

# Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



October 2021

## An Autumn Budget to Support our Economy

The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, unveiled his Autumn Budget and Spending Review this month. This will be key in supporting our economic recovery from COVID 19. In fact, we now expect our economy to return to pre-pandemic levels by January, earlier than previously expected. Here's a few of the announcements from today's budget that have made that possible:

**Increasing Wages -** Raising the National Living Wage by 6.6% to £9.50, giving a £1,000 pay rise to 2 million of the lowest paid and reducing the Universal Credit taper rate from 63% to 55%

**Freezing Fuel Duty -** We are freezing fuel duty for the twelfth year in a row, a £1.5 billion tax cut, meaning the average driver has saved £1,900 since 2010.

**Simplifying Alcohol Duty -** A new Small Producer Relief so small cider makers are incentivised to grow larger. We are cutting the price of English sparkling wine and prosecco and cutting the tax on draught fruit ciders by 20 per cent. And until this new system is in place, we will freeze all alcohol duties for the third year in a row, including for whisky.

**Cutting Beer Duty -** We are also introducing a new Draught Relief on draught beer and cider – cutting duty by 5 per cent, saving British pubs nearly £100 million a year – and means a permanent cut in the cost of a pint by 3 pence.

**Cutting Business Rates -** Cutting business rates by at least 50 per cent next year for 90 per cent of retail, hospitality and leisure businesses – and freezing all rates. Any eligible business can claim a 50 per cent discount on their bills, up to a maximum of £110,000 per business.

Keeping Britain Healthy - Resource spending on health services will increase from £133 billion at the start of the Parliament to over £177 billion by the end – an increase of over £44 billion. We will deliver 40 new hospitals, 70 hospital upgrades, 100 new community diagnostic centres, 50,000 more nurses and 50 million primary care appointments,

Supporting our Schools - We are now committing another £4.7 billion per year by 2024 to lift real terms per pupil spending to historic 2010 levels – a cash uplift of over £1,500 per pupil. We are also tripling the annual spending on Special Educational Needs places, and providing another £1.8 billion to take the total for schools catch-up funding to almost £5 billion.

Crime and justice - We are funding 20,000 new police officers; providing an extra £2.2 billion in courts, prisons and probation services, including £500 million to clear court backlogs; funding programmes to tackle neighbourhood crime, reoffending, county lines, and violence against women and girls.

Research and Development - We will maintain our target to increase annual public R&D investment to £22 billion and we will spend £20 billion a year by 2024-25 – a cash increase of 50 per cent – taking total public investment in R&D including our tax reliefs to 1.1 per cent of GDP.

You find the Autumn 2021 Budget announcements here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-and-spending-review-october-2021-what-you-need-to-know>

## Remembering Sir David Amess

Parliament lost one of its finest this month in the brutal murder of my colleague Sir David Amess.

I reflected on the tragic event and its implications for our democracy in the West Bridgford Wire, which you can read here: <https://westbridgfordwire.com/ruth-edwards-mp-wont-break-us-a-reflection-on-sir-david-amess-and-his-death/?fbclid=IwAR1exe3fATpUHkubiyI7tSru3fqCp9fmWC9jMmt3tmTVvsxM5oF1Gsl-aQA>

## Meeting with Ruddington Parish Council to Discuss my Ruddington Crime Survey

I recently attended a Parish Council meeting in Ruddington. We discussed some of the issues that matter most to people in Ruddington, including crime and policing. I know people in Ruddington, as well as across Rushcliffe are concerned about crime, police presence and response to crime once reported. I will be sending out surveys across the constituency, starting with Ruddington to get a clearer idea of the issues in different areas. In these surveys, I am asking residents to let me know what their biggest crime concerns are and what they think about policing in Rushcliffe. I will be using this data to feed into any Rushcliffe Police strategies going forward so that residents' views are reflected. I meet regularly with the new Rushcliffe Neighbourhood Policing lead, Rob Lawton, who I know is committed to working with me and residents to tackle crime in our communities.

Thank you to everyone that has completed my Ruddington Crime Survey so far! If you live in Ruddington, you can complete my survey here:  
<https://www.ruthedwards.org.uk/news/ruddington-crime-survey>

Watch Here: <https://fb.watch/90QALqlWpg/>



## Building Back Greener is in Full Swing

We had some fantastic news for our fight back against climate change this month in the announcement of our Net Zero Strategy.

The Strategy sets out how we will secure 440,000 well-paid jobs and unlock £90 billion in investment in 2030 on our path to ending our contribution to climate change by 2050.

New investment announced include (to name a few):

An extra £350 million to support the electrification of UK vehicles and their supply chains and another £620 million for targeted electric vehicle grants and infrastructure,

£140 million to help green hydrogen projects get off the ground,

and £3.9 billion of new funding for decarbonising heat and buildings, including the new £450 million 3-year Boiler Upgrade Scheme, so homes and buildings are warmer, cheaper to heat and cleaner to run.

Read more here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-s-path-to-netzero-set-out-in-landmark-strategy?fbclid=IwAR0ugzUOd-pcyYXJxwrqME9rusI4F3IMPCvZhkuoxY1aYUxNrAkBpN5q2Ow](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-s-path-to-net-zero-set-out-in-landmark-strategy?fbclid=IwAR0ugzUOd-pcyYXJxwrqME9rusI4F3IMPCvZhkuoxY1aYUxNrAkBpN5q2Ow)

I also met with Bill Gates this month to hear his insights into the climate and public health challenges in the 21st century. It was fascinating to hear him talk about his experience through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and I encourage anyone interested in the protection of the environment to read his book entitled 'How to Avoid a Climate Disaster'.

I also met with the Coal Authority and JCB to take a look at their new initiatives and ideas to contribute to the protection and conservation of the environment. With the Coal Authority we talked about clean energy opportunities from old coal mines, whereby warm water is pumped out of old mine workings, put through a heat exchanger and then used to heat housing, industrial sites, schools, hospitals etc.

With JCB, I saw their newest hydrogen powered machines. I know from meeting with JCB earlier this year, they are fully committed to and excited about the new opportunities hydrogen can bring for their business as they embrace green technology.



## The Environment Bill and Storm Overflows

I've had a lot of constituents contact me regarding the recent votes on the Environment Bill concerning storm overflows. There has been a lot of false information circulating on this issue, with many opposition figures irresponsibly claiming the Government has voted to allow water companies to pump sewage into our rivers and streams - these accusations are absurd.

Contrary to what some opposition groups have said, Government is working very hard to reduce storm overflows and improve water quality, with new landmark duties being placed on water companies.

I outline these duties and explain my full stance on this issue in my letter to Rushcliffe residents here: [https://www.ruthedwards.org.uk/campaigns/storm-overflows-lords-amendment?  
fbclid=IwAR0yTFaNl9RgzxOhgiEvZYgNP8O2PzwJeoreVsOFpFYLrC\\_g3MP0g0CNbkl](https://www.ruthedwards.org.uk/campaigns/storm-overflows-lords-amendment?fbclid=IwAR0yTFaNl9RgzxOhgiEvZYgNP8O2PzwJeoreVsOFpFYLrC_g3MP0g0CNbkl)

## A52 Clifton Bridge Reopened

I know we've all been eagerly awaiting the reopening of the A52 Clifton Bridge and I am pleased to say it has fully reopened! The Bridge fully reopened on October 23 after 21 months of repairs. National Highways have been working hard on getting the Bridge to a fit state, so it is great to see the Bridge in full working order.

## Celebrating with the Team at Gamston Vaccine Centre

Many of us here in Rushcliffe and the rest of South Notts have had our vaccines at Gamston Vaccine Centre. I recently visited the Centre for their closing party and to celebrate with the team. I thanked them for everything they have done to give us back our freedom and get Rushcliffe open again. The whole team of staff and volunteers have done so much for our community and I am so grateful to each and everyone of them.

The Centre is closing as we move to a more localised form of administering vaccines in GP surgeries, community pharmacies and other vaccine sites. Don't forget you can book your booster COVID vaccine 6 months after your 2nd dose (if eligible) using the details here: [https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/?  
fbclid=IwAR0NkEOBdrvXm3Zoha0QiBNUh1BrePBC1mCuXKYhKS0OfyneKB8BW5bq6lg](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/?fbclid=IwAR0NkEOBdrvXm3Zoha0QiBNUh1BrePBC1mCuXKYhKS0OfyneKB8BW5bq6lg)

If you have not been contacted and it's been more than 6 months since your 2nd

dose, please try to book your appointment using this service:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/?fbclid=IwAR0NkEOBdrvXm3Zoha0QiBNUh1BrePBC1mCuXKYhKS00fYneKB8BW5bq6lg>



## Out and About in Rushcliffe

I had a tour of the newly built Rosecliffe Spender Academy and celebrated their official opening on October 7th. The school will be very important in supporting families and children from Edwalton and the surrounding areas..



I also visited St Edmund Campion Primary School in West Bridgford where I talked to the children about my role as an MP and answered some great questions put to me by the school council, particularly on how we can create more environmentally friendly schools!



I got to take a look around Nottingham College in the City this month. Although their main campus is located in Nottingham, people from across Rushcliffe attend the college so it was great to finally see the work being done there to get people ready to work in lots of different sectors, from digital marketing to dental technology to childcare.



I got to hear more about the great work being done by the Trent District Community First Responders on one of their training courses this month. Trent District CFR support the East Midlands Ambulance Service on a voluntary basis, with responders often being the first to arrive at emergencies in their community.

It was fantastic to hear about this work and I know Rushcliffe residents are grateful for all they do to help people in need.



Conservative Party Conference took place in the first week of October where I took part in discussions on ocean conservation with the Australian High Commissioner and the Speaker of the Maldives' Parliament and on financing the restoration of nature with the NFU, WWF and Pensions Minister Guy Opperman.



I also sat on Youth Zone and Girlguiding's panel to talk about how we can tackle sexual harassment against girls, particularly online so women and girls feel safer and more empowered to enter into leadership roles.



With Housing Minister, Chris Pincher MP, I was on Onward's panel to talk about our Build Back Greener plans and what this means for housing. Decarbonising our homes is key to our net-zero targets, but it is also key to delivering new skilled jobs in green technology.



I know this is one of my longer newsletters, so if you've made this far well done. Here's a video of three of our alpacas, Florence, Wilbur and Angus enjoying their new paddock as a reward.

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/90RUrScVo9/>





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