering, for example:

- using your thermostat effectively
- replacing halogen with LED light bulbs
- draught proof your doors and windows

Keep the heat in your home

The government's new Green Homes Grant scheme gives homeowners vouchers to help cover the cost of more expensive energy efficiency improvements – such as, loft, wall and floor insulation – which make a big difference to the amount of energy needed to keep the building warm.

If you have at least one of these 'primary' improvements you can also use the grant for 'secondary' items such as double glazing, as long as it costs no more than you spend on the 'primary' improvement.

For most people, the vouchers will be worth about two-thirds of the cost of the work, up to a maximum of £5,000 per household.

Only government approved traders can do this work and you won't be able to apply for a grant unless you get a quote from one of them.

First you need to check your eligibility, see what improvements could be made to your home, and find a list of approved traders to choose from: <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/green-homes-grant/questionnaire>

Then you can apply for a voucher, using this government website: <https://green-homes-grant.service.gov.uk/homeowner-and-landlord-application>

All works must be completed and vouchers spent by end March 2021.
