

When telephoning, please ask for : Kath Marriott OFFICIAL
Telephone no : 0115 9148349
Email: KMarriott@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Date: 30 June 2021

To:

Mr Anthony Fox
Councillors and officers of Bingham Town Council
Councillors of Rushcliffe Borough Council
Mr Anthony May, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council
By email

Dear All,

Re: Bingham Town Council Petition and RBC response

In April 2021 Rushcliffe Borough Council received a petition calling for a Community Governance Review of Bingham Town Council.

The petition asked the Borough Council to:

- “Dissolve the Council [Bingham Town Council] and take over the operation until new elections can be held.
- Reset the culture and strengthen the procedures at the Council [Bingham Town Council] so that the above mentioned concerns cannot continue.”

At its Cabinet meeting on 8 June 2021, Rushcliffe Borough Council’s Cabinet discussed this and:

- Confirmed RBC’s commitment to working collaboratively with Bingham Town Council to achieve the best outcomes for residents in response to the petition;
- Agreed to set up a cross-party Cabinet-led Member Working Group to consider the request contained within the petition for a Community Governance Review in Bingham;
- Asked that the Member Working Group report back to Cabinet by September 2021, with its recommendations;
- Asked me to write to Bingham Town Council and Nottinghamshire County Council sharing the contents of the Cabinet report and setting out what is agreed by Cabinet.

This approach was agreed with a view to enabling parties to make addresses to the Member Group and to allow the Member Group to consider how the Borough Council might best assist Bingham Town Council going forward. The Member Group was not intended to be decision making, it was intended that it would offer its views to Cabinet which would consider its findings and report to Full Council for decision.



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Rushcliffe Community
Contact Centre

Rectory Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6BU

In person

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm
First Saturday of
each month
9am - 1pm

By telephone

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm

Telephone:

0115 981 9911

Email:

customerservices
@rushcliffe.gov.uk

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Postal address

Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG



OFFICIAL

However, I have received representations against this approach with several references to the Borough Council's own standing orders and the threat of a potential legal challenge to the Council.

A petition should be considered by Council. The approach set out above was to enable a report with some local input to be taken to Cabinet and then to Council to allow for as helpful a response from the Borough as possible.

Having discussed this matter further with the Leader, the proposed Chairman of the proposed member working group, the Monitoring Officer and our external legal advisers I am of the view that to avoid the risk to the Council of any potential claims against process, which whilst they may find in RBC's favour, would incur additional cost, the Member Working Group should be cancelled and I am using my urgency provisions to do so.

The petition will now be the subject of a report to September Council.

I am sorry for the inconvenience that this may cause you and that those of you who had planned to address the Member Working Group will no longer have that opportunity.

I would ask that Bingham Town Council please publish this letter on its website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. S. Marriott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katherine Marriott
Chief Executive