



450 new homes for Keyworth in 14 years

In the past few months, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (led by Councillor Linda Abbey) has carried out a wide range of consultations across the community about the new housing being planned for Keyworth. A workshop session has been held at each primary school. Meetings have been held with school governors. About 50 residents came to the Annual Parish Meeting and contributed their views. A presentation was made to U3A. Display panels were erected at BGS, and the **Focus Team** were on hand to explain (Linda Abbey and Debbie Boote talking to a staff member, *below*). There was a drop-in consultation at the Keyworth Show. A digital kiosk was provided at the Show and is now in the ground-floor foyer of the Health Centre (being operated by Linda Abbey, *right*), where it will remain until the end of August.



In the next few months, other community groups are being consulted, including local businesses, youth providers and young parents. Comments will be collected and analysed by the Steering Group to set out the way forward for Keyworth's future growth. After we have got the community's wishes, we will ask landowners and developers for their views.

To have your say, use the touch-screen on the digital kiosk in the Health Centre. Questionnaires and map comment sheets are also available at the Parish Council office or on its website. You have until **31 August** to respond - *don't miss your chance to make your views count!*

Health Centre pharmacy proposal dropped

The **Focus Team** understand that the plan for an in-house pharmacy in Keyworth Health Centre has been dropped. This follows a campaign and petition organised by Dharminder Singh and Sam Boote (pictured outside the pharmacy in the Square). We think this is a good outcome for the community as a whole, as the two existing pharmacies in the village (including the Co-op) can continue to offer a full range of services as well as dispensing prescriptions written by the local doctors.



Your Keyworth Liberal Democrat Focus Team

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or visit www.rushcliffelibdems.org.uk or www.samboote.org.uk

Contacting the police - here's how to do it

Whenever you need to call the police about an actual or suspected incident, phone **999** (for emergencies) or **101** (for non-urgent calls). That's all you have to remember. **Do not** call a councillor. **Do not** phone a police officer on his personal mobile. **Do not** e-mail your local copper. **Do not** let it wait. You have to ensure that a call gets into the police control system and will be dealt with as soon as possible by the nearest available officer - not necessarily the local man, who might be off duty or on holiday. Who decides whether a call is an emergency? *You do!* You will never be told off by the police for making a call which you genuinely believe is an emergency.



Police Commissioner elections - no place for politics

You might not have noticed, but there will be an election on **15 November** for the Police Commissioner in each county, to elect a political supremo who will run the police in partnership with the Chief Constable. This person will replace the existing police authority, made up of local councillors. Political parties are already selecting their candidates. However, it is difficult to see how any involvement by parties can be at all relevant in these elections, when experience of policing, leadership and personal qualities should be the main attractions of any candidate. We suggest four ways to make the elections more open and likely to attract independent candidates.

First, reduce the candidate's deposit from £5000 to £500 (the same as for MPs). **Second**, do not allow any candidate to put a political description on the ballot paper or to use any such description in the campaign. **Third**, do not allow any expenditure by candidates on literature, but allow a modest amount for travelling and media work during the campaign. **Fourth**, invite all candidates to submit a one-page summary of their achievements and policies, which will then be included in a standard booklet to be distributed by the Electoral Commission to all voters in each police area.

Sadly, these suggestions are unlikely to be adopted. But we hope that you will pay more attention to candidates' personal qualities than to party labels when deciding how to cast your vote in November.



County Council does a partial U-turn on street lights

Faced with mounting complaints and reports of difficulties at bus stops and road junctions, the Tory-run County Council has switched some of Keyworth's street lights on again in the middle of the night. Out of a total of 712 lights, 353 will now be off each night, saving £17.25 per year for each light. This is equivalent to **£2.29** saved on council tax for a Band D house. While we support the aim of cutting costs, using less energy and cutting emissions and light pollution, the minuscule saving makes us think it would have been better to leave well alone. The long-term aim must be to install low-energy LED lamps which can be left on all night and which produce little light pollution.

Local eyesores come under pressure!

Manor Road garages: These will be demolished and replaced with 3 new houses for social rent. The **Focus Team** have been pressing for this move for the last two years, and we hope this will lead to a reduction in vandalism. Other garage blocks are under review by Metropolitan Housing Trust (formerly Spirita).

Old Co-op store in Main Street: Following pressure from the **Focus Team** and nearby traders, the Co-op have partially tidied up the site, and they say they are continuing to look for a new occupier. It is possible that this site could be allocated for housing under the Neighbourhood Plan.

Garages behind the Parade on Wolds Drive: After hearing representations from the **Focus Team**, the Borough Council is talking to the absentee landlord about cleaning up the site, and it is likely that the garages will be demolished and replaced with parking spaces.

Street litter: Please keep us informed about problem areas. The **Focus Team** are continuing to work with the Borough Council on keeping our streets clean and tidy.

Focus Team working for the environment

FLOODS - what you can do to protect your home

Unfortunately there seems to be a trend in the climate towards having a "monsoon season" each year (as already happens in some parts of the world). Local authorities have to plan for flooding and to make arrangements for alleviating its effects. **Sam Boote** has been working with Rushcliffe Borough Council to deal with problems caused to residents in some parts of Keyworth during the recent wet weather.

Rushcliffe Borough Council keeps sandbags which can be delivered quickly to threatened properties if there is an immediate danger to homes. If there is a **RED** or **AMBER** warning of flooding in the weather forecast for your area and you believe that your home is at serious risk of flooding, phone the Borough Council immediately and ask for sandbags. The numbers are:

0115 981 9911 (main Council number) for all sandbag service requests and information

0115 981 1143 out-of-hours for emergencies

Do not delay action until after your home is flooded - act as soon as you know there is a definite threat.

The Borough Council does not provide sandbags to protect outbuildings and gardens or any type of commercial property. The Council cannot provide any pumps to help with the removal of floodwater from properties. If your home is flooded and needs to be pumped out, you should call the Fire Brigade. The Borough Council can also help with providing temporary accommodation for people who are displaced and do not have any alternative.

Nottinghamshire County Council should be called on **0844 980 8080** to report blocked culverts or drainage problems related to the highway.

Children's play area being reviewed

The Parish Council has started a review of the children's play area off Nottingham Road, and **Sam Boote** (pictured in the act of breaking the age limit!) is a member of the working group. In the short term, the area is being re-surfaced with wood chips. In the longer term, people are being asked what sort of facility they want. At a consultation at the Keyworth Show, visitors unanimously said the play facilities needed to be updated and improved, and the area should be relocated to somewhere bigger and better. **What do you think?**



Grass cutting

This has been a real pain during this year's wet weather, when grass has grown like mad and has been too wet to get machinery on to it. To see full information about the maintenance of public grassed areas, please visit www.samboote.org.uk, click on "NEWS" and look for "Grass-cutting schedules". Any complaints about grass cutting can be phoned to the Borough Council on 981 9911.



Keyworth-Wysall bridleway refused (for now)

A public inquiry was recently held to decide on the proposed bridleway between Lings Lane and Wysall. **Sam Boote** spoke in favour of the proposal, arguing that the route would be a much-needed benefit to the community, enabling young people to ride their horses in safety. Sadly, the inspector ruled against it. However, all is not lost. The County Council is now proposing to make a Creation Order for the same route, and this has a better chance of success. We support the bridleway and hope it is confirmed.

Pictured: Debbie Boote at the Wysall end of the proposed bridleway

Warm up your home and cut your bills

Sam Boote has been working with Rushcliffe Borough Council to bring this information to you. The Warmstreets scheme offers free and discounted loft and cavity wall insulation to all homeowners and private tenants.

Cavity wall insulation FREE TO ALL*

Loft insulation FREE TO ALL* households that currently have less than 100 mm

Loft insulation top-up (to 270 mm) typical cost £99** if you currently have between 100 mm and 150 mm

* Subject to survey ** Prices are subject to survey

Phone 0800 043 9569 before mid-December to take up this offer.

Liberal Democrat councillors working for you

Focus Team - active in the community

Debbie and Sam at the Keyworth Show

Following a request from the Show Committee that there should not be any political activity at the Show (this was in an effort to deter any appearance by the BNP at the Show), we ran our usual bookstall but without any political label, and we raised £145 for local charities. Thanks to all those who bought books, and thanks especially to the Committee for putting on an excellent Show in challenging conditions after all the rain of preceding weeks. The Show was supported by Rushcliffe Borough Council, thanks to a grant which we allocated via the Community Support Scheme.



Focus Team at the Jubilee celebrations

This was another event which brought its weather-related challenges! Debbie and Sam helped other parish councillors to put on an event that was much appreciated by visitors and traders. We even managed to get outside after the rain went off (you can just make out Councillor Linda Abbey on the left of the picture, outside the Village Hall).

Community Support Scheme grants

As we've previously explained, each borough councillor can allocate grants to local groups totalling £500 per year. In addition, Liberal Democrat councillors are giving £360 from their councillors' allowances. Pictured is **Sam Boote** handing over a cheque to the Crossdale Busy Bees pre-school group. The **Focus Team** have also given grants to the Keyworth Show and the Jubilee event (see above), the Royal British Legion, the Twinning Association and the Cadet Corps of Drums.



Keyworth shorties

Advice Centre: There have been some delays in re-launching the Centre, though we are still hoping to go ahead by the end of 2012. We urgently need volunteers to train as advisers. This might attract people with a professional background, a sympathetic manner and a willingness to help those in difficulties. The training is for a day a week over 12 weeks.

Olympics: We congratulate Keyworth's Sam Oldham on helping the men's gymnastics team to gain an Olympic medal (the first for 100 years). Sam has done more than anyone else to put Keyworth on the map.

Local Government boundary review: The new ward boundaries within Rushcliffe will be published on 18 September, and we wait to see whether North and South Keyworth will be merged into a single ward. (Note that the review of Parliamentary constituencies is a completely separate exercise, which seems to have stalled for the time being.)

Church Drive parking: Sam Boote has arranged a meeting in September to discuss ways of alleviating traffic problems in Church Drive during school times. More information will be given in the next Focus.



The Liberal Democrat Focus Team - always at your service!

Borough and parish councillors Debbie and Sam Boote and Linda Abbey.

51 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.