

Only Your Focus Team keep in touch all year

Focus is issued three times each year in Wards in which we have Councillors: keeping residents informed about what we do and what we stand for. We sometimes distribute Focus in other areas.

West Bridgford & Musters

FOCUS

AUTUMN 2017

News from the Rushcliffe Liberal Democrats



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS OBJECT TO THE CONSERVATIVE COUNTY COUNCIL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NATIONAL SCHEME FOR VULNERABLE CHILD MIGRANTS

Unaccompanied Asylum seeking children are the victims of tyranny in Syria, the wider Middle East and North Africa. They are not economic migrants. They are vulnerable and traumatised children who have witnessed unspeakable events. Yet the County Council has told the Government it will not take its fair share without higher amounts of money. **The County Council claims to have written to the Government for additional monies. Liberal Democrats would like this letter published.**

Rushcliffe Liberal Democrats called upon Nottinghamshire County Council to reinstate participation in the voluntary Scheme without prejudice to Looked After Children, to fund Child Asylum Seekers by simultaneous robust lobbying Government for additional funds.



FRIARY DROP-IN CENTRE GIVEN SPECIAL AWARD

The Friary has been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for 2017, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK and the equivalent of an MBE. The Award was presented in September at the Friary Church. The Mayor and Cllr Rod Jones attended.

The Friary works locally to end homelessness and as a UK registered charity relies heavily on a team of 150 volunteers to supplement the work of its staff and 300 people use the service each week. The Friary started by the Friary United Reform Church is supported, recognised and respected by the local community.

RESIDENTS VOW LOYALTY TO OUR QUALITY LOCAL SHOPS



The Sainsbury's shop opened on Melton Road in September. Local residents were not opposed to the upgrade of the petrol station. Most were concerned that another supermarket chain would undermine our really local shops.

Residents appreciate that the Melton Road shopping area provides an amazingly extensive range of products and services. This is better than the variety available in most other subsidiary shopping areas.

Recent conversations show that many local residents are determined to continue to shop at our independent traders.

Long may we continue to appreciate that we have an excellent range of sole traders providing high quality products and personal services.

COUNCIL FAILS TO MONITOR POLLUTION LEVELS

This was revealed by our questions at the June Council. Rushcliffe Cabinet recently decided to stop monitoring pollution at the Nottingham Knight and the A52 adjacent to Landmere Lane.

This was because three monitors showed that Nitrogen Dioxide levels were under the EU required maximum standard. The levels are still not good for health. Particulate levels are assumed and not measured.



ONE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA REMAINS IN WEST BRIDGFORD.

This includes the area around Lady Bay Bridge/Radcliffe Road junction along to the Trent Bridge/Loughborough Road/Radcliffe Road junction and then along to the Wilford Lane/Loughborough Road/Melton Road junction in West Bridgford.

Already high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide above the maximum level have shown a recent slight increase. Particulate levels are not known.

INSIDE:

- Sharphill
- Councillor report
- Wilford Lane
- Roads



TOILET TWINNING

Rod Jones joined the Mayor and others at the formal event in July. Funds had been raised by the Methodist Church on Musters Road, to provide over 40 toilets in third world countries. These improve hygiene, health, safe water and school attendance. Certificates are now displayed in Jesse Gray and Rushcliffe Schools in addition to others who have donated before. If interested see www.toilettwinning.org

◀ Cake to celebrate West Bridgford becoming a Toilet Twinning Town



Views? Help in Musters? Contact your Councillors

Rod Jones 0115 914 6616
cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Karrar Khan 0115 914 6758
cllr.kkhan@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Our webpage is rushcliffelibdems.org.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 110 Repton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7EL or contact one of our Councillors.

For a Fairer Society and Stronger Economy

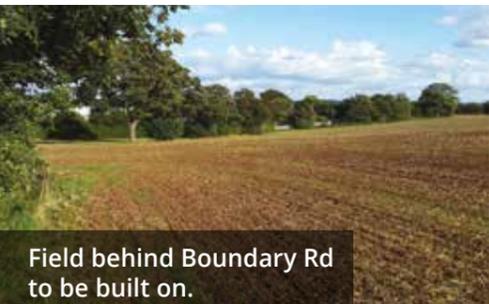
PLANNING NEWS – SHARPHILL

RESIDENTS & COUNTY COUNCIL FORCE DEVELOPERS TO BACK DOWN OVER MUSTERS ROAD ACCESS.

Residents were outraged to find developers trying to renege on the condition that Musters Road would not be open as a cut through. Over 500 wrote and the developers backed down.

The changed Outline Plan for 600 dwellings was approved at the Planning Committee on 14 September: application reference 17/00941/OUT.

Rod Jones and another Councillor voted against. Accepting that the principle of building is established, we were not satisfied with provision for the community and the impact on new and existing residents Rod's speech can be seen at: <https://rushcliffelibdems.org.uk/a915CJ>



GOOD:

- **Musters Road** access will be now limited to bus and emergency traffic for the life of the 'development'. This is to promote sustainable travel and reduce car journeys. It is expected that the control will be by cameras and fines.
- **30% affordable dwellings.**
- **Primary School** to be 2 class entry. Although children from the new houses will want schools before this one is up and running!

BAD:

- **Surface Water run-off** from the north facing slope will join the drains connecting with Boundary Rd and roads downstream. Storm surges already lead to flooding. We believe that since the plans have not included how this will be stopped, this should be addressed.
- **No plans for a community run centre**, no onsite health provision, no church or church hall, no shops, and no Waitrose is in sight. There is no day centre where the community can gather. Proposed joint use of a school hall will not allow full access. It will not enable the development of such things as playgroups, support and activity groups, lunch clubs, memory cafes, guides, scouts, youth clubs and hold social events. Other Councillors agreed with this.

We don't want another soulless expanse of housing.

- **Outline site layout** drawing is unacceptable as it shows houses which would be too close to adjoining residents of Musters Rd, Boundary Rd, Willow Rd and Bracey Drive.
- **They would tower over many properties Boundary Rd, Willow Rd and Bracey Drive.** It lacks detail about the height of dwellings which will dominate the skyline.
- **Allotments** details should be submitted with an appropriate store and secure boundary treatment.

Rushcliffe Council's supplementary plan and the application zones were described in the Summer Focus 2016. Both can be seen at rushcliffelibdems.org.uk

We all need to keep an eye on the developers planning applications

Watch out for the detailed application.



- **Inadequate provision for children & young people.** The slopes of the 'community park' and allotments are great for adults but opportunities for young people provided on the total estate are negligible. Teenagers need an area to kick a ball and mess around. A small play area proposed next to the primary school is designed to cover all ages. The only space suitable for teenagers for the entire 1,600 dwellings for football and basketball is tiny: roughly 9 by 10 metres. The Council is plain wrong in using a financial contributions to Gresham Fields; it is 3 miles away! The all-weather pitch funded for Rushcliffe School is inside their fence. Both have to be booked and paid for.

Rushcliffe Council has a 'deal' on all this land. It stands to gain 40% of the development value of 178.94 acres of the land. This was described in our February Focus 2016.



▲ Karrar was impressed by Selby Road Open Gardens

WILFORD LANE

Rod was not impressed by the approval by the majority on the Planning Committee of the application to build 171 dwellings on the site of the former slag and rubbish tip.

The application contained no play area, no tree replacement requirements

and no assessment of the impact on the air quality on Wilford Lane. All social housing is to be plonked 'en masse' at the far end of the estate where the methane emissions are worse! A local resident later wrote "it was a rubbish decision by a rubbish council to build on rubbish..."

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

In Council's March Meeting we said that the Council had not enforced its own planning conditions prior to opening the Arena. This was that nearby bus shelters and the Loughborough Rd pedestrian crossing should be in place beforehand. We asked in the light of this what confidence could the public have in enforcement in the Borough'. We were told that enforcement was carried out.

PLACES FOR OUTDOOR PLAY

Liberal Democrats proposed a motion at the recent Council Meeting calling for space for ball games on all large estates. The Conservatives said they agreed with the principle of our motion but voted against this, and added another motion with the words "where practicable". This can be used as an excuse not to provide play space. See Rod's motion and speech at: <https://rushcliffelibdems.org.uk/a015CK>

PLACES TO PARK

In November Charges for Car Parks in West Bridgford raised the cost for one hour from £1 to £1.50 while allowing a 50p charge for up to 30 minutes. This has annoyed local shopkeepers and residents. Karrar's proposal that the 30 minutes should be free was not heeded. For 2016-17 the charges raised £520,960. The Council benefits from the high charges but is this fair for West Bridgford residents?

OTHER COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Most months we are contacted by local residents concerned about planning applications. After visiting we often discuss these with Rushcliffe Officers. We are also involved and in contact with officials about neglected properties and public nuisance foul smelling vehicles.

ROADS AND PAVEMENTS

There are too many roads where the surface is cracking up but the County Council does not have the money to repair them.

Asked for our views on the highest priorities, we said:

- Renew the anti-skid surfaces (currently crazed) at the pedestrian crossings on Boundary and Melton Roads.
- Resurface: Grainger Ave. and Willow Rd. leading to it; the top half of Harrow Rd., and all Exeter Rd. (very crazed).



REMOVING WEEDS.

The earlier spraying of some roads was done whilst it was raining. We asked for a second spray for those roads and their pavements. This time it worked.

LARGE HOUSE BUILDERS FAIL THE NATION AND THE YOUNG

Berkeleys paid £92 million to their six Board members: success in high end London!! Nationally planning permission exists for 32,000 homes which are not built and much more land has been allocated for building.

Housebuilders have an interest in price rises – whilst many of our residents have an interest in available dwellings for rent and for buying. Sadly recent surveys show that 1 in 10 buyers of new homes are dissatisfied with the quality.

Liberal Democrats say that Councils can build a new generation of high quality affordable homes if the Government would change the financial rules which restrict this.

GOVERNMENT CUTS & HOMELESSNESS

The Benefit Cap is hitting families with children. Try paying over £500 per month rent out of basic benefits! This is the main reason for the rise in local and national homelessness.

If your benefit income is over a certain level, usually when you have 3 or more children, then housing benefit ceases. The more children there are in the family the more total basic benefits they receive, but the Cap means that housing benefit stops, so the available money is not enough to feed, clothe growing children, support them at school and pay rent. Benefit levels are frozen. That's why there were 32 families in Rushcliffe earlier this year losing in total £6,864 per month.