



Councillors campaign to help reduce fraud



It is best to use one hand to cover the hand entering your pin.

Police reported this autumn that once again some **cash machines** in West Bridgford had been tampered with 'skim cards'. Fortunately some cash machines, like this one on Melton Road, are fitted with a safety device which blocks 'card skimming'.

Cllr Karrar Khan said: "It is always best to be careful. It is important to know how to spot the signs of all potential scams, and encourage friends and family to be alert. We encourage residents to be aware and particularly to protect those most at risk. Ignore cold calls asking for your bank account details".



You can withdraw cash from your bank account inside a Post Office as well as the Bank.

Investment scams generally involve unexpected phone calls and high-pressured sales tactics for products which do not exist. Those most at risk include retired people looking to make investments. Proposals which seem too good to be true generally are. The Financial Conduct Authority's 'Scamsmart' website is useful for anyone who is considering an investment. Consider seeking independent financial advice from a regulated professional before making any decisions.

As well as protecting yourselves from investment fraud, the Financial Conduct Authority calls on people to report suspected scams, either on their website or call the Police Action Fraud line - 0300 123 2040.

Little Known Facts

The 'bedroom tax' was introduced by Labour for private tenants in 2008.

The Conservative Minister then applied it to social housing tenants. We object to it applying to vulnerable people when there are no smaller places locally to move to. Those with learning difficulties or mental health difficulties are not exempt unless they are pensioners or disabled. **We** proposed that the Council have a discretionary fund so such residents weren't forced into debt. Locally the Conservatives said no. **We** asked Ken Clarke MP to support changes but he declined to agree.

Musters Road Speed. Police have reported doing random speed checks this year. Warnings and summons have been issued. Checks will continue occasionally.

Scam fraud emails and other internet crime can be reported to the Police Action Fraud website at

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Suspected benefit fraud can be reported to Rushcliffe Contact Centre West Bridgford: 0115 981 9911.

Sharphill News

What is the latest and what does it mean for Sharphill?

The Rushcliffe Local Plan: The Inspector's decisions are imminent and final decisions are likely by February. We don't know what this will say for Sharphill – or about the several submissions made by 'Sharphill Action Group' (see: savesharphillagain.org/objections).

Developers: The Developers are splitting the area into 4 parcels. At present there is NO AGREED MASTERPLAN! Thorough site plans covering landscape, environment, drainage, protection of the wood and allotments are not evident. We hope the Council will bang heads together! The developers' costs, already reduced by replacing an underpass with traffic lights, are further reduced because Waitrose is paying for the junction on Melton Road into the proposed housing on Sharphill.

Bovis have applied for 388 dwellings on land to the north of the Wheatcrofts. If the Inspector agrees to 1500 for the site, the planned green buffer area to protect the wood will be under threat.

Barratt/David Wilson Homes are expected to submit an application for the area described as "the triangle" (i.e. East of Melton Road).

Wimpey have consulted on plans for 280 houses (30% affordable) on an area at the back of Rushcliffe School and adjacent to Edwalton Lodge Close. They propose a junction onto Melton Road without traffic lights incorporating the entrance to Edwalton Lodge Close! Surface drainage is a huge concern as is housing on what were to be football pitches.

Planning Applications

Applications, comments and decisions can be seen at the planning section of the Rushcliffe Council's website. Other significant applications are:

An outline application is under consideration for 3,000 dwellings south of Clifton off the A453 (ref 14/01417/OUT).

An application near Radcliffe for continued drilling up to 2 oil and gas appraisal boreholes (ref 14/01479/CMA) has been agreed. An application for a major solar generation installation, where sheep would still graze, near Normanton on Soar, was turned down with all Conservatives voting against.

Melton Road/Ludlow Hill Road Corner: At the time of going to print, there is a planning application to turn the office block into a day nursery. This seems to have support subject to considerations of noise and parking.

The Waitrose supermarket planning application was approved this summer despite the estimated diversion of £0.9 million annual income from shopping parades and the town centre. There will be traffic lights with filter lanes starting 90 metre from the Wheatcroft Island and then two more sets of lights at 100 metre intervals!!!

We noticed that the first plans removed the existing footway along the east side of the road and lacked pedestrian crossings. We made our views known. We are pleased to say that the plans have been changed to keep the footway and include pedestrian lights.



Entrance to Edwalton Lodge Close & proposed Wimpey part of the estate!!

We agree with Liberal Democrat MP Martin Horwood who said in the Commons:

"What we do need is more social housing for rent for those on the housing waiting list, not more and more very expensive market housing in enormous quantities. It is clear that developers are only trying to extract as much money as possible from the plans. In the process, they are seriously damaging the surrounding countryside and potentially reducing the quality of life of my constituents."

Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team – working locally

Fracking

Proposals to extract shale gas from underground by the process called fracking are likely to occur in Rushcliffe. The Widmerpool formation is an extensive potential source.

It is a complex issue. Fracking extends our use of fossil fuels, therefore worsening climate change but provides a source of energy not dependent on imports. Perhaps the most serious concerns are: contamination of water tables if there are faults in the lining when drilling the wells and whether it is possible to safely dispose of waste water chemicals e.g polyacrylamide.

The Environment Agency is supposed to regulate drilling and fracking along with the Health and Safety Executive. You would expect them to make frequent checks and not to rely on the drillers reports. It is reported (in Private Eye) that Cuadrilla in Lancashire found pressure building in their well which they should have prevented by pumping cement down between the pipes and well side walls. The HSE demanded to see the cement bond log only to be reminded they had said earlier one was not needed!!
Hardly high quality regulating!

Rushcliffe Academy and Outdoor Sports



The new sixth form centre will be ready for use in September 2015 providing much needed places. We hope that the planting and other changes reduce the impact on neighbours. Your local Councillors continue to meet with senior staff.

Speaking out on Leisure

The Arena is expected to close for rebuilding from Spring 2015 to Summer 2016 after which Rushcliffe Leisure Centre will close.

We pressed for the Arena to provide at least equivalent to what is lost. The new facilities must enable continued provision for all existing voluntary sport groups.



Cllr Rod Jones made our views known throughout.

At first the Council ploughed ahead regardless with unsatisfactory plans. Many representations were made about the cut down provision for bowling and swimming. We helped the community sports groups to have their say. The views of residents were eventually heard and have led to some improvements to the plans. There will be six lane indoor bowling. The shallow pool will be 2 metres longer and now there will be facilities for observers at the pool. Moving the Council's Offices will add to the mix. The Council Meeting room will be on the ground floor and at times available to hire.

Only the Liberal Democrats keep in touch all year

We issue Focus three times each year to keep residents informed about what we do and what we stand for and provide community news emails to those who ask to see them.

Community Grants

Each year Rushcliffe Council gives Councillors an amount of money which we can recommend to support items for specific Community Groups. (This is a much lower amount than the County Council.) In the period 2012 to 2014 grants went to these groups: Friends of the Greenline, Friends of Sharphill Wood, Willow Pre-School, West Bridgford Table Tennis Club, West Bridgford Sports Group (Stamford Road), St Pauls Community Hall Water Heater; Rushcliffe Asian Community Association, Rushcliffe Squash Club and the Friary.



Karrar at the Greenline. He funded equipment for the volunteers at greenlineconservation.com

We believe in Community Politics

We are committed to community politics and representing the interests of our area. The Party values are to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. Our primary focus is to serve the interests of West Bridgford Residents.

The Liberal Democrat party is not dominated by big business or unions and no press baron supports it. Nationally the party joined the coalition in 2010 to give stability in handling the economic difficulties facing the country. We do not agree with all the compromises made. However you probably have not heard from the Press the positive contributions made. Here are a few examples:

- 3,600 low paid residents in Rushcliffe have been taken out of paying income tax as a direct result of the Liberal Democrat insistence in the coalition agreement to raise the threshold.
- 2,540 Rushcliffe residents are now in apprenticeship schemes because of our policy to encourage vocational education.
- The Party is committed to major improvements in Mental Health Services and has called for £1.5 billion extra for the NHS next year.
- Climate change is being tackled. Since 2010, the amount of electricity generated by renewables has more than doubled and the Green Investment Bank is working.



Contact us with views or help:

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Contact us about any local issues affecting you

Name

Address

Phone.....**Email**.....@.....

I would like to help to deliver leaflets/ I would like further information on the Lib Dems.
I would like to join the Lib Dems and/or make a donation to help the local party

Please return to: Rushcliffe Liberal Democrats, c/o Nethergreen House, 9 The Green, Ruddington, NG11 6DY or contact either Councillor.

Stronger Economy. Fairer Society.