

**3 & 4 February 2021**

# **Councillors' Connection**

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**All the latest information is available on the Coronavirus webpages or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.**

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- **COVID-19 vaccine – over 70s can now book without waiting for a letter**



Anyone over 70 is now encouraged to book their COVID-19 vaccine online using <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/nottinghamc19vpatient.php> or by calling 0115 883 4640 without waiting for a letter to arrive.

Due to a processing error, those under the age of 70 who are clinically extremely vulnerable have received a letter signposting them to a SwiftQueue link only eligible for the over 70s. A second letter has been sent to rectify this and will direct them to a bespoke page on the website where they are able to book their Covid-19 vaccination.

For all enquiries on Vaccination appointments please visit [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's CCG website](#).

- **Please be extra vigilant with home security**



Residents are advised to be extra vigilant with security on their property after an increase in shed burglaries in the West Bridgford area.

It appears bikes have been a particular target for thieves, so please ensure your property is safely stored and any sheds or outdoor buildings are properly secured. Anyone with information about these incidences, or who has been victim of this activity, should contact the Police on 101.

- **Final chance to apply for elite Rushcliffe athlete grant**



Elite athletes across the Borough are being invited to apply for grant funding to support their efforts in their chosen sport before the deadline on Monday, February 8.

The Elite Sports Grant is available with grants of up to £400 that aim to reduce some of the financial burden of competing at an advanced level that can often create a barrier to achievement.

Funds may help with costs such as travel, training, accommodation, competition fees and equipment, specialist coaching and other specialist support deemed appropriate by the National Governing Body over the next year.

The grant could be used when much elite sport fully resumes once Central Government announces it is safe to do so.

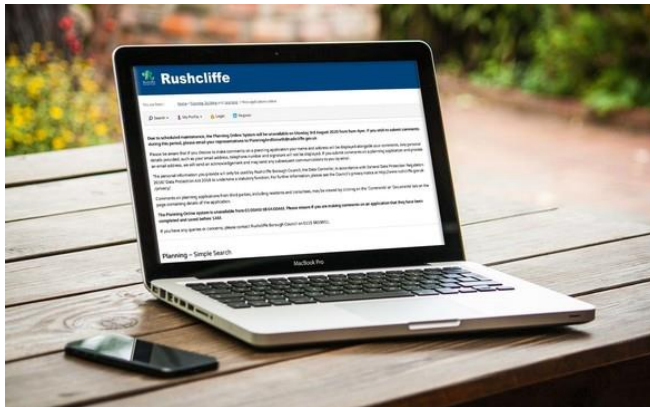
Applications to the grant scheme are being encouraged from athletes who are currently performing at international level within their sport with priority given to competitors in sports or disciplines represented at the Olympic and Paralympic Games or Commonwealth Games.

Applicants have until next Monday to apply at <https://bit.ly/2sPw8ic> and must be:

- a resident of Rushcliffe Borough or go to school within the Borough
- 14 years old or over
- competing in a Sport England recognised sport
- competing for their country/in the national training squad in their chosen sport
- have amateur status
- fully endorsed by their National Governing Body and National or International coach who must be suitably qualified and affiliated.

To accompany the application, a confirmation letter from their National Governing Body confirming an athlete's level of performance is also required.

- **Issues viewing documents via planning online**



A reminder that Rushcliffe's planning online system is currently experiencing technical issues, affecting 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.

Rushcliffe's 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.

The borough has identified an alternative way in which documents can be opened and have posted the following message on the search page of the planning online system (as pictured left) to assist members of the public.

**The message reads: "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."**

We will continue to work with the supplier to seek a resolution to this issue and provide a further update as soon as possible.

- **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 [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus).

- 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 prohibition signs. The first sign contains a white pound symbol (£) and is accompanied by the text 'The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.' The second sign contains a white icon of a smartphone with a payment symbol and is accompanied by the text 'The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.'

Scams have been brought to the borough council's attention where fake invites to a COVID-19 vaccine appointment ask 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 councillors Richard and Sue Mallender ( [mallender1968@gmail.com](mailto:mallender1968@gmail.com) [susan.mallender@googlemail.com](mailto:susan.mallender@googlemail.com) ) if you or someone you know may benefit from the government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme (CWGS).

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.

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.

As a Borough, Rushcliffe has 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.

Even more couples and individuals could benefit.

Possible other ways to find assistance are through the support network of the [Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub](#).

The team at the 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.

- **Fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling partnership update**

The borough council's partnership with Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement (WISE) commenced in January and has already issued nearly 200 fixed penalty notices for environmental crime offences including fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.

It is a trial to create positive behaviour change and reduce environmental crime in our Borough

WISE will investigate every case of fly-tipping reported and undertake routine patrols across the Borough based on intelligence focusing on complaints and the feedback of residents.

In a small number of cases residents and business owners who have been subject to the fines have felt that the fixed penalty notices were unfair. There is an appeals process laid out in the notices for anyone who feels they have been unfairly treated. WISE manage the appeals process and where appropriate will cancel unjustified notices.

A total of 30 appeals have been submitted and they are currently investigating eight, one has been accepted and 21 have been declined after reviewing the officers body worn camera footage and available evidence.

WISE have 10 days to investigate and respond to appeals and are currently averaging 1.5 days for each response and 50% of all responses have been completed on the day of submission. This highlights that all appeals will always be considered appropriately and dealt with a timely manner.

The team has completed dumped waste inspections, 44 business waste inspections and spent 367 hours patrolling all ward areas of the borough.

As a result, they have issued a total of 199 fixed penalty notices to date, including 176 for litter, 11 for domestic fly-tipping, eight for businesses not transferring their controlled waste to a registered waste carrier and a further four notices to individuals for dog fouling.

Two of the dog fouling FPNs were issued as a result of public complaints and provided doorbell video evidence.

Rushcliffe's Environmental Health Manager said: "We appreciate that it is a difficult time for everyone and we know that this approach may result in some concerns, but the protection of our environment is a corporate priority.

"This trial enables us to target offenders and spread the message that we will not tolerate enviro-crime. We want to keep Rushcliffe clean and tidy, through the prevention of fly tipping, littering and dog fouling.

"We also wish to ensure businesses manage their waste properly until it's recycled or disposed of, always using a registered waste carrier or register to carry their waste and keeping the correct paperwork for at least two years.

"The WISE team work on a national basis and have contributed to a reduction in fly-tipping in many local authority areas, helping reduce the associated cost of cleaning up dumped waste.

"They use a wide range of technical support including wireless body worn cameras and a handheld computer which will confirm the identity of an alleged offender before issuing a notice.

- **Shop Locally, Shop Safely**

Please support essential local traders. Many businesses have brilliantly adapted so you can still use takeaway services when you are out for essential reasons.

- **Please be extra vigilant with home security**

Please be extra vigilant with security on your property after an increase in shed burglaries in the West Bridgford area.

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