

THE RUDD

Your Mayor, Your Vote

East Midlands Combined County Authority Mayoral Election

Residents in Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derby and Derbyshire will vote for the first ever Mayor for the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) on **Thursday 2nd May**. (See separate article on pages 2 and 3 for how to register to vote.)

The EMCCA has been made possible because of a devolution deal between the Government and the four upper tier councils of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham.



The deal includes functions and funding worth £1.14 billion, and it means decisions about investment in our areas which are currently taken by central Government will be made locally.

As part of the devolution deal, the new Combined County Authority must have a directly elected mayor. The Government believes a Mayor means clearer accountability over local powers, functions and funding.

A key part of the role is to act as an advocate and global ambassador for the area and the 2.2 million residents who live here.

The Mayor will lead the EMCCA and will work with local councils, business representatives and stakeholders to maximise its potential as a place to live, visit, work and do business – focusing on areas like transport, housing, regeneration, employment and skills, economic investment, and the net-zero ambition.

They'll have the powers and responsibilities to make decisions across the whole EMCCA area. However, local authorities will still exist as individual councils providing local services.

The Mayor's term of office will run for four years. Find out more at www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk.

Residents urged to register to vote for upcoming elections

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

It's your chance to vote for the first-ever elected East Midlands Mayor in May, after councils gave the go-ahead to devolution for the region (see above article for more details).

You'll also be able to vote for who should be the next Nottinghamshire

Police and Crime Commissioner, who's responsible for policing across the county and delivering an effective and efficient police service.

In order to vote in these elections, you must be on the electoral register by **Tuesday 16th April** – and we're urging those who haven't yet registered at their current address to do so before this deadline.

Got 5?

Register online to vote

Register by 16 April 2024 to vote in the Combined Mayoral Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 2 May 2024

gov.uk/register tovote

HOW VOTE MATTERS
ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Anyone over 16 can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, although you must be 18 to vote in elections. The process takes just five minutes and all you need is your National Insurance number.

It's particularly important to check you're registered and take any necessary action if you've recently moved home.

Registering to vote gives you the opportunity to exercise your democratic right and shape policies locally and nationally. Being registered to vote can also improve your credit score, making it easier to secure loans or buy a property.

Students are reminded that you can register at both your home and term time addresses. Provided both areas are in different elections, you're eligible to vote in both.

Anyone who needs a postal or proxy vote can now apply for these online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

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

Join The Great British Spring Clean!

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass action environmental campaign and this year it takes place from **Friday 15th March** to **Sunday 31st March**.

Led by Keep Britain Tidy, the campaign calls for Litter Heroes to play their part in cleaning up the nation and helping safeguard the environment, with volunteers pledging to pick more than 400,000 bags of litter during last year's campaign.

If you'd like to run or plan an event to join the national efforts by litter picking in your local community, please get in touch with Rushcliffe Borough Council's Streetwise team at streetwise@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

They can help support your efforts with bags, gloves, litter grabbers and high-vis jackets.

COVID day of reflection

Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) is joining the fourth national Marie Curie Day of Reflection on **Sunday 3rd March**, to remember all those in the Borough who passed away during the COVID pandemic.

Anyone is welcome to visit RBC's COVID memorial in Bridgford Park in West Bridgford on the day, or at any time, to take a moment and remember anyone affected by its impacts.



The steel obelisk memorial in the park was installed in 2022 and also symbolises the NHS workers, carers and key workers who were there for those in need. It carries the inscription:

Remembering all those affected by COVID-19

This memorial commemorates those in Rushcliffe who lost their lives during the pandemic and the incredible efforts of all those who gave so much helping others.

Forever in our thoughts and prayers.

For any questions on the reflection day please email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

James Peacock Infant and Nursery pupils love their new technology!

Children at James Peacock Infant and Nursery School have been busily exploring new skills on laptops provided as a result of fundraising activities by the Friends of James Peacock School.

Over the last year, the Friends have hosted many successful events, including the legendary 'Barrow of Booze' and the spectacular Summer Fun Fest, resulting in thousands of pounds being raised to improve educational opportunities for children at the school.

Working closely with the school's head teacher, Mrs Cutts, the Friends committee has helped support numerous projects across infants and nursery, including forest school resources, the whole school reading spine and Early Years equipment.

However, one of the largest outlays this last year has been to improve the children's access to technology.

"The purchase of 15 laptops, software and charging unit wouldn't have been possible without the amazing support from the school and local community. We just want to say 'Thank you,' as a few pennies can make a huge difference," remarked Jennie Ellison, Co-Chair of the Friends of School committee.

The Year 2 children, who are currently learning how to use the laptops, are all really enjoying their computing lessons. Mrs Fowlie, Leader of Computing in the school, is delighted that the children will be acquiring the skills they need in this modern world.



The Friends of James Peacock School have numerous fundraising events and enrichment opportunities planned over the next couple of months. These include film nights, author visits, discos, lend-a-hand days and, of course, the 2024 Summer Fun Fest (save the date – it's **Friday 14th June**).

In addition, the next large project on the horizon is improving the playground trim trail areas and potentially purchasing more IT equipment!

The main aim of the Friends of James Peacock School is to raise money to enhance the children's learning and experiences. If you'd like to support the charity, or join us for a meeting or event, please join our Facebook Group or email fjps.committee@gmail.com.

Louise Braithwaite

GCRN and GCR reunify for celebration event

The Great Central Railway (Nottingham) and Great Central Railway are teaming up for a unique event to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the GCR London Extension in 1899.

It's the first time the two companies have come together to offer a single ticket for an event on the two sections of the line, which looks forward to their future as a reunified 18 mile heritage line.

On the weekend of **16th and 17th of March**, linked events will take place at the Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre, Rushcliffe Halt station and along the length of the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire.

Andy Fillingham of the Great Central Railway (Nottingham) said: "It's a special occasion and we hope to welcome new visitors and familiar friends to try something different. We're marking the past, but also looking to the future when trains will run the full length of this wonderful Midlands heritage corridor."

Malcolm Holmes, General Manager of the Great Central Railway, added: "While this is the first time we've worked so closely together on an event, it's the start of a new era. As we work towards becoming one railway, both companies have signed a

Memorandum of Understanding committing them to sharing good practice.

"What better place to celebrate this new chapter by coming together to mark a significant milestone in the story of the GCR? It's just a shame we're not one railway yet, so our visitors will have to make do with a heritage bus service running through the event by way of rail replacement!"

Opened in March 1899, the GCR was the last Victorian mainline railway to reach London. It linked Sheffield, Nottingham, Loughborough and Leicester with the capital but, faced with stiff competition from other railways, was never a sound financial success and was absorbed into the London and North Eastern Railway in 1923. British Rail closed it in stages during the 1960s.

The first heritage trains ran on the line in 1973 through 500m of track between Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, with some sections later removed, again by British Rail. It's been a long held ambition to reinstate the link and some parts have already been constructed.

For full event details and to book tickets, please visit <https://tickets.gcrailway.co.uk/events/66145>. To find out more about GCR and GCRN, you can visit www.gcrailway.co.uk and www.gcrn.co.uk.

10th anniversary for Rushcliffe junior parkrun

We're congratulating Rushcliffe junior parkrun as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. It's a free weekly event at Rushcliffe Country Park where families can have fun and get active outdoors .

It's grown over the years and prior to its 10th birthday, had welcomed 4,679 participants with an impressive 38,739 finishes. In addition, 838 individuals have volunteered on 10,784 occasions!

Over 100 junior parkrunners joined the event on Sunday 4th February, marking a decade since it started welcoming children aged 4 to 14 years old and their families to the park every Sunday at 9am for a friendly 2k community event.



Junior parkrun was set up to encourage children and their families to enjoy exercising in open spaces. Anyone at any level can take part in the route, which is marshalled by volunteers.

You can find out more about junior parkrun and how to register at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/rushcliffe-juniors/>.

Protect your children and other people against measles

Measles is more than just a rash; it can cause serious health complications like pneumonia and meningitis. It can also lead to long term health problems such as persistent bronchitis, hearing and sight loss, and seizures. Keep your children safe with the MMR vaccine.

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire offers parents this guidance and advice:

- Vaccination is crucial: Outbreaks occur when people aren't vaccinated.
- Two doses for best protection: Make sure your child receives two doses of the MMR vaccine for maximum safety.
- Missed vaccines? It's never too late! Contact your GP surgery to get your child vaccinated, regardless of their age.
- Unsure of vaccination status? Check your child's Red Book or speak to your GP surgery.

Let's keep our families and communities measles-free – contact your GP surgery today.

Find out more at www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/.

Church's fundraising milestone for Ugandan school

St Peter's Church is celebrating raising £6,000 to allow the completion of a four-classroom block for a school in an impoverished area of Uganda. The target was achieved by a mixture of

donations and fundraising events over a 10-month period, culminating in a Beetle Drive event at the end of January 2024, which raised £763.

As RUDDINGTON.info has previously reported, St Peter's has been supporting the Aminit High School in Teso since 2019, aiming to establish secondary education in an area where none was available. Students currently have some classes under canvas sheets suspended from the unfinished classroom block.

Church Member, Andrew Third, explains: "St Peter's was put together with Aminit High School by the charity Teso Development Trust that we support as a church. At the time, the school was more a dream than reality, with no classrooms of their own.

"We first helped them to complete a three-classroom block that the community hadn't managed to finish, and then we moved steadily forward on building the four-classroom block."

He continues: "With the amazing fundraising effort this year, Teso Development Trust will have enough funds to complete the structure and roof of the four-classroom block. Better still, the local government in Uganda have been so impressed with the efforts to build the school, they've lent their support and are currently building a further four classrooms."

Vicar of Ruddington, Revd. Andrew Buchanan says: There are three

primary schools in Aminit, but no secondary schools within travelling distance. This means that, in the past, around 300 children each year have finished primary education and have then had to return to helping farm their small family homesteads, condemned to a continuing life of poverty.

"By helping the community provide secondary education, we can break this cycle and give the children the qualifications they need to move into well rewarded occupations, changing the fortunes of the whole area."

Revd. Buchanan adds: "We've seen God's blessing on this project in ways we couldn't possibly imagine. From where we started in 2019 with this community, it was unimaginable that in five years, there'd be 11 working classrooms at Aminit. It's been a privilege to be involved in a project that breaks the shackles of poverty in a part of the world which suffers indescribable hardship.

"There's much more still to be done in properly kitting out the classrooms, but what's been achieved so far is way beyond what we could have imagined when we started."

Ruddington has also been helping the people of Uganda in recent years through The Mustard Seed Project. You can read about their work at <http://ruddington.info/?s=%22Mustard+Seed+Project%22>.

Graham Wright via RUDDINGTON.info

Ruddington Diary

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Commencing at 7.30pm. All meetings open to the public; you can share your views on any agenda item.

Events in March 2024

Saturday 2nd March

Coffee Morning & Mini Sale – at the Methodist Church, 10:30am to 12 noon. Easter items and home made cakes.

Tuesday 5th March

Ruddington Methodist Church Women's / Men's Fellowship Programme – 2.30pm, £2. An excellent saxophonist will be delighting us with his saxophone playing. Refreshments to follow.

Friday 8th March

Mustard Seed Fashion Show – presented by The Mustard Seed Project (Uganda) in conjunction with St Peter's School. Doors open 7pm, show starts 7:30pm. Enjoy a drink at The Bra Bar, win a Fountain of Fizz and lots of other great prizes. Tickets available at the door for £5, cash or card accepted.

Saturday 9th March

Barn Dance at the Village Hall – fundraising event for Ruddington District Girl Guiding. Doors open 7pm, dancing starts 7:30pm, doors close 10:30pm. Food included (light Ploughman's spread), bring your own soft or alcoholic drinks. Kids and adults welcome. Tickets cost £18, available from The Bottle Top, Phoenix Flowers and at Unit meetings. Cash only please in a marked envelope with names and tickets.

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th March

Open Weekend at Nottingham Transport

Heritage Centre – To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Great Central Railway (GCR) London Extension. See page 5 for details.

Sunday 17th March

Wedding Open Afternoon – 2pm to 4pm at The Cottage Hotel. Everyone Welcome. Dates still available for 2024/2025.

Thursday 28th March

Bloomin' Dementia Easter Event – 12 noon to 2pm at The Cottage Hotel. Raffle. Free tea and coffee and sandwiches available. To book a place, please visit the Bloomin' Dementia Hub at 4 Easthorpe Street or email jennie@bloomindementia.org.

Sunday 31st March

Easter Activities at the Nottingham Heritage Transport Centre – Follow the Easter Egg Trail and meet the Easter Bunny. Other heritage attractions open as usual. Full details TBC. Keep an eye on <https://gcrn.co.uk/node/61> for the latest info and ticket details.

Regular events

Every Monday

Nappuccinos – 10 am to 11 45 am at The Hub, 62 Musters Road. A group for parents and carers with babies aged under 1. Coffee, cake and chat.

50+ Fun Fitness/Zumba Gold with Erika – 10am & 11am at the Village Hall. First class free. Call 07967 190 442, email erikazumba@hotmail.com or visit www.50plusfunfitness.co.uk for info

Ruddington Running Club – Meet at 5:55pm at the lower Asher Lane entrance to Rushcliffe Country Park for a 6pm run lasting 30 to 35 minutes. More info on the Club's [Facebook page](#).

Ruddington & District Choral Society – Term time only – 7.15pm St Peter’s School. Further info: www.ruddingtonchoral.com.

First & third Mondays of the month

Ruddington Card Making & Craft Group – 10am to 12 noon at St Peter’s Rooms. Tuition, most materials and refreshments included for £3.50 fee. Newcomers welcome, no experience is necessary. **4th & 18th March.**

First & Fourth Mondays of the month

Heat’n’ Eat – 12.30pm to 2pm at St Peter’s Church. Two course hot meal with soft drink. £1 per person. Booking essential, via Eventbrite Heat n Eat Ruddington. Email ruddoffice@gmail.com if you have any dietary requirements.

Third Monday of the month

U3A General Meeting – 2pm at the Methodist Church. Speaker, information about interest groups and a cuppa.

Every Tuesday

Swing into Shape – 60+ class, 11am to 11:45am at the Village Hall, Wilford Road.

RACS Kids (term time only) – age 7+, Art & Craft sessions. 5pm to 6pm at the Framework Knitters’ Museum Chapel. £10 per child including all materials. Email Ruddingtonacsociety@gmail.com for info.

Ruddington Community Choir – 8pm to 9.30pm at the Methodist Church.

Alternate Tuesdays

Ruddington Library (termtime only) – 10:30am to 11am. Under 5s activities: Rattle Roll & Rhyme, Storytime & Craft.

Every Wednesday

Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park – 8:30am to 2pm. Meet at the Visitors’ Centre in the Park. Conservation activities, learning opportunities and socialising. For

more information, visit the [FoRCP Facebook page](#), contact the Country Park Rangers on 0115 921 5865 or pick up a joining leaflet from the Visitors’ Centre.

Coffee Club – 10 am to 12 noon at St Peter’s Rooms. For over 55s.

Move and Mingle – Wellbeing Walks in Rushcliffe Country Park. 10:30am except Bank Holidays. 30 to 60 minute walks at three levels, led by trained walk leaders to aim to improve walkers’ physical and mental wellbeing in a friendly group of people. Meet by the lake at a point approximately 50m to the left of the Education Room and outdoor café. To find out more, email rushcliffemandm@gmail.com or call Duncan on 07969 330 846.

The Ruddington Pantry – 12:30pm to 1pm at St Peter’s Rooms.

Renew Café – 2:30pm to 4pm at The Hub, 62 Musters Road. Arts, crafts and games.

Ruddington Shotokan Karate Club – 5:30pm to 7:45pm Ruddington Village Hall, Wilford Road. Come and see us for a chat or have a go; first lesson free. Contact 07986 858 608 or email SenseiRSKC@outlook.com.

Easy Living Yoga – 6.30pm to 7.30pm at the studio above Unit D, Compound Strength & Conditioning. £10 per class or £40 for a 5 class pass. 20% discount for gym members. Accessible to all. Book online at <https://easylivingyoga.setmore.com>.

Every other Wednesday

Bloomin Dementia – Music in Mind by The Joyful Jukebox. 10:30am to 12 noon at the Village Hall. Singing & dancing. Free. **13th & 27th March.**

Second Wednesday of the month

Women's Institute – 7:15pm at St Peter's Rooms. **13th March: Choral activity with Simon Thompson.**

Last Wednesday of the month

Ruddington Gardener's Association – 7pm at The Hermitage. **27th March: Cyclamen in the wild and in cultivation.**

Every Thursday

Coffee Morning – Ruddington Library 10:30am to 12noon (small donations for refreshments).

After School Drop In – Ruddington Library (term time only.) 3:45pm to 5pm.

Youth Work Sessions (term time only) – 6:15pm to 8:15pm at The Village Hall. For Years 6 & 7 pupils. 50p per session. Sports / games, arts & crafts, cooking. For more info, please visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/youthservice.

Ruddington & District Royal British Legion – 8pm at St Peter's Rooms. Social, fundraising and welfare activities. All welcome – you don't need to be a current or former member of the Armed Forces.

Every other Thursday

Framework Church - 11am to 12:30pm in the Chapel at the Framework Knitters' Museum. A relaxed and informal group meeting.

First Thursday of the month

Hearing Aid Clinic – 10am to 11am at St Peter's Rooms in the Committee Room. Visit the website at www.heartogether.org.uk for more info. **7th March, 4th April.**

RACS Art & Craft Sessions – 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Ruddington Methodist Church. Coffee, tea and cake provided. Membership £50 per year. Non members £10 per session. Email Ruddingtonacsociety@gmail.com for info.

Third Thursday of the month

Ruddington Rhythm – 8 pm, The Cottage Hotel, Easthorpe Street. All styles of music. £3 entry. Free raffle. Contact Ron on 07850 770 477 for more info.

Every Friday

Ruddington Running Club – Meet at 6:55am at the lower Asher Lane entrance to Rushcliffe Country Park for a 7am run lasting 30 to 35 minutes. More info on the Club's [Facebook page](#).

Alternate Fridays

Ruddington Library at 2pm - Ruddington Writers (contact Trevor Jones); Crafty Chatter (Bring your own projects – small donation for refreshments.)

Every Saturday

Methodist Coffee Morning – 10:30am to 12 noon.

Soccer Schools - 11am to 12 noon at Jubilee Playing Fields. Open to all children in Reception and Year 1. First session FREE for new players then £5 per session. Run by Ruddington Village FC in association with Score Football Coaching.

First Saturday of the month

Ruddington Village Market – 9am to 2pm on The Green. Over 75 stall holders offering quality crafts, produce and provisions to take away.

Second Saturday of the month

Rushcliffe Wildlife Watch – 11am to 1pm, meet outside Education Room, Rushcliffe Country Park. Sessions cost £2-£3. Email rushcliffewatch@nottsswt.co.uk for details.

Alternate Saturdays

Family Lego Club – 10:30am to 12 noon at the library.

Every Sunday

Ruddington Shotokan Karate Club –

10.30am to 12 noon at Ruddington Village Hall, Wilford Road. Come and see us for a chat or have a go; first lesson free. Contact 07986 858 608 or email SenseiRSKC@outlook.com.

The Ruddington Pantry – 4pm to 4:30pm at St Peter’s Rooms.

Spiritual Light Centre – 6:30pm to 8pm at St Peter's Rooms, Church Street. Divine service with a visiting medium. Healing during service. Refreshments afterwards.

First Sunday of the Month

Coffee & Cake – 10:30am to 12 noon, St Peter's Rooms. Call Sylvia & Derek Sanderson on 0115 984 3523 for more details.

Classic Car Gathering – Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre. 10am to 1pm, weather permitting.

You are NottAlone

Mental health support for under 25s

NottAlone is a dedicated website providing information and support for young people’s mental health across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. If you’re aged under 25, are a parent or carer, or a professional who works with and supports young people, you can find information, advice and where to go to get help in Nottinghamshire.

NottAlone isn’t a mental health service so we don’t offer contact details for you to get in touch with us directly. Instead, we’re here as a touch point to connect you with help from the right places. When you visit the website, you’ll see

support links at the bottom of each topic where you can contact the relevant help services for your needs.

Topics range from anger management and bereavement to gangs and dangerous situations, self-harm, suicidal thoughts and many more.

If you need urgent help, you can call 0808 196 3779 to speak to a mental health professional 24/7, or call 999.

Who are we?

NottAlone was created to help young people, parents, carers and professionals to access the right mental health information and support. Young people, parents and carers were part of the design team from the beginning, sharing their insight to help make sure NottAlone meets the needs of local people in Nottingham City and County.



Key partners include Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board.

Please visit <https://nottalone.org.uk/?a=yp> to view the different topics and find out more about NottAlone. You can also watch a video about the service here: <https://youtu.be/1cNQ04niQgk>.

Update from Rushcliffe Inspector Tim Cuthbert

Neighbourhood Inspector for Rushcliffe, Inspector Tim Cuthbert, has given us his latest update. "Firstly, I trust you had a good Christmas and New Year.

"The hard work continues in Rushcliffe, with some superb results in combatting retail crime in West Bridgford – in particular from PC Matt Holden who's recently charged one prolific offender with 27 offences, for which he received eight months in prison.

"Work to combat antisocial behaviour in Rushcliffe continues with good progress made.

"We've also sustained the considerable reduction of keyless entry car thefts following the spike in reports from September/October last year.

"I'm not complacent, however, and would still urge people to obtain a Faraday bag or box to keep your keys in, to help prevent these thefts.

"We've had some more superb proactive arrests in Nottinghamshire lately around this trend, and officers are on the look-out for any suspicious vehicles out in the area at night.

"Whilst theft of bikes has decreased, I'm keen to encourage Rushcliffe residents to partake in our regular bike marking events. Please keep your eyes out for these on our Facebook pages and Notts Alerts.

"I'll be contacting some of our local businesses and hot spots which suffer from bike thefts to see how we can best support them to prevent future thefts.

"I've had a very productive meeting with our local partners involved in Neighbourhood Watch schemes, so thanks to those who give up their time to help make their communities safer.

"In terms of staffing for Rushcliffe, we bid a happy retirement to former Detective Pete Clegg, who retired from policing after almost 40 years of service. Having served 30 years as a Detective, primarily working in Major Crime, he worked for several years in Rushcliffe on our Managed Incident Team. We wish him all the best as he moves on to a hopefully more relaxing time in retirement.

"Thanks for taking the time to read my updates, and again, I'd urge you if you're concerned about something, please report it to Notts Police on 101, or if it's happening now, 999.

"We depend on information from the local community and we will act on it – as we have recently with the discovery of a considerable cannabis farm on Loughborough Road, where a male has been charged and remanded with drugs offences as a result of calls from the public. Well done to PS James Clayton for organising that operation.

"Together, we'll keep Rushcliffe as a fantastic place to live, work and visit."

Share your views on the Rushcliffe Smoke Control Area

Residents and businesses are invited to share their views on a proposal to expand an existing Smoke Control Area to cover all of Rushcliffe.

Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) is considering revoking its existing Smoke Control Order in West Bridgford and Edwalton, and replacing it with a single Smoke Control Order covering the whole Borough.

The proposed plan is in line with the Government's air quality strategy, which seeks to reduce levels of very fine particulates, to help protect the health of all residents by reducing the amount of smoke released from domestic and commercial chimneys.

In a Smoke Control Area, it's an offence to emit smoke from a building's chimney. Correctly seasoned wood, timber or logs should only be burnt in a Defra approved appliance.

Authorised fuels, such as smokeless fuels, must be used in any other appliances that aren't Defra approved. Under The Environment Act 2021, anyone liable can face a financial penalty of between £175 and £300 for each occasion smoke is emitted.

Those found to be selling or buying unauthorised fuel for use without an approved appliance in a Smoke Control Area could also face fines of up to £1,000.

Full details of the Government's proposed changes to Smoke Control Area legislation can be found on the Defra website at www.gov.uk/government/publications/smoke-control-area-enforcement-local-authorities-in-england/smoke-control-area-enforcement-by-local-authorities-in-england.

You have until **Tuesday 12th March** to submit your views in a public consultation. You can do this online at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality/smoke-control-areas/consultation-on-smoke-control-areas/.

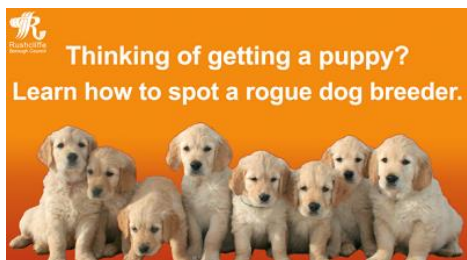


RBC's Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Cllr Rob Inglis, said: "Residents, businesses and stakeholders can have their say on our Smoke Control Area plans, which could cover all of Rushcliffe, in our consultation.

"Quality of life for our residents is a key priority and we want to hear people's thoughts on these proposals. Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK and domestic burning is a major contributor."

Could you spot a rogue dog breeder?

Are you or someone you know thinking of getting a puppy? According to the Kennel Club, almost a third of people wouldn't be able to spot a rogue dog breeder or puppy farm.



Puppy farmers put profit before animal welfare. Dogs are used for frequent breeding and often kept in confined spaces, with the puppies kept in poor, cramped and unsanitary conditions.

All reputable dog breeders in Rushcliffe must be licensed with the Borough Council and undergo an inspection by the Council's Animal Welfare Inspector. You can find out more about this process at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/environmental-health/licensing/animals/animal-welfare-regulations-2018/.

If you're worried about a breeder, or suspect dogs are being kept in poor conditions and may be subject to puppy farming, please email Rushcliffe Borough Council's Licensing Team at licensing@rushcliffe.gov.uk or call them on 0115 981 9911.

You can find out more about puppy farms and how to spot them at the PDSA website: www.pdsa.org.uk.

Get peace of mind for you or your loved ones with RBC's

Home Alarm service

Rushcliffe Borough Council's (RBC) Home Alarm service can give you peace of mind for you or your loved ones, making sure they can reach help easily if there's 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 RBC if 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 people who live alone or feel isolated, providing choice and independence for you and your family.

The service has achieved a remarkable 100% customer satisfaction rating for seven consecutive years.

Those who use the service fed back they were completely satisfied with RBC's Housing Support administration team when they had the need to use the facility.

It highlights the team's exceptional level of customer service – and it's the

11th year RBC has secured a rating of more than 95%.

RBC's Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, Cllr Roger Upton, said: "Our Home Alarm service provides a vital lifeline which allows residents to stay independent in their own home, knowing help is only the press of a button away.

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

"If you think a friend or relative would benefit from this service, please get in touch with our friendly Housing Support Team on 0115 981 9911."

To find out more about the Home Alarm service, which costs just £5.92 per week excluding VAT, please visit the RBC Home Alarm web page at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/housing/home-alarm-service/ or email customer.services@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

Support with energy bills from The Green Doctor

Leaflets and letters are being sent out to the area's lowest income households that signpost residents to support with energy bills through one of Rushcliffe Borough Council's UKSPF applicants, Groundwork Five Counties and their Green Doctor project.

Eligible residents will receive information aimed at helping them

deal with the challenges of the cost of living crisis, as well as offering a visit from the Green Doctor team to help save them money.



The Green Doctor team are trained energy efficiency experts that aim to help you stay warm, stay well and save money on household bills. They can visit you to assess the causes of heat loss in your home, tackle any damp or mould problems, and offer tips and tricks to save energy and water – all while keeping you safe and comfortable.

They offer free, impartial advice to help you take control of your bills and reduce waste in the home. They'll also help you access other services and initiatives that may be available to you, such as emergency heating, government subsidies or grants, and advice on dealing with energy or water bill debts.

In addition, the Green Doctor team offer a range of energy and water efficiency measures to help you make the most of your energy and resources, and can also assist with switching energy providers if appropriate.

You can contact the team by emailing greendocor@groundworknottingham.org.uk or calling 0115 978 8212.

Vacancy – Parish Lengthsman

Ruddington Parish Council wishes to appoint a Parish Lengthsman to carry out various works in and around the parish, starting as soon as possible.

About the job

This role will suit someone with a wide range of skills in general maintenance, including but not restricted to:

- General grounds maintenance such as weeding and strimming
- Litter picking and general tidying
- Inspection, cleaning and minor maintenance of street furniture including parish benches, bins, phone boxes, entrance signs, street name plates, salt-grit bins and bus shelters
- Clearing drainage
- Clearing certain paths of snow, monitoring salt-grit levels and salt spreading certain pavements in winter
- Addressing minor highways issues, but reporting more serious issues to Nottinghamshire County Council or Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Small buildings maintenance tasks, e.g., fitting toilet roll holders, fire alarm tests.
- Basic paperwork
- Other ad-hoc duties as required.

This role is mainly outdoors, but there'll also be some indoor buildings maintenance work. The ideal candidate will be someone who takes pride in the local community and who wants to make a real difference.

Employment terms

We're looking to offer a contract for 20 hours per month, paid at the National Living Wage. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 0115 914 6660 or email office@ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk if you have any questions about the role.

How to apply

Please send your CV along with a covering letter and the contact details of two referees to: Parish Clerk, Ruddington Parish Council, St Peter's Rooms, Church Street, NG11 6HD, or by email to clerk@ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 8th March 2024**.

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