



Rutland
County Council

Briefing

RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL WEEKLY ROUNDUP

Monday 12 April 2021

Good afternoon,

Our briefing this week comes to you in the same format as normal but at a slightly different time.

Following the sad news on Friday that His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, had passed away, it was necessary for us to pause some of our normal communications operations.

The Duke of Edinburgh was an incredibly dedicated public servant. The commitment he showed as Consort to Her Majesty the Queen over more than 70 years and as president or patron of countless charities and good causes is an example to all of us. He was also, first and foremost, a husband, a father and grandfather. The thoughts of everyone at Rutland County Council remain with the Royal Family at this sad and difficult time. A reminder that Rutland has launched an online book of condolence where you can leave your own personal message in memory of Prince Philip. All are welcome to sign: www.tolbc.com/RCC-HRHPP

While we continue to observe a period of national mourning with The Royal Family and countless others around the world, it would be remiss of me not mention the change of COVID restrictions that takes place this week. Today's easing of COVID measures means that a great many more businesses can now reopen, including services like hairdressers and barbers, along with hospitality venues that can now serve customers outside. This is the latest positive step in the long road out of lockdown and the Council continues to play an active role in supporting businesses and communities. With these increased freedoms comes the need to act responsibly and follow the rules that are still in place for our collective safety. I would encourage everyone to do all they can to strike this balance over the coming weeks.

Regards,
Mark

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1. COVID-19

a. Latest situation

As of 4.00pm on Monday 12 April, 4,373,343 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK.

Of those who have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 127,100 people have died across all settings within 28 days of a positive test.

As of 4.00pm on Monday 12 April, 32,190,576 have received their first dose vaccination and 7,656,205 have received their second dose vaccination.

These figures continue to be published on the government's daily dashboard: coronavirus.data.gov.uk.

Rutland recorded 14 confirmed cases of COVID-19 during the latest week (1-7 April) – a decrease of four cases compared with the previous week. This equates to 35 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 19.

A total of 73 coronavirus-related deaths have been registered in Rutland up to 26 March.

b. Vaccination update

The Rutland Vaccination Centre at Catmose has now delivered almost 21,000 vaccine doses, which includes 16,500 first doses and 4,500 second doses. Due to limitations of vaccine supply, the centre will mainly be delivering second doses during April. All those from cohorts 1-9 (People aged over 50, health and care workers and clinically vulnerable) have been invited for vaccination.

Second vaccinations

Second vaccinations are normally 11-12 weeks after the first dose for either vaccine. We are now offering second vaccinations to all those who received their first jab in January. Patients will receive an SMS text message on their mobile phone, inviting them to book an appointment for a second vaccination. Those without a mobile phone will receive a letter or telephone call. W

People attending for their first vaccination from 1st April may be given the date for their second jab. Those who have not yet received a date from first vaccinations given in March will normally receive an invitation one week before it is due. Second vaccinations cannot be given before 10 weeks after the first, unless there are exceptional clinical reasons.

If patients cannot attend a clinic between 11-12 weeks after their first jab, they can still have a second vaccination after 12 weeks and it will still be effective.

Household contacts of people who have reduced immunity

People who live with patients who have severely reduced immune response [are now eligible for Covid vaccination](#).

This includes people who are receiving chemotherapy or immunosuppressive medication, people who take steroid tablets and people who have a history of blood cancers. Patients with those conditions should have received a letter or email asking them to identify their household members who wish to be vaccinated. We can offer vaccination to those who are registered with one of the four the Rutland GP practices.

If you are living with someone who is undergoing chemotherapy and have not received an email, please contact Rutland PCN by emailing: rutlandhealth.cvp@nhs.net.

National Booking Service

People over 50 may receive letters, or SMS messages inviting them to book at the mass vaccination sites in Leicester. This system does not allow booking at the Rutland site but we are normally inviting people about a week later. The mass vaccination sites will also be operating with reduced supply and prioritising second doses from April.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccinations and the Rutland vaccination programme, please visit: www.rutlandhealth.co.uk.

c. Testing update – Community Collect Scheme

The Government announced this month that, to manage the risk of increased transmission associated with the next stage of the roadmap, [NHS Test and Trace will move to a universal testing offer for the Lateral Flow Devices across the physical collection channels and direct to home service from 9 April](#).

This means that anyone will be able to access asymptomatic testing through the most appropriate channel.

Community Collect supports the expansion of asymptomatic testing by allowing for the distribution of self-test kits to individual households to test at home. Community collect is now available to all households. Collections must be made by individuals over the age of 18.

One adult from a household can collect tests from the following locations and times. There is no need to book but you must follow social distancing requirements.

Where	Days of operation	Opening Times
Uppingham Library	Tuesday	12.30 – 17.00
Ketton Library	Tuesday	12.30 – 17.00
Ryhall Library	Thursday	12.30 – 17.00
Oakham Library	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday	10.00 – 13.00
Unit 18a Oakham Enterprise Park –Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS)	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Monday: 08:00-18:00 Wednesday: 10:00-19:00 Friday: 08:00-16:00

Each household can routinely collect two boxes of 7 tests to support testing twice weekly. Availability will be dependent on stock levels and will be at the discretion of the collection point assistant.

You must not attend a collection site if:

- If you have any [symptoms](#) of COVID-19. If you have symptoms you must [book a test through the gov.uk website](#) or call **119**, and self-isolate until you receive your test result
- You should be [self-isolating](#) – for example because you've had close contact with someone who has tested positive, or have recently returned from abroad.

More information about asymptomatic testing and Rutland's testing offer can be found at: www.rutland.gov.uk/lfdtesting.

d. Easing of COVID restrictions

As part of the gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions, some of the rules around what you can and cannot do have changed as of today (Monday 12 April).

From 12 April:

- Non-essential retail are able to reopen
- Personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons are able to reopen
- Public buildings such as libraries and community centres are able to reopen
- Outdoor hospitality venues are able to reopen, with table service only
- Most outdoor attractions including zoos, theme parks, and drive-in performances (such as cinemas and concerts) are able to reopen
- Some smaller outdoor events such as fetes, literary fairs, and fairgrounds are able to take place
- Indoor leisure and sports facilities are able to reopen for individual exercise, or exercise with your household or support bubble
- All childcare and supervised activities are allowed indoors (as well as outdoors) for all children. Parent and child groups can take place indoors (as well as outdoors) for up to 15 people (children under 5 will not be counted in this number)
- Weddings, civil partnership ceremonies, wakes and other commemorative events are able to take place for up to 15 people (anyone working is not included in this limit), including in indoor venues that are permitted to open or where an exemption applies. Wedding receptions can also take place for up to 15 people, but must take place outdoors, not including private gardens
- Self-contained accommodation are able to open for overnight stays in England with your household or support bubble
- You should continue to minimise the amount that you travel where possible
- Care home residents are able to nominate two named individuals for regular indoor visits (following a rapid lateral flow test)

To keep yourself and others safe, you should still stay 2 metres apart from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings) if you cannot stay 2 metres apart. You should continue to follow the guidance on how to stop the spread of coronavirus at all times, including if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

You must continue to wear a face covering in many indoor settings, such as shops and places of worship, and on public transport, unless you are exempt.

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable remain at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable, you are no longer advised to shield. However, you should continue to follow the guidance for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and are advised to take additional precautions to protect yourself. It is important that you continue to keep the number of social interactions that you have low and try to limit the amount of time you spend in settings where you are unable to maintain social distancing.

Further information about the 12 April changes to COVID restrictions, including guidance for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and the rules for meeting people, [can be found on the national GOV.UK website](#).

e. Event guidance

As the Government starts to lift restrictions as part of its four step road map, we understand that people and organisations may want to hold public events in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Those events could be for celebration, commemoration or existing planned annual events that may indicate life is returning to normal and/or support recovering local economies and communities.

Step 2 from 12 April, we will see the re-opening of non-essential retail as well as other public establishments, including hospitality venues being able to serve outdoors – the social contact rule of 6 will apply at venues.

Despite the phased easing of restrictions, it is imperative to continue to follow the Governments guidelines on social distancing and its 'Hands – Face – Space' directive. There is likely to be a draw towards hospitality venues as restrictions ease and also to view sporting events throughout this period such as the FA Cup Semi Finals and Final and the European Championships – As well as managing the risk to public health, venues will also need to ensure fire risk from outdoor marques is appropriately mitigated.

At this stage and in line with current Government guidelines, agencies will carefully consider requests to hold public events and weigh up a range of factors including the risks to public health, impacts on the highway network and any possible community and economic benefits. Agencies will support events if they can, but public events may need more support and management than in the past because of social distancing requirements.

Agencies may decide they cannot offer the level of support needed for events to go ahead. If support cannot be provided, agencies will work with communities to find solutions but the risk to public health will be the key deciding factor.

f. PPE supplies

The Government is extending the provision of free PPE to health and social care providers until the end of March 2022.

Following the previous announcement of free PPE provision to health, social care and public sector workers until the end of June 2021, the scheme will now be extended to the end of March 2022 as the expectation of clinical experts is that usage will remain high throughout the next financial year.

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of health and social care workers, as well as their patients and clients, the continued provision will ensure frontline workers can access rigorously tested and high-quality PPE.

PPE also plays a critical role in the wider COVID-19 response, such as enabling visiting to care homes and supporting emergency frontline services like the police, fire and rescue. Free PPE provision extends to all of these needs amongst public sector frontline workers.

Rutland County Council will continue to play a leading role in the distribution of free PPE supplies to health, social care and public sector workers, in line with this extended offer.

2. WIDER COUNCIL OPERATIONS

a. Future Rutland Conversation

Thank you to all those who have helped to promote and support the Future Rutland Conversation, so far. The Campaign has now been running for just over a week, during which time we have seen an excellent level of feedback. The latest engagement figures for the campaign are as follows:

Website statistics

Future Rutland site visits: 3,311

Number of registered users: 897

Requests to complete surveys offline: 5

Survey completions

Your life in Rutland: 525

Leisure and recreation: 347

Business owners: 38

Children and young people: 14

Visitors: 9

Online forums

71 people have made 363 contributions across the six themed forums

Discussion events

68 people have booked on to an upcoming live discussion event

In addition to the main surveys for residents, businesses, young people and visitors, we have also launched our conversation around Rutland's Leisure and Recreation provision.

We are now inviting comments and feedback on two new areas:

- Climate change and the environment
- Getting around

We are once again asking for your help to promote the surveys and discussion events that support these new elements of the Future Rutland Conversation. Further information and details of how to take part can be found online at:

www.rutland.gov.uk/futurerutland. Anyone who would like to take part in the Future Rutland Conversation but does not have access to the internet can call Rutland County Council on: 01572 722 577.

New digital images to help promote this latest phase of the Future Rutland Conversation are provided as attachments to this email. We have also prepared the following template message for you to use or adapt on your social media profiles:

What's most important to you when it comes to protecting our environment? What commitments would you be willing to make to help tackle climate change? Join the #FutureRutlandConversation and let us know:

www.rutland.gov.uk/futurerutland

Whether you travel by car, on foot or using public transport, we all need to get from A to B. We want to know how you move around the county and whether you'd prefer to travel in a different way. Let us know as part of the #FutureRutlandConversation: www.rutland.gov.uk/futurerutland

If you have any questions or would like further assistance to help promote Future Rutland, please don't hesitate to contact us by emailing:

rutlandconversation@rutland.gov.uk

b. Elections

The Statement of Persons Nominated for Police and Crime Commissioner Elections on 6 May 2021 has been published and can be viewed online at:

www.rutland.gov.uk/pccelection.

To be able to vote in the 6 May 2021 election, you must register to vote by midnight on Monday 19 April 2021. To vote by post in the 6 May 2021 election, you must already be registered to vote and then we must receive your postal vote application by 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021.

There is also due to be an election for an Uppingham Town Councillor on 6 May. Again, the Statement of Persons Nominated for this election [can be viewed online](#). The Parish Council Election in Wing resulted in an uncontested election with one councillor being elected.

c. Kickstart Scheme

We are pleased to be supporting the new Kickstart Scheme. This programme enables employers to create job placements for 16-24 year olds who are on Universal Credit and who are at risk of long term unemployment. We have been working alongside other authorities in the region and East Midlands Councils who has led a joint application to join the Department of Work and Pensions programme. Our own job placements are now live and we have advertised opportunities in various departments and services across the Council such as Adult Social Care, Planning, Communications and Community Support. We look forward to providing these valuable opportunities to people over the coming months.

d. Troubled Families Programme

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has notified RCC this week of the funding available to Rutland to deliver the Troubled Families Programme in the coming year.

The programme has been launched for 2021/2022, and renamed 'Supporting Families', to reflect a renewed focus on the importance of bringing our services together around families to deliver whole family working. Earlier intervention and better co-ordinated services are the long-term ambitions for this programme at a national and local level. The success of the national TF programme has been recognised by Government, with 401,719 successful family outcomes achieved nationally up to December 2020. It is recognised that the programme remains as important as ever as we continue to support families with the longer-term impacts of the COVID pandemic.

RCC's upfront funding is to invest in intensive family support services and increase the maturity of our Early Help system. This funding is to improve provision for all families supported through the early help system, and not for a specific cohort of families.

We are delighted that the Changing Lives programme for Rutland has successfully achieved our targets of supporting families during 2020/2021. Families were supported to address numerous challenges, such as crime and antisocial behaviour, attendance at school, improving living standards, domestic abuse, and mental and physical health difficulties. The teams across children's services worked together to identify problems and have enabled families to achieve significant and sustained progress.

e. Day Opportunities

The new in-house Day Opportunities vision and move to Oakham Enterprise Park is going well. Feedback so far from service users, professionals, families and the LD social workers has been positive. As part of the plans we have successfully made a bid for enhanced facilities for people with disabilities at the Active Rutland Hub

To use the toilet in safety and comfort, many people living with disabilities need to be able to access Changing Places, which have more space and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist. The Council has awarded a Disabled Facilities Grant to create a Changing Place at the Active Rutland Hub at the Oakham Enterprise Park in Ashwell. This facility, which will be used by Day Opportunities service users and wider members of the public who need such facilities, will broaden the accessibility of the Active Rutland Hub for disabled users and will mean that people can get more from therapy and exercise sessions there. It may also open up the potential for people to visit the local area, knowing that the facility is there should they need it.

f. A6003 road closure

Part of the A6003 near the village of Manton is closed from today (12 April) until 5 July 2021, due to extensive bridge repair work.

This closure is needed to allow Network Rail to carry out demolition and rebuilding works on the railway bridge just north of Manton Top.

The work must be carried out under a full road closure, affecting the section of the A6003 that runs between Manton and Egleton.

A diversion will be in place and clearly signposted while works are ongoing. Details of the diversion are set out in the Temporary Road Closure Notice that accompanies these works. [This notice can be read in full on our website.](#)

g. Changes to Recycling Centre operations

RCC has confirmed its intention to return to a full Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) service by 21 June 2021 – subject to the continued easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

The return to full service, which includes the reopening of Cottesmore HWRC on 17 May 2021, will take place in phases, to make sure all operations run as smoothly and safely as possible. This includes the introduction of a temporary booking system,

with pre-booked time slots for residents to access HWRCs (first North Luffenham and then Cottesmore). Key dates to note as part of this process are as follows:

- **Monday 12 April:** The temporary booking system to reserve a time slot at North Luffenham HWRC goes live. Opening days will remain unchanged (Tuesday – Sunday)
- **Tuesday 27 April:** From this date, you will not be able to use North Luffenham HWRC unless you have booked in advance. Temporary traffic restrictions will be removed, meaning two-way traffic flow will be reinstated along Glebe Road. The new exit gate at North Luffenham HWRC will also be brought into use for the first time
- **Tuesday 4 May:** The temporary booking system to reserve a time slot at Cottesmore HWRC will go live
- **Monday 17 May:** Cottesmore HWRC will reopen to those who have booked in advance. Opening days will be Friday – Monday
- **Monday 21 June:** In line with the Government's proposed removal of all legal limits on social contact, we hope to lift all COVID restrictions across our two HWRC sites

Trailers are currently banned from North Luffenham HWRC. However, this will be reviewed in May to consider whether they can be reintroduced. Trailers will continue to be banned from Cottesmore HWRC when the site reopens on 17 May.

Bookings to use North Luffenham HWRC site from 27 April can be made via the Council's website: www.rutland.gov.uk/hwrcbooking or by calling: 01572 722 577.

The continuing need for a booking system to manage traffic at both sites will be reviewed after 21 June, with the intention of removing this as soon as it's safe.

3. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

a. Planning and Licensing Committee

Our latest Planning and Licensing Committee was held on Tuesday 6 April. The agenda and reports for this meeting [can be viewed on the Council's website](#).

b. Look ahead

There are no meetings due to take place this week (w/c Monday 12 April).

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

4. STAFF NEWS

a. Starters

We welcomed the following new starters this week:

- Lianne Callaghan, Social Worker/Care Manager

b. Support for National Carers Week

RCC Occupational Therapist Hayley Winship recently supported local school children to learn about Occupational Therapy as a career pathway as part of 'National Careers Week'. Hayley participated in virtual presentations and workshops for students at Catmose College, enabling them to explore occupational therapy as a rewarding career option and ask questions.

Hayley promoted Occupational Therapy as part of the school's Career Education Program and, due to her success in engaging the students, has been invited back again to attend next year's event. Catmose College reported very positive feedback from the students, parents and teachers.

5. RCC IN THE NEWS

a. Press releases issued since last briefing week

- [Time to talk climate change and travel as part of the Future Rutland Conversation](#)
- [Future Rutland Conversation: Have your say on Rutland's Leisure and Recreation provision](#)
- [Borrowers offered book amnesty as Rutland libraries set to reopen](#)
- [Council hopes to resume full recycling centre service by June](#)
- [Council aims to provide Local Plan update following HIF decision](#)

ENDS