



Melton Road

Where have all the roadside flowers gone; long time passing; trampled under diggers every one!



We want to see the daffodils and hedges planted again along Melton Road

At the March Council we:

- supported the Conservatives Council Tax proposals
- noted that Rushcliffe's Council Tax is not as low as presented owing to precepts and Parish taxes
- opposed the increase in parking charges in West Bridgford alone for 2017
- expressed concern that the Council's strategy did not include any increase in social rented housing
- opposed the proposed Derbyshire/Notts authority with an elected Mayor
- asked formal questions about new housing estates. The Council requires that residents will have an extra charge per house (a roof tax) to pay a private company to manage the green spaces and drainage. What would stop the company selling land off? What will the Council do if the Company went bust?

At the June Council we asked questions about:

- the Council funding the Cricket Club to provide support activities to troubled school children and those on the verge of exclusion. This scheme covers Cotgrave, Radcliffe, Bingham, Keyworth and now East Leake. So why exclude only West Bridgford? Had West Bridgford Schools been consulted about troubled children who might be helped? The answer: the others were priority areas, West Bridgford wasn't and its Town Centre had comparatively more to offer young people!
- the lack of plans to house as many Syrian refugees under the Government's Scheme as other local councils.

Conservative Council's Poor Housing Record

The Council keeps relying on private house builders to build and as a result to provide 30% affordable homes (in some areas only 10%). As we see house builders keep on hesitating. The approval for some 1,000 homes in Bingham is now several years old and yet no brick has been laid. There are other examples.

This means that Rushcliffe fails to meet its minimum target for new homes for the next 5 years. The current Government has slanted the rules to blame Councils for this. So the rules give developers a basis to argue for yet more building land; land banking.

Rushcliffe Council has a budget to help mainly Housing Associations provide affordable homes on small sites. Last year it was underspent by £409,000!

Yet thousands are struggling to get a home, homelessness is rising, young people struggle to live independently. Nearly 1.4 million people are on council waiting lists in England.

We want:

- **Councils to be allowed to become major builders of new homes,**
- **The Government to stop the right to buy social housing at below the market cost.**

Planning and related News

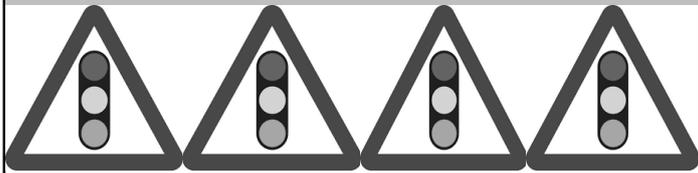
SHARPHILL

Barratts are well advanced towards building their homes in the 'triangle'.

Waitrose are hesitating for a few months but already have invested a lot of money in the road works.

Bovis and Wimpey have not started yet despite Rushcliffe's majority giving them planning permission some time ago.

Rushcliffe Council stands to gain millions from the sale of much of the land between Melton Road and the Wood.



There will be four extra sets of traffic lights that are planned to greet you on Melton Road.

Keyworth buses will take longer and residents may face changes to bus times.

Your Councillors

- asked Rushcliffe Council to clear twitchells of weeds which they did.
- asked the County Council to collect the grass cuttings when mowing outside the bungalows on Harrow & Repton Roads. They say they never have and they have no scope to change given their reduced budgets. There is one more cut occurring in West Bridgford between 26 September and 10 October 2016.

Q. How much is the **Arena Civic Centre** and Leisure Centre costing.

A. £15.1 million according to the audit report.

Q. Did we know that West Bridgford along with Nottingham is a **poor air quality area** by EU standards?

A. Yes although Rushcliffe Council play this down. The City & County are asking the Government to support a Clean Air Zone. This would include charging high polluting vehicles; pedestrian friendly measures and cleaner buses.

Potholes should be reported to the County Council online or report to their Customer Services on **0300 500 80 80**. The County's criteria are:

"For a pothole to be considered a safety defect it must be at least 40mm deep in the road surface or 20mm deep in a footway for us to fix it. We have to prioritise our repair programme as maintenance funding is limited."

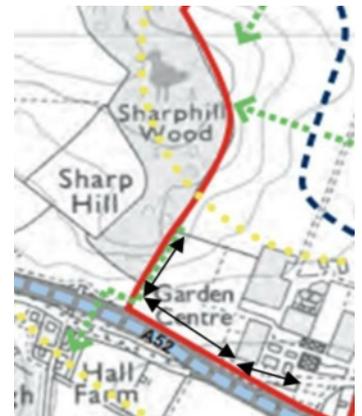
Flooding from surface water on roads should be reported to the County Council. For a road or a property where flooding is from sewers or water pipes, contact Severn Trent's 24 hr number on **0800 783 4444**. If in doubt tell both.

Footpath Link from Sharphill to Landmere Lane/Wheatcrofts

Thanks to all those who have given statements and supported Rod in establishing the Rights of Way over Sharphill.

The last link is now established following a meeting on site and the agreement of the owner of the land. So our special thanks to Chris Wheatcroft who recognised the sense in this and offered this route footpath for the public to use.

This right of way is between the Wood and Landmere Lane/ the Garden Centre (see the arrows). Instead of walking across the car park, the footpath leaves the one which goes south to the ring road. The new path is inside the hedge field boundary parallel with the ring road. At the eastern end is a stile.



Your West Bridgford Focus Team – working locally

Working for Equality of Opportunity

Liberal Democrats want changes in the law to:

- **make future subsidies go to small and medium eco-friendly farms**
- **end Off-Shore Tax Havens**
- **end the Trusts which enable the very rich to avoid inheritance tax. Examples below**



Eaton Sq plus Mayfair and Belgravia are part of the over £9 billion Duke of Westminster estate passed down via a Trust. No 40% inheritance tax paid.

2,000 acres at **Hatfield House** and thousands of acres at **Cranbourne** owned by Viscount Cranbourne. The estate benefits from farm subsidies, yet is registered in Jersey.

27,258 acres of **North Yorkshire** gained EU subsidies yet are owned by an American via a Hong Kong off-shore company.

Since 1999, 97,500 properties including 490,000 acres have become owned by companies registered in tax havens. There are more from before 1999.

The **UK Conservative Government has NOT reduced the use of** British Tax Havens. It blocked proposals which would have stopped farm subsidies to large land holders.

Hambledon 1,600 acres with the village used in *Midsummer Murders*, bought by a Swiss foreign exchange dealer is registered in the British Virgin Islands.



Tusmore Park. 3,000 acre estate owned by Wafic Said via a Panama registered company, which has received millions in EU farm subsidies.

Our Environment

24.7% of our electricity was produced from renewable energy sources in 2005. Yet the Government made tax and other changes which slowed the installation of solar, wind and hydro. We want these sources to be better promoted. We are not convinced that fracking is any long term answer and safety and disposal of chemicals is not ensured. It is unlikely that the Environment Agency has the resources to monitor fracking often enough.

95% of our beaches are clean enough to swim from. Thanks to the EU's Water Directive. The UK Government fought it to continue to pump untreated sewage. We hope that public pressure will lead the Government to enshrine the same standards as we enjoy today.



Upset by roadside litter

We want a change to the law so that the car owner can be prosecuted. At present, outside London, the person throwing the litter has to be identified to be prosecuted.

Police and the Community

- Following reports of a vehicle suspiciously cruising local roads the Police made arrests.
- Police warn that some people selling their items on online platforms are falling victim to a new type of advance fee fraud. This involves a fraudster, posing as a buyer, sending an email to the seller (victim), agreeing to the full asking price of the item. They state that they are unable to collect the item themselves and will arrange for a courier to pick it up instead. The fraudster then sends a fake payment confirmation email from a different email address, one which falsely purports to be from a payment platform. In the course of the email exchange, the seller/victim is requested to pay the courier fee. Once the payment is made, the contact is broken, the item is not picked up and the money paid for the 'courier' is gone.
- Cycle thefts continue regardless of value. It is recommended that you secure them by D locks, bike marking and in the centre of West Bridgford park them in the Cycle Shed or on public view.

Join our local focus distribution groups. Every little help is appreciated.

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.

Proposals for West Bridgford Cycle Routes. With other residents, we attended the County Council's consultation event. Some themes from our comments are:

- Measures to improve roads for walking and cycling are welcome. We support having 20mph on South, Chaworth, North and Devonshire Roads. All major arterial roads inside the ring road to be at 30 mph; the current chopping and changing is not coherent. Present Radcliffe Road speeds are a disincentive to walk or cycle.
- We opposed removing trees which have street scene and environmental value and specifically the possible three on Devonshire. We accept one on Boundary Rd near the Melton junction should be removed but a replacement planted in the vicinity.
- Suggestions for shared use of pavement on Musters Road from the Melton Road junction to the top are unnecessary and with added risks given it is a wide and straight road. Proposals for some intersections such as Eton/Rugby and Boundary/Melton were not clear.
- Wherever a shared pavement route is decided the surface should provide good grip for pedestrians in icy weather and algae growth conditions. Any shared pedestrian/cycling route should have signs which ideally demarcate the separate routes or tell cyclists to give way to pedestrians or tell cyclists be aware of pedestrians and reversing cars. This is also vital on 'cut throughs' or twitchells.

What do you think about the County Council requiring residents to register their vehicles in order to use County Recycling Centres?

We believe that it might deter recycling and cause problems when people change or hire cars and when 'outsiders' help elderly or relatives.

Please let us know your views



Several Residents asked could there be a bus shelter at the Musters & Malvern inbound bus stop.

The main reason given is that this location is especially exposed to the elements. Many people live in the vicinity who depend on the bus service.

We organised a headcount and conducted an opinion survey. We believe that after safety assessments, a decision from the County Council is imminent.

Local email news to you. Since our last newsletter we have sent out several Community News emails with up-to-date information about local events, police alerts and local issues. Interested to see these? Contact cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

Voluntary services supported by our use of the Rushcliffe Community Grant for last year included the **Ear Foundation**. They provide a walk in hearing aid clinic on the 3rd Monday of the month between 10 and 11 a.m. at West Bridgford Baptist Church. The Ear Foundation can be contacted on 0115 942 1985.



Views? Help in Musters? Contact your Councillors

Rod Jones 0115 914 6616
Karrar Khan 0115 914 6758
cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk
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 17 Rannock Gardens, Keyworth, NG12 5FQ or contact one of our Councillors.

For a Fairer Society and Stronger Economy