

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up



July 2023

Inflation down to 16-month low

I know high inflation is a real concern for all of us. It has had a big impact on the cost of living and people's household bills.

I was relieved to see that inflation has now fallen to 7.9% and I hope that this will start to ease some of the pressures on peoples' budgets.

This drop was partly caused by a slowing down in rising food prices.. I know the Chancellor is committed to keeping food prices down and has met with supermarket bosses recently to apply pressure on the retail industry to pass on lower wholesale costs to consumers.

The biggest contributor to the fall in inflation, however, was the fall in fuel prices. The cost of fuel is now down 22.7% since last year, making the cost of running a car for individuals, families, or businesses lower.

In addition, core inflation (which excludes volatile energy, food, alcohol and tobacco prices) has fallen to 6.9%.

It is good to see inflation falling, it shows that the Government's plan to halve inflation by the end of the year is working and we must stick to it.

Nottinghamshire one of first areas to

trial wraparound childcare

This month, the first councils to trial wraparound childcare in the country were announced. 16 councils have been chosen, including Nottinghamshire.

The plans will give parents of primary aged school children access to childcare in their local area between 8am and 6pm, giving parents the peace of mind that their children are getting the best possible care whilst they are at work.

The plan is for most of these areas to begin the trial next summer with a view of expanding the provision to other areas in England by September 2024.

This is part of a £204 million cash boost to kickstart the largest expansion of childcare ever, giving parents the choice to get back to work sooner.

You may remember that last month I took Childrens' Minister Claire Coutinho to Serendipity Nursery in Cotgrave. The Minister came to hear feedback about the Government's reforms, she has been visiting lots of childcare providers like Serendipity. I am delighted that Nottinghamshire has been chosen to lead the way with wraparound childcare, providing greater flexibility to parents.



Largest pay deal for the public sector in two decades

It is important that we invest in the brilliant people who make our public services what they are. That's why the Government accepted, in full, the recommendations of the Pay Review bodies this month.

The Government has been clear about the need for pay awards to recognise the hard work of the public sector, whilst meeting the Prime Minister's priority to halve inflation and manage public spending effectively.

The final deal on the table includes a pay rise of 7% for police officers, 6% for junior doctors, 7% for prison officers, 5% for our armed forces, and 6.5% for teachers.

Teachers

For teachers, the typical teacher will take home almost £44,300 a year, with a pay increase of more than £2,700. Around 40% of teachers' pay will rise by between 10 and 17.4%.

Police Officers

a typical police officer/constable will see an increase of nearly £5,000.

NHS Staff

First year Junior Doctors basic pay will rise by over £3,000. Other NHS staff, such as GPs, consultants, nurses, and ambulance workers

will also see their pay increase.

Prison officers

Prison officers will have increases of £1,600-£5,000, with a 10% uplift for the lowest paid.

Armed forces

Our armed forces will also see a £2,000 increase with around a 10% rise for the lowest paid personnel - £3,000+ on average.

. This plan is fair both to public sector workers and to other tax-payers. I sincerely hope the Unions will do the right thing and accept the offer that has been made.

Stopping the small boat crossings

This month, the Illegal Migration Bill received Royal Assent and became law after its final stages in Parliament. This is called 'ping pong' when the House of Lords proposes any changes it wants to make and the Commons votes on whether to either accept these changes or reject them and send a message to the Lord's with their reasons. This continues until both chambers have agreed the outstanding points. It can lead to a lot of votes, I think we broke a record (certainly in recent history) with 18 votes in a row this month (that's just over three and a half hours of votes). As a Government whip I've been closely involved with helping to manage those votes, it's been quite an experience!

You will remember in March when the Bill was proposed, the Prime Minister and Home Secretary set out how it would break the business model of people smugglers, stopping the small boat crossings, and create a fair system by deterring those who would come to the UK illegally.

People smugglers have been profiting from vulnerable people for too long. They are putting people's lives in danger in the channel and creating misery for thousands of people each year.

It is extremely important that this bill is as unambiguous as possible: if you come to the UK illegally, you will not be able to remain here. That is why the Bill sets new rules that those who come to the UK illegally will be detained and swiftly returned to their home country or a safe third country. This removes the incentives to come to the UK via small boat or other illegal methods, and will strike at the heart of the people smugglers' business models.

Over 45,000 migrants crossed the Channel illegally last year, costing the UK some £3 billion a year and rising, including nearly £6 million a day on hotel accommodation. I agree with many in Rushcliffe, that this is not fair and should not be allowed to continue.

As this law comes into effect, we can continue to fulfil our commitments to the most vulnerable people in the world. I am proud of our history as a nation that provides refuge for those in need. For example, between 2015 and 2022, we have offered sanctuary to 481,804 men, women and children seeking safety via safe and legal entry routes.

Cracking down on polluting water companies

We have made a big step forward in our efforts to clean up our rivers and seas this month.

New rules agreed by Parliament, will mean that water companies that pollute our waterways can now face unlimited fines. Previously, Natural England and the Environment Agency were able to issue fines of up to £250,000, but the cap has now been removed.

All funds raised from the fines will go into the Water Restoration Fund, which delivers on-the-ground improvements to water quality, and supports local groups and community-led schemes which help to protect our seas and rivers.

I want our rivers and seas to be as clean as possible. I will continue working with DEFRA to ensure we do all we can to clean up the waterways in our communities.

Ziplining across Trent Bridge Cricket Ground for local dementia charity!

Many thanks to everyone who donated to my zip wire challenge fund!

On the 16th July, I joined lots of volunteers in taking part in the Trent Bridge Community Trust's #Donate4Dementia Zip Wire challenge.

My eyes were closed for most of it, but I am told I travelled 190 metres over the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, reaching speeds of up to 40mph.

Thank you to everyone who supported me. We raised £1025 for local charity Forget Me Notts which uses sport to build a community between people with dementia, their carers and those experiencing isolation and loneliness. The fantastic programme has already won multiple awards and supports so many people in Rushcliffe.



Improving access to defibrillators

I'm thrilled to announce that the Government has delivered on its promise of making sure every state school in England is equipped with a defibrillator has now been delivered.

Defibrillators significantly increase the chances of somebody surviving a cardiac arrest and I'm now thankful we have these in every school across England. Many of you will know that I have been campaigning for ways to reduce the cost of defibrillators, to make them more affordable to community groups. In response to this, the Government set out a £1 million fund to help community groups purchase these life saving devices.

The Department of Health and Social Care is inviting interested organisations to register expressions of interest for its £1 million Community Automated External Defibrillators Fund, aimed at increasing the number of AEDs in public places where they are most needed and help save lives.

If you'd like to register your interest, please see [here](#).

Campaign win: £88 million for schools in Rushcliffe

Since the Autumn, schools have been receiving record levels of per pupil funding, something that I have been campaigning for since 2019. This month, the Government and Department for Education have built on this and schools in England are set to receive even higher funding in real terms, totalling almost £60 billion for 2024-25. Rushcliffe will be receiving £88 million.

Through the National Funding Formula, mainstream schools will receive around £6000 per pupil. With the additional funding for teachers' pay, this will mean that more money than ever before is being invested in schools and equates to a 2.6% increase on this year's funding.

I know this will be very welcomed by schools, parents, and pupils in Rushcliffe where we have some of the best schools in the country. I will continue to campaign on behalf of all schools in Rushcliffe for more funding to ensure we're getting the best deal.

On the beat with the police

I had a fantastic morning with the local police in Rushcliffe this month.

After meeting with the Neighbourhood Policing and Reacher Teams at the Police Station, I joined them for their morning patrol along Central Avenue. I accompanied Matt Holden who gave me an insight into the main issues affecting the area, such as anti-social behaviour and shoplifting on the Avenue.

I was also able to see how the recent funding awarded to Rushcliffe from the Safer Streets Fund was being used. The funding purchased new CCTV cameras, and funded new Safer Street Wardens. Both will support the Police in deterring anti-social behaviour in the area.

Tackling crime and supporting our police is a top priority for me. Of course, West Bridgford is not the only area to benefit from more police funding. Nottinghamshire as a whole received 418 new police officers in March as the Government met its manifesto commitment to recruit 20,000 new police officers by 2023.

Thank you very much to both the Neighbourhood and Reacher teams for meeting with me and taking me out on their patrol.



Increased fines for fly-tipping, littering and graffiti

One issue that is consistently raised with me is fly-tipping and littering. They damage the environment and are an eye-sore in our local communities.

The Government has taken further action this month to tackle fly-tipping and littering, as well as graffiti. The maximum amount those caught committing any of the offences above have increased - from £400 to £1000 for fly-tipping, from £150 to £500 for littering or graffitiing, as well as from £400 to £600 for those who breach their household waste duty of care (i.e. the safe management of waste from the household/property to an authorised person).

I am pleased that the Government is continuing to tackle this kind of anti-social behaviour and supporting communities across Rushcliffe.

Over £5 Million for Social Care in Nottinghamshire

This month the Government announced more than £5 million of funding to support Adult Social Care across Nottinghamshire. This is part of the £600 million Adult Social Care Workers Fund which will allow local authorities to increase their investment in adult social care capacity and better support the workforce. This includes pay.

£30 million of the national total will be allocated to local authorities so that they can target specific local pressures in urgent and emergency care in recognition of the critical link with adult social care.

Sutton Bonington Broadband Survey

Over the summer recess, I will be out and about across Rushcliffe delivering resident surveys so you can flag any issues or concerns you have with me. This will be your opportunity to let me know if there is anything that needs my attention in your community. I began this series of surveys in Sutton Bonington this month.

Many residents had contacted myself and local Councillor Matt Barney to inform us that the broadband in the village was not up-to-par and was having a real negative impact for residents and businesses. We therefore published the Sutton Bonington Broadband Survey which asked residents for their views on their broadband speeds.

I delivered the first batch of these surveys and have received some very helpful feedback so far. Other residents in Sutton Bonington can expect to have one of these surveys sent to them soon. I am planning to use the surveys to try to get BT to address the broadband issues so look out for us out and about. Or, you can fill out the survey [here](#).



Tackling domestic abuse

Some of you may remember the landmark Domestic Abuse Act which came into force in 2021. This Act contained protections for survivors of domestic abuse and sought to make the justice system more effective in supporting survivors and bringing perpetrators to justice.

One part of the Act was the introduction of a non-fatal strangulation offence. This means that perpetrators could face up to 5 years in prison.

We have heard this month that more than 200 individuals have been charged with the offence in the last year. Nottinghamshire Police has said that, even in cases where they don't have sufficient evidence to bring a charge, the act of arresting and interviewing a suspect on suspicion of this offence gives them plenty of additional options to help protect victims from harm.

I am very pleased to see this new law having such an impact to protect survivors of domestic abuse. It is vitally important we continue our battle against domestic abuse.

In addition to this news, this month the Government and Treasury have introduced a new free tool to help tackle economic abuse (i.e. when an abuser takes control over the money and finances of their victim in a coercive way).

The new tool, which has been distributed to all HMRC staff, will be made available to businesses later this year, will help people to spot the signs of economic abuse when talking to customers over the phone. The aim of this tool is to create an appropriate environment for victims to disclose their experiences so staff members can get them the help they need.

Out and about

It was wonderful to meet with the SAVE campaign group from Barton-in-Fabis this month. Some of you may remember I worked with the group when a gravel pit was being proposed to be built right on the edge of the village. This would have had serious environmental implications for residents and the nearby Attenborough Nature Reserve. Thankfully, we campaigned successfully for the planning application to be denied. Unfortunately, this did not mean the application would never come back, so we met this month to discuss our campaign and renew our commitment to fight the gravel pit at every step.

This month, I met with local Councillor Matt Barney, Paul Allen and Liv Smith from Sutton Bonington Primary School, as well as representatives from the Department for Education to discuss the Government's School Rebuilding Programme, which Sutton Bonington Primary has been included in.

We discussed the school's needs in terms of expansion and what can be achieved with the School Rebuilding Programme. You may remember Sutton Bonington Primary was chosen as one of 12 schools included in the first tranche of the School Rebuilding Programme and will fund 400 major rebuilding and refurbishment projects across England.

It was a pleasure to start Year 2's soapbox race this month at Jesse Gray Primary school. Each year group competed in go-carts they made themselves as part of STEM week back in March. There were lots of fantastic carts that had been built (even Big Ben) which were driven by students and some brave parents. Despite the British weather, it proved to be a really fun event for everyone involved.

Many thanks to Headteacher Mr Belton for inviting me!



Thank you to the Maggie's Nottingham charity for inviting me to set off their sponsored walk this month! Maggie's provides a range of services to those affected by cancer. A cancer diagnosis can have a far-reaching impact which is why Maggie's caters for the patient and their families.

Well done to everyone who took part!



I'd like to say huge congratulations to the Rushcliffe Dementia Communication and Support Group (RDCSG) for making the shortlist in the NHS Parliamentary Awards' Excellence in Healthcare Award. MPs were asked to nominate local organisations in their constituencies and I was more than pleased to nominate the RDCSG for their fantastic work in supporting Rushcliffe Primary Care Network's transformation into a thriving, sustainable Dementia-Friendly Community.

It was wonderful to join the Purpose Coalition's Solidarity with Ukraine Parliamentary Reception this month. The UK will always stand with our allies in Ukraine to ensure their victory. To date, the UK has provided £4.7 billion in non-military assistance, which includes £220 million in humanitarian aid, and £4.6 billion in military assistance.



I met with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Steve Barclay MP during an information session he was running for MPs on the New Hospital Programme. You may remember the new National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at Stanford Hall in Rushcliffe received the sign off as one of the Government's 40 new hospitals. This session was a chance for MPs to discuss the details of the new hospitals that will transform the way we deliver healthcare in the UK.



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