

# Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



March 2023

## A Spring Budget for Growth

This month, the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt set out the Spring Budget. He explained that the last year has been challenging, but the economy has been more resilient than many thought. The Office of Budget Responsibility is now forecasting that the UK will avoid a recession and that inflation will fall to 2.9% by the end of this year.

The Chancellor set out how we will continue our fight against inflation by boosting growth and investment, whilst also continuing to support households with the cost of living.

A £94 billion support package over this year and next has been announced to help with the cost of living. This includes:

- The Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) cap has been extended for a further three months, saving a typical household an extra £160. After July, the regulator Ofgem expects to see energy bills fall, in line with the decrease in wholesale prices.
- The premium paid on prepayment energy meters will end, bringing charges into line with comparable direct debit customers until the EPG ends and saving over four million households an average of £45 a year. You may remember this is something I campaigned on when I was a member of the Business and Energy Select Committee.
- Fuel duty has been frozen for the 13th year in a row, maintaining last year's 5p cut for another twelve months, saving a typical driver another £100 on top

of the £100 saved so far since last year's cut.

- Draught beer duty relief has been extended, meaning duty on an average draught pint of beer served in a pub will not increase from August and will be up to 11 pence lower than the duty in supermarkets.

**BUDGET23** | YOUR PRIORITIES  
ARE OUR PRIORITIES

## TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING

- ✓ **FREEZING THE ENERGY PRICE GUARANTEE AT £2,500 FOR HOUSEHOLDS.**
- ✓ **ENDING PREMIUMS ON PRE-PAYMENT METERS.**
- ✓ **FREEZING FUEL DUTY FOR DRIVERS.**
- ✓ **FREEZING DUTY ON A PINT AND BREXIT PUBS GUARANTEE.**
- ✓ **£63 MILLION FOR SWIMMING POOLS WITH LEISURE CENTER SUPPORT FUND.**

**OUR 5 PRIORITIES** | HALVE INFLATION | GROW THE ECONOMY  
REDUCE DEBT | CUT WAITING LISTS | STOP THE BOATS

It is also vital that we begin laying the groundwork for continued and long-term growth. Two of the things businesses in Rushcliffe have told me are holding them back are high taxation and difficulty recruiting. To address this, the Chancellor has announced:

- A new system of tax relief for business investment known as full expensing which will introduce a 100% tax deduction for investment on plant and machinery from 1 April 2023. This will put £25 billion back into the pockets of businesses over the next three years and we plan to make it permanent.

Plans to fill the one million job vacancies we have in the UK by removing the barriers that are stopping people who want to work from working. The Budget does this by:

- Supporting those who have a disability or long-term health condition by removing the Work Capability Assessment, meaning the majority of claimants will now have to do one health assessment rather than two. Reforms will also support claimants to try work without fear of losing their financial support.

- Changes in the pension tax charges, such as the Lifetime Allowance charge being removed before being abolished altogether and the Annual Allowance being increased from £40,000 to £60,000, will incentivise those older and experienced highly-skilled workers to remain in work.

- 30 hours of free childcare will be introduced for every child over the age of 9 months with working parents. This will be achieved in phases, with 15 hours of free childcare for working parents of 2-year-olds coming into effect in April 2024 and 15 hours of free childcare for working parents of 9 months - 3 years old in September 2024.



# BUDGET 2023 HEADLINES

- 1** 30 hours a week of free childcare from 9 months to 4 years
- 2** Cutting taxes for businesses that invest in the UK
- 3** Energy Price Guarantee set at £2,500 until July 2023
- 4** Smart regulation for digital tech
- 5** Fuel duty frozen
- 6** Tax relief for the UK's world famous creative sectors
- 7** Reforming pension tax limits - enabling highly skilled workers, like doctors, to keep working
- 8** £8.8 billion for additional local transport funding in England
- 9** Duty on draught beer frozen
- 10** Fixing 4 million potholes

**BUDGET  
2023**

Prior to the Budget announcement, I met with the Chancellor to discuss investment in our region and the potential we have in the East Midlands to become an economic powerhouse in the UK. We also discussed the continued support with keeping the cost of energy affordable and our plans to half inflation and encourage growth.

I'm delighted that the East Midlands will benefit from one of the 12 newly announced investment zones. These zones will have access to funding to support skills and incentivise apprenticeships, provide specialist business support and improve local infrastructure, worth £80 million over five years.



## Backing our police and cracking down on anti-social behaviour

Last year I sent out a crime survey to many communities in Rushcliffe. Thank you to everyone who responded, they gave me very helpful feedback to raise with ministers and Nottinghamshire police. One of the top concerns was anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The Government is very aware of these concerns and has published its £160 million Anti-Social Behaviour action plan. Importantly, this plan gives the police and local authorities the tools they need to tackle the problem.

In Nottinghamshire, we will be piloting the new 'Immediate Justice' scheme to deliver swift and visible punishments. Under this scheme, those found committing anti-social behaviour will be made to repair the damage they have caused within 48 hours of the crime.

Victims will also be given a say in the punishment to ensure that perpetrators take responsibility for their actions and directly pay back the communities affected by their crimes. After the pilot, it is hoped that this, along with a new 'Hotspot' scheme which will see an increase in police presence alongside other uniformed authority figures, in problem areas for ASB, will be rolled out across England in 2024.

Other measures in the Action Plan include:

- Increased fines for graffiti and littering, rising to up to £500, and up to £1,000 for fly-tipping.
- A ban on nitrous oxide or "laughing gas" with the police being given more powers to test for drugs on arrest
- New reporting tools for the public to log anti-social behaviour and receive updates on any action to tackle it.
- Giving landlords and housing associations more powers to evict unruly tenants who create persistent noise.
- Reopening empty shops, which can be hotspots for ASB, by giving councils new powers to quickly take control and sell off empty buildings.
- Introduce an additional one million hours of youth services in areas with the highest rates of anti-social behaviour to increase early anti-offending measures.
  - Make it an offence for criminal gangs to organise begging networks
  - Setting up an anti-social behaviour taskforce jointly led by the Home Secretary and Levelling Up Secretary.

You can read more [here](#).

## Protecting our rivers and oceans

This month, I met with Water Minister Rebecca Pow to discuss the water quality of the River Trent.

We know we need to work together to improve the water quality of the Trent. So I have invited the Minister to visit the National Watersports Centre in Holme Pierrepont to meet with me, British Canoeing and Severn Trent to discuss our local water quality. I have also raised this with Liv Garfield who is the CEO of Severn Trent and emphasised the need to continue working together to improve the health of our river.

I was very pleased with the water regulator Ofwat's announcement, that it was putting in place new rules to make sure water companies prioritise investing their profits in cleaning up the environment and delivering for their customers.

Water companies will have to take account of environmental performance and customer delivery when deciding whether to pay dividends to their shareholders, hold a strong credit rating, and stop paying dividends if their financial health is at risk or if companies do not meet environmental or service delivery targets.

This is thanks to powers in the Environment Act 2021 that will give Ofwat the ability to take enforcement action.

It's not just our rivers we're cleaning up, we're also leading the way in protecting the world's oceans. You may have seen 10-years of negotiations at the UN concluded this month which has resulted in a target of protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. These areas will put limits on how much fishing can take place, the routes of shipping lanes and exploration activities like deep sea mining.

I wrote about this '30by30' campaign back in 2021, when I said the UK is in a prime position to lead this global initiative after the success of our Marine Protected Areas and Blue Belt programmes. You can read more about this [here](#).







## Increasing our investment in defence

This month, we updated our Integrated Review, the UK's primary defence and security strategy. The Government has reviewed it following Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year and committed an additional £5 billion to the defence budget over the next two years.

It will also fund the next phase of the AUKUS submarine programme. We heard this month that the first generation of these AUKUS nuclear submarines will be built in the UK and Australia, and based on the UK's world-leading submarine design. This will create thousands of jobs in the UK in the decades ahead with the first submarines being delivered in late 2030. AUKUS is a three-way strategic defence alliance between Australia, the UK and US to counter the growing threats in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Prime Minister also set out his ambition to increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP in the longer term. We can expect a review of defence spending in 2025.

Learn more [here](#).



## **Making the planning system work better for Rushcliffe**

This month, I met with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities to discuss my recent reply to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework.

As you may know, areas like ours have over-delivered on house building. In 2021 alone, Rushcliffe had 660% over the constituency average for new homes registered. Many of these homes were often built on greenfield sites when they should be built on nearby brownfield sites in the city.

I made clear to the Secretary of State my support for the end of the 'Duty to Cooperate' mechanism. This is a legal rule that allowed neighbouring councils to put their housing allocation onto Rushcliffe, instead of building their fair share. It has contributed to the vast increase in housing in Rushcliffe in recent years and meant that, instead of regenerating brownfield land in Nottingham, more houses have been built in Rushcliffe's countryside.

I also emphasised how important it was that areas like ours, that have over-delivered on housing, can take previous house building into account when setting housing targets.

Like so many of you, I want to protect the rural character of Rushcliffe. I support sustainable house building but determining housing needs should take into account local factors, such as protecting the rural character of an area, protecting greenfield land and mitigating flood risk.

Along with this, we also need greater protections for greenfield land, not just a focus on greenbelt land to prevent inappropriate development in the countryside.

I understand how important this issue is to us in Rushcliffe and so I wanted to make our views heard at the highest level. I look forward to working with the Secretary of State on his reforms and making the planning system work better for Rushcliffe.



## **Tackling Illegal Immigration**

In January, the Prime Minister set out his five priorities. One of these priorities was stopping the small boat crossings and tackling illegal immigration.

This month, we have taken a big step forward in delivering this, with the new Illegal Migration Bill. Ultimately, this Bill will mean that anyone who comes to this country illegally will be detained and sent back to their home country if it is safe, or to Rwanda where their asylum claims will be heard.

In addition, this Bill will set up new safe and legal routes for refugees to come to the UK. These routes will be set up after consulting with local authorities and determining key factors such as local infrastructure and accommodation capacity. Parliament will then vote on the number of refugees which the UK is able to accommodate every year. Existing safe and legal routes have provided refuge in the UK for 480,000 people from Syria, Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine since 2015.

The current asylum system is costing us about £3 billion per year. In 2022 alone, 45,000 people entered the UK illegally by small boat, having already travelled through multiple safe countries where they could have and should have claimed asylum. We must break the business model of the smuggling gangs who profit from putting people in danger and make sure that our asylum system has the capacity to help the world's most vulnerable people.

Finally, we have also increased our cooperation with France. The Prime Minister struck an agreement with President Macron to see a new detention centre established in France as well as the deployment of more French personnel and enhanced technology to patrol beaches in a shared effort to drive down illegal migration. This new detention centre will support French efforts to remove more people who might otherwise travel by dangerous and illegal routes to the UK.

## **Welcoming new energy efficiency funding for Cotgrave Leisure Centre**

We heard the great news this month that Rushcliffe will receive £1.2 million from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The aim of this scheme is to reduce emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037 and will play a key part in our net-zero by 2050 target.

Rushcliffe's funding will upgrade Cotgrave Leisure Centre with environmentally-friendly technology, which will decrease the centre's carbon footprint and reduce its energy bills.



You can read more about this [here](#).

## J9: Supporting survivors of domestic abuse

As you will know from previous editions of my newsletter, I have championed the J9 initiative which seeks to create a network of safe spaces where survivors of domestic abuse can access vital life-saving services.

Together with Nicky Brindley, I have organised for public-facing organisations, such as shops, pubs, and parish councils, to complete J9 training to give their staff the confidence they need to signpost survivors to professional help. We have delivered this training across many places in Rushcliffe: West Bridgford, Radcliffe-on-Trent, East Leake, Keyworth, and Cotgrave. We also held a drop in event in Parliament for MPs to learn more about the campaign. Many MPs came, including the PM, and now we are training their offices to roll J9 out in constituencies across the country.

This month, I met with the Managing Director of Trent Barton, Tom Morgan, to discuss how we could work together to take J9 to new heights and ensure that survivors of domestic abuse, wherever they are in Rushcliffe, can get the help they need.

I will keep you updated on this, but if you would like to know more about how you or your team could take J9 training, please do email me at [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk)



## Celebrating British Science Week

We celebrated British Science Week this month. British Science Week is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

This year's theme was connections, which are so important in any career.

With this in mind, I contacted all schools in Rushcliffe to give them an updated copy of my STEM booklet. This booklet contains a catalogue of STEM professionals who are willing to go into schools and run workshops, talks, or seminars about their STEM career.

I have had some fantastic feedback, both from schools and the speakers, about this booklet and how it is helping to inspire the next generation of Rushcliffe's scientists, technicians, engineers and mathematicians.

If you would like a copy of this booklet to organise one of these events, please do let me know by emailing me at [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk)

# STEM

ROLE MODELS  
BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2022

## Supporting the Hunting Trophies Bill

This month, I was delighted to support the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill in the House of Commons.

This Bill would ban the import of hunting trophies into Great Britain for around 6000 endangered species including lions, elephants, rhinos, and polar bears.

With this Bill, we can set an example and show our principles to the world. That nature, conservation and animal lives are important, and we should do all we can to protect them.



## Celebrating Community Champions in Rushcliffe

This month, I joined the Prime Minister for a Community Champions celebrations event. MPs from across the country brought together community champions from their constituency, to meet the Prime Minister and to thank them for their enormous contributions.

To represent Rushcliffe, I invited Jill Mathers from Cotgrave Community Kitchen to attend. Jill and her fantastic team of 24 volunteers run the Kitchen which collects food that would otherwise go to waste from local supermarkets. They sell some of the produce in their local supermarket and use the rest to cook hot meals for local community groups.

I've helped out at the Kitchen and nearby Community Garden so have seen firsthand the amazing work Jill does. Well done, Jill!



## NHS Parliamentary Awards nominations now open!

To celebrate the 75th birthday of the NHS, I am asking people in Rushcliffe to nominate one of their local NHS heroes for the NHS Parliamentary Awards. The Awards recognise NHS staff who have gone over and above to provide amazing care.

The NHS Parliamentary Awards are a unique opportunity for MPs to highlight the amazing work done by NHS staff in their local areas. Rushcliffe is home to many dedicated NHS workers, who provide a wide range of care, from village GP's surgeries to specialist care in the Queens Medical Centre and the City Hospital.

There are 10 categories this year, from the Volunteer Award to the Rising Star Award, each recognises a person who has really made an impact in their field. You can view all of the categories [here](#).

If you would like to nominate someone, please fill out the relevant nomination form [here](#) and send it to me at [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk). Nominations close at 12pm on the 24th April 2023 so be sure to get your nominations in soon!

I look forward to seeing all of the nominations and wish everyone the best of luck!

## Better healthcare for Rushcliffe

This month, I met with Dr Neil Fraser from the East Leake Health Centre to discuss how the new business case is coming together for a new Health Centre in the village. We can expect to see the new business case soon and I will keep you all informed on this.

Improving residents' access to local and effective healthcare is at the heart of our campaign for a new health centre in East Leake.

Recently, I met with Ministers of State for Health, Will Quince and Helen Whately, along with the President of the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), Dr Kath Halliday to talk about new ways we could further improve access to vital care.

Dr Kath Halliday, who is a Rushcliffe resident, had contacted me to tell me about new approaches and opportunities that are being rolled-out in some NHS trusts which could improve radiologist and oncologist services and bolster our fight against cancer.



With the Ministers, we discussed how RCR innovations could improve cancer survival rates by improving our early diagnostic capabilities, which are key for treating any form of cancer. This includes a new digital iReferClinical Decision Making System which will enable GPs to book the correct scan the first time, speeding up diagnosis and saving money, time, and lives.

We also discussed the use of AI to improve clinical practice. With the right training, clinical radiologists can work with AI to improve efficiency and increase the scope of their diagnostic capacity, releasing time for direct patient care and for vital research.

I am pleased the Minister was very open to hearing the suggestions from the RCR and how they could be implemented more widely in our continued effort to clear the cancer backlogs and support radiologists and oncologists in the future.



## **International Women's Day: Championing women in business**

I celebrated International Women's Day at Number 10 this month, at a reception with the Prime Minister which recognised women in public life.



I have the pleasure of working with some amazing women in Rushcliffe. You can find out more about some of them [here](#).

In the video above, you'll see Sarah King and Claire Dunn of Obu. I met them in Parliament this month to hear about their recent rebrand. You may remember Obu was once 'WeAreRadik!'. They are working to make investment more accessible to women entrepreneurs. It was a pleasure to support their successful #OverBeingUnderfunded campaign that extended the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) to make it more accessible to women. The SEIS offers tax reliefs to individual investors who buy new shares in companies and helps companies to raise investment when starting to trade.

After meetings with Ministers and questions in Parliament, the SEIS application deadline was extended from 2 years to 3 years, which was a key ask of the campaign. Women are statistically more likely to have care commitments, so have less time to focus on their business. Now the deadline has been extended, we are already seeing more women access the scheme.

I met up again with Sarah and Claire at the University of Nottingham's Business School, for the launch of the Charter for Inclusive Entrepreneurship. The Charter is a commitment to creating an inclusive ecosystem that would support anyone seeking to start or grow an enterprise in the East Midlands.

Only 2% of investment in the UK goes to businesses built by women, despite the clear and vast opportunity for success. I hope this Charter signals that the East Midlands is a region where women in business will always be championed and supported.



## The Windsor Framework

As you may remember from my last newsletter, the Prime Minister announced the new Windsor Framework which makes changes to the Northern Ireland Protocol, and resolves many of the trade frictions facing businesses in Northern Ireland and those in other parts of Great Britain wanting to trade there.

I was proud to vote for one of the key measures of the Framework this month.

As a Government whip, I help to manage the logistics of any vote in Parliament. For this vote, I was stationed at the end of the voting lobby, to tell colleagues when further votes would take place that day. It was quite moving to see 515 MPs, of very different political persuasions, walk through the lobby to vote for this deal. Two days later, both the UK and EU formally adopted the

Framework. This is the best possible deal for Northern Ireland and fixes practical problems in the Protocol whilst protecting Northern Ireland's stable future as part of the UK.

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

## Securing the UK's critical mineral supply

As you may remember from when I was a member of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee, a lot of my work and interest focused on the UK's critical mineral supply. Since the world has become a



more turbulent and unpredictable place, it is paramount the UK has a stable supply chain of minerals that are key to keeping our infrastructure and defence strong.

At the start of this month, I met with the Co-Founder and CEO of the Critical Minerals Association (CMA), Jeff Townsend. The CMA aims to ensure secure and sustainable critical mineral supply chains by providing a platform for companies and individuals to come together and share key insights with the Government.

With Jeff, we discussed the work of the CMA so far, its plans for the future, and how the Government can build on the success of the UK Critical Minerals Strategy.

Later on in the month, I also visited the British Geological Survey to meet with its leadership and to get an update on the work of the UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre (CMIC), which is led by the BGS, and will become increasingly important as we work to secure the UK's critical mineral supply.



## Out and About

It was wonderful to join the Hickling Women's Institute for their Spring Fair this month! There were some lovely pieces from local artisans, including a few I managed to pick up. This was before restraining my husband from blowing all our savings on the tombola!



As part of the British Spring Clean this year, I joined up with the Grantham Canal Society, the Mayor of Rushcliffe and a group of brilliant volunteers to

litter-pick around the canal in West Bridgford. We picked a fair few bags of rubbish and left the canal banks looking cleaner for people to enjoy.

The Grantham Canal Society has a team of rangers who not only renovate and rebuild sections of the canal, they also keep it clear of litter. Thank you so much to the entire team and all of the volunteers that came down to help!



This month, I was at the CO-OP in East Leake to hold another street surgery. I was with local council candidates Paul Mercer and Sangita Singh and Cllr. Matt Barney to talk and listen to residents. Thank you so much to everyone who came to chat with me. We had some good discussions on development, the East Leake Health Centre, immigration, development and much more.





I was delighted to join the British Council this month for their International School Award ceremony. I went to congratulate Rushcliffe Spencer Academy, which had achieved accreditation with the Awards. The Award recognises schools that have taken on an international ethos and a commitment to embedding international awareness and understanding in the classroom. It was great to hear about the internationally focused activities at Rushcliffe Spencer, many congratulations to them on their award!



Along with Cllr. Matt Barney, I met with members of the Harmless mental health charity at their site in East Leake. We discussed their work and what the organisation does to support vulnerable people who are at risk of self-harm and suicide. I also heard about The Tomorrow Project which was developed at the end of 2012 in response to tragic local suicides. Since then, the team has expanded to offer support across all of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

It was lovely to meet up with Dave and Krysia Allcock on their visit to



Parliament this month. Before meeting me, they had a tour of the Houses of Parliament. If you would like a tour, please do email me at [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk)



It was wonderful to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day in Parliament this month. At the National Down Syndrome Policy Group's parliamentary reception, I met up with Kate Grant who is the first Down Syndrome model in the UK and Ireland. A few weeks before this, I met Liam Fox MP and campaigners Heidi and James Carter to talk about their work with the National Down Syndrome Policy Group and the progress of the Down Syndrome Act Guidance which was passed back in 2022.



I met with the Minister for Levelling Up, Dehenna Davison, to discuss the East Midlands Freeport and how important it will be for Rushcliffe and the rest of the Region. Our freeport is an important step in making sure that the East Midlands is at the forefront of the levelling up agenda.

I made my way to see Nottingham Rugby Club take on the Bedford Blues. It was a fantastic game and we took a nice 26-24 victory! Well done, lads!



Finally, I met with Notts TV and the Local Television Network to talk about the role local media sources have in Rushcliffe and the rest of the UK.

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