

THE RUDD

New Community Centre coming soon

Ruddington Parish Council have been progressing with their plans for the new Community Centre on The Green, to make sure it will become a vibrant hub at the heart of our village.



A working group was set up in 2020 to drive the pace of the project and research the needs of residents for inclusion into the structure of the building.

A public consultation then took place with an open survey over November and December 2020, for residents of Ruddington to voice their opinions on core aspects of the new Community Centre.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

With 475 respondents, several key themes emerged:

- A requirement for a large, multipurpose building including a large hall, meeting spaces and kitchen facilities
- The building to be available for hire during weekdays, but primarily at weekends and weekday evenings
- Having a flexible space for groups ranging from children to senior citizens, with many respondents highlighting a specific need to accommodate youth services or activities for young people
- Maximising the available car parking spaces and bike storage facilities.

With the need to meet these key themes and considering the current condition of the existing Community & Youth Centre, the decision has been made to demolish the existing building and build a new, modern Community Centre that fits the needs of our growing village.

The working group has been joined by local architect, Chris Marriott, who has generously provided his time on a voluntary basis to the project. Preliminary plans for the new building include both a large and smaller hall, two floors of flexible space for meetings, offices and kitchen/hygiene facilities on the inside.

On the outside will be car parking, bike storage and a garden.

The working group is confident that the plans will provide a much improved, flexible space which all sectors of our community will be able to access and benefit from.

The plans and designs will be put forward for consultation, inviting comments and feedback from interested parties. Further details of the consultation will be made available by the Parish Council once the dates are finalised.

In addition to the consultation, the working group is now focusing on obtaining costs for the demolition of the existing building and the projected build of the new Community Centre. Once these are in place, the focus will turn to raising funds for the project and finalising site plans.

To help us with this next-stage work, we urgently need the support of both an experienced, qualified accountant and an experienced building services manager.

If any local residents have experience in either of these areas or knowledge of fundraising and grant applications for large projects, and can spare a little time to advise our working group on a voluntary basis, we'd love to hear from you.

If you can help, please email office@ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Community Centre Working Group

Picture credit on front page: Graham Wright via RUDDINGTON.info

Vote safely on Thursday 6th May

With just a few days left until Rushcliffe voters go to the polls, we're urging residents to get ready to vote. Both Police & Crime Commissioner and County Council elections will take place on the day.



Polling stations will be safe places to vote, but if you're voting in person, please protect yourself and others by:

- Wearing a face covering
- Bringing your own pen or pencil
- Cleaning your hands when entering and leaving the polling station
- Keeping a safe distance.

Please **don't** attend the polling station if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been asked to self-isolate.

Anyone who develops symptoms or is asked to self-isolate shortly before polling day has up to 5pm on Thursday 6th May to apply for an emergency proxy vote. This will let you nominate someone you trust to vote on your behalf.

Kath Marriott, our Deputy Returning Officer, said: "Your poll card will tell you where to find your polling station.

"Make sure you check the information on your polling card, as your polling station might have changed since the last elections.

"You do not need your poll card to vote. However, we encourage you to bring it with you to make the process quicker and more efficient.

"Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 6th May. Voters who have opted to vote by post must return their postal ballot pack by 10pm and can hand it in at their polling station if they don't have time to return it by post."

To find out how to apply for an emergency proxy vote, please contact the electoral registration team by emailing elections@rushcliffe.gov.uk or calling 0115 981 9911.

For further information on elections in your area, you can visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter. This page will continue to be updated ahead of the polls.

COVID-19 roadmap rollout

The Government's COVID-19 lockdown roadmap is on track so far, with Step 2 implemented as planned on 12th April. Step 3, which will be no earlier than Monday 17th May, will hopefully see a raft of restrictions being lifted, taking us another stage towards getting back to normal.

Here's a rundown of the expected changes:

Social contact

The Government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted – although gatherings of over 30 people will still be illegal. Indoors, the “Rule of 6” or 2 households will apply. This will be kept under review until it's safe to increase this.

There'll also be updated advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, you should continue to keep your distance from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

Business and activities

Most businesses will be able to reopen in all but the highest risk sectors.

COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits.

Indoor hospitality will reopen, with no need to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew. However, customers must still order, eat and drink whilst seated.

Other indoor locations to open up will include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes.

The Government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number).

In the largest outdoor seated venues where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).

Events

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

Review of social distancing

Before Step 4 begins (no earlier than Monday 21st June), the Government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission.

This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on “1 metre plus”, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted.

This will also inform guidance on working from home, which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

For the latest information on the lockdown roadmap, please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Vaccinations update

The local COVID-19 vaccination booking system is currently open to people aged 45 and over.

You can book your vaccination using the [Swiftqueue service](#) or by calling 0115 883 4640 without waiting for a letter to arrive.

Vaccinations for the 40 to 45 age group will open up when enough people aged 45 to 49 have had the jab.

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

Tree planting working group

The Parish Council has a new working group consisting of Councillors Graham Fletcher, Holly Law, Leo Lanzoni, Ken Piggott and Chloe Lewington.

The working group was formed to improve biodiversity and create spaces for nature on Parish Council land as well as making Ruddington a more attractive place to live and work. Most of their activities are limited to Parish Council land or property.



Recently, the working group planted trees in the open space off Vicarage Lane with one of Ruddington's Tree Wardens, Geoff East. Geoff had been given the trees free of charge by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

The working group intend to sow wildflower seeds around the trees once the ground has been prepared, with the seeds also being donated by the Borough Council.

Pictured from left to right: Councillor Lanzoni, Councillor Piggott, Geoff East and Councillor Fletcher. Picture supplied by Mandy Fletcher who also assisted with the planting.

Meet our new Parish Councillor

Justine Lucas has recently been co-opted to the Parish Council and now represents Easthorpe Ward. We'd like to welcome Justine on board.



"I'm 30 years old and have lived in Ruddington with my partner for three years," says Justine. "I currently work as the Performance Lifestyle Advisor for the Team GB Paralympic swimming team and held several welfare-related roles before this. I've also been a professional rugby player in the past, gaining 33 caps for England.

"Keeping fit is obviously a big part of my life and I'm a keen member of Compound Strength and Conditioning in Ruddington. On a different note, I've recently joined the Ruddington Village Centre Partnership committee and am looking forward to getting stuck in.

"As a Parish Councillor, my main priorities are to make sure residents' views are heard on the various Greenbelt developments our village is

facing. The redevelopment of the Community Centre on The Green, and extending the provision of local sports club facilities and amenities, are also high on my agenda."

You can contact Justine through the Parish Council office.

There are still some vacancies on the Parish Council. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the Parish Clerk, Claire Dorans, to find out more about the role.

Ruddington Diary

Despite the gradual easing of restrictions, Ruddington is still in lockdown so there's no diary this month.

However, some outdoor events and activities such as the Village Market and ParkRun have already restarted and some indoor activities will also hopefully be allowed from Monday 17th May. Please see the lockdown roadmap article for details.

For the latest information, we suggest you contact organisers and venues, or check social media pages. The [Ruddington Mums Facebook page](#) and [RUDDINGTON.info](#) are two useful sources of information.

We urge residents to keep following Government rules on social distancing guidelines and wearing face coverings where required.

1st Ruddington Needs You!

You've hopefully already seen posters around the village promoting the local campaign by First Ruddington Scouts to recruit leaders. **We need YOU** to help run our local scouts, cubs and beaver groups in Ruddington.

First Ruddington Scouts is a thriving group with over 100 boys and girls looking for exciting, fun and adventurous activities to support their personal

development and wellbeing. However, the successful future of the Scouts organisation in Ruddington can only continue if new leaders are found to help run the groups. We've managed to survive the COVID-19 pandemic with online activities, but now we're moving to face-to-face meetings again, we're desperately in need of new adult volunteers.

Ruddington prides itself on its community spirit and First Ruddington Scouts is a huge part of the neighbourhood offer for our youngsters. **We need YOU** to help this offer continue effectively; indeed, without new leaders the successful



running of the groups will be unsustainable.

We don't just need swashbuckling adventurers to lead our expeditions – we also need creative thinkers, organisers, tidy-uppers and tea-makers, committee members, fundraisers and great listeners from all walks of life.

For as much or as little time as you can spare, be it an hour a week or a couple of hours each month, **We need YOU!**

So, if you're curious and think you might have something to offer First Ruddington Scouts group, and would like some more information, please contact Dan and Gavin, Group Scout Leaders at gsl@firstruddingtonscouts.onmicrosoft.com.

Dan Clifford

Crime figures for Ruddington

For March 2021, these were as follow:

- 1 x theft of diesel road roller
- 2 x theft of fuel
- 10 x criminal damage to vehicles
- 1 x burglary
- 2 x theft of bicycles
- 1 x theft from vehicle

For crime prevention advice, please visit www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice.

Craft Group update

Ruddington Craft Group has been unable to meet since goodness know when!

However we hope brighter times are ahead and it's possible the next meeting will be in a month or two. Please watch this space for more details to come.

Christine Gibson

Many hands make... twiddle muffs

In response to an appeal in the local news for twiddle muffs, some members of the Inner Wheel Club of Keyworth and Ruddington set to work to make some.



Using scraps of wool, material and buttons, over 80 muffs have so far been made to deliver to the NHS.

Twiddle muffs can help some patients with dementia and sensory problems by providing an object to handle and explore.

Diana Herrington, President

Money Match March success

**£755,000 raised for railway
reunification project**



The Great Central Railway (GCR)'s ambitious Reunification project has leapt forward with a month-long fundraising push. Money Match March offered to match all donations received during March pound for pound, up to a value of £100,000.

Support was received from enthusiasts and well-wishers around the world. A late flurry of donations received just before month-end saw well over £150,000 being received, over the available "matching funds". With the match funding, the new grand total is an incredible £755,000.

"We can't quite believe we've reached three quarters of a million pounds," said Andy Fillingham, Chairman of the Friends of the Great Central Main Line, the membership organisation for the GCR which is driving the fundraising.

“The generosity of the support has taken our breath away. We now have 25% of the £3m we need to build the next two phases of the Reunification project.”

Reunification will bring together two separate halves of the Great Central Railway which were separated after the original line was closed in the 1960s. The two lines combined will create an 18 mile heritage line connecting Ruddington with Leicester, which will boost the local economy and create jobs.

Two stages of the scheme have already been built after millions of pounds were raised. The next two phases will see a local road crossed on a bridge and a viaduct built over a factory car park.

“Our funding grows all the time as people give by standing orders,” explained Andy. “We will need to have raised most of the full cost of the next section before we can start building it, but the incredible response to Money Match March brings that day closer. We can’t thank everyone who has supported us enough. As the railway gets closer to reopening, this has been a tremendous boost.”

How to donate

Donations can be made online at www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify.

Cheques for the appeal can be made payable to The David Clarke Railway

Trust and posted to DCRT, Lovatt House, 3 Wharncliffe Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1SL.

Free COVID-19 tests from Evans Pharmacy

Evans Pharmacy on Charles Street is now supplying free lateral flow test kits for COVID-19, as part of the NHS Test & Trace scheme.

The tests, which are designed to provide reassurance for individuals and employers, must only be used if you **don’t** have any symptoms of COVID-19.

The pharmacy can supply one box of seven tests per person, which must be collected by someone aged over 18. However, the tests are safe for children to use.

You’ll need to carry out the test away from the pharmacy and register your result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result within 24 hours of taking the test. Or, you can call 119 to register your result or if you need any help with the test.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, or your lateral flow test is positive, please visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a PCR test.

You may need to self-isolate until you get the results of the PCR test – please visit either of the Government testing websites or call 119 to find out more.

Fairham scheme kicks off with Countryside

Housebuilder Countryside has been announced as the first company to develop new homes at Fairham, the new £800 million neighbourhood for Nottingham.

The new 606 acre mixed use development is being delivered in partnership with Clowes Developments and Homes England, the government's housing accelerator.



Countryside plans to build 332 new homes on 20 acres of land south of Nottingham Road at Fairham, near Clifton.

The developer will submit a planning application to Rushcliffe Borough Council before summer 2021 for a mix of housing types, including three and four bedroom houses and one and two bedroom apartments.

The homes will comprise a combination of affordable housing through a registered partner as well as homes for private rent and open market sale.

Subject to planning permission, it's anticipated that work will start on site before the end of the year, with the first properties available to occupy from late spring 2022.

Fairham will create a total of 3,000 new homes to be built by a number of housebuilders to ensure choice and individuality across size, style and tenure, but all tied together by a common purpose governed by a holistic design code that ensures the different parts of the new neighbourhood complement and support one another.

As well as the new homes, 1 million square feet of commercial space and a neighbourhood centre will be built, plus community, health and educational facilities, and 200 acres of green space.

Fairham has been designed around a highly sustainable, ultra-connected location set amid the green landscape of south Nottinghamshire.

With all amenities co-located alongside one another, it will be one of the most accessible and sustainable communities in the country.

Fairham forms a key part of Rushcliffe Borough Council's Local Plan and will help meet the borough's housing need for 13,500 new homes over the next decade.

To find out more, visit www.fairhamlife.co.uk.

COVID Digital Recovery Grants still available

Eligible high street businesses or established business groups can still be boosted by Rushcliffe Borough Council's COVID Digital Recovery Grants, that can help them further adapt and improve their online presence or sales.

Small to medium size retail, hospitality, personal care, leisure, tourism and other enterprises in Rushcliffe can now access up to £1,000 over and above existing central government grant support by visiting the [Borough Council's webpage](#).

Part of the authority's recovery plan from the pandemic, the funds allow businesses to create or improve a website, seek advice and support on improving their social media presence or create greater online transactional capability.

It can also aid local retail groups or traders' associations supporting or enhancing the development of, for example, an online marketplace for their town or village.

Applicants must be a high street business who pay their business rates to the Borough Council or receive small business rate relief with between one and 30 employees.

All appropriate licences and permissions must be in place. Full criteria and available on the webpage.



This latest news on Digital Recovery Grants builds on the Council distributing over £40m of vital central government grants and support to over 600 businesses since March 2020.

Restart grants are now also available for eligible businesses on the [Borough Council's business webpage](#).

Rushcliffe Borough Council's Executive Manager for Finance and Corporate Governance Executive Pete Linfield said: "We have set up the High Street COVID Digital Recovery Grant as another way to support businesses who are continuing to adapt quickly in light of the pandemic and who may need a further boost to reach out to new and existing customers.

"Business owners should apply as soon as possible if they have digital plans in mind. Please [email us](#) if you have any questions on the grants."

Funding for elite Rushcliffe athletes

Elite athletes across the Borough have been awarded grant funding to support their efforts in their chosen sport as they reach for their Olympic and national goals. The Elite Sports Grant has been awarded to 19 local athletes to reduce some of the financial burden of competing at an advanced level that can often create a barrier to their achievements.

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

Those awarded the funding are competing in a number of different sports such as athletics, canoeing, archery, wheelchair tennis, ice hockey and swimming, with some athletes waiting to see if they'll take their place at Tokyo 2021.



Athletes include Barney Corrall, who is World Junior Champion after winning gold at the World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Switzerland in 2019 and was also Sports Person of the Year at the 2019 Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards.

Meanwhile, short track speed skater star Charlotte Hayward, whose ambition is to qualify for the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing 2022 and again in Milan 2026, is also among the recipients of the grant.

A full list including information about each athlete is available at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/eliteathletes.

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