

# Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



May 2021

## A New Queen's Speech to Build Back Better

In Parliament, we started last month off with the Queen's speech and the announcement of an exciting and ambitious programme of new legislation. From banning conversion therapy to supporting our veterans, this Queen's speech focused on building back better from the pandemic and delivering on key promises made to the British public back in 2019.

Some of the key announcements include:

- A Skills and Post-16 Education Bill for England, with loans for adults wanting to retrain
- A ban on so-called conversion therapy
- Passing the Environment Bill to allow us to set legally binding environmental targets
- An Animal Sentience Bill to increase protection for all pets, sporting, and farming animals
- An Online Safety Bill to make the internet safer, especially for children, while protecting freedom of expression
- A Telecommunications (Security) Bill to ensure the long-term security and resilience of the UK's telecoms networks and minimise the threat of potential adversaries
- National Insurance Contribution Relief for employers of veterans

- An Armed Forces Bill to support our veterans and currently servicemen and further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law
- A Victims Bill to guarantee support from the police, courts, and other criminal justice agencies for those affected by crime
- A Health and Care Bill to empower the NHS to innovate and embrace technology to allow patients to receive more tailored and preventative care close to home and to improve the oversight of how social care is commissioned and delivered.

You can watch the full 9-minute speech here:  
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-57071775?  
fbclid=IwAR2L5HaPB8IVIOaLMNO\\_m7tYNL5-m78PaugydfitEX8RchoZV-  
iDOMxR918](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-57071775?fbclid=IwAR2L5HaPB8IVIOaLMNO_m7tYNL5-m78PaugydfitEX8RchoZV-iDOMxR918)

## **Back our Bid for a New Health and Community Hub in East Leake**

This month, I launched my campaign to secure the funding needed for a new health and community hub in the heart of East Leake village. I am working with Rushcliffe Borough Council and local health authorities to bid for funding from the Government's £4.8bn Levelling Up Fund and NHS funding streams.

The current health centre in East Leake is one of the oldest health centres in Nottinghamshire, it is no longer big enough to serve the growing population in the village and surrounding areas and is in need of significant refurbishment.

If successful, the bid will transform the centre into a modern, purpose-built Health and Community Hub that can house multiple services such as physiotherapy, a pharmacy and other services such as a library.

Over the last few weeks, I have been asking the residents of East Leake and anyone who uses East Leake Health Centre to 'Back our Bid' and add their name to the growing list of people who want to see a new Health and Community Hub in East Leake.

You can learn more about this campaign and register your support by going to my website at: <https://www.ruthedwards.org.uk/news/east-leake-health-and-community-hub>

Click here:

# EAST LEAKE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY HUB

## BACK OUR *BID*



That's why I'm backing a bid for a  
**Health and Community Hub**

## A Step Closer to Normality: Progress on the Roadmap out of Lockdown

We made our penultimate step out of lockdown this month with Step 3 going ahead as planned on May 17. A number of restrictions were eased, including outdoor gatherings now being limited to 30 people and indoor gatherings limited to 6 people or 2 households and the opening of indoor venues such as cinemas, theatres, concert halls, bowling alleys, casinos, amusement arcades, museums, pubs and cafes (indoor setting).

I've been enjoying visits to the Martin's Arms and the Wharf Cafe, although perversely, the weather is now so nice no one wants to sit indoors!

This easing of restrictions will emphasise personal responsibility rather than government rules. Instead of instructing you to stay 2m apart from anyone you don't live with, you will be encouraged to exercise caution and consider the guidance on risks associated with COVID-19 and actions you can take to help keep you and your loved ones safe. Remember that the risks of close contact may be greater for some people than others and in some settings and circumstances, there will be specific guidance that you will need to follow even when you are with friends and family.

You can view the full guidance on the Government's dedicated COVID webpage here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

If we continue to make progress on limiting the spread of the virus and rolling out our vaccine at pace, we will see a further easing of restrictions no earlier than Monday 21 June. Until then, we need to continue to be vigilant and keep ourselves and others safe by following the latest guidance and getting the vaccine when we are eligible. As I write this, already 38.6 million have received a first dose (73.3% of UK adults) and 24 million have received both doses (45.3% of UK adults). If you are over the age of 30 you can book your vaccine of the NHS's website here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

## Protecting the Environment and Halting the Decline in Nature

Earlier this month, I spoke in the debate on the Environment Bill during its

eagerly awaited return to Parliament. This landmark piece of legislation will put environmentalism at the heart of policy making for many years to come.

In the debate, I focused on what this Bill will do for nature and biodiversity in the UK and around the world. In particular, I spoke about how the Bill's target to halt the decline in nature in England by 2030 could help vulnerable British species like the Brown Long-Eared Bat (for which I am the Bat Conservation Trust's species champion). I also took the chance to talk about house building and developing and the need to exhaust our building options on brownfield sites before we consider building in the green countryside. When we do build more houses, we need to make sure these are nature-friendly - that is why the provisions in the Environment Bill are so important - they will require all new developments to have a biodiversity net gain of over 10%. Finally, I praised the measures in the Bill for a new due diligence law which will ensure our supply chains are free from illegal deforestation by requiring large businesses that use forest risk commodities to acquire those commodities in line with local deforestation laws - this will make sure we are doing our bit to help stop illegal deforestation abroad.

Recently, I also chaired a [Conservative Environmental Network \(CEN\) webinar](#) on restoring global nature. I was joined by former Chancellor Sajid Javid, International Environment Minister Lord Goldsmith, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam, WWF Executive Director of Advocacy and Campaigns Kate Norgrove and CEN International Ambassador Stanley Johnson. We discussed the Environment Bill and the measures mentioned above and how this Government's green agenda will put us on a solid foundation in preparation for discussions and negotiations at COP26 and the UN Biodiversity Conference.

[Click here:](#)



**RUTH EDWARDS: Thank you MDS**  
**I think many of us will be glad to see the back**

## **Questioning the Minister for Policing on Online Advertisement Scams**

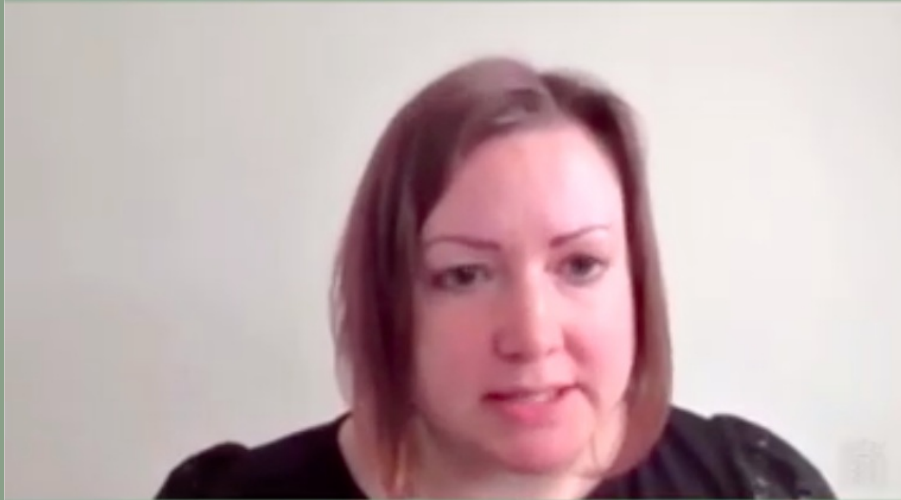
Last month, I held a debate on online advertisement scams. This month, I took the opportunity to raise this issue with the Minister for Policing, Kit Malthouse.

Tech giants such as Google and Facebook are making billions of pounds pushing adverts into our newsfeeds, but this includes ads from criminals and fraudsters who have not had to provide proper proof of their identity or of the legitimacy of their product/service. I was pleased to hear that the Policing Minister shared my frustrations and agreed that these tech companies could do more to assist us in stopping fraudulent adverts reaching users on their sites.

[Click here:](#)



**RUTH  
EDWARDS**  
Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



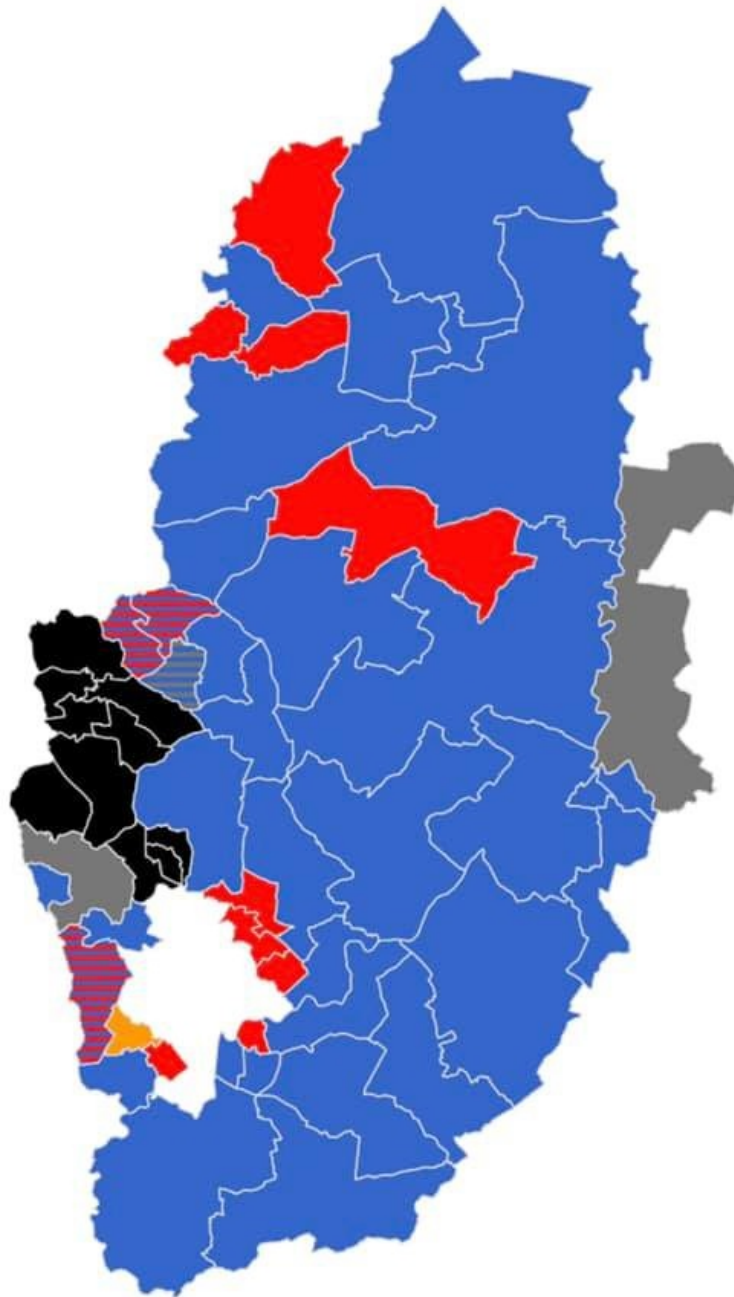
to make online platforms legally responsible for making reasonable checks to verify the identity

## **Notts Goes Blue!**

We went to the polls this month to cast our ballots in the local and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections. For the first time since 2009, the Conservatives took overall control of the County Council. 34 Council seats were needed for a majority and the Conservatives increased their share by 3. In addition, for the first time since their creation in 2012, the Conservatives gained the Police and Crime Commissioner post. I look forward to working with this new council and our new PCC Caroline Henry on the things which matter to residents in Rushcliffe.

I spoke about these results, the UK's response to COVID and the roadmap out of lockdown on ITV's Central Lobby. Joining me was Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak Steve McCabe and Green Party opposition leader on Solihull Council Steve Caudwell. You can watch the full 20-minute episode here:  
<https://www.itv.com/news/central/2021-05-21/central-lobby-may-2021-what-next-for-the-labour-party-after-the-poor-local-election-results>

# 2021 result map



## Government Commits to Reviewing the Computer Misuse Act

I'm pleased to announce that the Government has committed to a review of the Computer Misuse Act. This is something I've been campaigning for since before my election in 2019.

As someone who worked in the cybersecurity sector, I've seen first-hand the huge range and volume of threats which individuals, companies and government agencies face on a daily basis.

The Computer Misuse Act is important because it is the main piece of legislation covering cyber-dependent crime – that is, crimes such as hacking, exploitation and the use of computer viruses to steal data or cause damage. The Act was world leading when it was introduced in 1990 but the digital world has now changed beyond recognition.

It's vital that we have up to date laws so that the UK is the safest place to do business online.

In November 2020, I contributed to a joint report by techUK and lobby group CyberUp which called for these reforms. You can read that here: <https://bit.ly/2RNwy4T>

## Out and About in Rushcliffe

I went to Barton in Fabis this month to view the proposed site of a Gravel Pit/Processing facility.

I met with local residents Peter Hewlett and Roy Haines-Young and Barton Parish Councillor Julian Coles to discuss the proposal and what it would mean for the local area and community in Barton. I was extremely concerned about the environmental impact this proposal could have and I look forward to supporting residents in opposing the planning application.



I dropped in at our vaccination centre in Gamston to drop off the posters from my Spring Poster Competition.

The team there had a very difficult decision in choosing the winners, but many congratulations to the winner Shreeya, aged 7 from West Bridgford and runners-up Callum, aged 11 from Gotham and Emily, aged 8 from West Bridgford!

Well done to the winners and thank you to everyone that submitted a poster! All the posters will be taking pride of place displayed at the vaccine centre to encourage everyone working there and visiting the centre to get their vaccine.



I visited Greythorn Primary School in West Bridgford to see the new zebra crossing installed outside of the school. I supported parents, the School, local residents and County Councillor Gordon Wheeler in their campaign for a new crossing to improve road safety. I'm delighted that the County Council has listened and taken action.



I had an amazing visit to BeadaMoss in East Leake where Dr Neal and Barbara Wright are propagating sphagnum moss.

This is an incredible plant with huge powers! It's used in peatland restoration, which is hugely important for keeping CO2 out of our atmosphere. Interestingly



it is also naturally antiseptic and was used to dress wounds in the First World War.

Globally, peatlands store twice as much carbon as the world's forests but damaged peatlands release 6% of global CO2 emissions.

They're also trialling sphagnum farming, using sphagnum as an alternative growing media for horticulture.

It's always amazing to see Rushcliffe companies being at the forefront of our fight against climate change and our journey to net-zero!

Learn more about what they're doing and why peatland is so important here: <http://www.beadamoss.co.uk/page8.html>



Thank you to the team at GeoPura for taking me through their incredible story and giving me a virtual tour of one of their hydrogen fuel cells.

GeoPura is harnessing the power of hydrogen to power construction sites, electric cars, festivals and film sets.

They provide energy for National Grid's UK Viking Link construction site, the BBC's first zero emissions Winterwatch broadcast and so many more!

I'm looking forward to working with them on what more needs to be done to roll out hydrogen power across the UK!



I also went to East Leake Pavilion with recently elected Leake and Ruddington County Councillor Matthew Barney to listen to the exciting plans for its redevelopment and to offer my support.

So far, hundreds of thousands of pounds has been raised for its redevelopment from grants, developer contributions and donations from the wonderful community in East Leake.

We're currently looking at additional funding streams to get a modern pavilion that East Leake can be proud of.



It was great to attend the APPG for British Hindus this month to learn about their upcoming survey into the issues faced by the Hindu community here in Britain.

I asked about the opportunities for the local Hindu community in Rushcliffe to engage with the survey. I look forward to providing further updates in the near future.



Finally, I visited the Fire and Police Teams at West Bridgford combined Police and Fire Station.

I enjoyed a tour of the shared station, led by station manager Craig Day and Inspector Craig Berry. We finished the visit with my monthly catch-up with Craig Berry and the new area Chief Inspector for Rushcliffe Heather Sutton. We discussed our community's current crime problems, namely bike and catalytic converter theft and what the force's plans are for tackling rural and farm crime.



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