

RUSHDEN 'matters'

Produced by Rushden Town Council
Volume 12 Issue 1

SPRING 2019



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Town Manager

Have Your Say on High Street Area Improvements



On Tuesday 12th February, the High Street Area Improvements Working Party met for the first time to discuss how the area can be improved and made more welcoming. Several ideas and suggestions were put forward for short and long term projects but we would like to hear from businesses and the wider community how you feel the High Street area could be improved. Please send any suggestions or ideas to the Town Manager, Julie Thorneycroft who will collate ready for a public meeting on Tuesday 9 April at the Wesleyan Church Hall, Queen Street, Rushden at 7 pm. Your views are very important to us and we will be pleased to see as many as possible at this meeting.

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For more information contact Rushden Town Council 01933 316 216

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Update on Council Projects Cllr. Sarah Peacock

Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee

The unitary is on the horizon and we still await information on how that will affect us as a town/parish council. In the mean time we will continue to deliver our projects and prepare for additional responsibilities where possible.

We have the sports hub as a major project which is progressing and the results of recent trench diggings are being investigated by our agent. This will allow us to progress to the next stage of the project. Grants are continually being looked into to help support the various projects.

The Grounds Maintenance contract is also coming up for renewal and members and the clerk have been working on the new contract which will be going out for tender in the coming month. There is still a lot of work for the committee members to do and interviews will be taking place once a short list has been established.

The council is in the process of establishing working parties that will help to improve the High Street and a Businesses working party to help Rushden Town Council strengthen its working relationships with the larger businesses and help with the promotion and growth of the town with partners such as Rushden Lakes and the Town Partnership. These working parties will allow members to be involved in a similar way to their involvement in the Neighbourhood plan. As a town council we need to continue to be more business orientated and work towards making the town a place that is economically sound and stable. These are exciting but testing times, but with the District Council being made into a unitary we need to be ready to stand alone and have an established strategy for our town. We are one of the best amongst the larger parish councils in the County and we should be ready to grow with our already high standards.

This time in our Civic Year is also one when the budgets are set. Once again these decisions as always are ones taken very seriously and discussed thoroughly so that we provide the best we can for the town. We are a very proactive council and over the years the improvements to the town have been significant. Over the coming months, along with the day to day running of the council, we have new projects that we need to keep moving and with the full support of members and officers, we will continue in our role as a proactive and progressive council.

Town Manager's Report Julie Thorneycroft



NN10 5KM Social Run in Rushden and Higham Ferrers, Supporting what Matters Locally!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE PART in a 5km Social Run being organised by Higham Ferrers and Rushden Town Councils? We are working in partnership with Your Town, Running Buddies, Rushden Lakes and Enterprising East Northants to organise a 5km run across the local area. The run is aimed to bring the community together in a positive energising way and at the same time give local people an opportunity to promote and showcase where they live. The 5km run takes place on **Sunday 24th March at 9am** and starts and finishes at Rushden Historical Transport Museum. Numbers are limited to 100 people who will be running for and supporting local causes - Rushden Historical Transport Society Victorian Goods Shed and Higham Ferrers Community Library Group.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have made this event possible and will be helping on the day.

For further details or to sign up for the run please visit www.yourtown.community/nn10

Other Community Events, Rushden Lakes

We are beginning plans for a community event with a similar theme/feel to the successful Heritage Family Fun Day held in September 2018. Feedback from all involved on the day has been excellent and many local businesses have reported receiving new customers as a result of taking part. Rushden Lakes Centre Management are keen to work with us again and we are looking to hold a similar community day on **Sunday 15th September 2019**; the event will be promoted as part of the Nene Valley Festival (14th and 22nd September).

All Aboard for Rushden

A new project bringing together technology, history and art has launched in Rushden along the greenway - Crown Way to Rushden Asda



section. The project is inspired by a 1911 railway incident involving lost letters and forms an exciting trail offering rewards in local shops. The aim of this project is to encourage people to engage with the history of Rushden as they walk or cycle along the Greenway path. Download the app 'All Aboard for Rushden' which will have various pieces of hidden heritage to discover at each 'station stop'.

"In 1911 a porter, who was moving a mail bag across a railway line with other luggage on a truck, did not notice that an express goods train was due to pass through the station until the last moment! He then hurried forward to escape it, and in doing so the mail-bag was jolted from the truck on to the line. The train went over it and mutilated several of the letters".

For further information on this exciting trail please visit www.nenescape.org

Rushden Lakes Community Board

A community board is available at Rushden Lakes (near the visitor centre) for use by the local community; we update the board each week with information on all local events and activities. Anyone wishing to have a poster or information displayed in the notice board please send your poster to info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk.

Please follow our facebook page [@rushdencouncil](https://www.facebook.com/rushdencouncil) to keep up to date with local events.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to me please feel to get in touch.

Julie Thorneycroft

Julie@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel number: 07398 986951

Forthcoming Events

May 14 - AGM and installation of Town Mayor 7.30 pm

June 8-16 - Celebrate Rushden

July 13 - Party in the Park 1-10 pm

Aug 11 - Music in the Park 3-5 pm

Sep 7 - Proms in the Park

Sep 8 - Mayor's Dog Show

30 Nov - Christmas Lights Switch-On

NEWS FROM THE MAYOR 'Celebrate Rushden 2019'

Cllr David Coleman



As I approach the end of my year in Office, I can reflect on this period of my life with pride and gratitude. However, the time has passed too quickly. I feel extremely privileged for having been entrusted with the role of Mayor, representing our Town over what has been a busy and eventful period.

Enjoyable Mayoral events over this period have included "Proms in the Park", my Civic Service at St. Mary's Church, our "Celebration of Christmas" event at the Heritage Chapel and I have also been pleased to have been involved in the Civic Opening of Rushden Feast and the Christmas Lights Switch On. The centenary of the close of the Great War saw numerous events with the Town turning out in large numbers to demonstrate their thanks for the sacrifices made. I have been particularly pleased to support our local branch of the Royal British Legion where possible in these commemorations with highlights including Armed Forces Day, our Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service, the Beacon Lighting in Hall Park and the town brought to media attention with the Bernard Vann VC tribute day. The town was also in the spotlight with the stage start for the OVO Women's Tour Cycle Race in Hall Park and Rushden Lakes has been seen in a positive light with a boost to the local area where I have been pleased to cut a number of ribbons at store openings! May I thank all who have contributed and ensured the success of these occasions, for supporting Melanie and myself over the year and making us most welcome everywhere we have been. It was also pleasing to be able to welcome civic guests and dignitaries from a wide area to Rushden and I thank them for their support, with many new friendships being forged – the "Rusty Chain Gang" I look forward to keeping in touch!

Rushden is really a wonderful community when you get to know it and has so much going for it. Best wishes to all.

David

PS - Back to decorating again!

'Celebrate Rushden 2019' 8 - 16 June THE RACE IS ON!



Rushden Town Council joins forces with Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership to improve Rushden

Retailers throughout Rushden are being signed up to the latest information on prolific shoplifters following agreement from Rushden Town Council to fund membership for High Street retailers and many outlying stores to an intelligence gathering scheme.

Rushden Town Council has pledged to support retailers across the town to enrol with Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP), a non profit organisation aimed at clamping down on retail crime.

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold supports NBCP, and he praised the actions of Rushden town council in ensuring that retailers in the town can access their services.

Next JAG meeting

The Joint Action Group (JAG) has been set up for Rushden & Higham Ferrers Town Councils and meet on a quarterly basis to address crime and anti social behaviour with both towns where priorities are set.

The list of priorities for January-April 2019 are:

A. Drug issues in both Higham Ferrers and Rushden to be kept as a priority.

B. Anti social behaviour at Saffron Road Recreation Ground.

C. Anti social behaviour at all public toilets in Rushden.

Any issues you would like raising please contact the Town Clerk.

The next meeting will be held on 9th April 2019.

Plans are progressing well for the 'Celebrate Rushden' event in June with over 30 events in hand at this present time.

Changes have been made to the Soap Box Derby now in its 5th year. The event will now be held on **Sunday afternoon 9th June** to give everyone a chance to attend with families and friends to watch the antics of the drivers and cheer on your favourites. Anyone can enter, classes are from ages 6 years to over 17 years and entry forms and information can be downloaded from Rushden Town Council's web site.

We have already engaged several musicians for evenings' entertainment including Tad Newton & His Jazz Friends, Swing's The Thing, Rushden Town Band including the Northampton Male Voice Choir, Kettering Citadel Army Band and the return of Nicholas Martin and his Mighty Wurlitzer organ.

Many of the town's groups and organisations are in full swing with their own events and Rushden Town Partnership has ideas for a Food Fayre in the High Street.

These are just a few offerings during the week which will be advertised fully in the next edition of Rushden 'matters'. Brochures for events will be available during May and delivered to homes within the town. Look out for more advertising in The Reporter during the coming months.

If your group or organisation would like to take part, please contact Cllr Richard Lewis via email on r_lewis6@sky.com

Nature Trail



During the Autumn last year, councillors and staff were busy planting spring bulbs in the area around the classroom seating. Among those planted were snowdrops, bluebells, wood anemones, wild daffodils and garlic and these past few weeks of the milder weather have brought signs that some are beginning to flower. Hopefully the bulbs will naturalise in the years to come, but more will be planted this year to compliment the display in future.

COMMUNITY NEWS

40 Glorious Years of Rushden Town Band

Congratulations! This year, Rushden Town Band celebrates its 40th anniversary as well as promotion to Champion Section. The Band was originally formed in 1979 by Peter Kneale. Peter was conducting Rushden Windmill Band in the 1970s when he decided to form a 'B' Band with learners and young players. Its first conductor Peter Berrington, was a pupil of Peter Kneale.

The Band joined the contesting world in 1986 and were quickly rewarded by qualifying for the National Finals (4th Section). They became very busy performing concerts and competing all over the region. The Band was renamed Rushden Town Band in 1991 when it was offered practice facilities in the Town Band Club in Manton Road.

Its musical prowess grew and after a long succession of 2nd and 3rd places over many years, won its first contest in 1999, also performing for the first time in the Royal Parks in London..

On 1 January 2006, Band members were devastated by the news that the Town Band Club had been destroyed by fire during the night. Along with their rehearsal facilities, many instruments, sets of music and uniforms were lost. The brass band world rallied around to help them out and they were offered rehearsal facilities at Rushden Working Men's Club, where they remain to this day.

Adele Hudson took over the baton in 2015 and has taken the Band from strength to strength.

Rushden Town Band represented the Midlands at the National Brass Band Championships (4th Section) in 2010 and 2011 and was promoted to the 3rd Section in 2012. The Band has steadily moved up the ranks year on year representing the Midlands at the National Brass Band Championships, finally gaining promotion to the Champion Section in January this year.



To reflect local pride in the Band's outstanding achievements, in 2017 Rushden Town Council presented the Band with banners for their music stands, something the Band had never had, and a grant via East Northants Council's Member Empowerment Fund allowed the Band to replace their 20-year-old uniforms.

Rushden Museum

Rushden Museum opens in May. Themes are Scouting in Rushden and the 1960's. If you have any artefacts or stories that relate to these periods please email to info@rushdenmuseum.co.uk. Also we are looking for people to 'meet and greet' at the museum, so if you feel you could spare a couple of hours now and again, please get in touch.



60 Years Since Last Scheduled Passenger Train

2019 marks some important anniversaries for the railway that ran from Wellingborough through Rushden to Higham Ferrers. 60 years ago in June the last scheduled passenger train left Higham for Wellingborough. Rushden platform was full with spectators seeing the train leave and those travelling on the train when reaching Wellingborough realised they had to organise a way of getting home. 10 years later in November the last freight train left Higham to join the main line at Wellingborough.

More recently in 2009 Rushden Historical Transport Society re-opened a short length of the line from Rushden Station towards Higham Ferrers running heritage passenger trains. For a number of reasons no trains ran in 2018 but it is hoped that they can continue again this year.

To celebrate these anniversaries members of the Society are planning to put on an exhibition in the Museum Rooms in Rushden Station so are looking for photographs and recollections from travelling on the train from Rushden or Higham to Wellingborough.

If you have anything that you are willing to loan the Society for the exhibition please contact: - museum@rhts.co.uk

Rotary Club of Rushden Youth Services Programme 2019



Rotary Club of Rushden is proud to once again offer schools across Rushden and Higham Ferrers an exciting range of activities and competitions designed to develop the skills and talents of our young people.

The programme includes:

School Quiz 5 March 2019

Young Musician 26 March 2019

Young Artist 14 June 2019

Young Writer 14 June 2019

In addition, Rotary Club of Rushden are pleased to bring back the Combined School Concert to be held on Saturday 8 June as part of 'Celebrate Rushden' Week. This provides a rare opportunity to enjoy individual performance by local school choirs and musical groups before they come together for a combined performance.

Schools are also able to take up the offer to provide Usborne Dictionaries 4 Life to either their Year 6 students or an alternative year group. Further details can be found on the Rotary Club of Rushden website.

We would like to extend a huge Thank You to the following for their generous sponsorship of the Rotary Youth programme - A Abbott & Sons, Junior Choice. Rockingham Cars, East Northants Council.

New link road to improve access to Rushden Lakes

A new link road between Ditchford Lane and Rushden Lakes has been approved by East Northamptonshire Council's planning committee.

A new road will mean easy access to the popular retail and leisure park from the A45 east bound for those visiting the park and for those making deliveries. It would also include a shared pedestrian and cycle path alongside the road as well as safe crossing points for those on foot or bike.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, said: "We have been working closely with the site owners and developers to get plans in for a road that will take the pressure off the main entrance to Rushden Lakes. We understand how essential the road is for the local area and highways and now that the application is approved, we look forward to receiving confirmation of when work will start."