

# Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



June 2022

## Celebrating the Queen's 70th Jubilee

I hope everyone enjoyed the Jubilee weekend at the start of the month!

I was lucky enough to see the Trooping of the Colour in London from the Scotland Office, it was an incredible sight.



I had a wonderful time in Ruddington planting an oak tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and enjoying the village market. Thank you to Ruddington Parish Council for inviting me.



To finish the weekend, I joined Rushcliffe's Mayor, Tina Combellack, in West Bridgford for the opening of the West Bridgford Jubilee street party on Central Avenue. Even the rain couldn't dampen spirits!



## Government funding available for communities here in Rushcliffe

I know that there are many active community and volunteer groups here in Rushcliffe. With that in mind, I wanted to let you all know about a new Government fund, The Community Ownership Fund, that has opened for applications, in case it might be useful to you or anyone you know.

The Community Ownership Fund, which is worth £150 million has been set up to help communities across the UK to support and continue benefiting from the local facilities, community assets and amenities most important to them. Specifically, this fund helps groups take ownership of assets which are at risk of being lost to the community. Voluntary and community organisations can bid for match funding. Funding may support the purchase and/or renovation costs of community assets.

Further information about the Fund and what projects are eligible for it can be found [here](#).

If you would like any advice or support for a potential bid please do get in touch with me by emailing [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk)

## Supporting farmers and the agriculture sector

This month, I welcomed the Minister for Farming, Fisheries, and Food, Victoria Prentis, to my quarterly Rushcliffe Agriculture and Rural Affairs Forum. We discussed the issues impacting our farming and rural communities in Rushcliffe, such as rewilding, the labour market, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and rising costs.

Food security was consistently raised in the meeting, and the Minister set out

the high levels of food security we have in the UK, and what the Government is doing to tackle some of the issues affecting food producers. This was reflected in the Food Strategy which was published a few weeks ago.

Amongst other things, the Food Strategy includes plans to:

Invest £270 million across farming innovation funding programmes until 2029

Launch an independent review to tackle labour shortages in the food supply chain, to look at the roles of automation, domestic labour and migration to ensure UK businesses can access the labour they require

Extend the Seasonal Workers visa route to poultry, following a successful pilot last year

Consult on an ambition for 50% of public sector expenditure on food procurement to be on food either produced locally or to higher standards

Create a new professional body for the farming and growing industry to step up professional training and develop clear career pathways, equipping people and businesses with the skills needed to run sustainable and profitable businesses - supporting domestic food growth and our horticulture sector

You can learn more about the Food Strategy [here](#).



Innovation is key to securing the future of our food and farming industry. The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill will remove unnecessary barriers to research into new gene editing technology and have huge benefits for food security in the UK. In the second reading of the Bill, I asked the Minister for Agriculture Innovation and Climate Adaptation if she will join me on a visit to the University of Nottingham's Sutton Bonington campus to see the pioneering gene editing techniques being developed there.

Watch [here](#).

I discussed this and other issues and opportunities for our farming sector at Groundswell with the Secretary of State for Agriculture George Eustice, Henry Dimbleby, Ian Davis, and my colleague Oliver Heald. Specifically, we discussed how policy makers can better support more farmers to take up regenerative agriculture. It was great to look round the show and see some of the new techniques being pioneered as well as meeting some Romneys with a passion for agronomy!



## Making the case for cutting costs on defibrillators

This month I secured an Adjournment Debate in Parliament on VAT on defibrillators - life-saving devices that can be used in the event of a cardiac arrest.

Since March, I have been working with the West Bridgford Colts to make the case for better accessibility to defibrillators for sports clubs and other community groups. The Colts started this campaign after the tragic and sudden death of one of their players, Dylan Rich, who collapsed during a game earlier this year. Dylan's family and friends have been working to raise awareness of defibrillators which can increase a person's chance of survival from a sudden cardiac arrest from 8% to 70% and to reduce their cost for community groups.

Since then, I have raised this issue with the Prime Minister, both in Prime Minister's Questions and in a meeting with him, Peter Stansbury and Paul Wilson from the Colts, and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Lucy Frazer.

Not only would increasing the accessibility to defibrillators save lives, it would save millions of pounds for the NHS as those who receive defibrillator treatment within the first 5 minutes of a cardiac arrest have the greatest chance of survival and will not need prolonged hospital treatment.

I was pleased to hear that the Government is listening to our calls and open to finding a solution to this issue. I know the Prime Minister is considering a range of options including a ring fenced fund to help community groups with the costs of defibrillators.

You can watch the full debate [here](#).

I then met with the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, to discuss our campaign and the massive savings increasing access to defibrillators could have for the NHS. If we can increase the cardiac arrest survival rate from 8% to the world-leading 25%, less NHS time and services are needed to treat a patient, saving our health service millions of pounds.



I discussed this important topic on BBC Radio Nottingham this month, where I talked about why this campaign matters so much and how the Government could help make these life-saving devices more accessible to sports and community groups around the UK.

Listen [here](#).

## **Making business investment fairer for female entrepreneurs**

As you may remember, I met with the Minister for Small Business Paul Scully, along with Sarah King and Claire Dunn from WeAreRadikl last month to discuss WeAreRadikl's 'Over being Underfunded' campaign. This campaign aims to increase the presence of women investors in the U.K, by demystifying the process of investing and highlighting businesses which seek investment. The Minister fully supported the spirit of the campaign, and it was clear that improving the access of women to capital investment was a huge priority for him and I'm delighted he has asked WeAreRadikl to contribute towards the Government's new Enterprise Strategy.

This month, I invited Sarah and Claire to join me in a meeting with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, to discuss their campaign and highlight how the Government can help encourage more women into business by making the venture capital industry more accessible to women.

Specifically, the campaign asks that the Government sets an example by making some changes to its Seed Enterprise and Investment Scheme (SEIS). Specifically, extending the period where entrepreneurs can apply, from 2 to 3 years to account for time dedicated to caring responsibilities and allow more time to build investor networks.

I will continue to work with Sarah and Claire to help get their ideas adopted by Government.

## **Reforming the planning system to better protect our countryside**

This month I spoke in the debate on the new Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill.

The Bill will address many of the issues about the current planning system which have been raised with me. It will:

Give more weight to local and neighbourhood plans when planning decisions are made and introduce street votes on things like design.

Introduce a new Infrastructure Levy on developers, to make sure they make a fair contribution to new infrastructure.

Tackle slow build out rates and land banking, by requiring developers to tell councils when they are starting work on a development and making it easier for local authorities to push developers to finish a scheme in a reasonable timeframe.

Abolish the 'Duty to Cooperate' which has enabled Nottingham City Council to shirk its responsibility to build houses and regenerate the city centre by pushing nearly 5000 houses away from brownfield city sites into the countryside of Rushcliffe, on top of our own housing target.

I will be writing to the communities across Rushcliffe to seek your views on the new planning reforms.

Watch [here](#).

## This month in Westminster

I hosted the TSB and Which? roundtable on fraud with the Minister for Security, Damian Hinds. We discussed the challenges and opportunities to improve protections for customers and the Government's Fraud Strategy.



I was with the team at 10 Downing Street this month, raising some of the issues I've been hearing about from constituents, including tackling the cost of living, our support for Ukraine and Ukrainians arriving in the UK, planning reform and development and our ongoing commitment to protecting and restoring the environment.



This month, I organised for East Midlands MPs to meet with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Industry, Lee Rowley MP, and Minister for Business, Energy, and Clean Growth, Greg Hands MP ask for support for a Carbon Capture and Storage unit at the East Midlands Freeport at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar site. This is an amazing opportunity to make the site carbon negative by approximately 200,000 tonnes of CO2 per year and support local jobs for people in our area.





Following up on my meeting last month which included the Minister for Health, Ed Argar MP, I again met with the Chief Executives of the East and West Midlands Ambulance Services Richard Henderson and Anthony Marsh, and the Trent Community First Responders to discuss greater integration for First Responders with East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust and West Midlands Ambulance University NHS Foundation Trust. The Trent Community First Responders are an asset to our local community and provide an invaluable service to us - having their input in this has been vital and I thank them for their amazing work.

It was wonderful to welcome some of the children from Heymann Primary and Nursery School to Parliament! I told them about my role as their MP and answered their questions about my job and what happens in Parliament. If you would like your school to visit parliament, please see [here](#).

If you would like to visit Parliament, do book a tour by emailing my office on [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk).



It was great to be with the Canal and River Trust recently, learning about some of the plans to restore the Grantham Canal and hearing about the great work they are doing with social prescribing.



I welcomed Emily Jenkins who founded 'Move, Dance, Feel' to Parliament this month to present her with a Points of Light Award from the Prime Minister. Emily has delivered more than 150 hours of dance sessions to over 800 women who are undergoing cancer treatment or caring for loved ones who are. Emily thoroughly deserves this award and recognition for the support she has provided to people during their time of need.



## Out and About

J9 training came to Radcliffe on Trent this month. J9 training teaches people how to help survivors if they come to them for support, and gives you the resources to get the survivor to professional help.

We have now held training sessions in Radcliffe on Trent, West Bridgford, East Leake, and Ruddington, and we will be organising more throughout Rushcliffe. If you are interested in attending one of these events, please email me at [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk)



It was wonderful to be invited to speak and answer questions at Rushcliffe Schools Alliance Pupil Parliament this month! Two children from each school sit on the RSAPP. They represent the views of children in their own school at meetings and take part in things like debates and votes. Many thanks to all the pupils for the questions and inviting me!



It was great to meet Adam and Gary last week who are raising money for Stand Against MND! They have been raising money on behalf of their friend Sam Perkins who was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease at the age of 37. To celebrate his 40th birthday, Sam decided to recruit 40 people/groups who would all commit to raising £500 each over the next 12 months. They aim to raise at least £20,000 for StandAgainstMND before Sam's 41st birthday. Adam and Gary completed the Rushcliffe 100km walk, setting off from East Leake all for this fantastic cause. Well done guys! You can donate and learn more [here](#).



I was on LycaRadio's Talking Points show with Keith Vaz this month. We discussed my journey to Parliament, my life as an MP, and the work I am carrying out on behalf of all residents in Rushcliffe. You can listen [here](#).

This month, I went to the Framework Knitters Museum in Ruddington to collect Rushcliffe's contribution to the Parliamentary COVID-19 Memorial Quilt. MPs and Lords from across the Houses of Parliament were invited to include a knitted square in a quilt to commemorate the stories, experiences, and losses we all felt during the pandemic. A huge thank you to the museum and to Helen Brownnett who made the square .



It was great to visit Nottingham Croquet Club to attend their Family Day event, which was put on in conjunction with Transplant Sport - the largest national charity promoting active recovery for transplant recipients. Thank you to the club for the invite and showing me how to play!



Congrats to England on their victory over New Zealand in the test match series at Trent Bridge earlier this month! It was wonderful to be there at the start of the match on the weekend and it was a lovely gesture from Trent Bridge to give away tickets for free on the final, nail biting, day.



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