



Rushcliffe

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up!

April 2021

Leading a Debate in Parliament on Online Scams and Supporting Victims

Earlier this week, I held a debate in Parliament on protecting consumers from online advertisement scams.

Currently, online platforms like search engines and social media platforms have no legal obligation to protect users against fake or fraudulent content. Many people believe that if something is advertised, on Google for example, that Google has checked that the company taking out the advert is who they claim to be. That however is often not the case. I think online platforms should be required to do much more to protect their users.

In the debate, I discussed the case of a Rushcliffe couple who had £30,000 stolen from them in a 'clone scam', in which fraudsters placed fake adverts pretending to be Goldman Sachs on Google. These adverts trick people into purchasing a non-existent product, making a fake investment, or entering their financial information, which is then stolen. Unfortunately, these scams are not rare. In 2020 alone, £78 million was lost to clone scams, with the average victim losing £45,000.

We need to improve the way online advertising is regulated. The burden shouldn't be on the consumer to decide whether a link they've seen is a scam. Big tech companies have to step up and take reasonable steps, such as making checks on the identity of those taking out adverts on their platform, to keep their platform safe for everyone who uses it.

My debate was covered in the Financial Times Advisor (<https://www.ftadviser.com/pensions/2021/04/29/mp-joins-calls-to-force-internet-giants-to-tackle-scams/>) and by Pensions Expert (<https://www.pensions-expert.com/Law-Regulation/MP-joins-calls-to-force-internet-giants-to-tackle-scams?ct=true>).

Click here:



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Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



reported a fraudulent ad on Google said the advert was not taken down by the search engine,

Tackling Pet Theft in Rushcliffe

From what I hear and see from local residents on social media, it is clear that pet theft is becoming an increasingly worrying issue. As a pet owner and animal lover, I completely understand the concern. That is why I have launched a Pet Theft Survey to hear the views of Rushcliffe residents on the issue. I would be grateful if you would consider completing my survey [here](#). I will share the results in next month's newsletter.

Working with Onward on Getting to Net Zero

As many of you know, one of my key priorities is to see the UK reduce its own carbon footprint and support other countries to reduce theirs.

This is why I am a member of the steering group for a year long research programme run by the think tank Onward called [Getting to Zero](#)

Last month we published the second in our series of research papers, called [Greening the Giants](#).

This report sets out the radical action we need to take to decarbonise the 12 most carbon-intensive industries which together represent some three-fifths of the UK's emissions and employ one in every five jobs.

Currently, carbon-intensive industries are concentrated in the midlands, the north of England and Scotland. Around 51% of jobs in these 12 industries can be found in these regions.

This presents a challenge, but also an opportunity. While every region stands to benefit from some new green jobs, these jobs will be disproportionately located in those very same areas that are set to be most affected by the net zero transition.

If the Government takes the right steps, and quickly, we can deliver around 1.7 million new green jobs, with more than half in these regions. This will include between 900,000 and 1.3 million jobs in low-carbon heating and energy efficiency, 367,000 jobs in electric vehicles and 36,000 jobs in low-carbon

power.

This is a fantastic opportunity and a really exciting time for Rushcliffe and the whole of the East Midlands.

Protecting our Oceans and Marine Biodiversity

This month we celebrated Earth Day which is a day to reaffirm our commitment to leaving the planet in a better state than we found it and our shared responsibility to protect our planet.

Later this year, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) which brings together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. As COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society. This is something I asked Alok Sharma, the President for COP26, about. Specifically, I asked how we can further strengthen the UK's world-leading approach to protecting the world's oceans and marine biodiversity. Currently, only 1% of international waters are protected so I was pleased to hear the UK is working hard to conclude negotiations at the UN on a new convention for the conservation of the world's marine biodiversity.

Click here:



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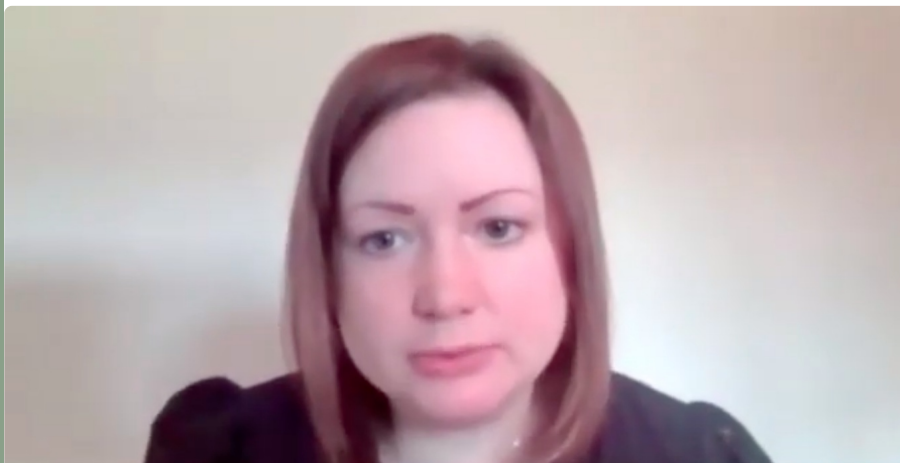
ocean, as shown by the success of its Blue Belt and 30 by 30 programmes.

Protecting Wilford Field - Pushing for a Nature Reserve

While protecting the environment requires a global effort, there are also many things we can do in our own communities. That's why I'm supporting the campaign to designate Wilford Field in West Bridgford as a local nature reserve, protecting it from any future development.

The campaign is being led by Daniel Atherton, a local resident who is mobilising his community to protect this green area. His petition has already received over 2500 signatures with support from all over the West Bridgford area. You can sign the petition [here](#).

We can sometimes forget to appreciate the green spaces on our doorstep, but this year has shown us how important they are. It's up to us to preserve and protect these spaces.



Update on the A52 Bingham Road Junction proposals in Radcliffe on Trent

On 23 April, I had a very productive meeting with Highways England to discuss the A52 Bingham Road junction and the concerns many residents have raised with me over traffic, speeding and plans to stop vehicles turning left from Bingham Road.

I'm glad to report that, in response to my concerns about the robustness of the traffic data, Highways England have agreed to carry out a new traffic survey over two more weeks. This will provide a fuller data set which will clarify the volume of traffic in the area and mean that any improvements are made on the basis of robust evidence.

Officers from Highways England have also agreed to look into reports of speeding at the junction and will consider speed monitoring and other possible options to address this.

I will of course update all residents on these issues and I will share the results of the traffic survey when they are released.

CAMPAIGN SUCCESS: The Domestic Abuse Bill becomes law, threats to share included

The Domestic Abuse bill is now law and I'm delighted that it includes provisions to make threatening to share intimate photos of someone without their consent an offence punishable by up to two years in prison. This removes a tool which abusers use to manipulate their victims.

I campaigned for this to be included in the bill with Natasha Saunders, a former Rushcliffe resident and domestic abuse survivor, who has been working with Refuge to raise awareness of the need for a change in the law. It is because of her bravery and courage, and that of other survivors like her, that we have achieved this change..

In addition to this, the Act will:

ensure that abusers will no longer be allowed to directly cross-examine their victims in the family and civil courts

give the police new powers to provide victims with immediate protection from abusers, while courts will be able to hand out new Domestic Abuse Protection

Orders to help prevent offending by forcing perpetrators to take steps to change their behaviour

create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation

clamp down on the so called 'rough sex' defence.

place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation

Relaxing restrictions and beating the COVID-19 pandemic

A hairdresser, a hairdresser, my kingdom for a hairdresser! Like so many of you I was delighted to charge back through the doors of my hairdresser earlier this month and am no longer modelling the 'shaggy yak' look. I've also been enjoying some lovely alfresco meals in the rain and the luxury of shopping for things that aren't deemed 'essential'.

We are still powering ahead with our vaccine roll-out. Currently, over 34 million people have had their first dose of the vaccine, with 14 million having also had their second dose. This equates to 25% of the UK adult population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are aged 40 or over, you can book your COVID vaccine [here](#).

Getting out and about in Rushcliffe

I was pleased to be able to visit Cotgrave Community Kitchen and Community Garden this month. It was great to see the work they're doing to tackle social isolation, food waste and to get some gardening tips!



Continuing this horticultural theme, I went to 'Flowers on Main Street' in Keyworth and met with the owners. We talked about the issues and challenges currently facing small businesses. Despite COVID, small/medium sized businesses have remained the backbone of our local economies and hearts of our communities and I look forward to seeing them blossom again once we are back to some normality!



Finally, I returned to Gamston Vaccine Centre to volunteer and see some of the fantastic work the team is doing right here in Rushcliffe.

[Click here:](#)



Remembering HRH Prince Philip

This month saw the sad loss of a true national treasure and I joined the rest of the country in mourning the sad death of The Duke of Edinburgh.

Across seven decades, he supported Her Majesty the Queen and was the longest serving consort in British history. His sense of duty and understated calm helped to steer Britain through many turbulent years and he will never be forgotten.

I am sure I speak for everyone in Rushcliffe in offering our condolences to Her Majesty and the Royal Family at this incredibly difficult time.



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

10 JUNE 1921 – 9 APRIL 2021



Duke-related bric-a-brac which filled the virtual shelves, one item caught my eye.



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