

Rushcliffe Borough Council Labour Group

Making local democracy more open, transparent, and democratic

First let us wish you a Happy New Year! This is our end of 2019 update from the Borough Council Group. The seven new Labour Members of Rushcliffe Borough Council, known as the Labour Group, have had a spectacular start to their four year term as Councillors.

In September we put our first motion to full council, asking for more attention to be paid to green issues within the council, which was passed unanimously. The results of this are already being seen within council plans and budgets, which we'll be able to share more about later in the new year. We were also able to have the time available to the public and opposition councillors to ask questions of the council extended by 24 hours, which seems small but in percentage terms is quite large!



*Cllr. Ben Gray
Leader, RBC Lab*



*Cllr. Mike Gaunt
Chair, RBC Lab*

We have worked with local groups and encouraged questions to be asked of the full council and cabinet. We have spent time supporting local campaigns such as Lutterell Hall, the Abbey Road Depot, and supporting James Peacock School's Teaching Assistants. Our role has been to support these campaigns inside and outside of the council chamber.

In the year ahead we expect to make some headway with our election pledges, and are looking forward to more success.

The first nine months have been exhilarating, and we are proud to be part of the thin red line of Labour Councillors who will be standing up for people all over the country.



*Cllr. Jen Walker
Deputy Leader,
RBC Lab*

In September Councillors of all colours unanimously passed a motion calling on the Borough to look into their investments and begin to divest from fossil fuel based investments as part of the Labour Group's continued commitment to the environment.

The motion was put forward by the Labour Councillors after discussion with Extinction Rebellion - the collaboration with local action groups shapes what we put forward at council and helps us to understand what matters to people we represent.

Since September the officers at the Borough have begun their audit, along with our new Treasury Management partners, and have recorded that approximately 1% of our current investment is in fossil.

As Vice Chair of Governance Scrutiny Cllr Walker will continue to monitor that fossil-fuelled based investment is no longer part of our investment portfolio in the future as well as keeping a keen eye on all current shares.

The big news in Abbey Ward is the redevelopment of the depot. Unfortunately key decisions had been made before we were elected, so now we need to make sure the final planning application is appropriate, and that resources are provided to support the large increase in population.

The next targets are an upgrade to the play area facilities on Buckfast way, a book share swop near Abbey Road, and glass recycling on the old bus turning on Buckfast way.

We are very concerned about the lack of local shops given the loss of the Saturday bus service and would be interested to know if anyone is aware of a travelling shop that might be interested in serving the Hexham Close at the weekend. There will be a campaign to get bus service improvements when the new estate is built.





Cllr. Penny Gowland
Treasurer, RBC Lab

Whilst we were canvassing in May it became apparent to me that Abbey Ward was missing many community facilities. To start to put this right will need community involvement, so my first goal was to try to bring the local community together both on social media and with a community group.

Fortunately this turned out to be quite easy to do since in June the wonderful community gardeners (Sue and her friend) contacted me to show me how they had been working to make the verges in Abbey Park flower.

I was able to get the council to help them to recycle the green waste from the verges, but Sue also turned out to be an excellent contact in the community. She knew the right person to ask to set up the new **Abbey Park Facebook group**: go there to find out about a Book groups, notices about other local activities, and other neighbourhood information.



On 21st July, there was a Summer-fest and Late Eid Festival Celebration which was organised by Cllr. Naz Begum.

It's a great way for the community to get together and the one thing I wanted to do was to ensure everyone had the opportunity to meet each other, celebrate and have some food – which was shared out to everybody for free.

We held it at Lutterell Hall because it's such a fantastic venue. There were many stall holders who came along, everything from mehndi to cakes, make up to clothes – something for everyone! We had lots of people there and Cheryl Pidgeon was on stage to share a few words to the folk whom had come to enjoy the afternoon. I'll look to hold some more events next year to celebrate the diversity and brilliant multi-cultural society we have.



Cllr. Naz Begum (right) Whip, RBC Lab



Cllr. Bal Bansal (right), RBC Lab

Cllr. B Bansal was able to meet officers at our local Rushcliffe Community Contact Centre.

It's a great place for the local community to come over and get the advice they need. More so, we're inviting the local

Police Officers to join in with our councillor surgeries when possible, so they can also meet the community and help them with any questions they may have. We are trying to be proactive as possible – there is a lot of the Asian community in West Bridgford whom know me and I'm familiar with, so to provide them with an opportunity to speak to the local councillors and the local police who can advise them certain things will definitely help.



Cllr. Jenny Murray
Secretary, RBC Lab

Also in Trent Bridge – Cllr. Jenny Murray has been supporting the local Lutterell Hall.

There's been a lot of activity and a lot of people have come forward saying how they used to use Lutterell Hall and they would be upset if it went. We want to do everything we can to save the hall.