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Councillors' Connection

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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.

Nominate your community, volunteer or business hero for a Celebrating Rushcliffe Award



The borough Council are once again asking residents and groups across the Borough to acknowledge their unsung community, business and health heroes in the community accolades, the Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards.

In conjunction with media partner West Bridgford Wire, the council want to celebrate the Borough's wonderful volunteers, businesses, clubs, organisations,

environmentalists and the best of our health and wellbeing and food and drink sectors, mindful of the impact COVID-19 has had on every part of the community and local enterprise.

Nominations for the 10 awards are now open until Monday October 5, they include:

- **Volunteer of the Year**
- **Business of the Year**
- **Young Person/Group of the Year**
- **Community Group of the Year**
- **Get Active Award**
- **Food and Drink Establishment of the Year**
- **Health and Well-Being Award**
- **Environmental Group or Project of the Year**
- **Young Environmentalist of the Year**
- **The Pride of Rushcliffe Award**

The council welcome as many nominations as possible.

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

Last year Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Keeping it Wild scooped the Young Environmentalist or Group of the Year accolade at the awards for its fantastic work with 13 to 25 year-olds at Skylarks Nature Reserve in Holme Pierrepont and across the County.

People and Nature Officer Laura Bacon from the Trust said: "Winning the award last year was a wonderful acknowledgement of all the hard work our young people and teams have dedicated to our sites in conserving our natural habitats.

"I would encourage everyone to nominate their community hero for a Celebrating Rushcliffe Award so they too can honour those who spread such warmth and community spirit to people through local projects and efforts."

Mobile COVID-19 testing unit set to be based at Arena from September 12-14



People in the Borough and further afield with COVID-19 symptoms will be able to book a test at a Mobile Testing Unit arriving at Rushcliffe Arena from this Saturday, September 12 to Monday September 14.

This is part of a standard rolling testing programme around the county planned by the NHS, the County Council, Public Health England and other partners and is not related in any way to an increase in cases or focus on the pandemic in the Borough.

This will be situated in the staff car park furthest away from the leisure centre and offices, currently less utilised as staff continue to work flexibly and will have no knock on effect to parking for leisure centre users.

It will be in place subject to the unit being redeployed to another location at short notice to support an outbreak elsewhere.

The unit will allow people with symptoms to be tested quickly and easily without having to travel to testing centres based further afield. The free bookings can be made [online](#) from this Friday, September 11 onwards.

Jonathan Gribbin, Director of Public Health at Nottinghamshire County Council, said: "We are taking a proactive approach by working with our partners to offer a rolling programme of testing around the county. We believe that this approach will make things easier for Rushcliffe residents who have symptoms to get tested.

“It is still critical that everyone follows social distancing guidance in full, including [guidelines about car sharing](#), washing our hands regularly, wearing face coverings, self-isolating and quickly getting a test if we develop symptoms.”

Find out more about the [symptoms of COVID-19](#). It is important to get tested within the first five days of having symptoms and here’s some more frequently asked questions on testing:

When can I get a test?

You can get a test;

- for yourself, if you have coronavirus symptoms now such as a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- for someone you live with, if they have symptoms
- if you have been told to have a test before you go into hospital, for example, for surgery
- if you live, work or study in an area with a coronavirus outbreak

How can I access a test?

- at a test site today and get your result tomorrow
- with a home test kit

What does the test involve?

The test involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat, using a long cotton bud. You can do the swab yourself if you are aged 12 or over or someone can do it for you. Parents or guardians have to swab test children aged 11 or under.

How do I get a test for someone else?

If other people you live with have symptoms, you can order tests for up to 3 of them.

If you’re applying for someone who’s 13 or over, check that they’re happy for you to get a test for them.

What should I do after getting the test?

If you’re getting a test because you have symptoms, you and anyone you live with must [self-isolate](#) until you get your result. This also applies to anyone in your support bubble where someone who lives alone - or just with their children - can meet people from 1 other household.

Questions? Please email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Have your say on new Strategic Plan for the Greater Nottingham Area



A reminder that residents, organisations and businesses in the Borough have just a few days week left to have their say on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan to help shape future planning for the area.

Rushcliffe have joined Broxtowe and Gedling Borough Councils and Nottingham City Council in developing the joint plan which will help guide future

development across their combined areas and all can now have their say by visiting <https://www.gnplan.org.uk>

The consultation document does not include any draft policies or identify how much or where future development will take place. These will come later when a draft Strategic Plan is published next year, when there will be a further opportunity to comment.

Free support programmes launch to aid businesses

This is about you present your business and what responses you create

- Strategy
- Customer Service
 - Trust
 - Loyalty
- Branding
 - Logo Design
- Identity
 - Marketing
 - Digital
 - In-Store
 - Social
- Value
 - Quality / Products
 - Reliable
 - Pricing

WHAT YOU DO AND SAY OR DON'T

YOUR BRAND

HOW PEOPLE FEEL

GROUNDED

The council's Business Support Programmes are continuing this month, providing free digital marketing and online training guidance and advice sessions to help the Borough's business owners reopen or continue to trade securely and successfully following COVID-19.

Early sessions have focused on how business owners can use shopper psychology to accelerate recovery.

Interactive presentations so far given by retail experts Claire Bailey and Roger Smith from Grounded Places, have highlighted the importance of shop front appearance, layout of items, advertisements and logos and how these can make a big difference in enticing customers.

Even the smell of a business can make a difference! Coconut can inspire shoppers to book a holiday and the smell of baking bread can encourage more visitors to enter a premises.

There are more support programmes between now and October 6.

Please make sure applications for community fund are received by September 17



Applications for the County Council's COVID-19 Community Fund need to be submitted by September 17.

Volunteer groups and community efforts that offer essential services to vulnerable Nottinghamshire residents impacted by COVID-19 can apply for funding between £200 to £10,000.

Police warning after spate of HMRC scam phone calls



This is a warning issued by Nottinghamshire Police following reports of an Inland Revenue scam which is asking the vulnerable for money or face arrest.

The force has received a number of reports of people receiving calls informing them there is a warrant out for their arrest and, unless they make an immediate payment to HMRC, they

will be arrested.

According to members of the force, the fraudsters have been cold calling residents across Nottinghamshire and targeting the most vulnerable in the community.

Officers are requesting that people inform the older generation and any vulnerable friends and family about this scam.

In particular, people are asked to remind others that they'll never receive an email, text message, message in an application such as WhatsApp, or a phone call from HM Revenue and Customs requesting personal or payment information.

You can find more information here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails-websites-phishing/report-hmrc-phishing-emails-texts-and-phone-call-scams>.

Residents reminded to return electoral canvass forms



Don't lose your voice in local elections. Complete your annual canvass form if a reminder letter arrives through the post.

With County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections set to take place in the Borough next year, it's a vital opportunity to make sure you can take part by ensuring your details on the electoral register are correct.

If a reminder form arrives at an address, respond by confirming details online at www.householdresponse.com/rushcliffe.

Alternatively, you can complete the paper form and return it in the post using the pre-paid envelope provided.

The form ensures the register is up to date and identify any residents who could be missing out on the chance to vote. Those wishing to register to vote need to visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Any one who has any questions can contact the borough council's Elections team by emailing elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk or calling 0115 981 9911.

Don't forget, you can now get Rushcliffe Council news direct to your inbox!

A flyer for the Rushcliffe Council Business Support Programme. At the top, it says 'Rushcliffe' with the council logo. Below that, it reads 'RUSHCLIFFE - GREAT PLACE • GREAT LIFESTYLE • GREAT SPORT' and 'Free online workshops for high street businesses'. The main image shows a woman standing in front of a shop named 'the flower room Fresh Flowers'. Text on the flyer includes: 'Businesses can now book their free place on a range of online workshops as part of our Business Support Programme, designed to provide training, guidance and advice to help them reopen or continue to trade securely and successfully following COVID-19.' and 'The sessions get started from September 1, with a wide range of topics for business owners to choose from, including training on using Instagram for business use, advice on delivering an excellent customer experience during and after the pandemic and discussion of the 10 steps to retail success.' Logos for the European Union, HM Government, and Rushcliffe Council are also present.

Don't forget that you can now sign up for a free email subscription service, providing news and updates on council services direct to your inbox.

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

These email bulletins are a new no hassle channel that initially will provide a weekly digest on services.

Many local authorities use this as another way to connect with residents who are not on social media.

More topics to come as we all continue to adapt to a post COVID-19 world.

Car sharers reminded to take precautions to stop spread of COVID-19



Public Health is urging people in the City and County to take action to stop the spread of Covid-19, specifically when car sharing.

As well as continuing to wash hands, keeping physically distant and getting a free test for symptoms, people who have to share a car to get to work should be careful to use face

coverings and to clean car surfaces at the end of the journey.

Those travelling by car should only do so with people from their household or within their support bubble, or if this is a work requirement. Outside of this, avoiding sharing cars with other people, but if people must then make sure to:

- Share the transport with the same people each time
- Keep to small groups of people at any one time
- Open windows for ventilation
- Clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products; make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- Ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering.

Emergency fund to help Nottinghamshire groups support residents



A reminder that the emergency fund to help Nottinghamshire groups support residents who are struggling to afford essentials due to COVID-19 is now available through Nottinghamshire County Council.

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