



## **Borough Council gives £810,000 to cricket club County Council gives £900,000 to cricket club**

***Has the world gone mad? Has sport really got first claim on the public purse?  
Have these Tory-controlled councils got any idea of how best to use your money?***

Some years ago, Rushcliffe Borough Council lent a large sum to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club towards the building of a new stand at the Trent Bridge ground. Part of the deal was that the club would do some work on a project to reduce youth crime in Cotgrave. Recently the Council decided that the club could keep £450,000 because crime had come down - and it also decided to give another £360,000 over the next four years. The Tories called this handout an "**act of faith**" - as if this was the basis for spending your money wisely!

Meanwhile, Nottinghamshire County Council gave the club £900,000 for a new scoreboard at the same time as leaving pot-holes unmended and closing care homes to save money.

The Borough Council's act of generosity is costing just under £20 for each and every household in Rushcliffe. The Council could have spent the money on building affordable homes for young people or on helping local sports clubs, but instead spent it on subsidising a professional sports club. The Tories don't seem to have noticed that we already have an effective organisation for reducing crime - it's called the police. Crime is going down everywhere, and we don't need to chuck council taxpayers' money at it.

### ***Is this the best way to use your money?***

This is going on while you still have to pay £25 to get your green bin emptied and while streets are swept only when dirty.

And now the Borough Council is set to raise its share of your council tax by 4.2% - more than inflation. Please remember this when the local elections come around. Can you afford to let the Tories get back in? Or do you want a careful responsible administration in your local councils? Would you prefer someone competent to spend your money?

The Liberal Democrats challenged Rushcliffe's handout through the Council's call-in procedure, when a scrutiny committee found there were failings in the reasons given for this Tory decision.



***Councillor Sam Boote appeared on BBC1's East Midlands Today to say why the Borough Council handout was a thoroughly bad idea***

**Your Keyworth Liberal Democrat Focus Team**

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or visit [www.rushcliffelibdems.org.uk](http://www.rushcliffelibdems.org.uk) or [www.samboote.org.uk](http://www.samboote.org.uk)**

## Lib Dem councillors working for Keyworth

### News of our police service

The **Focus Team** have as usual been working closely with the local police to exchange information, to monitor crime trends and to help in reducing crime. One piece of news that caused us some alarm at first was the closure (announced at very short notice) of Keyworth police station just behind the Square. For the whole of living memory, Keyworth has had a local police contact point (in various locations). Now we have none, but we are assured it does not matter. Our local officers will be based at new premises in East Leake and will patrol Keyworth and the surrounding villages as frequently as before. Their cars are fitted with the latest computing and communications equipment, and the cops will be able to keep in touch and to respond to incidents as quickly as before. Although you will not be able to walk into a local police station any more (hardly anyone ever did), you will be able to phone **101** (for non-urgent calls) or **999** (for emergencies) and get an immediate response. Please do not phone any other number for the police.



**Debbie and Linda are there - but the police aren't!**

### Police Commissioner now in post

Although we expressed misgivings in the last **Focus** about the political involvement of elected Commissioners, the election has now been and gone (with an extremely low turn-out), and we welcome Paddy Tipping to this role in Nottinghamshire. **Sam Boote** (who chairs the Police Priority Setting Group for Keyworth and East Leake) has arranged for Paddy to attend a meeting of this group, and we look forward to working with him in setting our local and county-wide priorities for crime reduction.

### Neighbourhood Watch - would you like to get involved?

Following the success of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in some nearby villages, PC Howard Shinn is hoping to restart a scheme in Keyworth, and we have been helping him to widen his recruitment efforts. If you are interested in starting or joining a scheme in your street, please contact the **Focus Team** or Howard directly.



### Keyworth Advice Centre to re-open soon

After three years, our local advice centre is set to re-open soon, probably in the late spring or early summer. **Sam Boote** has been coordinating moves towards this with the help of the Rushcliffe Advice Network and the Borough Council. A number of volunteer advisers have been recruited and will soon be trained. The search is on for suitable premises, though it seems that the Parochial Hall in Selby Lane (pictured with Sam) is the most likely venue. The Borough Council's weekly front service counter will also be based in the same place, following the closure of Keyworth police station.

### Community Support Scheme grants

The **Focus Team**, as Borough Councillors, have again been allocating money from the Community Support Scheme to local groups including: Keyworth Parish Council (Christmas lights and summer hanging baskets), Rushcliffe Play Forum, based in Keyworth (equipment and events), Keyworth Primary School (set-up costs for pets in classrooms), Twinning Association (funding to include support for Scouts taking part in Feignies weekend). The **Focus Team** have also contributed out of their own funds to other projects such as Self Help Africa (via Keylink) and the solar panel scheme and the mural at Crossdale School (*pictured with Debbie and Sam Boote*).



**Old Co-op store in Main Street:** the **Focus Team** have been working with the Borough Council and the Co-op to find a new use. Two current possibilities are a coffee shop or a pair of starter homes.

## Focus Team active in the community

## Focus Team working for our neighbourhood

### Neighbourhood Plan update 450 new homes for Keyworth by 2026

**Councillor Linda Abbey** (right), who leads the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, gives us the latest.

The first round of public consultation is now complete. The views of residents, groups and organisations and businesses in Keyworth have been gathered, and comments about housing, environment, facilities, amenities, employment and transport issues have been analysed.

The next step for the Steering Group is to set the main aims for the Plan. Each section in the Plan will have a "Sustainability Appraisal" to assess its economic, environmental and social impact on the local community.

For example, in the housing section, **all** the potential housing development sites have to be assessed. This will include data available on each site in the Strategic Land Availability Assessment. Information from previous reports, such as the Nottinghamshire Structure Plan, together with the contributions from the general public and from landowners and developers, will also be included.

Statutory bodies, such as English Nature, and major local employers will be asked for their views. All this information will then shape the content of the final Neighbourhood Plan.

If you want to keep up to date with the progress of the Keyworth Neighbourhood Plan, you can view it on the Parish Council website [www.keyworthparishcouncil.org](http://www.keyworthparishcouncil.org).



### New homes on Wright's Garage site?

A year and a half after Tesco lost their appeal for a supermarket on this site in Selby Lane, there is still no sign of any development. Although they still have planning permission for 48 sheltered flats, the developers expressed a desire to build conventional housing. However, instead of much-needed affordable housing, the developers came up with a scheme for large detached homes, so we asked them to think again. *(pictured) Linda Abbey and Debbie Boote*

### Fairway pub to be improved

A planning application has been received from Star Pubs and Bars to refurbish the Fairway, which was last "done" nearly 20 years ago but which now needs a makeover. The idea is to improve the kitchen, porch, smoking shelter, bin-store and seating areas. We support the plan, provided that nearby residents are not inconvenienced, and it could be almost the last chance to revive Keyworth's pubs. If you want your local to survive, use it or lose it!

**Sam Boote at the Fairway**



### Save money on home energy

Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council are backing a new scheme to help people beat rising gas and electricity prices – and save up to £200 a year on their bills. Nottinghamshire Switch 'n' Save is about helping people to get the best deal on energy prices by switching supplier.

This offer will run only until **Wednesday 20 March 2013**. You can phone 0300 500 8080 or join online at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/switchnsave](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/switchnsave). Have a copy of a recent bill to hand. This will include information about your supplier, tariff and the amount of energy you use. You can even register up to five friends and family from one e-mail address. The more people that join the scheme, the bigger the potential savings for everyone.

**The Warmstreets scheme for home insulation** is still running, though you now have to pay for the insulation if you aren't in a priority group. Phone 0800 043 9569 for a free survey or to find if you can replace your old boiler.

**Floods:** Following our article in the last **Focus**, flooding is still a potential problem for some people in Keyworth. Remember that you can phone the Borough Council on 0115 981 9911 for urgent advice about flooding.

**Liberal Democrat councillors keeping you informed**

## Focus Team only a phone call away

### Local Government boundary review

After nearly two years of consultations, reports, recommendations, revisions and further reports, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has finally announced its final decision for the ward boundaries to be adopted in Rushcliffe. The Borough Council is being reduced from 50 councillors to 44, and Keyworth's representation on the Council is being reduced from 4 councillors to 3. Not only are the North and South wards in Keyworth being merged, but the villages of Stanton, Widmerpool and Willoughby are also being added into the same ward. We can understand the desire to reduce the cost of representation, but this is a bad outcome for the quality of service for local people - instead of having 1407 electors per councillor as now, we will have 2287. The new boundaries will come into effect for the Borough Council elections in 2015.

### Church Drive parking: work still in progress

Unfortunately the parking situation in Church Drive is as bad as ever, as you can see from a school day (left) and a non-school day (right). However, **Sam Boote** called a meeting between parish councillors and South Wolds Academy, and some alternative measures are now being considered.



### Keyworth shorties

**Colette Aram:** A memorial plaque celebrating Colette's life will be installed outside the Village Hall and will be officially unveiled on **Monday 20 May**. All members of the Keyworth community will be warmly welcomed to the unveiling ceremony at 3.00pm.

**Bird-scarers:** A number of residents have recently complained about the repeated disturbance caused to them and their pets by noisy bird-scarers in nearby farms. The Borough Council has investigated and not yet found evidence of a "statutory nuisance", though it is writing to local farmers. Please tell us if you are similarly affected.

**Bridleway between Lings Lane and Wysall:** The County Council is still considering whether to seek a Creation Order for this route, and the **Focus Team** have been supporting local farmers and landowners who want to see it come about.

**Grit bins:** The **Focus Team** have been working with the Parish Council and the County's Highways department to ensure that these bins are kept topped-up with grit during wintry weather. Please let us know if they are not.

**Path beside Village Hall car park:** After complaints from wheelchair users, **Debbie Boote** got this path repaired.

### Useful contacts

Keyworth Parish Council	<b>0115 937 2185</b>	Keyworth Leisure Centre	<b>0115 937 5582</b>
Rushcliffe Borough Council	<b>0115 981 9911</b>	Keyworth Health Centre	<b>0115 937 3527</b>
Nottinghamshire County Council	<b>0300 500 8080</b>	Severn-Trent Water	<b>0800 783 4444</b>
Police emergency	<b>999</b>	Gas emergency	<b>0800 111 111</b>
Police non-emergency	<b>101</b>	Electricity emergency	<b>0800 056 8090</b>



### The Liberal Democrat Focus Team - always at your service!

Borough and parish councillors Debbie and Sam Boote and Linda Abbey. **54 years' experience** as Keyworth councillors between us. No other party can offer such a length and depth of experience in our community. For contact details, please see the front of this Focus. For latest information about community affairs, visit [www.samboote.org.uk](http://www.samboote.org.uk).