

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



May 2022

Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee

A very happy Platinum Jubilee to Her Majesty the Queen! This week, Parliament paid tribute to Her Majesty, her incredible reign and her service to our country.

For 70 years, Her Majesty has dedicated her life to the service of the peoples of the United Kingdom and of the Commonwealth. Her duty and dedication is unparalleled.

I was proud to speak in the Queen's Jubilee debate and acknowledge her great service to our country. Her reign is long and has been more transformative than any other. She has transformed the relationship between the Royal Family and us, her loyal subjects.

For decades, she's been a steadying force at the heart of our country. She epitomises duty, public service, and a tireless commitment to this country and the Commonwealth for the last 70 years.

I wish the Queen a happy Platinum Jubilee and hope her long reign continues.

You can find the Humble Address that was presented to Her Majesty here:
<https://youtu.be/XmiF5tPMc6w>

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/dgtRDngX3e/>



RUTH EDWARDS

Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



Helping with the cost of living

I welcome the Chancellor's statement today which announced £15 billion of further help for millions of households across the UK to cope with the rise in the cost of living.

The new measures include:

-A one-off £650 cost of living payment directly to 8 million of the lowest income households on Universal Credit, Tax Credits, Pension Credit and legacy benefits. (There will be no need for people to fill out forms, this payment will be sent straight into bank accounts).

-An extra one-off pensioner cost of living payment of £300 added to the Winter Fuel Payment to help pensioners who have been disproportionately affected by the rise in energy prices.

-A one-off disability cost of living payment, worth £150, to help people with disabilities meet extra costs such as having energy-intensive equipment. This is in addition to the £650 received from the one-off cost of living payment.

Given the significant increase in energy bills the £200 of support for household energy bills that was announced in the spring statement will now be doubled. Additionally any repayments will be cancelled, making this an outright grant of £400.

To help pay for the extra support - which takes the Government's total support for the cost of living to £37 billion - the Chancellor said a new temporary 25% Energy Profits Levy would be introduced for oil and gas companies, reflecting their extraordinary profits. My concern with such a levy has always been that it will discourage investment so I'm pleased to see that, at the same time, in order to increase the incentive to invest, the new levy will include a generous new 80% investment allowance. This balanced approach allows the government to deliver support to families, while encouraging investment and growth.

A new Queen's Speech

The State Opening of Parliament happened this month. This began with the Queen's Speech, read for the first time by the Prince of Wales. The House of Commons is always summoned to listen to the speech in the House of Lords by Black Rod. I was lucky enough to sneak in at the back to see the Prince of Wales deliver it (see photo). You can read more about the Queen's Speech and what it actually is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/queens-speech-explainer>

The speech set out a programme of 38 new Bills, designed to support the economy and people across the UK. Some of the big announcements include:

The Levelling up and Regeneration Bill, which will give local communities more say in planning decisions, including to force landlords to let out empty shops to rejuvenate high streets. This Bill will also reform our planning system, which you can read more about later on in this newsletter.

The Energy Security Bill, will support low-carbon energy systems and reduce our dependence on gas and foreign sources of energy. This will create tens of thousands of new green energy jobs, whilst cutting household bills and achieving energy sovereignty. Through this Bill and the [Government's Energy Security Strategy](#) 95% of all the UK's electricity production will be low carbon by 2030.

The Transport Bill will establish Great British Railways, a single accountable national leadership authority which will regulate railway services. New powers will give the authority a statutory footing to deliver a more reliable and efficient service for passengers.

The Online Safety Bill, which is designed to better regulate the content appearing online, forcing social media firms to remove harmful content quickly or face fines. This Bill also includes measures I have campaigned for: provisions to tackle online scams, such as romance fraud and fake investment opportunities and criminalising cyberflashing.

The Public Order Bill, which will give the police new powers to tackle the disruptive protests that hamper people getting on with their day-to-day lives and stop our emergency services from doing their jobs.

A new Bill of Rights which will defend the freedom of speech and restore common sense to our justice system. This will end the abuse of our human rights framework and restore the balance of power between the legislature and the courts.

A Schools Bill to reform funding and encourage attendance, which will deliver a stronger and more highly performing schools system that benefits every child, regardless of where they live.

The Animal Welfare Bill, which bans live exports, tackles puppy smuggling, and creates a new Pet Adduction offence, which I have been campaigning for since conducting my Rushcliffe Pet Theft survey.

You can watch the full speech here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-61394791>



Reforming the planning system to work for Rushcliffe

During the recent Queen's Speech in Parliament, we heard the announcement of an important Bill that will make positive changes to the planning system, which we here in Rushcliffe will benefit from.

The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill offers local councils and communities an ambitious package on regeneration to empower them to protect their green spaces, regenerate brownfield sites, and rejuvenate their high streets. This Bill will abolish the 'Duty to Cooperate' which enabled Nottingham City Council to push thousands of houses which they should have been building in Nottingham into Rushcliffe over the last 8 years.

We will also see the introduction of new 'street vote' powers, giving residents a greater say on property types and design in their streets.

A new infrastructure levy (IL) will replace the current Community Infrastructure Levy. This would be a non-negotiable levy based on final development value, as opposed to the current system which charges based on floor space, and would include affordable housing contributions. Eventually all local planning authorities in England would have to charge it.

The Bill also introduces a new requirement for parties to serve a commencement notice before development begins. The commencement notice must contain the expected date on which the development will begin, as well as any other information which will be set out in regulations, such as details of the planning permission and the proposed delivery rate of the scheme. The commencement notice itself will be publicly accessible to allow for public scrutiny addressing the issues of so-called landing banking and slow developments.

In regards to local plans, the way in which councils set the vision for future development in their area and decide whether to give planning permission will gain stronger legal weight and be made simpler to produce. Communities will have a major say in these plans giving them more opportunity to shape what happens in their areas. Currently 61% of councils do not have an up to date local plan, which leaves communities exposed to development on which they haven't had a meaningful say.

I hope you will join me in welcoming this Bill and what it will mean for the future of planning in Rushcliffe. I met with the Housing Minister, Stuart Andrew, to let him know how important this Bill is to our communities in Rushcliffe. It is paramount that we get these reforms right, so I'll be spending a lot of time on this for the next few months!



Improving access to investment for female entrepreneurs

This month, I met with the Minister for Small Business, Paul Scully MP, and Sarah and Claire from WeAreRadikl, to discuss the 'Over Being Underfunded' campaign which hopes to increase female entrepreneurs' access to investment in the U.K.

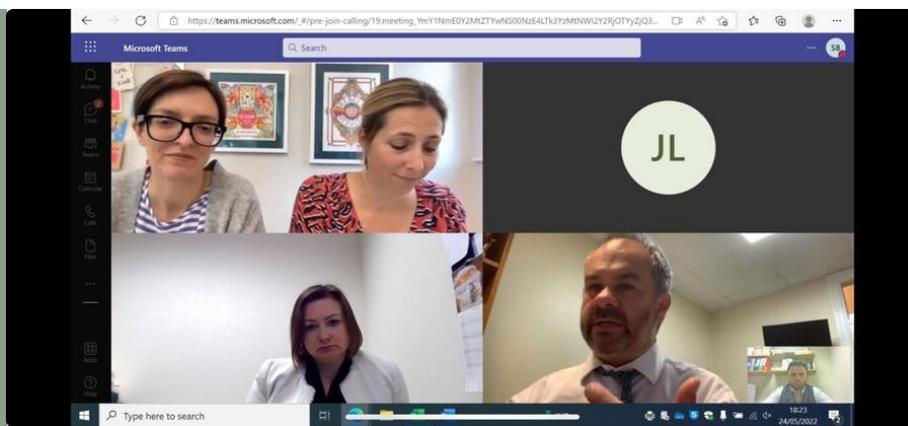
The campaign has three main goals: firstly, to extend the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) deadline from two to three years from the start of trading. The scheme gives tax incentives to investors to encourage their backing of start up companies. Secondly, to introduce gender reporting on SEIS. And finally, to redirect funding towards early-stage women entrepreneurs.

Currently only 1% of venture capital investment is directed to businesses led by women. Women are less likely to be aware of the scheme and are additionally less likely to have an investor network to support them. The two-year deadline (in which businesses are eligible for the scheme) can also prove to be a barrier for women entrepreneurs, as women are more likely to have care commitments and so may have less time to focus on their business.

Empowering female entrepreneurs could have a massive impact on the wider economy. A Treasury review led by Alison Rose in 2019 concluded that unleashing the power of female entrepreneurs could provide the opportunity to add an extra £250 billion to the UK economy.

I was pleased to facilitate this meeting between WeAreRadikl and Minister Scully, and I am encouraged by his progress and willingness to engage with Sarah and Claire to find ways in which the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy can help improve access to finance.

The team at WeAreRadikl also joined me in a meeting with the British Business Bank, to hear about how the bank is working to promote female led businesses and unlock the £250bn revenue opportunity identified by Alison Rose. I will continue to work with WeAreRadikl to back their campaign.



Backing our Police: Ruddington

After I was contacted by residents in Ruddington about crime I decided to send a crime survey to every household to ask for peoples' views on crime and policing in Ruddington.

After a fantastic response, I shared the results with Rob Lawton, the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Rushcliffe. Rob agreed with me that it would be useful to organise a meeting with those who completed the survey to hear their thoughts and experiences first hand.

We held this meeting at the Ruddington Arms, where we were joined by members from the local policing team, village residents, and local business-owners. We discussed vehicle thefts, which I know have become more of a worry to people in Ruddington after an increase of thefts in April, and a number of other issues, but speeding and road offences through the centre of the village were the greatest concerns. We discussed the potential solutions to this problem and what action the police could be taking to make our roads in Ruddington safer. Some suggested actions included more speed traps. In response, Inspector Lawton told us about a new scheme he has set up, where his team will organise speed trap operations, based on where the community thinks they will be the most helpful.

If you have any specific speeding concerns or want to help set up a speed trap you can contact me at ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk.

I talked about this issue among others when I went out on the beat with PC Kai Cemish, (Beat Manager for Ruddington and Cotgrave). Kai also shared insights into his experiences as an officer on the ground.

Following our meeting, it was great to see the increased number of speed traps around Ruddington. This shows that the police in Rushcliffe are acting on concerns raised by local residents. I would like to thank Inspector Lawton, his team and the Police throughout Rushcliffe for meeting with us and for all of their hard work in keeping us safe.

If you would like updates on Rushcliffe Police's work in your local area, you can sign up to their Nottinghamshire Alert emails on their website - <https://www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk/#SignUp>.



J9: Supporting survivors of domestic abuse in West Bridgford

We held our first J9 Safer Spaces training in West Bridgford at the start of this month! Working with Nicola Brindley, we are providing free training to anyone who regularly interacts with the public in places where they work or volunteer, such as in shops, pubs, schools or doctors surgeries, to build a network of safe spaces in Rushcliffe where survivors of domestic abuse can access vital, life-saving resources. Once training is completed, delegates are given a J9 sign to display at their work premises, letting survivors know they can access the resources they need to get help, such as helpline numbers and a telephone to make that call.

After holding training online during the pandemic, we have now had in-person training sessions in Ruddington, East Leake, and West Bridgford. We had an amazing turnout this month, with representatives from organisations and businesses around West Bridgford taking part. Many thanks to everyone that came!

Our next session will be in Radcliffe-on-Trent on Thursday 16 June and you can sign up or learn more here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/344774127697>



Supporting the decarbonisation of the public sector

This month we saw Phase 3 of the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme get into full swing, with a massive £70 million awarded to the Queen's Medical Centre.

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme aims to reduce emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037, compared to a 2017 baseline, as set out in last year's Net Zero and Heat and Buildings strategies. Upgrades are already underway with grants awarded to 381 public sector organisations across England under the first two phases of the Government's scheme.

This funding is the first part of an overall £1.4 billion due to be allocated through Phase 3 up until 2025. Guidance on how to apply for the scheme will be published in July, with the application window expected to open in September. You can learn more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme>

This Month in Westminster

It was lovely to meet some of the residents, past and present, of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home! It was great to learn about some of the ways the Home is supporting rescue pets in their care and when they leave for their forever homes.

Many thanks to Belle and Pancake for making my afternoon!



This month I was invited to speak at (ISC)²'s roundtable discussion in Parliament about how we can increase the number of skilled cyber security professionals in the UK and how we can ensure the UK continues to develop a more cyber secure and resilient economy.



As a Vice-Chairman, I attended the AGM for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Geographically Protected Foods. Along with Alicia Kearns, the MP for Melton and Rutland, our group is exploring ways to promote and protect the British foods that have shaped and built our culture and communities, and in particular to strengthen and defend the geographical indicator designation.

This month, I met with Environment Minister Rebecca Pow MP to discuss access to waterways on behalf of British Canoeing, who I met with last month at their HQ in Holme Pierrepont.



I went on a virtual reality recycling tour in parliament organised by the Associated Waste Management. It was interesting to hear all about how it can be used by local schools to understand more about recycling.



Out and about in Rushcliffe

I had a wonderful visit to Manor Farm in East Leake this month. The staff there do a brilliant job in looking after all sorts of animals from reindeer to lizards! 90% of them are rescue animals, who have found a new home in 25 acres of the glorious East Leake countryside.



I enjoyed talking to Daisy recently, who is currently completing the final year of her degree in media and broadcasting at Nottingham Trent University. Daisy is producing a documentary on what it's like to be a woman in politics and how we can encourage more women to put their hat in the ring.



It was great to visit Spire Nottingham Hospital in Tollerton this month to hear how they have been supporting our brilliant NHS during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing services to cancer patients and now with Elective Surgeries. They also have a great nurse apprenticeship program so they are doing their bit to train medical professionals. Many thanks to Tom, the clinicians, and apprentice nurses for inviting me and showing me around!



I was on Politics East Midlands this month. Among other things, we discussed how the Government is tackling the rising cost of living, and how we are also supporting Ukrainians arriving in Rushcliffe and the rest of the UK as refugees from Putin's illegal war in Ukraine. You can watch the full show here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/.../politics-east-midlands-22052022>



The annual Nottinghamshire County Show took place this month, and I was delighted to attend and see a brilliant display of everything that makes rural Nottinghamshire such a lovely place.



This month, I visited the Nottinghamshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee offices in Cotgrave. I met with Rob, the Chair of the committee, and Nick, the Chief Officer, to discuss how the functions of Community Pharmacies have increased dramatically in 2021/22 to support the NHS during the Pandemic. Currently, 90% of community pharmacies' income comes from the NHS, but funding for these pharmacies is currently not in line with NHS efficiency requirements. We need to ensure that our community pharmacies can continue to provide their fantastic services as we rebuild from the pandemic.



I was in East Leake this month to visit the British Gypsum Head Office for a tour of their site and a trip down one of their gypsum mines. It was wonderful to see a top employer in Rushcliffe and a true UK manufacturing success story working to improve the lives of the local community and put Rushcliffe on the manufacturing map of the world.



I had a brilliant visit to West Bridgford Fire Station this month to meet with Martin Hickling who is the Watch Manager at the station. I was given a tour of the station and met with the crew. Many thanks to Martin and his team for showing me around.



It was great to be at the University of Nottingham recently to officially open the Monica Partridge Building. It's named after the University's first female professor, who was a linguist and expert in Russian studies. It was also great to see their exhibition of female alumni who are now leaders in their fields in everything from nursing to ballooning!



And Finally...

I couldn't send this newsletter off without wishing Nottingham Forest the best of luck in the Championship Play-Off Final at Wembley this Sunday. It's been great to see the Reds doing so well this season. For such a historic team to be back in the top flight will be so exciting and thoroughly deserved. I even had to mention it to colleagues in the house. COME ON YOU REDS!!!

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/dgv9G967dt/>



Copyright © 2020 Ruth Edwards MP, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Ruth Edwards MP
Houses of Parliament
Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

You are receiving this email because you opted in to receiving regular emails from Ruth Edwards MP as part of her democratic engagement with electors.

[Unsubscribe here](#)



© 2021 Ruth Edwards MP