

FOCUS



Developing Plans



Congestion back from the Loughborough/Eton/Rugby junction.

Rushcliffe Council

- **Is consulting now** on a supplementary overall plan for building 1500 dwellings on Sharphill. Time is short – act now to get your views in.
- **Plan to move** the Civic Centre and Offices to the Arena as well as the improved Leisure Centre facilities.

See inside pages.

Road clear for 13,150 homes!

In December, Rushcliffe Council Meeting voted for the Local Plan Part 1. This strategy envisages 13,150 homes being built by 2028. A 28% increase in the housing stock in Rushcliffe! We are viewed as having more scope for expansion of housing than other places in the conurbation.

7,650 of these will be in, or adjoining, the conurbation. These include Clifton Pastures - 3,000; East of Gamston - 2,000 with a further 1,500 later; Sharphill/Melton Rd - 1,500 and plus 'windfall sites; e.g. on the College site.

Musters Councillors did not support this. We have argued against building on Sharphill but that if it occurred, there should be no more than 1200 homes. We know that the biggest local need is for 'affordable' and smaller homes and some suited to the elderly. We argued, along the lines of a Council report, that 40% should be required to be affordable.

Surprisingly Labour joined the Conservatives in voting for 1500 on Sharphill and only 'up to 30%' affordable!

Who do you trust to keep a watchful eye, speak out on local issues and keep you informed?

Our part in holding Rushcliffe's ruling group to account is double Labour's.

There are 6 Liberal Democrat and 5 Labour Councillors. Over the last 4 years in Full Council Meetings, Liberal Democrat Councillors

- spoke 162 times (Labour 79)
- asked 29 formal questions (Labour 1)
- proposed 21 amendments (Labour 5).

Planning and Sharphill News

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

The Rushcliffe Local Plan: In December the Council's plan to squeeze 1500 onto Sharphill and the Melton Triangle was approved by the Planning Inspector.

Rushcliffe put the amended Plan to the Council and it was approved despite our objections. One argument was that the lack of an approved plan (which has been the case so far this century) would be that the Council would have limited control and developers could come up with plans where they liked. Conversely they do anyway.

The Inspector said that the plan to allow some limited local vehicles from the estate onto Musters Road should be proved to be technically feasible. Her doubts included the traffic impact for local schools.

The northern facing slope of Sharphill up from Peveril with the views over Nottingham stays as Green Belt. It looks as if they may not be handing this over as the previously promised Community Park.

Bovis's application remains for 388 dwellings on land to the north of the Wheatcrofts. We remain concerned that this will reduce the green buffer zone for the wood.

Wimpey have applied (RBC Planning Ref: 14/02715/FUL) to build **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 incorporating the entrance to Edwalton Lodge Close. Surface drainage is a huge concern as is housing on what were to be football pitches. Friends of Sharphill Wood and the Sharphill Action Group have commented along with many others.

We continue to comment in detail on local applications. Now that building is imminent we will put views forward seeking to minimise the impact of building on Sharphill.

Rod and Karrar. "We want a community park, more buffer zones and affordable starter homes and social housing for rent for those on the housing waiting list, not more and more very expensive market housing crammed up to the existing properties and the wood."



Karrar and Rod have consistently argued that opening Musters Road to part of the new estate is daft and impractical. It should remain as a transponder operated barrier for buses and emergency service vehicles only.

**HAVE YOUR SAY
Public Consultation NOW on
Council's Plan for Sharphill.**

In the last Focus we said we hoped that the Council will bang heads together because the 'developers', having ditched the 2009 detailed master plan, are making separate disjointed applications.

Now Council Officers have drafted a supplementary planning document for what they call the Melton Road/Edwalton site. This specifies overall requirements. It includes indicative plans, access routes, phasing and contributions to community facilities. It includes building up to Musters and Boundary Roads. We have made many comments!

By the time this Focus reaches you this consultation will be underway. It is open to the Public for six weeks from when it is issued. The Plan is the Council saying what is required bearing in mind the developers' views.

Do you want your views heard?

If so make sure you obtain a copy of the document and comment. Ask the Council or keep your eye on the Rushcliffe website. Also you could join one of the groups trying to look after the area.

Your Focus Team – working locally

Working for Local Interests

Summary of Our Comments on other local plans

Rushcliffe's plans for the Arena

A Planning application has been submitted to enlarge the Centre to include a swimming pool, squash, and many other facilities. Also the Council offices and Council meeting facilities are planned to move there from the Civic Centre. You can see the plans on the Rushcliffe Council website under planning reference 14/01290/FUL.

We highlight the overarching planning concern; the shift to the eastern side of West Bridgford of existing more central services/centres and the creation of new services/centres in the east and the resulting impact. For example the Super-Surgery, Tram stops, Sainsbury's, this move of the Civic Centre and shift of Leisure facilities from Boundary Road. [The various planned new dwellings on Sharphill, on Wilford Lane and housing planned for the S Notts College site and for land at the back of Leisure Centres to Wilford Lane simply add to traffic volume.]

We have made submissions about the impact on the junction of Loughborough/Eton/Rugby Roads. We have suggested consideration of a pedestrian/cycling crossing near Chaworth Road and Northwold Avenue to encourage non-vehicular travel. We have again raised the lack of pedestrian lights on the crossing between ASDA and the Wolds Shops



Litter, lights and rubbish

Your Councillors report things that we notice such as potholes; litter and need for street cleaning; dog fouling; unlit lampposts; fly tipping; graffiti.

As a resident you can report things which you notice need fixing, cleaning or clearing. This includes missed bin collections or abandoned cars.

There is one place to contact: you don't have to know which department. 'Tell us' on 0115 981 9911 or on the Rushcliffe Council website.



The Wimpey plan off Edwalton Lodge Close

Overall it lacks coherence and clarity about the total impact of the 'development' of which it is part.

We are concerned that roads will have connections to other areas of the overall site. So another junction onto Melton Rd is not acceptable as there is no confidence about traffic volumes being limited to this site. We doubt the capacity of the Melton Rd sewer for the output from the total site. The site is on the lower part of the slope of the hill, so this application and Severn Trent's comments should take into account the impact of the total future dwellings.

We propose that there should be no surface water attenuation pond near present properties. The mix of types of dwellings should meet the Council's view of the mix to meet the needs in the Borough. It should be made clear what the contribution would be to additional playing fields, allotments, community hall, Community Park and the fencing and maintenance of Sharphill Wood.

Renewable energy

In December an application for a solar farm was approved near Colston Basset. In February a solar farm near Elton was approved. An earlier application for a solar farm near Normanton on Soar, was turned down with all Conservatives voting against.

Other local information

A Day Nursery is the current plan for Ludlow House. So the empty office block on the corner of Melton Road/Ludlow Hill Road may be put to good use.

Police

Report a spate thefts from cars – often those not locked! Take you bike for coding: Saturday 14th March, 10-11am Alford Road Park & Thursday 26th March, 6pm-7pm outside Morrisons' front door.

The next meeting of the West Bridgford Priority Setting Meeting is at 19.00 on 13 April at the Contact Centre.

More local news: The County Council plan to shorten the Melton Road parking bay between Portland Road and Manvers Road to provide a new bus stop location.

Only Your Focus Team 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.

West Bridgford Advice Centre- at St Giles Church Hall

Drop in or ring 0115 982 1475 **Wednesdays mornings only** 9.30-12.30 in term time. Free confidential advice on debt, benefits, employment, family, form filling. westbridgfordadvicecentre@gmail.com

Memory Lane Café. Friendship and support for people with dementia type conditions and their carers. 1st Monday of the month. 1400-16.00 WB Methodist Church, Musters Rd. Contact Sandra Morrey.

Sandra@morrey.biz

Parkinson's Support Group. Friendship and support. 1st Wednesday of the month 11.30-15.30 St Giles Church Hall, Stratford Rd. Contact Francis Highfield: bvso2.eastmids@parkinsons.org.uk

Community Grants. Each year Rushcliffe Council gives Councillors an amount of money which we can recommend to support items for specific Community Groups. This financial year grants have gone to: Friends of the Green Line, Friends of Sharphill Wood, Willow Pre-School, St Pauls Children's Activities, fire alarm system for Brownie/Guides (12th WB) for fire alarms and the Friary.

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. Some of the achievements are under the radar- not reported.



We support the NHS and oppose privatisation & fragmentation. Support the NHS walk was attended by David Turner of Edwalton Ward and Rod Jones.



Contact us with views or help:

Rod Jones 0115 914 6616

Karrar Khan 0115 914 6758

cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk

cllr.kkhan@rushcliffe.gov.uk

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.

For a Fairer Society and Stronger Economy