

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



September 2021

Investing in a long-term Health and Social Care Plan

This month the Government released its plan to fix the social care crisis. The Government has taken responsible, fair, and necessary action to provide the biggest catch-up programme in the history of the NHS and reform the adult social care system with £36 billion of investment. Some of the key goals of the plan include increasing NHS capacity to 110% of planned activity levels by 2023/4 offering more appointments, treatments and operations, and ending catastrophic costs for people across the country, and include extra investment in the care sector to improve training and support. You can read the full plan here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-health-and-social-care>

Having a long-term and robust plan for health and social care is vital, especially if we are going to support people with complex needs such as those with Alzheimer's and Dementia. I raised this in Parliament this month which you can watch

here: <https://www.facebook.com/RuthEdwardsforRushcliffe/videos/369328384854679>



RUTH EDWARDS

Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



fridge. It wasn't long before he needed constant residential care for the last 4 years of his life.

Welcoming the new Minister for Children and Families to Rushcliffe

I had the opportunity to welcome Will Quince MP to Rushcliffe on one of his first visits as the new Minister for Children and Families in the Department for Education. We went to visit Ash Lea School, a special educational needs school in Cotgrave.

We started the visit off by chatting to some of the parents who have children at the school and to hear their experiences of caring for a child with special needs during the pandemic. It was also extremely helpful to talk to the staff members who have done extraordinary things to support the children and their parents who needed that extra bit of support during the pandemic.

After that, Headteacher Kate Davies gave us a tour of the school where we got to meet some of the students and talk to them about what makes Ash Lea such a fantastic school.

I particularly enjoyed seeing all the vegetables the children have been growing in their school allotment and I've accepted the challenge to whip up a storm in the kitchen with this impressive pumpkin...



Submitting my Objection to the Barton Gravel Pit

This month I formally submitted my objection to the Barton gravel pit application. As you will know from my previous newsletters, this gravel pit threatens to turn a much-loved pleasant green space into a no go zone of heavy traffic, excessive noise and habitat loss.

These are just a handful of concerns but residents in Barton have been working hard to dissect this planning application and its many shortcomings. The deadline for objections has now closed but I will keep you updated on any progress. In the meantime, you can find and read my objection letter to the gravel pit here: <https://www.ruthedwards.org.uk/news/my-objection-letter-barton-gravel-pit>

A Bright Buture for the East Midlands Economy

I recently spoke in a debate on the future of the East Midlands economy. As we recover from the pandemic and the Government's levelling up agenda gets into full swing, I want the East Midlands to fulfil its potential as an economic powerhouse of the UK. We have a wealth of innovative, unique and UK-leading businesses, organisations and projects ready to propel our region into the prosperity it has historically been denied.

Here in Rushcliffe we have Geopura, BeadaMoss, Wattbike, NutraCheck, John Deere to name a few who are leading the way in their industries. We have the people and industry ready, but we need that investment to realise our economic success. The first part of this is the East Midlands Freeport which was confirmed earlier this year and will be based at key strategic sites covering Derbyshire, Leicestershire and our very own Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Rushcliffe.

You can watch a clip of the debate here: <https://www.facebook.com/RuthEdwardsforRushcliffe/videos/240196284688726>



New AUKUS Alliances paves the way for Global Britain

This month the Government announced an exciting new defence partnership between the UK, US and Australia called AUKUS. The aim of this new partnership is to preserve the security and stability of the indo-pacific region. This partnership begins with a deal to provide Australia with a nuclear-powered submarine fleet.

This partnership will draw on the expertise that the UK has acquired over generations, dating back

to the launch of the Royal Navy's first nuclear submarine over 60 years ago. And together with the other opportunities from AUKUS, creating hundreds of highly skilled jobs across the United Kingdom - including in Scotland, the North of England and the Midlands.

I hope that partnerships like this will enable us to secure our digital technology supply chains so we become less reliant on other countries like China who have carried out hostile actions against us in cyberspace and work more closely with our allies. I asked the Prime Minister about this and he assured me that AUKUS will provide an intensified level of cooperation on a scale that we haven't seen before. You can watch that clip

here: <https://www.facebook.com/RuthEdwardsforRushcliffe/videos/316890886874229>

The issue of cyber space and digital security has never been more important. I raised this with the former Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in relation to the Taliban's increasingly sophisticated use of social media and how we can work with our allies and social media companies to make sure they are not using digital platforms to spread misinformation or track and hunt opponents. You can watch that video

here: <https://www.facebook.com/RuthEdwardsforRushcliffe/videos/538620200761347>



Backing British Farming and the farming Industry in Rushcliffe

We celebrated Back British Farming day this month and I was proud to show my support and wear my wheatsheaf badge. Being such a rural constituency, Rushcliffe has a proud agricultural history which I want to see go from strength to strength. I have always advocated buying local and buying British - this directly supports the work and livelihoods of farmers across the UK.

I recently visited John Deere in Langar to see all of the brilliant work they are doing there to give farmers in the UK the machinery they need to feed the nation. I was particularly pleased to hear that they are investing into a new apprenticeship system which will see them take up over 100 apprentices, nearly doubling their current scheme. This is as a result of a new £1.5 million facility in Upper Saxondale.





An Update on the Progress of the A52 Clifton Bridge Repairs

I was pleased to hear from National Highways (formerly Highways England) that progress is being made on the A52 Clifton Bridge and received the following message:

"We are aiming to reopen the additional lane at Clifton Bridge from Monday 20 September from 6am, which means that traffic leaving Nottingham will be now able to travel in three lanes. As part of this new layout, we will also re-open one lane of Queens Drive slip road so that traffic can once again access the bridge."

I know a lot of people have contacted about the A52 Clifton Bridge repairs and I have worked with neighbouring MPs to put pressure on National Highways to finish the repairs as quickly as possible. I hope this update reassures you that the works are on track, I will keep in regular contact with National Highways and keep you updated on the progress.



Out and About in Rushcliffe

This month I visited Ruddington to meet with members of the Parish Council and the Community Centre Working Party to discuss their Community Centre project. It was interesting to see the new designs and hear what the Parish Council and Working Group have planned for the future of this hub for the community in Ruddington.



I was also proud to present Mark Hawkins with his Point of Light award from the Prime Minister this month. During lockdown, Mark developed a platform for volunteers to find those in need of help. You can read more about this here: <https://westbridgfordwire.com/rushcliffe-man-presented-with-prime-ministers-points-of-light-award/?fbclid=IwAR0kX1mXfUcqE-A5Ecgb2bqYkKTMi7aRhUXpsVZNj9mODRjS-uX5aDVM0b4>



It was great to visit the Vale Market Cafe in Langar this month! A very happy 10th Birthday to Andrew, Joan and all the wonderful volunteers who work so hard for the village.



After that I visited East Leake Baptist Church to look around the newly renovated space. Thank you so much to Ian and Sheila for showing me around!



There's a Rushcliffe Borough Council by-election happening next month in Musters Ward. I had a great morning out on Musters Road supporting our Conservative candidate Paul Coe. Further information on the by-election happening on October 7 can be found here: https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/aboutus/newsandpublications/latestnews/stories/name_58189_en.php?fbclid=IwAR0w-xYzC_jb0t3qNu8OdbkHSM1qq6n01GRPXjXScDq6eX6GWzHR2SOjs_g



Many thanks to all the team at Trent District First Responders for allowing me to attend one of their fantastic CPR training sessions.

It was great to see their hard work and how crucial it is to saving lives!

An Update on our COVID Plan

The Government released its Autumn and Winter COVID plan this month which sets out the path to steer us through the next couple of seasons. This is to ensure our hard work is not in vain and our NHS remains supported. The Government plans to achieve this by:

- a. Building our defences through pharmaceutical interventions: vaccines, antivirals and disease modifying therapeutics.
- b. Identifying and isolating positive cases to limit transmission: Test, Trace and Isolate.
- c. Supporting the NHS and social care: managing pressures and recovering services.
- d. Advising people on how to protect themselves and others: clear guidance and communications.
- e. Pursuing an international approach: helping to vaccinate the world and managing risks at the border.

You can read more about this here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021>
There will also be a change in the rules around international travel on October 4. Key changes include removing costly pre-departure tests for fully vaccinated passengers into England, introducing easier to understand destinations - with a simple travel list and red list, and replacing Day 2 PCR test with an affordable lateral flow test. You can read more about this here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-system-for-international-travel>

In addition to those aged 12-15 becoming eligible to get the vaccine, a booster vaccine will be offered to People aged 50 years and over, care home residents, frontline health and social care workers, and those aged 16 to 49 years with specific underlying health conditions 6 months after their second dose. You can read more about this here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>



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