

New powers against illegal encampments

Rugby Borough Council has secured new legal powers to stop illegal encampments on council-owned land. Your councillors know that illegal encampments are a worrying issue for residents.

The council's new injunction order came into force in September and means individuals or groups who set up an unauthorised camp on council land can be immediately arrested for contempt of court - with sentences ranging from a fine to imprisonment. A string of illegal encampments in the borough over the summer moved the council to seek the injunction.

Bilton Councillor Lisa Parker, who is the council's portfolio holder for Environment and Public Realm, said: , "I'd like to thank our residents who have shown patience and understanding in often testing circumstances. It's no easy task to secure an injunction such as this and many councils have failed to convince judges of the need to be granted these powers."

The council has dealt with almost 30 camps in 2018. However, after a judge was satisfied both the frequency of the encampments, and the level of disruption and anti-social behaviour caused by the camps, warranted granting the injunction, the council can now rely on tougher legal powers.

To report an illegal encampment in the borough, visit www.rugby.gov.uk/illegal-encampment or call (01788) 533533.

News in Brief

- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust which manages Cock Robin Wood near Sainsbury's will be carrying out vital maintenance in the wood this winter. The wood is an important green buffer between Bilton and new development and we're grateful for the tireless work of WWT volunteers for their hard work.
- A storage container that was causing an eyesore for Woodlands residents has been removed after enforcement action was taken. Julie has led on this and thanks everyone for their messages of support and thanks.
- Residents are reminded that the council offers a Handy Person Service for small jobs around the home. Call 01788 533533 or go to www.rugby.gov.uk for more information.

We *DO* remember them

Every year Chris, Julie and Lisa and all the other elected borough councillors are asked to attend the Rugby Remembrance Commemorations at the War Memorial Gates in Hillmorton Road in Remembrance Sunday.

This really is a difficult choice to make as we also value the beautiful service that is held in Bilton too but it's important that councillors attend the Borough's main civic event. We wanted to explain to Bilton residents that we *are* paying our respects even if we can't be in two places at once.

- Incidentally, Lisa was absolutely disgusted by the graffiti vandalism of the borough's war memorial earlier this year and ensured it was removed within days.



This *InTouch* is delivered to you by volunteers at **NO** cost to the tax-payer

Have YOUR say on strengthened PSPOs

You can have your say on changes to new powers to stop nuisance behaviour across the borough.

The council is consulting the public on its recent review of Public Space Protection Orders.



For the first time the council is also asking if dog owners should have to produce the means (dog poo bags) to pick up after their dog has fouled.

Write to PSPO Consultation, RBC, Town Hall, Evreux Way, CV21 2RR or online at

https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20028/having_your_say/114/current_consultations

Submissions will be accepted until Jan 3, 2019.

Bilton poppies bring generations together

Lisa was honoured to be asked to help create some of the beautiful poppies adorning the Rugby World Cup feature in Corporation Street for Rugby in Bloom.



Lisa joined children from Pathfinders Day Nursery and residents at Bilton House care

home to paint the wooden poppies together in the summer.

Local Plan Consultation

Thanks to residents who took part in the Local Plan consultation.

The additional consultation sought the views of residents, businesses, developers, parish councils and other interested parties on changes that were proposed during the public examination of the *Plan*, which took place earlier this year.

Changes include suggested amendments put forward by the independent inspector responsible for the public examination as well as the many others that were discussed during the examination sessions.

This formal consultation period may be the last opportunity to influence the *Plan* – which is the document that sets out where in the borough should be allocated for housing and employment - before its due to be voted on by all 42 councillors in 2019.

Speeding in Bilton

Julie has a stash of wheelie bin stickers from Warwickshire Police after her work to slow drivers in Bawnmore Road with Community Speedwatch.



We will deliver some to homes in Bilton Road and Alwyn Road - but if you would like one - regardless of where you live - email office@rugbyca.co.uk or call 01788 330000 The police Rugby Town West Safer Neighbourhood Team are providing High Visible patrols in Alwyn Road/Lime Tree Avenue for 3 months to prevent, detect and deter traffic offences. Parking and speeding are both reported issues.

We work for you!

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