

**When telephoning, please ask for:** Democratic Services  
**Direct dial** 0115 914 8320  
**Email** democraticservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk

**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 September 2023

To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>  
Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely



Gemma Dennis  
Monitoring Officer

## AGENDA

Moment of Reflection

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 (Pages 1 - 24)

To receive as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 13 July 2023.

4. Mayor's Announcements
5. Leader's Announcements
6. Chief Executive's Announcements
7. Citizens' Questions

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**Opening hours:**  
**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**  
8.30am - 5pm  
**Wednesday**  
9.30am - 5pm  
**Friday**  
8.30am - 4.30pm

**Postal address**  
Rushcliffe Borough  
Council  
Rushcliffe Arena  
Rugby Road  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
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To answer questions submitted by Citizens on the Council or its services.

8. Petitions

9. Business from the last Council meeting

Questions from Councillors

To answer questions submitted by Councillors under Standing Order No.11(2)

- a) Councillor Birch
- b) Councillor J Walker
- c) Councillor Plant

10. Approval of the Scrutiny Annual Reports 2022/23 (Pages 25 - 62)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

11. Notices of Motion

To receive Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order No.12

a) **Councillor Gowland**

This Council resolves to treat people with care experience as if they have a Protected Characteristic.

b) **Councillor Birch**

Rushcliffe Borough Council notes with concern that:

- a) Bingham does not have adequate parking provision.
- b) Despite the 2018 Bingham Masterplan identifying Bingham's poor parking as the town's primary issue, no adequate solutions have been delivered.
- c) Council agreed to build 1000 new homes in Bingham without putting any additional parking infrastructure in place.
- d) Council allocated £19.6 million to other capital projects in the Borough in 2022-23. Only £25,000 revenue has been allocated to Bingham's new car park project.
- e) The 'Update on Car Parking in Bingham' report does not go far enough to solve the parking problems.

Rushcliffe Borough Council therefore resolves to show leadership and ambition in solving Bingham's parking issues.

Council will:

- 1) Make a formal written offer to Bingham Town Council to take over the proposed car park project by purchasing the land off them (subject to a business case being approved and on the condition that the land will be solely used for a long-stay car park).
- 2) Seek to obtain funding to provide step-free access to the north platform of Bingham station.
- 3) Liaise with Nottinghamshire County Council to find holistic solutions to Bingham's parking problems, including dealing with the traffic chaos on Long Acre, improving parking in the Market Square and eliminating unwanted (and unsafe) parking on residential streets near the town centre through parking enforcement.
- 4) Make a pledge to Bingham's residents that Council will aim to break ground on the new car park before 2027.
- 5) Once the new car park is built, provide greater short-stay capacity in the existing town centre car parks.

Rushcliffe Borough Council also resolves to take the following actions:

- 1) Formally declare that the parking problems in Bingham is an urgent matter.
- 2) Formally write to Network Rail to request an explanation as to why, specifically, they oppose the new car park at Butt Field.
- 3) Formally write to East Midlands Railway and Network Rail to ask for a clear explanation as to why step-free access has not so far been provided for Bingham's disabled residents and to obtain assurances that they would support this project should grant funding be obtained.

c) **Councillor Combellack**

Water and flooding are becoming increasingly a concern for residents.

We have an extensive programme of housing and therefore need to be certain that any new development, large or small impacting water courses and infrastructure, does not alter water flow or inadvertently overload the drainage systems which, in many cases, are very old. Currently "wind fall" or minor sites are not commented upon by the water agencies as they are considered too small. However, several small sites can have considerable impact upon drainage.

Farming practice has become increasingly mechanised – whilst we need to support our farmers, the impact of modern practice is compounding flooding issues.

Removal of trees and hedges means fields are less well protected and there is less water uptake by established trees. The loss of tree cover means dry friable soil is blown away leaving, often, barren soil which cannot absorb water in heavy rainfall. Heavy machinery compacts the soil and breaks the underlying field drains. The practice of no plough seed drilling means the soil is no longer broken up to absorb excess rainfall. Existing dew ponds in fields have been filled in removing the natural attenuation. Machinery now flays hedgerows leaving the arisings to block ditches. Heavy machinery on verges destroys the grips carrying water from the road to the ditches.

This Council resolves to

- 1) Strengthen consultation with appointed 'water agencies' – The Local Lead Flood Authority, Severn Trent, Trent Valley Drainage Board and the Environment Agency – by requesting the Secretary of State ensures they are all Statutory Consultees and formally asks, that full and informative comments on every application impacting water supply and drainage, are provided to the Planning Authority, addressing all potential consequences.
- 2) Lobby DEFRA to produce more informed guidance on water attenuation and dispersal and farming practices. Current practice no longer allows for aeration and soil percolation and leads to destruction of field ponds, hedges and trees, consequently adding to flooding.

Both requests to be copied to the Local MPs.

## 12. Questions from Councillors

To answer questions submitted by Councillors under Standing Order No. 11(2)

## Membership

Chair: Councillor D Mason

Vice-Chair: Councillor A Brown

Councillors: M Barney, J Billin, T Birch, R Bird, A Brennan, R Butler, S Calvert, J Chaplain, K Chewings, N Clarke, T Combellack, J Cottee, S Dellar, A Edyvean, S Ellis, G Fletcher, M Gaunt, E Georgiou, P Gowland, C Grocock, R Inglis, R Mallender, S Mallender, P Matthews, H Om, H Parekh, A Phillips, L Plant, D Polenta, N Regan, D Simms, D Soloman, C Thomas, R Upton, D Virdi, J Walker, R Walker, L Way, T Wells, G Wheeler, J Wheeler and G Williams

## **Meeting Room Guidance**

**Fire Alarm Evacuation:** In the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

**Toilets:** Are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

**Mobile Phones:** For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

**Microphones:** When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

## **Recording at Meetings**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt.