

## Rushcliffe Borough Council Labour Group

*Making local democracy more open, transparent and democratic.*

Merry Christmas from Ruddington!

We hope you and yours are all well and that you will be able to see friends and family this year. We have had to make last minute changes to our plans - we were due to visit family in Canada - but coronavirus has put a spanner in our plans again so, after a shedding a few tears, have started making plans for an alternative Christmas back home.

Our festivities started with the return of Ruddington's Christmas Market. Our High Street was shut from Church Street to Charles Street and was filled with music, stalls and merrymaking. Adding to the atmosphere was the fact that Ruddington had been Yarn Bombed! All around the centre are knitted decorations done by our very own knitting ninjas.



The organisers this year were Ruddington's Village Centre Partnership (RVCP). RVCP is a group of volunteers from the village representing residents, businesses, and local government. Although we sit on the steering committee, a breakoff group of volunteers organised the entire market. It could not have gone any better despite the rain and winds and we would like to raise a Christmas glass to all the hard work that the community of Ruddington who organised, decorated, volunteered on the day, kept the business going or attended.

It really felt like we lived in the best village.

Cheers and Merry Christmas!

From, Jen & Mike.



Cllr. Jen Walker  
Leader RBC Labour



Cllr. Mike Gaunt  
Chair, RBC Labour



It sure has been a busy year, in the past few months we've continued our support with Lutterell Hall and using community funds that have been available, been able to have a defibrillator installed (one which can be used by the pre-school also).

Jenny has been busy with local communities such as the Musters Tennis Club! Where they've recently had new lighting installed for night time sessions. This helps those in our community who want to play tennis, do so during the winter months (as it gets darker) to play with lights on!

Jenny and Penny both went to the tennis club on the evening when it was officially opened and celebrated with the local community.



Bal & Jenny continue with local ward walks in our community and recently have been joined by PC Holden and other members of the Police Force.

This is to ensure, any concerns or issues are immediately known to the local Police and by working together, can resolve.

Rushcliffe Cops (on Twitter) shared a photo of us all a few months ago! – If you're not following them on twitter (or our local Labour Councillors) please find them and give them a follow.

During Christmas, we wish you have a great time with family, enjoy the time of year and ensure you stay safe.

As some of you may know, Bal supports a charity in Nottingham, where every Monday, food is cooked and then provided to those sleeping rough in the City Centre, the vulnerable and those who need a hot meal. It was great to have Jen join in a few weeks ago—frying some chips in the photo! – it was Chips and Beans on that Monday. Around 50 portions of hot food provided. Been doing this for 4 years – if you'd like to get involved, either cooking in the kitchen or serving in the city centre – reach out to Bal.



Cllr. Bal Bansal



Cllr. Jenny Murray

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year. And hope to see you soon either over the festive period or please do pop into our Councillor Surgeries we hold in the West Bridgford Library (Last Saturday of every month).





Cllr. Penny Gowland

Hello Everybody, Hope you are all well. I've been writing a blog post and sharing it on RushcliffeLabour.com every month, since I became Notts County Councillor. I hope you find them interesting and informative. Believe it's important to share what is happening, how I represent the local community and how I'm working to deliver the commitments that were made. I'm sharing a few updates from my last blog post – please do share your feedback, it's always appreciated. And as always, your support means a lot to me and always happy to take calls or listen to you about the matters that are important to you.

I attended the “March with Midwives” vigil on Sunday at Forest Fields, which was held as one of hundreds of similar events across the country to highlight the critically low staffing levels and dangerous working conditions in midwifery. The working environment is now so poor that for every 30 new midwives that are trained and join the service, 29 midwives leave.

Once again I am bringing the motion to the council meeting calling for a 20mph speed limit on residential roads in all residential areas across Nottinghamshire. I hope this finally gets discussed and passed as it chimes with a number of local campaigns.

Last week at Environment and Transport Committee we discussed the Council's Bus Plan. This contains lots of great ideas including some decarbonisation of the bus fleet (some of it is already biogas), but it was shocking to read how the money put into the buses has declined over the last few years for relatively constant number of passengers; this probably explains our high bus fares.

I think the buses need even better marketing too: I use them at this time of year and for me, from my house, I consider them a real treat! I was a member of the County's Highways Review Team which has just reported. It was a lot of work for the officers and it is great that there will now be a more long term approach to road and pavement repairs, although perhaps we wouldn't be here if we hadn't suffered swinging cuts in the last 10 years.. ‘a stitch in time saves nine’. I have asked that Car Share schemes (like Hiyacar or Enterprise Car Club) be put on the work programme of the committee as I think that if even a few people use them, it will reduce the carbon emissions tied up in making cars, and resolve some of the parking problems in central West Bridgford.



Our Councillor surgeries are back! In the West Bridgford Library – talking all matters relating to Borough and County Council.



**Keith Hodgkinson** 22nd Nov 2021 — 9:42 am

Excellent work, Penny. Thank you. We especially support you on the maternity issue, and on the proposed 20 mph limit especially in “villages” that all have speeding car problems now that they are all overcrowded commuter and school drop-off zones. Also on HS2 – ever a hopeless project for Notts – “This is another fine mess you got us into”.

Keith Hodgkinson, East Leake

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It feels like things have been a little less hectic on the council now that Cllr Walker is in the leadership role. Over the last quarter I did stand in for one leaders meeting where the Boundary Review was discussed. One of the suggestions put forward was to rename the shrunken Lutterell Ward to Wilford Hill, as really it's the main community that would be contained in the new boundary. A detailed response has been made by the council



Cllr. Ben Gray

Community wise the newly formed Wilford Hill Residents Association have been busy. There are now detailed plans of areas to be seeded with wildflowers once spring arrives, these are thanks to the motion the Labour Group put through full council. A second “hunt” is occurring, thankfully no animals are involved, only Xmas images. The event will run from the 11th of December to the 1st of January so there's plenty of time to get some festive exercise and see all of the posters. Whereas previously it was an Easter Egg Hunt, which I managed to complete with my children and double it up as a litter pick.



Cllr. Naz Begum



Heymann School have recently received two new outdoor games tables which were paid for from Ben's community grant donation and was very much appreciated by the school.

On the council we have had two council meetings over the last quarter and I've been enjoying my time on the planning committee. One of those statements is factual.

As a group we've supported some motions from the other opposition parties, which were voted down by the leading group - but somehow supported in spirit. On one motion the leading group (you know the ones) have put the gears in motion to create a Rushcliffe Youth Council, which is something that I would support. It's vital that more young people get involved in their local area if we are to make the important changes to the way we live.

