

Drivers wanted for Voluntary Transport Scheme

*Do you enjoy driving and meeting people?
Have you got a few hours to spare most weeks?*

If so: Rushcliffe Voluntary Transport Scheme needs you. The scheme helps people (registered passengers) with no alternative means of transport to get to dentist, doctors, opticians, shopping etc. Often these are older people with disabilities.

The service has more need than it can meet including in West Bridgford

Expenses are paid and insurance is provided. You have to complete checks.

For details or to explore what is involved: contact Rushcliffe Council of Voluntary Service Transport Team on 0115 969 9060 between 9.0-12.30 weekdays.

Leisure Centre changes in WB.

1. Rushcliffe Arena will close to the public on 28 July 2015. Officers have worked with Parkwood Leisure Ltd to ensure that as many clubs and users as possible have been accommodated at other venues during the time the Arena is closed.
2. Contractors will start in early August.
3. Rushcliffe Leisure centre will remain open until such time as the new Arena is available, which is expected to be January 2017, at which time it will also be closed. Opportunities are being explored to keep some elements such as outdoor pitches available for community use.
4. To accommodate the increased footfall at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre in the interim period, works are being undertaken to convert one of the squash courts into a temporary gymnasium. This work has had to be programmed around exams. It is anticipated that they will be completed soon after the Arena closes. There is also a planning application (ref 15/01543/FUL) to increase car parking provision.

Planning

On 11 August a Member Working Group met to comment on the Council's Supplementary Planning Document for "Melton Rd, Edwalton" aka Sharp Hill. You can be sure that Cllr Rod Jones made many comments and suggestions. The Executive decision on whatever the officers recommend is made by the Rushcliffe Council Cabinet who are scheduled to meet on 11 August at 7 pm. The agenda for the

Cabinet meeting is published in advance on the Council's website and the meeting is open to the public,

Comments have also been made by your Councillor on revised applications by Bovis (ref 14/01238/FUL) and Wimpey (ref 14/02715/FUL) and on the revised plans by Bellway Homes for building 89 dwellings at the back of West Bridgford School (ref 14/02716/FUL).

Congratulations to St Pauls for running such an excellent Family Event in Boundary Road Park last Saturday. Also to residents of Musters Rd, Selby Rd and Repton Rd who supported their Open Gardens events.

Police Event Tuesday 28 July

There have been some recent incidents where high status cars have been stolen in WB by entering houses and stealing keys. Please take precautions with keys.

Bike theft is again on the increase. 5 bikes were stolen in West Bridgford Town Centre alone from 11 July to 17 July. Please remember the recently installed secure bike shed which has CCTV protection. The shed is located in the library car park and is available for all to use and is FREE of charge. You will need a City Card to access the shed which can be obtained from Broad Marsh Bus Station.

The Police are putting on a Road Safety Event on Tuesday 28th July on Central Avenue in West Bridgford 10.00 a.m to 2.00 p.m.. You can have your bike security marked FREE of charge and bring an old lock and swap for a D lock.

Staff from Nottingham City Council will be at the event allocating City Cards from their mobile travel centre, which will be parked at the side of the bike shed. Once inside the shed your bike should be secured to one of the bike racks with a strong metal bike lock, preferably the D type. Any person wishing to register for a Citycard will need proof of ID and proof of address.

Also on the Croquet Lawn on Central Avenue, will be demonstrations and information about driving and the Fatal 4.

National Cuts with local Impacts

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds will now have to repay the money that they receive for their maintenance. Support for maintenance grants was one of two

key protections for poorer students that Vince Cable added to the legislation that increased university fees. These protections were a condition of our parliamentary support for any changes to fees and, as a result, record numbers of students from disadvantaged backgrounds have enrolled and received a university education since 2012. It is a massive, but entirely predictable, disappointment to see the Tories chipping away at protections for poorer students at the very first opportunity.

Having moved **Public Health Services** into Local Authorities the Government is cutting funding by £200 million!

The Skills Funding Agency has announced further cuts to the **Adult Skills Budget**, including the withdrawal of funding from teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)- total of £45 million to be taken .The Agency has announced further cuts of 3.9% to the Adult Skills Budget on top of the 24% cut to non-Apprenticeship skills announced earlier in the year. In total colleges in the East Midlands will lose several million pounds. However all Apprenticeship growth requests for 16 -18 year olds in 2015-16 will be funded.

Liberal Democrats in government kept **environmental priorities** and secured significant transitional subsidies for wind farms and other renewable energy projects, and the 'green levies' – taxes on energy companies on the basis of their use of non-renewable energy, that provide the subsidies for those projects to get off the ground. They created the first Green Investment Bank in the western world – backing renewable energy and environmental sustainability schemes with £3 billion of financial support. Sadly the current Government is removing a range of tax exemptions that risk turning back the clock on Britain's energy network by decades and considering privatising the Green Investment Bank.

And of course there are the welfare cuts, including in the Employment and Support Allowance which helps people with disabilities stay in work.

Rod Jones & Karrar Khan

Liberal Democrat Councillors for Musters Ward in Rushcliffe Borough Council.

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