

Holme Pierrepont Parish Council & Gamston

Chair: Gary Arkless

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Joint Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

15 November 2022

Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council response to the proposed removal of night cover from West Bridgford Fire Station.

We have chosen to put our response in letter format as feedback from parishioner's has indicated the consultation online portal is not set up to seek opinion but to steer the user to the Fire Authority's position.

Currently there are 3 Fire Stations in Rushcliffe; Bingham (Retained), East Leake (Retained) and West Bridgford itself being the only fulltime station.

We can understand the use of retained firefighters to cover the most southern part of the county as turning out from home to the station and then attending incidents is likely to be quicker than sending a unit from West Bridgford.

However, expecting those retained units to attend incidents at night in the main populace area around West Bridgford supported by reduced capacity at the London Road Fire Station is not realistic.

The Fire Authority state that there will only be a one-minute increase in the response time, and this again is not realistic. In a fire where seconds count any increase in response time cannot be justified to a person watching their family stuck in a burning building.

If as the Fire Authority predict that response times with no cover from West Bridgford are not going to be "adversely" affected, why do we or have we ever needed a Fire Station in West Bridgford?

We have always had a full-time fire station in West Bridgford because we need one and we pay a lot of money in precept for one.

In Rushcliffe Borough there are some 46,000 households and this is likely to increase with developments at Sharp Hill (600 homes) and Gamston Fields (4,000 homes).

Rushcliffe Borough Council predict that there could be some 55,000 homes in the borough in the next 5-10 years with the majority being centred around West Bridgford.

Julia Barnes, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
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Can you reasonably say that this number of homes does not warrant at least one full time Fire Station on safety grounds?

We note that the Fire Authority propose an increase in staffing at Ashfield Fire Station which has a similar populace to Rushcliffe. Does this mean that there is greater value placed on the lives of Ashfield residents than that of Rushcliffe residents?

On a financial basis the Rushcliffe average property being Band D currently pays a Council Tax precept to the Fire Authority of £84.57. This band alone means an income stream from 46,000 households to the Fire Authority of almost £3.8m per annum from Rushcliffe alone.

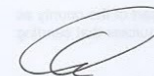
Given the housing stock in Rushcliffe we would suggest that this is a conservative estimate of revenue from our borough.

You also receive £7.3m in Business Rates p.a. and £7.3m p.a. in Central Government funding of which a proportion will be based on Rushcliffe populace.

All this on top of which you are sitting on £10m of reserves. This makes a funding of an adequate overnight service in Rushcliffe seem like small change in your overall budget and the denial of this necessary service to Rushcliffe is something that should not happen.

We object in the strongest possible terms to what is in effect a proposed denial of adequate service to the people we represent.

Yours faithfully



G Arkless
Chair of Holme Pierrepont and Gamston Parish Council