

RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL WEEKLY ROUNDUP – 29 April 2022

Good afternoon,

We are about to enter a month of decisions for people living in and around our two market towns. On Thursday 5 May, Uppingham residents will take part in a by-election to choose a new County Councillor to represent their Ward area. On 26 May, those living in Oakham and nearby Barleythorpe will be asked to vote in a referendum on a proposed new Neighbourhood Plan. Many of our neighbours will also be holding elections next month, and while Rutland is not scheduled to have its Full Council Elections until May 2023, now is a fitting moment to pause and consider how fortunate we are to be able to choose our elected representatives through a free and transparent democratic process. This should never be taken for granted and particularly not when we look at what's still happening in Ukraine, where violence is being used to try and take control of the country.

Thankfully, although the violence is continuing in Ukraine, we have been able to extend a hand of friendship and support to individuals and families forced to flee the country. There are now eight Ukrainian families living in Rutland as part of the UK's Homes for Ukraine scheme, with a further 20 families still due to arrive. We expect this number to continue to grow in the coming weeks and months. From our discussions with partners in neighbouring authority areas, it's becoming apparent that Rutland is some way ahead of others in terms of its preparations, and we must thank the officers who have worked tirelessly with local sponsors in recent weeks to reach this state of readiness. Similarly, I would like to thank all those staff and volunteers who will be helping to run polling stations and count ballots next week or at the end of May. Whether you will be going to the polls in Uppingham, Oakham or Barleythorpe, I hope you'll take pride in the fact you are supporting the democratic process in a county where we are so willing to do right and assist those who need our help.

Regards,
Mark

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1. COVID-19

a. Latest situation

As of 4.00pm on Thursday 28 April, 22,038,340 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK. Of those who have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 174,912 people have died across all settings within 28 days of a positive test.

As of 4.00pm on Thursday 28 April, 53,184,869 people in the UK have received their first dose vaccination and 49,727,305 have received their second dose vaccination. The national booster and third dose total is 38,576,876. These figures continue to be published on the government's daily dashboard: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

Rutland recorded 79 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the period between 17 and 23 April, a decrease of 50 compared to the previous week. This equates to 195 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 200.

As of 26 March, 91% of people in Rutland aged 12 and over had been given first doses of COVID vaccinations; 87% had received their second dose; 72% have had a booster or third dose.

A total of 89 coronavirus-related deaths were registered in Rutland up to 15 March.

b. Walk-in clinics for COVID boosters

COVID vaccinations (including the COVID Booster) are available at walk-in sites in Rutland on the following days:

- Saturday 30 April 2022 - Oakham Enterprise Park, 9.30am-5.30pm. Age 5+ 1st, 2nd or 3rd dose. 1st and 2nd Boosters.
- Tuesday 3 May 2022 - Oakham Enterprise Park, 9.30am-5.30pm. (Age 16+ 9.30am-3pm & Age 5+ 3pm-5.30pm) 1st, 2nd or 3rd dose. 1st and 2nd Boosters.
- Friday 6 May 2022 - Oakham Enterprise Park, 9.30am-5.30pm. (Age 16+ 9.30am-3pm & Age 5+ 3pm-5.30pm) 1st, 2nd or 3rd dose. 1st and 2nd Boosters.

Details of who is eligible to receive a COVID booster can be found online at: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine

The latest information about COVID vaccination clinics across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland can be found online at: www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine

2. WIDER COUNCIL OPERATIONS

a. Rutland Local Offer

All Local Authorities must publish a Local Offer covering the information, provision and services that a child and young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their family, can expect to be available to them. Colleagues across Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) have created a [short animation](#), to help raise awareness of the Local Offer and how it can support those who care for and who work with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The aim is to reach as many families and professionals as possible, in turn improving their access to information and support in relation to SEND. The video was made in conjunction with parents and carers and children and young people across LLR.

b. Transport autism training

The transport team have been working on the implementation of a training plan for drivers and passenger assistants responsible for transporting vulnerable students with SEND and other needs and are working jointly with Uppingham Community College to access their training offer starting with the delivery of autism awareness training to our RCC in-house transport team this month. The care and understanding of the needs of our vulnerable young people is essential in delivering a high standard of transport.

c. Health and wellbeing consultations

The Rutland Information Service (RIS) has recently created a new page [Get involved – have your say about health and wellbeing services](#), where you can find out about different consultations that are taking place to inform the design of health and wellbeing services. We hope this makes it easier to get involved in shaping the services that matter to you.

Current consultations or engagements that are open now:

- The impact of the 'invisibility' of adult social care
- Access to pharmacy services in Lincolnshire, including Stamford
- The green paper on the national system for special educational needs and disability (SEND) and alternative provision (AP), aiming to help children and young people thrive
- Informing the national mental health and wellbeing plan.

The page will be frequently updated by the RIS team. If you become aware of any other consultations or engagements, feel free to inform us at ris@rutland.gov.uk.

Additionally, HealthWatch Rutland have started monthly, [face to face community drop-ins](#) at Oakham Baptist Church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month between 10am - 12 (noon). This is to give the public the opportunity to drop in, have a cuppa, and give any health and social care feedback face-to-face, as phones and digital means don't work for everyone.

d. Cabinet Office veterans visit

Rutland welcomed the Independent Veterans Advisor, Rtd Col David Richmond, on Wednesday this week as part of a two day visit to the East Midlands showcasing examples of national best practice in supporting veterans and Armed Forces families.

Col Richmond visited HMP Stocken to hear about their work supporting veterans, including their Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club which was the first in the UK to be established within a prison. We were able to highlight the work with the Council's Armed Forces Officer did in linking community-based veterans support organisations with individuals in the prison to support them on release and reduce future reoffending.

The visit then continued at Kendrew Barracks where Col Richmond met members of the Welfare Teams and RCC officers to discuss the joint work undertaken between Kendrew and the Council, its impact on serving personnel and their families, and how this continues to support them through the transition to civilian life.

e. Careers advice

The National Careers Service is now operating 121 support sessions at Oakham Library on alternate Mondays (next session on 9th May). Sessions cover:

- Making career choices
- Identifying skills and upskilling
- Understanding the labour market
- Digital media for job search
- Interview techniques
- Redundancy
- How to prepare a good quality CV

To book a slot please email lincolnshire@futuresforyou.com

f. Registration services

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill, a Private Member's Bill sponsored by Pauline Latham MP, completed its third reading in the House of Lords on 26 April. As a result of this legislation, the legal age for marriage and civil partnership in England and Wales will increase to age 18, and the provisions which allow for a child aged 16-17 to marry or enter into a civil partnership with parental or judicial consent will come to an end. There will also be a new offence for someone organising a marriage of another person before their 18th birthday, which will include non-legally binding ceremonies.

While the Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent in the next few days, commencement regulations will need to be laid in Parliament before the change in the law can come into legal force and some secondary legislation changes are also required. As a result, no date has yet been announced for commencement, however anyone enquiring about marriage or partnership will be appropriately advised by Registrars where age may be a factor.

g. Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Plans for the celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June continue to progress. Communities are reminded that any requests for road closures to hold street parties should be submitted by next Friday 6 May for the proposals to be checked and approved. Applications for road closures for street parties by this date will not incur a charge. Details of how to apply are here:

www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/platinum-jubilee/platinum-jubilee-street-parties-and-road-closures.

Applications received and approved so far are listed below.

Parish	Road	Date of Closure	Start Time	End Time
Ashwell	Water Lane	05/06/2022	14:00	22:00
Barrowden	Main Street	05/06/2022	11:00	19:00
Belton	Junction of Main Street and Church Street	05/06/2022	10:00	18:00
Braunston	Cedar Street	05/06/2022	09:00	21:00
Cottesmore	The Leas	04/06/2022 - 05/06/2022	23:00	23:00
Edith Weston	Rectory Lane	05/06/2022	12:00	17:00
Manton	St Mary's Road	05/06/2022	09:00	18:00
North Luffenham	Church Street	05/06/2022	09:00	21:00
Oakham	Nene Crescent	05/06/2022	11:00	18:00
Oakham	Chater Road	05/06/2022	Not supplied	Not supplied

Oakham	Limefield	05/06/2022	All day	
Oakham	Dove Close	05/06/2022	All day	
Oakham	Braunston Road	05/06/2022	12:00	15:00
Preston	Church Lane	05/06/2022	12:00	17:00
Stretton	Church Lane	05/06/2022	13:00	00:00
Uppingham	Stockerston Crescent	05/06/2022	14:00	18:00
Whissendine	Hall Close	05/06/2022	13:00	18:00
Wing	Top Street	05/06/2022	08:00	20:00

Events that do not require road closures are not required to submit applications, but so that we can publicise what is happening in all communities we would be grateful to receive details by email to events@rutland.gov.uk

h. Rutland Walking and Cycling Festival (21 May – 1 June)

The festival will be returning once again in May 2022. The first week is the Rutland Round which is a 65-mile circular route around the perimeter of the county, with its start and finish in Oakham and a couple of detours to visit Rutland Water. The 65-mile led walk will be split into six days starting on Saturday 21 May and finishing on Thursday 26 May. You can book to walk as many sections as you like or why not take on the challenge of the full Rutland Round.

The second week is made up of different walking and cycling activities such as a walking litter pick, family bike ride, family spring nature trail, canal walk and more. View the programme to find out about the exciting activities on offer and book your place on the Active Rutland website:

<https://www.activerutland.org.uk/walkingandcyclingfestival>

If you'd like to hear more about the festival this year and future years, join the mailing list by emailing activerutland@rutland.gov.uk

i. Libraries

Rutland Libraries have improved sustainability by moving to biodegradable and recyclable library cards. The county's four public libraries started issuing the new eco library cards at the beginning of April. The move is a small but carefully considered change with the aim of reducing the amount of plastic used in running the service. The new illustrated green card design is made of sturdy cardboard and features the fully functioning barcodes that customers are used to.

The Library Service will be celebrating the Jubilee by hosting special Children's Theatre performances of the play "Roti Moon" at Oakham Library on Tuesday 31 May at 11am and 2pm. The library will be closed to allow the events to take place. Tickets are free and can be booked at: rutlandlibraries.org.uk/events.

Oakham Library will also be closed on Thursday 26 May as it will be used as one of the Polling Stations for the Oakham and Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. Full details are available at <http://www.rutland.gov.uk/elections-and-referendums>. We apologise for the inconvenience of the library closure.

j. Avian Influenza

Plans have been announced to lift poultry housing measures across the UK from Monday 2 May 2022. Avian Influenza Prevention Zone mandatory biosecurity measures will remain in place for all birds.

Anyone intending to allow your birds outside after 2 May must take action now to prepare outside areas. Please check the information available on GOV.UK: www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-keepers-urged-to-maintain-scrupulous-biosecurity-standards-as-housing-measures-set-to-be-lifted

k. Highways update

The A606 Barleythorpe installation of a new signal-controlled Toucan crossing and connecting footway has got underway today and will last five weeks, due to completed on Wednesday 1 June 2022.

l. Weekly highways maintenance list

Road closures

Town/Village	Starts	Finishes	Company
Ketton (footpath)	13/04/2022	13/10/2022	Beeson Wright Ltd
Braunston (footpath)	02/05/2022	02/05/2022	Private Individual
Oakham (footpath)	07/05/2022	07/05/2022	Oakham Town Council
Uppingham (footpath)	08/05/2022	08/05/2022	Uppingham First

Temporary road signals

Town / Village	Starts	Finishes	Company
Barleythorpe, Barleythorpe Roundabout	25/04/2022	03/06/2022	RCC
Empingham, Whitwell Road	03/05/2022	05/05/2022	Severn Trent Water
Langham, Cold Overton Road	03/05/2022	05/05/2022	Fibre Me Limited

Roadworks

Town/village	Starts	Finishes	Company
Barleythorpe, Barleythorpe Roundabout	25/04/2022	03/06/2022	RCC
Uppingham, North Street East	01/05/2022	04/05/2022	Severn Trent Water
Empingham, Whitwell Road	03/05/2022	05/05/2022	Severn Trent Water
North Luffenham, Kings Road	03/05/2022	05/05/2022	Severn Trent Water
Langham, Cold Overton Road	03/05/2022	05/05/2022	Fibre Me Limited

3. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

a. This week

The following public meetings took place this week (w/c Monday 25 April).

- [Audit and Risk Committee, Tuesday 26 April](#)
- [Special Planning and Licensing Committee, Thursday 28 April](#)

b. Look ahead

No meetings are scheduled to take place next week (w/c Monday 2 May):

The latest version of the [RCC Forward Plan](#) can be viewed online.

c. Weekly planning list

RCC's weekly planning list for w/c Monday 25 April can now be viewed online:

- [Weekly List \(rutland.gov.uk\)](http://rutland.gov.uk)

4. STAFF NEWS

a. Starters

We welcomed the following new starters this week:

- Lynn Vale, Adult and Community Learning Support Officer
- Sara Budzik, Adult Learning Tutor