

# RUSHCLIFFE Reports

2<sup>nd</sup> May  
polling day!  
Bring photo ID

**Find  
out more.**

See pages 6-7

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## Rushcliffe Reports on CD

An audio version of *Rushcliffe Reports* is available for blind and partially-sighted people. Contact us to get the latest edition by emailing [media@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:media@rushcliffe.gov.uk) or call **0115 914 8555**.

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# Leader's update

**Welcome to your spring edition of *Rushcliffe Reports*.**

**We all continue to battle with inflation and cost-of-living challenges. Careful financial management has never been more in focus for local authorities and we are riding out current financial storms still very much focused on delivering excellent services.**

That means for example when we received funding recently we were able to opt to extend investment in our environmental focus with an extra £100,000 into green projects and a further £28,000 prioritising the safety of residents when we are responding to flooding emergencies.

We know residents are still adjusting to the increased costs of living and assistance and information for anyone struggling with bills can be found on our website at [rushcliffe.gov.uk/costofliving](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/costofliving)

Improvements to our leisure facilities and parks continues to be vital so it's heartening we are investing over £4m of improvements in solar panels and other features at Keyworth and Cotgrave Leisure Centres in the coming years so they can remain financially and environmentally sustainable.

UK Shared Prosperity Funding, part of UK Government's Levelling Up agenda, providing funding for local investment is also continuing to provide valuable support for many groups, businesses and communities. It includes rolling out a variety

of new initiatives to help boost skills and employability within the Borough, see more on [page 20](#).

Thank you if you took part in last summer's corporate strategy consultation, there's more on our direction as a Council between now and 2027 on [page 13](#).

As we near the warmer spring weather don't forget to look ahead to another brilliant events programme for 2024 – see [pages 22 and 23](#).

**Cllr Neil Clarke MBE**  
Leader of The Council





# We continue to have lowest council tax in Nottinghamshire

**Our Council Tax level will again be the lowest in Nottinghamshire and remain in the lowest 25% in the country following approval at our Full Council meeting on March 7.**

Building on cost-of-living support last year where 60 per cent of residents did not receive a Council Tax increase, a Band D property will increase just £3.93 for the 12 months from April 2024 or 2.55%.

Our 2024/2025 budget is in a time of significant pressures and real terms decreases in funding but is in conjunction with us continuing to embrace opportunities that support the economic growth and development in the Borough and maintain discretionary services valued by residents.

We are currently debt-free and therefore not impacted by significant increases in interest rates on borrowing faced by some authorities.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Governance Cllr Davinder Virdi said: "RBC is in a relatively stable financial position compared to many councils. This is down to the culmination of hard work by both Councillors and

officers to keep Council Tax the lowest in Nottinghamshire, further assisting residents with cost-of-living increases.

*"We believe to have one of best financial positions of any Council in the country but remain realistic and not triumphalist, appreciative of the stark challenges many of our peers are facing and that we also share.*

*"We still have to take difficult decisions but we are maintaining high levels of service and not cutting back on them. The budget supports the most vulnerable such as the homeless and balancing other objectives such as supporting climate change and improving the environment."*

*"There are still many potential economic and financial challenges ahead but we know where we are, where we are going to and how we will get there with continued astute and well-informed decision making that continues to deliver high quality services."*



COUNCIL TAX

# Garden waste collections

**Renewals now open!**

**We'll collect your garden waste saving you time, money and hassle.**

Just  
**86p**  
per week



- No need for trips to the recycling centre
- No need to mess up your car with bags of garden waste
- No cleaning up afterwards

Visit [rushcliffe.gov.uk/paygardenbin](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/paygardenbin)  
or call **0115 981 9911**



# You need **photo ID** to vote at this May's elections

Residents will be heading to the polls on Thursday May 2 to take part in Combined County Authority Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

At these elections you will need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station. Those using a postal vote do not need to provide ID.

## Which forms of ID can I use to vote at a polling station?

Accepted photo ID include:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you have a form of accepted ID that is out of date but still looks like you, you can still use it to vote.

## What if I don't have an accepted form of photo ID?

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC).

You can apply for this online at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](http://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to our electoral services team. If you need any help applying or want to request a paper application form contact us by emailing [elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk) or calling 0115 981 9911.

The deadline to apply for a VAC for use at these elections is 5pm on **Wednesday April 24**, but you should apply as soon as possible in case we need to check any details with you.

You need to be **registered to vote** before you can apply for the certificate.

## How do I register to vote?

To vote in these elections, you must be registered to vote by 11.59pm on **Tuesday April 16**.

If you've never registered, have recently moved to a different address, or changed your name, register to vote online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote).

You can also apply by completing a paper application form.

If you need help registering to vote, or want to request a paper application form, please contact us by emailing [elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk) or calling 0115 981 9911.



## Changes to voting by post and proxy

Voters can now apply online to vote by post and for some types of proxy vote. For further information and to apply, please visit [gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) to apply to vote by post or please visit [gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote) to apply to vote by proxy.

The deadline for applying for a postal vote is 5pm on **Wednesday April 17**, and the deadline to apply for a proxy to vote on your behalf is 5pm on **Wednesday April 24**.

# VOTER ID

Combined County Authority Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections take place on 2 May 2024. You will need to bring photo ID to vote.

For more information, go to [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)





# Cotgrave and Keyworth leisure centres welcome £4.1m investment in refurbishments and energy upgrades

**We are investing £4.1m in refurbishments and energy efficient upgrades over the next three years at Cotgrave Leisure Centre and Keyworth Leisure Centre.**

The refurbishment programme, subject to planning approval, will see the decarbonisation of the leisure centre in Cotgrave making it carbon neutral, followed by building repairs and upgrades to the site in Keyworth.

We received £1.2m from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to help reduce the carbon emissions at Cotgrave Leisure Centre.

The funding will enable the replacement of old boilers and outdated, inefficient heating and hot water systems with new modern, low carbon Air Source Heat Pumps.

Heat pump units will use electricity from renewable sources to efficiently draw heat from the air and transfer it into the swimming pool and surrounding areas, resulting in 250% to 300% energy efficiency.

Refurbishments at the Cotgrave site will also include:

- A new Changing Places toilet enabling users with mobility challenges to change more easily

- An improved toilet and reception layout
- Widening corridors
- An improved dedicated spin studio
- Larger modern dance studio with improved lighting and sound systems
- Updated and improved layout to the poolside changing rooms.

The Changing Places toilet is courtesy of a £50,000 capital grant investment secured from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Keyworth Leisure Centre will see essential repairs to the roof and a facelift of toilets, changing room, gym and reception.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing, ICT and Member Development Cllr Jonathan Wheeler said: "We're continuing to invest in our leisure centres across the Borough to enhance the quality of facilities for residents and further help reduce carbon emissions."

"Having significantly invested in West Bridgford and Bingham leisure facilities recently, it's exciting that we can welcome this further £4.1m funding and help the Council move closer to its zero-carbon agenda by making leisure centres more efficient to run."



## Explore free nature-based groups and activities with the Rushcliffe Big Green Book

**The third edition of a directory that details nature-based activity providers and green spaces in Rushcliffe is now available to encourage more people to explore local nature and improve their mental and physical health.**

The Rushcliffe Big Green Book gives a wealth of local contacts and information to help groups and individuals find great new health and wellbeing opportunities on their doorstep in the Borough.

To view the latest version, visit [rushcliffehealth.org/green-book](https://rushcliffehealth.org/green-book)

It features a range of activities such as walking routes, cycling and exercise groups, coffee meetups, wildlife and environmental links, gardening, allotment, food sharing and leisure opportunities at local waterways, parks and open spaces.

There is also additional information on staying active, building strength and details on the health benefits of physical activity including improved sleep, maintaining a healthy weight, managing stress and more.

The concept is designed to be used by social prescribers and healthcare workers who

want to find activities for their patients, as well as individuals who are looking for local community groups to get involved in.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing, ICT and Member Development Cllr Jonathan Wheeler said: "The book is being really well received. It is a great example of linking residents to find opportunities to support people engaging in nature based interventions and activities."

"After a really positive start, I'm pleased we're now in the third edition of the book which includes even more useful resources and information to help people look after themselves, meet new people and connect with nature."

"The directory also supports Rushcliffe working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Borough by encouraging providers to obtain the 'Dementia Friendly' badge, helping to raise awareness of dementia and reduce barriers for people in local communities living with dementia."

For any questions on the Big Green Book, partnership work or sponsor opportunities, email [rushcliffebiggreenbook@gmail.com](mailto:rushcliffebiggreenbook@gmail.com)





# Crime dropping and better use of CCTV helping us

By Insp Timothy Cuthbert | Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Rushcliffe

***"Hello again from the Rushcliffe Neighbourhood Policing team.***

*Some crime related updates to start. We continue to see a decrease in theft of motor vehicles following some good arrests and plenty of preventative work issuing faraday bags.*

*Shop theft is down from the peak last summer, with some superb partnership working in West Bridgford in particular, better use of CCTV and criminal behaviour orders.*

*Bike thefts are lower than last year, however I'll be looking to work with local businesses around some of the hot spots we have for such incidents.*

*I'm aware of a small number of shed burglaries in the area around West Bridgford, and despite this number being low, I'd encourage residents to report anything suspicious which could be linked to those offences.*

*You may have read of the recent cannabis grow located on Loughborough Road. A male was detained, charged and remanded with drugs offences there, and enquires are on-going with the landlord and other parties too.*

*This was only possible due to information from the public, so thank you to those who got in touch.*

*Significant progress is being made to improving CCTV in Bingham using Police and Crime Commissioner funding, we're also working with the Council around youth club provision in East Leake, as well as innovative new Beat Surgeries being held in secondary schools too, so keep your eyes peeled for news on those in your local area.*

*We have more bike marking events this year, so please come along when you see those advertised,*

*Can I please remind you all to consider signing up for Notts Alerts. It's a great way to receive information from the Police in our area, it's free, and it's easy to use. More information available here [nottsalerts.co.uk](https://nottsalerts.co.uk)*

*Thanks for reading, take care."*

**Inspector Timothy Cuthbert**  
Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Rushcliffe



Pictured above: Insp Tim Cuthbert and RBC Leader Cllr Neil Clarke.



## Focus on **quality and standards** for new developments in Rushcliffe

**We are preparing a new Design Code to set out quality and standard rules for new developments and we recently invited residents, local interest groups, design professionals and developers to have their say on the strengths and weaknesses of their area and what could be done to improve places in future.**

The Design Code will cover a range of topics including:

- How new and existing developments should be connected, for example through footpaths and roads
- The position of new buildings and their size and scale
- The design of public spaces
- Landscape around new buildings such as green spaces and tree planting

Designers, architects and developers will have to follow the Design Code when bringing forward new developments in the Borough.

The code will provide more certainty for Rushcliffe's communities about the design of new development, raise design standards and support the Council in determining planning applications.

For more information on the project please visit [rushcliffe.gov.uk/designcode](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/designcode)

From our website you can also sign up to the engagement platform for updates as the work on the Design Code progresses over the next 12 months.

There will be further opportunities to give your views at each stage of the Design Code process, with a consultation on the Design Vision for Rushcliffe taking place from April 22, 2024.





## Life-saving defibrillator project for sports venues in Rushcliffe funded by UKSPF

**Sixteen sports venues across Rushcliffe have been supported as part of our project that is raising awareness, providing training and improving access to life-saving defibrillators.**

The Safe Hearts in Sport initiative, supported by Shared Prosperity Funding from the UK Government is equipping venues, sports clubs and their coaches and volunteers, with the tools and resources to ensure if anyone is faced with a cardiac emergency, they are prepared and know what to do.

Through the project, we are working with partners to provide new defibrillators at sites that don't currently have one, outdoor cabinets to make existing defibrillators more accessible and other equipment such as new batteries, paediatric pads and prep kits.

The venues are registering with the national defibrillator network The Circuit, which provides NHS ambulance services with vital information about defibrillators across the UK.

Having your defibrillator registered can be the difference in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest so they can be accessed quickly to help save lives.

It's vital that anyone who owns or looks after a defibrillator should register the device with the network at [thecircuit.uk](http://thecircuit.uk)

RBC's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth Cllr Abby Brennan said: "Through our UKSPF allocation we're pleased to support this Safe Hearts in Sports initiative enhancing the safety of our residents and the many people who play sport."

"In recent years there have been several local incidences of sudden cardiac arrest affecting the sporting community. Raising awareness and equipping our sporting venues with accessible defibrillators could save a life if someone has a cardiac arrest."

## Corporate Strategy striving to deliver further great quality services you expect

**Thank you for taking the time to respond to our Corporate Strategy consultation last summer.**

We have now set out our plans until 2027 on continuing to deliver quality services and you can read the Strategy and its action plan at [rushcliffe.gov.uk/corporatestrategy](http://rushcliffe.gov.uk/corporatestrategy)

We are committed to providing the statutory services residents expect from their Council, such as emptying bins on time, keeping streets safe and clean, processing planning applications and providing benefits services.

But we also wish to exceed your expectations and deliver over and above the essentials.

That's where the Strategy comes in, striving to deliver further great quality services you expect.

Our Leader Cllr Neil Clarke said: "Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation last year, it was very important to us to understand further the topics and services that you felt we should prioritise."

"We feel it reflects what's important to you as a resident, community group or business owner."

"Now, we will be continuing to prioritise the environment. This includes protecting and enhancing our natural environment, ensuring that the Borough retains its green, rural identity, while accommodating significant housing growth."

"We will be raising awareness about what we can all do to slow the speed of climate change, focusing on achieving our target of being Carbon Neutral by 2030."

"We are committed to playing an active role in the redevelopment of the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site, ensuring its decommissioning and transformation is managed in an environmentally beneficial way, as well as delivering opportunities for future clean energy generation and local employment."

"We will also be representing the Borough in the creation of a combined Mayoral Authority for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, a move that will see significant funding and responsibility being devolved from Central Government to the local area."

We are always happy to hear from you. You can contact the Council via your local ward councillor or by emailing [customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk)







## Over £60,000 investment at Boundary Road Park in West Bridgford!

**West Bridgford's popular Boundary Road Play area has reopened to the public after receiving £63,000 investment in refurbishments.**

The play area has welcomed a new climbing wall, zip wire, accessible seesaw, swing sets, benches and the refurbishment of springers and other toddler and junior play features and improvements to the safety surface.

The works included replacing a large earth mound with more accessible equipment whilst incorporating natural play elements.

It's part of our wider investment in parks, with Adbolton Lane play park's £80,000 makeover completed last year and Greythorn Drive and Rushcliffe Country Park set to receive further improvements this spring.

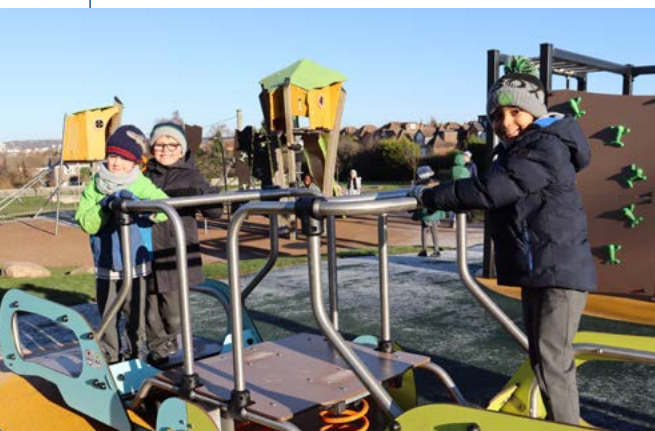
To mark the opening of the play area, we were joined by Proludic Ltd and local children from Heymann Primary School to celebrate with a ribbon cutting at the park.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing, ICT and Member Development Cllr Jonathan Wheeler said: *"Community play facilities such as these are so important to our residents and visitors, so we are delighted to provide these vital upgrades to the park, improving them for the long term and fit for the future."*

*"The re-development of Boundary Road sees accessible and inclusive equipment introduced so all children can enjoy our play facilities, which also incorporate natural play elements."*

*"It was great to welcome Year 2 children from Heymann Primary School to the park and seeing them enjoy the newly refurbished facilities!"*

*"This builds on our previous work in 2021 to improve the site with £70,000 investment on the bike track, teen shelter, gate entrance and additional tree planting to enhance the green space ensuring that the play features sit in harmony with the natural environment."*



Rushcliffe Oaks  
Crematorium

## OPEN DAY

10am – 2pm | Saturday 13th April 2024

- Meet the Rushcliffe Oaks team – including Maisie the comfort dog!
- Find out about our environmentally conscious electric cremation facilities – the greenest in Nottinghamshire!
- Discover our innovative memorialisation options and tranquil grounds
- Talk to local funeral directors, celebrants and funeral service suppliers
- Light refreshments available



Tel: 0115 914 8557 • Email: [info@rushcliffeoaks.co.uk](mailto:info@rushcliffeoaks.co.uk) • [www.rushcliffeoaks.co.uk](http://www.rushcliffeoaks.co.uk)





# BINGHAM ARENA

## X-TREME AIR- THE 'BIG' AIR ADVENTURE FOR CHILDREN TO EXPLORE AND HAVE FUN!

X-Treme Air has officially launched at Rushcliffe Arena - offering a fantastic and unique opportunity for 4-12 year olds. This activity can either be utilised as a pay and play session or as a party booking. With the recent redevelopment of the Cafe at Rushcliffe Arena, we are now offering hot pizza as part of our menu options which are perfect for party bookings.

## TOOT HILL SPORTS CENTRE

Bingham Leisure Centre has recently been rebranded to Toot Hill Sports Centre. Lex Leisure continues to run the facilities and offer a number of indoor and outdoor dryside activities which include Badminton and 5 a side Football.

## SOFT PLAY COMES TO BINGHAM ARENA

Community Soft Play sessions will be coming to Bingham Arena in February 2024. 3 sessions a week will be available for booking for under 5's for children to have fun and keep active on the new equipment. A range of hot/cold drinks and snacks will also be available.

## FITNESS IN 2024

With a number of upgrades across our Leisure Centres there has never been a better time to join our facilities. Our memberships include access to Rushcliffe Arena, Bingham Arena, Cotgrave Leisure Centre and Keyworth Leisure Centres. Memberships include all fitness suites, swimming pools and group exercise.



## SWIMMING LESSONS

We are proud to partner with Swim England to teach their Learn To Swim programme. The unique benefits of our swimming lessons offer include:

- FREE General Swimming outside of lessons as a direct debit member
- FREE Swim Caps throughout the journey
- Learn to Swim from 3 months up to adults
- Home Portal to track and monitor swimmers progress
- Access to the "My Learn to Swim app" a fun and engaging way to track awards
- Passionate and Engaging Swimming Instructors
- Fun and engaging lessons
- 25m swimming pool and teaching pools to allow for swimmer progression and distance development.

## HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Rushcliffe Arena and Bingham Arena have partnered with Goodboost to deliver an innovative industrial research project to help people as they age. The project aims to transform our gyms and pools into community musculoskeletal hubs (i.e. knee, hip and back rehabilitation hubs). It also aims to reduce health inequalities and the burden on the NHS by providing local options for people to better maintain mobility, physical function and reduce pain through activity. Goodboost Aqua is available to book now.

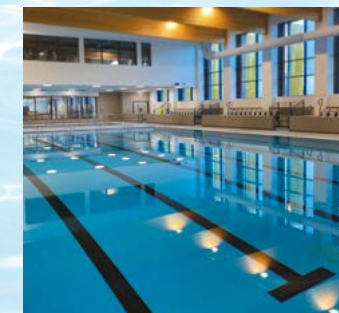
## EDWALTON GOLF

Edwalton is looking forward to significant bunker works taking place across the course at the start of 2024. The clubhouse has also recently increased its food and beverage offering serving hot pizzas alongside a number of other hot and cold snacks and drinks. The clubhouse is open for the entire community.

## 60+ ACTIVITIES

The Jubilee Hall is now available for bookings all year round. The hall is equipped with a stage, high tech audio visual equipment and a state of the art fully integrated kitchen. With a maximum capacity of 300 and onsite free parking it is the ideal venue for:

- Celebratory events,
- Charity and community events
- Theatre productions
- Parties
- Conferences.



01949 838628

BINGHAM ARENA  
Mercia Court, NG13 8QX

0115 989 2916

COTGRAVE LEISURE CENTRE  
Woodview, NG12 3PJ

0115 937 5582

KEYWORTH LEISURE CENTRE  
Church Drive, NG12 5FF

0115 923 4775

EDWALTON GOLF CENTRE  
Wellin Lane, NG12 4AS

0115 981 4027

RUSHCLIFFE ARENA  
Rugby Road, NG2 7HY



Working in Partnership with Rushcliffe -  
great place, great lifestyle, great sport.

[LeisureCentre.com](http://LeisureCentre.com)







# Enjoy a great day out at Rushcliffe Country Park!

**Visitors can enjoy a great day out at Rushcliffe Country Park with its popular café, visitors' centre and more!**

Coffee and Cake by the lake hosts a wide selection of teas, coffees, cakes and hot and cold light bites including healthy option foods and soups, paninis, toasted sandwiches, pasta pots and ice cream.

Park goers will also spot a new outdoor shelter next to the café, perfect for relaxing with your hot drink or picnic.

Our recent investments at the park also include an outdoor shelter, visitor centre, bookable meeting room, improved play area, electric vehicle charging points, and pathway restoration work.

We've also recently welcomed new and refurbished compost toilets and shade sails to further enhance its visitor experience.

The new sails located near the children's play area and skatepark are designed for all-weather, year-round use, providing essential shade during the summer months and protection from rain.

Two of the shelters were funded by a resident who frequently visited over the years and made a donation to the park in their will.

The park's conference room boasts integrated guest wi-fi, digital display screen and polycom device to enable video conferencing and a fully adaptable meeting space up to 30 people.

To book a meeting at the venue visit: [rushcliffevenues.co.uk](http://rushcliffevenues.co.uk)

Alongside our investments, our park rangers and the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park group work hard all year round to maintain, reserve and protect the popular site.

In addition to their hedge laying, they planted 30 semi-mature native trees in the Kite Field in December last year which is helping to combat losses from ash dieback and create wildlife corridors by linking habitats together.

## Traditional hedge laying at Rushcliffe Country Park continues to protect wildlife

**Rushcliffe Country Park has again welcomed a traditional hedge laying technique to help manage its hedgerows sustainably, helping to provide a valuable habitat and food source for wildlife.**

Park rangers and Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park (FoRCP) volunteers undertook the manual technique earlier this year which involves cutting the hedge tree thinly at the base and lying them on their side. It's an annual practice they've used for decades in certain places of the park.

New shoots are now arriving that will create a dense hedge and enhance local biodiversity and create a more manageable hedge compared with mechanical techniques.

Hedge laying has been used for hundreds of years but has been slowly dying out since WW2 due to the introduction of mechanical hedge cutting from tractors and readily available wire fencing.

Our Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing, ICT and Member Development Cllr Jonathan Wheeler said: "We're proud to keep this traditional country hedge laying technique

at our park which helps to keep our hedges in a much better condition than mechanical flailing.

"Hedgerows provide vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species and contribute to carbon reduction and we have a strategic aim to increase the Borough's hedgerow network by 40% across the Borough by 2050.

"A big thank you to our park rangers and the FoRCP for working hard to keep this wonderful hedge laying tradition alive."

The FoRCP group meet every Wednesday from 9.30am to 2pm to help create and maintain habitats and conservation work, learn and share knowledge about wildlife and nature, and help improve the park and its facilities.

To join the friendly group, search for 'Rushcliffe Country Park' on Facebook, contact the Country Park Rangers on **0115 921 5865** or fill in a membership form in person at the park's Visitor Centre.







Funded by  
UK Government

# UKSPF reaching out with people and skills programmes

With the final year of UK Shared Prosperity Funding beginning in April, we are rolling out a variety of new initiatives to help boost skills and employability within the Borough.



Utilising our positive relationships with local businesses and training providers, we are aiming to create meaningful opportunities for those looking to upskill or retrain, providing support to gain employment or change career.

The projects include:

## Start South Notts Employment Platform

We are launching an online platform which will include a variety of features to support our residents in finding training opportunities and new or alternative employment. The platform will feature job search functionality, local training opportunities, a CV builder and virtual work experience programmes. Start South Notts will be free to access for Rushcliffe residents aged 16+.

Look out for more information on our website at [rushcliffe.gov.uk](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk) when this launches in the coming weeks.

## Skills Development Fund

Our Skills Development Fund is designed to allow small businesses and residents to apply for funding to upskill or retrain in an area of their choosing.

They can apply for up to £5,000 and residents can apply for up to £1,000 of funding to help cover their course costs. We're removing the financial barrier to training and study wherever possible.

Again, look out for more on this at [rushcliffe.gov.uk](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk)

## Rushcliffe Internship Programme

Want to get your foot in the door of your dream workplace? We are connecting local businesses with local people to provide impactful, paid internships. Business owners can apply for up to £1,000 to cover internship salary, while interns gain invaluable skills and experience in their chosen sector. Register your interest on our website at [rushcliffe.gov.uk/employment-skills](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/employment-skills)

## Free Training Courses

We are also offering a variety of free training courses including Low Carbon and Green Skills, a variety of digital training opportunities and ESOL training for speakers of other languages. You can find a schedule of training and full information at [Rushcliffe Borough Council Events | Eventbrite](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk)

# New floodlights installed at Keyworth Rugby Football Club with £30k UKSPF funding

We have allocated over £30,000 of UKSPF funding for floodlights enhancements at Keyworth Rugby Football Club enabling them to host a girls' rugby development programme and maximise club training opportunities during the winter months.

Supported by Shared Prosperity Funding from the UK Government, the improved lighting on the pitches and car park has meant the club on Willoughby Road in Widmerpool now has extended hours and increased use of the facilities through training and tournaments leading to further group bookings at the pavilion.

It is also now the proud home to the Notts Lincs Derbys Girls Developing Player Programme (DPP) at U16 level, and the U18s girls' training sessions.

DPP supports girls across the East Midlands on a development programme and is the first step to playing for England Rugby.

Our Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth Cllr Abby Brennan and RBC ward member Cllr Rob Inglis met some of the girls and coaches from the DPP programme to take a look at the new facilities, installed late last year.

Cllr Brennan said: "We're pleased to see the floodlight enhancements have helped to bring more players of all ages to the club to train and compete locally.

"Keyworth Rugby Football Club has also seen an increased use of the pavilion and facilities by both club members and outside organisations.

"It's brilliant that the club is now hosting the Under 16 Girls' DPP, which is the first step on the girls' journey towards England elite level. It's an exciting programme and we're pleased they can train here in Rushcliffe, hugely assisted by this investment.

"This project is a great example of how UKSPF funding is helping to boost local sports facilities and enhance the Borough as a great place for sport."



POWERED BY  
**LEVELLING  
UP**



# Look out for further details on our events programme for 2024!

We have been organising community events for over 30 years - not only for the enjoyment of Rushcliffe residents, but also encouraging visitors from outside the area to see what great facilities the borough offers.

Our annual events programme offers a diverse selection of activities, from a showcase of appetising artisan street food at the Taste of Rushcliffe Food Festival to awesome outdoor adventures at Lark in the Park play day.

## Free Proms in the Park is back on Saturday June 29!

West Bridgford's popular annual Proms in the Park sees thousands of music fans descend upon Bridgford Park for a full stage programme of performances from choirs and bands, alongside stalls and attractions from Armed Forces veterans and cadet groups including the event's official charity partner, the West Bridgford branch of the Royal British Legion.

The day coincides with Armed Forces Day and boasts a varied music programme starting with a rousing 'last night of the proms' style concert, complete with flag-waving and sing-along and a finale performance to get everyone on their feet dancing.

## Discover delicious food stalls at the Taste of Rushcliffe on Saturday July 27!

West Bridgford will once again host The Taste of Rushcliffe Food and Drink Festival on Saturday July 27.

At the food festival residents and visitors alike will have the chance to experience an array of flavour-filled stalls.

Based on the town's Croquet Lawn and Central Avenue local growers, makers, cooks and businesses will offer tasty treats for customers to enjoy and get your tastebuds tingling with some great offers from traders.

There will also be live cookery demonstrations from local chefs, as well as activities for children to test their cooking skills!

From locally produced cheese and preserves, to tasty pies and a selection of wines from local vineyards, food lovers can explore a range of delicious delights!

## Free Lark in the Park returns on Wednesday August 7!

Established in 1988 Lark in the Park is a mammoth fun-filled family festival which features a whole host of child-friendly attractions such as arts and craft workshops, have-a-go sports activities, amusements, walkabout entertainers and stage shows and stalls from over 50 local community groups, charities and small businesses.

This year's event will capture the excitement of the Summer Olympics with themed activities and games.

Lark in the Park is promoted as part of Playday, the National Day for Play which is an annual celebration of a child's right to play.

The campaign highlights the importance of play in children and young people's lives.

Look out for updates on all these events at [rushcliffe.gov.uk/whatson](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/whatson)





# Be rewarded for Greener choices

Join the nationally recognised Green Rewards platform today!

**Our partnership to tackle climate change, whilst being rewarded for greener choices - Green Rewards - has scooped a national award!**

Together with Councils from across the County, the project won Best Collaborative Working Initiative in the APSE Service Awards, building on being highly commended at the local authority industry MJ Awards last year.

There's still a host of great discounts at wonderful Rushcliffe businesses simply for lowering your carbon footprint by registering for the scheme.

Over 7,000 residents County wide are quickly and easily collecting points on the platform by logging carbon avoidance actions such as recycling, taking a shower in under four minutes, switching lights or a plug off at home or walking or cycling instead of taking the car and many more.

Simply search for 'Notts Green Rewards' and download the free app or register at [notts.greenrewards.co.uk](https://notts.greenrewards.co.uk) and start logging points and collecting the rewards!



Here in Rushcliffe there is a 10 per cent discount voucher for every 10,000 points collected and you can check out over 40 local participating outlets at [rushcliffe.gov.uk/greenrewards](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/greenrewards)

The initiative allows residents to accumulate points for undertaking sustainable actions which lower their carbon footprint and in turn helps to tackle climate change.

The programme also captures the user's carbon avoidance metrics, helping support Nottinghamshire's aims to be carbon neutral.

To date, more than 262,000 actions have been undertaken which has helped to avoid emitting nearly 762 tonnes of carbon.

That's the equivalent of charging 92,691,696 phones or not driving 1,953,424 miles in an average petrol-powered car. That distance is the equivalent of driving round the earth over 78 times!

Sign up at [notts.greenrewards.co.uk](https://notts.greenrewards.co.uk) or download the app in your app store.



# Rushcliffe Business Partnership is here to support and promote businesses throughout the Borough!

**Rushcliffe Business Partnership (RBP) is a not for profit organisation for the Rushcliffe business community, providing business support with events and networking opportunities.**

RBP is running a series of quarterly events in partnership with East Midlands Chamber to help businesses develop skills, network and grow.

The first workshop of the year focused on New Year goals welcomed over 50 business owners to Rushcliffe Arena in West Bridgford on January 26.

Our Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth Cllr Abby Brennan opened the event where delegates heard from a variety of key speakers to help them kick-start the year, including:

- Jas Darar from Reach Business Coaching delivered a great talk on goal and growth mindset, knowing your 'why' and adjusting the way you view progress to make significant steps in your business
- Lisa Wood from Lisa Loves Style spoke about how to dress yourself confident for business. Lisa explained how dressing and feeling good can translate to confidence when making decisions to grow your business.
- Charlie Wardle from Climb Your Mountain is survivor of cancer and delivered a talk on overcoming adversity and how his experiences related to the challenges faced by small businesses today

- Nicola Brien from the Rosie May Foundation who are RBP's chosen charity for 2024, introduced the charity's origins and the great work they do to help safeguard women, children and families in the UK and abroad.

There were also networking opportunities, exhibitors and a Q&A session.

The next quarterly event will take place on Friday April 19 with further details to be shared soon. If you're interested in attending please keep a look out on [RBP's Facebook page](#) or [website](#).





# Roofer thanks NUH rehab staff who helped him to walk again

A roofer who fell 35ft and landed on concrete has thanked the Nottingham University Hospital (NUH) teams who nursed him back to health and taught him to walk again.



**Simon Bell, 58, from Burton Joyce, was working on a roof in May 2023 when he fell from the two-storey building.**

He suffered a brain injury, internal bleeding and damage to his internal organs, and had fractured his shoulder and broken all of his ribs on the right-hand side.

He said: *"I was in intensive care at QMC for six weeks, and my body was in shutdown. I wasn't good – they had to remove my spleen, my liver and kidneys were damaged, and they kept pumping blood out of my lungs. I was in quite a mess."*

After five weeks in Intensive Care and six weeks on the Major Trauma Ward at QMC, Simon was transferred to Linden Lodge at City Hospital to begin his rehabilitation with the specialist team consisting of nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and psychologists.

In September, Simon was finally allowed to return home to his wife and daughter, but

it's been a big adjustment for them all, and there is still a long road to recovery with support through outpatient rehabilitation provided.

In the future, patients such as Simon will be able to receive intensive support at the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), currently being built here in the Borough on the Stanford Hall Rehabilitation Estate near Loughborough.

Both Simon and Jo said that the plans for the NRC will be a great step forward in rehabilitation facilities – especially having individual rooms and facilities to help with the transition home.

In addition, the NRC will have state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities, as well as space for families to spend time together, assisting and supporting their rehabilitation journey.

Find out more about the NRC: [nationalrehabilitationcentre.nhs.uk](https://nationalrehabilitationcentre.nhs.uk)

# What is good for our heart is good for our brain

Did you know that health problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, an inactive lifestyle and obesity, all increase the risk of memory loss and dementia?

## Consider your lifestyle:

- Are you getting out and about and being physically active?
- Are you keeping mentally active too?
- Are you aware of the safe levels of drinking alcohol and the effects of smoking?
- Are you eating a healthy diet?
- Are you keeping connected with friends and family?

To help you take control of your own health you can find a wealth of health and wellbeing resources on the Rushcliffe Primary Care Network website [rushcliffehealth.org](https://rushcliffehealth.org)

Here you can find a range of local Health Directories, collated by the Social Prescribing Team, which provide useful information about services, support, and activities available locally.

## What can I do if I am concerned that I may have dementia?

If you are concerned about your memory, you can speak to your GP. In some cases it may be suggested that you are referred for a specialist memory assessment. You can also check out this symptoms checklist to ensure you can access the best support in a timely manner.

## How can I "live well" with dementia?

The Dementia Directory and Carers Directory can provide you or your carer with lots of helpful information about what's available.

Did you know we have seven different Memory Cafes across Rushcliffe as well

as dementia-friendly sports, arts and nature-based activities? You can also find information about benefits and useful equipment.

Carers support is also available on **0808 802 1777**. It is important to let your GP surgery know if you are caring for someone living with dementia.

[Checklist for possible dementia symptoms](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk)  
[Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

## How can I learn more about dementia?

In Rushcliffe we are working together to becoming a Dementia Friendly community. Have you considered becoming a Dementia Friend? There's a friendly and interactive 45 minute session to find out more, delivered face to face near you or virtually.

Sign up at [dementiafriends.org.uk/](https://dementiafriends.org.uk/)  
[WEBSession](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk) email [anshu.shearing@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:anshu.shearing@alzheimers.org.uk) or call **0333 150 3456**.

Look out for more information on the website soon on a free Dementia and Carers Marketplace event at Rushcliffe Arena in West Bridgford on Thursday May 16 from 10am to midday.







# The Future of Healthcare in Rushcliffe

Are you registered with a Rushcliffe GP practice? If so, you can find out how health and social care is changing.

- Welcome, summary of 2022 event and overview of health and care changes in Rushcliffe
- Tackling inequalities in health
- Supporting people at home after hospital care
- The wider range of support available
- Question and answer session: Closer working across the voluntary sector and local authorities
- Refreshments and informal discussions
- Market place stalls and informal discussions
- Group work — discussions and feedback on dementia, inequalities, access to care and self care
- Next steps

**Cotgrave Welfare Club**  
**June 27, 2024**  
**2pm to 6pm**

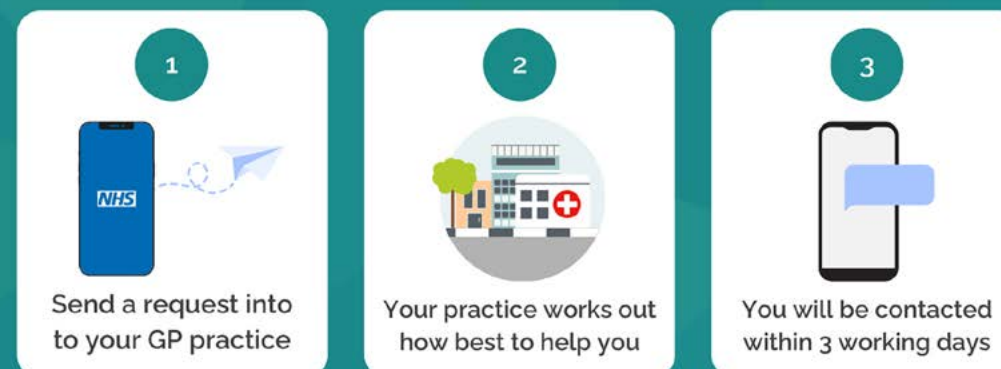
**Want to make a difference to how health and social care will be delivered?**  
[Click here to find out more and reserve your ticket for this free event](#)



## Avoid the Telephone Queues

Contact your GP practice online or through the NHS App

For a quick, easy way to get the help you need



- ✓ Make requests in your own time
- ✓ Avoid telephone queues
- ✓ Instantly access NHS self-help resources
- ✓ Available on the NHS App

Visit the link below or use the NHS App to send a non-urgent query into your practice

Find out more at  
[rushcliffehealth.org/online-access](https://rushcliffehealth.org/online-access)







# Ask for Angela campaign's rural expansion

**We recently joined members of Nottinghamshire Police and local business owners in a bid to raise further awareness of the Ask For Angela campaign in rural locations across the Borough.**

It's a national scheme that helps anyone who is feeling vulnerable on a night out to get the support they need.

The scheme works by training staff in vulnerability management and what to do when someone Asks for Angela.

The trained member of staff will understand the person asking is in need of help and support and will be able to respond in an appropriate, discreet way.

They might call security, lead the person to a safe space, or help them leave the premises unnoticed.

It supports venues to keep their customers safe, which in turn improves perceptions of safety and patronage in the night time economy.

A recent YouGov survey on feelings of safety in the night time economy found that 49% of people and 63% of women

would be more likely to visit a venue that had measures in place to improve women's safety.

If you go to the bar of a participating establishment and Ask For 'Angela' the staff will know you need help getting out of a potentially difficult situation.

The project aims for the simple message to be used by anyone at anytime and may mean something simple like calling for a taxi to help a person leave a difficult situation or if required, contacting the Police for assistance on their behalf.

Our Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety Cllr Rob Inglis and ward member Cllr Tina Combellack joined PC Paul Sanders and staff from The Unicorn's Head in Langar to share the message.

Cllr Inglis said: *"The Ask for Angela campaign plays an important role in protecting anyone who feels unsafe when meeting socially and ensuring it is also available in rural outlets is essential."*

[Find out more about the Ask For Angela campaign](#)

# Get peace of mind for you or your loved one with our Home Alarm service

**Our Home Alarm service can give you peace of mind for you or your loved ones to ensure they can reach help easily in their time of a medical or other emergency at home.**

The alarms provide security, reassurance and independence 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for hundreds of people across the Borough and neighbouring areas all for just the price of a coffee every week, with prices frozen for 2024/25.

A pendant is worn on a neck cord or wrist with a trigger that can be pressed to call us when help is needed.

It's ideal for individuals of any age including those with health problems, disabilities or mobility issues, survivors of domestic abuse, or who live alone or feel isolated, providing choices and independence for you and your family.

The service has achieved a remarkable 100 per cent customer satisfaction rating, for seven consecutive years.

RBC's Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing Cllr Roger Upton said: *"Our Home Alarms service provides a vital lifeline*

*which allows residents to stay independent in their own home knowing that help is not more than a press of a button away.*

*"It has a remarkable 100% customer satisfaction rating for seven consecutive years, and for 11 years it has achieved over 95% satisfaction.*

*"Prices are competitive locally and nationally, and our service is accessible to residents living in Rushcliffe and other areas across the local region with free demonstrations available.*

*"If you think a friend or relative would benefit from this service, don't hesitate to get in touch with our friendly Housing Support Team on 0115 981 9911."*

**To find out more about the service, please visit [rushcliffe.gov.uk/homealarms](https://rushcliffe.gov.uk/homealarms) or email [customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk)**





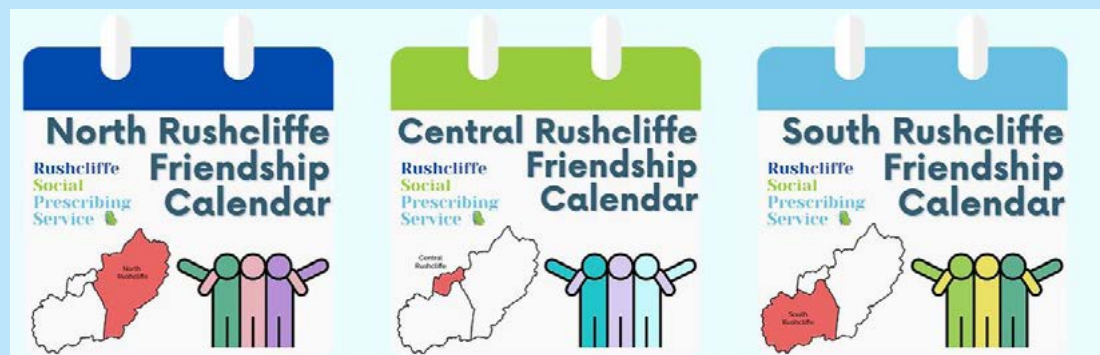
# Are you looking for support, services, or activities in Rushcliffe?

**The Rushcliffe Community Assistance Directory is a comprehensive guide which includes information on a wide range on cost of living and wellbeing support, local social activities and tips on staying well during winter and spring.**

The directory can be accessed online via the Primary Care Network (PCN) website under the Rushcliffe Social Prescribing page. This is where you will also find the social prescribing health directories with information about what's happening in your local area. From health and wellbeing services to local community groups and activities, the health directories are

designed to connect residents with the resources they need to thrive.

Explore the directories today and discover the wealth of opportunities available right here in Rushcliffe. For more information, please visit: [Rushcliffe Social Prescribing | RushcliffeHealth](#)



## RUSHCLIFFE Reports

**By telephone:** Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm and Friday 8.30am-4.30pm  
**In person:** **Rushcliffe Customer Service Centre, West Bridgford**  
 Mondays and Thursdays 8.30am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-4.30pm  
**Cotgrave Hub** | Mondays 9.00am-5pm  
**East Leake Library** | Wednesdays 8.30am-12.30pm  
**Bingham Health Centre** | Thursdays 9.30am-5pm

T 0115 981 9911 | E [customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk) | W [rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://rushcliffe.gov.uk)



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[rushcliffe\\_bc](https://instagram.com/rushcliffe_bc)

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