



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA Membership

You should recently have had a copy of our latest *Loughton Life* newsletter, together with a letter about your £5 LRA subscription for 2017.

If you haven't already paid*, you can pay by cheque, by bank transfer, at our stall at the High Road Farmers Markets each 1st Sunday of the month or by Standing Order (see <http://tinyurl.com/jdrc32b>).

If you have already paid, or you pay by standing order – thank you!

*If you're not sure, please email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk and we'll check.

LRA NEWS

Parents parking over drive-ways.

- **One particular case:** LRA Cllr Bob Jennings contacted the Police and the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) about persistent inconsiderate parking in front of a resident's property. The police have agreed to talk to the school (to remind parents of their responsibilities) and to try to monitor parking in the area. NEPP will also try to take action in response.
- **What you can do:**
 - if a vehicle is parked across your dropped kerb, contact NEPP (01279 426006) with the relevant details. A Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) will assess and where possible deal with the complaint, but this is dependent upon staffing levels, their current locations and other commitments. Normally NEPP don't issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to vehicles parked across private dropped kerbs to avoid residents or visitors being charged. Anyway, in most instances the vehicle has gone by the time a CEO is able to attend.
 - However, you can give NEPP your address and permission for them to issue a PCN to any vehicle parked across your dropped kerb within specific times (cover the morning and afternoon school runs) but beware - ANY vehicle parked across your dropped kerb may be issued with a PCN.



Homeless people by Debden station. We know some residents have been feeling intimidated.

- **the original man** was visited by the police, and we understand he has moved on.
- **a tent recently appeared** alongside the railway line. LRA Cllr Chris Pond contacted the District Council. They have been in touch with the police and TfL, and hoped he would have been moved on last weekend.
- we had a report of **drug sales** in Torrington Drive, which we passed on (anonymised) to the relevant authority
- why **giving to those who beg** does more harm than good: [answers](#) to frequently asked questions on begging. [*LRA has no view on this but you may find this information of interest.*]
- **for more about homelessness and rough sleepers** in the District, and action being taken, see [here](#) (item 54) and here

Planning application for flats, Tycehurst Hill. The LRA Plans Group let residents know about this application, which would be wholly out-of-character in the area. Residents have sent objections to the Town & District Councils – some went along to the Town Council planning meeting to speak against the application. The Plans Group is also objecting, and will keep residents informed of progress.

St Johns Road, Church Hill junction. A resident contacted us to say that the junction is extremely dangerous because of parking outside Sovereign Place and also on the opposite side of the road. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has already asked for a Local Highway Panel scheme to sort this out – it's working its way through the pipeline.

Staples Road/ Shaftesbury. The gate has been damaged again. LRA Cllr Chis Pond reports that it is down for replacement this coming financial year, this time in metal (a field gate). He has also asked for the path and rails to be put back in order.

Flooding

- LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up a couple of problems with County Highways, and has asked that these areas are monitored if conditions are icy. Highways say:
 - **o/s 89 The Drive:** they are aware of this leak and have chased it further with Thames Water
 - **Kings Green** was inspected on January 27th and the leak on the pavement has now been passed to Thames Water to investigate further.
- **Borders Lane near Alderton Hill mini-roundabout.** I've just had a message from County Highways to say that the problem I reported has been dealt with – however, it wasn't the recent flooding but the flooding in April 2016 they were following up!



Disabled access to Loughton Station. LRA Cllr Chris Pond agreed with a resident who felt access was poor and asked what could be done. Chris had asked TfL some years ago about this, and they had said that Loughton would be particularly difficult and expensive to adapt (it's also Listed). There is a conversion programme, but our station is a long way down the list.

Play-house on the roadway. LRA Cllr Judy Jennings visited the owners after this had remained at the roadside for a week – it was removed soon afterwards.

Note: The District Council offer a **special collection service** for bulky domestic household items such as beds, chairs, sofas, fridges and washing machines. Call 01992 564608 or click [here](#) to book a collection. All the metals collected from washing machines, cookers, tumble dryers, etc. will be recycled.

Charges start at £24 for 1 to 3 items (50% concession for residents aged over 60).



Torrington Drive junction with The Broadway. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has persuaded Highways to reinstate one of the *No Entry* signs, which hopefully will stop drivers turning in from The Broadway.

LOCAL NEWS

FOR LOCAL EVENTS SEE SEPARATE EMAIL

Check ahead for events in red, which need to be booked in advance!

FOR LOCAL LEISURE ORGANISATIONS SEE <http://tinyurl.com/pbel693>

Central Line & Waterloo & City Line

- strike starts 9pm on Tuesday February 21st - see local paper [report](#)

We understand that there will be 'extra' buses running between Epping, Loughton, and Chingford. For the latest information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/tube-strike or follow [@TfLTravelAlerts](https://twitter.com/TfLTravelAlerts), [@TfLTrafficNews](https://twitter.com/TfLTrafficNews) and [@TfLBusAlerts](https://twitter.com/TfLBusAlerts) on Twitter.

- **Register for TfL's email updates** at <https://tfl.gov.uk/forms/12424.aspx>

High Road parking next weekend: I'm told that parking will be suspended all next weekend on the west side of the High Road gas-main replacement. I've no official confirmation of this yet but will put out any updates on LRA's Twitter and Facebook pages (if you're not signed up, see the links at the end of this bulletin).

Social media: Next Door is taking over Streetlife, which has been a useful way of swapping information in Loughton, and of finding tradespeople. You can join your local NextDoor group by going to <https://nextdoor.co.uk/> & you can also easily swap info with neighbouring groups. *[I've set up a "North of Traps Hill" group.]*

How to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group for your road

see <http://www.eppingforestnhw.org.uk/>



Resurfacing the High Road between the Rectory Lane and Palmerstone Road mini-roundabouts. County Highways are expected to be carried out August 7th -31st but we don't yet know whether there will be overnight or weekend working.

Loughton Festival Photography Competition now open – get out in the Forest with your cameras and get snapping. Separate classes for adults and children. [More](#).



Nu Bar license temporarily suspended pending a full hearing at a District Council Licensing Sub-Committee on March 7th. Agenda will appear [here](#) a week or so before the meeting. Subsequently the police have issued a closure notice, as Nu-Bar had advertised a bring-a-bottle event. [More](#). *[We have heard nothing more on LuXe.]*

New Sensory wall at Loughton Library, Traps Hill.

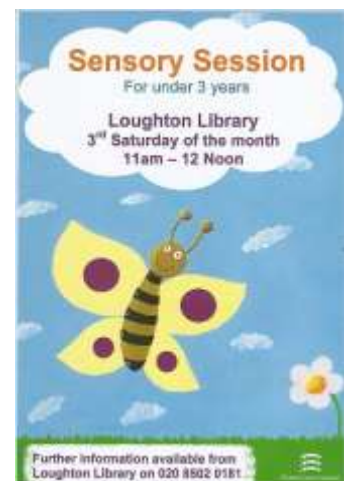
Monthly Sensory Story Time for the under 3s, 11am – mid-day.

3rd Saturday each month, Come along and give it a try. 020 8502 0181.

What's on at your Library? Essex Libraries now an [events website](#) that lists everything that's going on in their libraries! It's now easy to search by date, event type and individual library to find what's going on.

Princess Alexandra Hospital

- **inadequate CQC rating:** hospital staff were questioned at a County Council meeting on February 7th about their *inadequate* rating by CQC. They provided some information in advance – see [here](#).
- **latest Board [agenda & minutes](#)**



District Council Benefits Team are responsible for checking on benefits claims and changes in circumstances – critical work in making sure that Council Taxpayers aren't defrauded. But they are also there to help claimants where appropriate.

| 2016 | In-year checks | Decreases in Benefits | Increases in Benefits | No change |
|----------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| October | 241 | 141 | 15 | 85 |
| November | 147 | 71 | 24 | 78 |
| December | 144 | 81 | 16 | 47 |

District Council actions on crimes and safety

- **£5,000 fine for duty of care failures.** Bee services (UK) limited of Woodside, Epping, has been fined £5,000 – plus costs - fine after waste from the company was fly-tipped. [More](#), including what to do, and not do, if you or your company have waste to dispose of.
- **CCTV and fly-tipping:** There have been several successful actions against fly-tipping perpetrators, where the footage from the Council’s CCTV cameras has been used in evidence. These include a £200 Fixed Penalty Notice for tipping of green waste at the rear of the factory shop in Debden, a £150 fine and costs for fly-tipping in the Broadway area near a charity shop and a fine of £140 plus £375 costs for fly-tipping on the Springfields estate in Waltham Abbey.
- **CCTV secures convictions:** two further instances where the Council’s CCTV systems have provided evidence to secure criminal convictions. In one case an individual was given a suspended prison sentence for Actual Bodily Harm and in another, a male was given a sentence of five years in prison and a further five year disqualification for dangerous driving and a number of burglaries
- **urgent Safe House / Sanctuary assessment:** Essex Police recently asked the Council for help for a very high risk domestic abuse victim. At very short notice, several departments worked together with the County Fire & Rescue Service and, with an excellent response from the Council’s repairs team, the assessment and the installation of a safe room and additional security measures were completed within only two days - Essex Police, who want to promote it as an example of ‘best practice’ across the rest of the County
- **Corporate Fraud team (CFT)**
 - a further six Right to Buy applications have been stopped or withdrawn following CFT intervention, saving over £450,000, and retaining rent revenue streams worth around £275,000
 - another four properties have been recovered as a result of fraud intervention, involving suspected subletting and / or non-residency, saving around £72,000.
 - CFT stopped a housing application due to the discovery of false/misleading information
 - the Team is currently engaged in a number of criminal investigations including active money laundering investigations. Three criminal prosecutions are being heard early in 2017, each involving Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) proceedings, currently estimated to be around £287,000 if successful.
- **abandoned vehicles:** since last September the Council has removed 67 abandoned vehicles from the road network across the District.



What does the CAB do locally? Find out [here](#) (items 51 & 52).

More at <http://www.efcab.org.uk/index.phpc>

Council Tax – District Council confirm no increase in 2017/18. [More](#).

The old Post Office, The Broadway. Planning permission has been given for the “Green Owl Canteen” (EPF/3136/16) but I don't know what type of cuisine that will be (the Green Owl café in Buckhurst Hill is listed online as British cuisine but may or may not be connected with this new venture).

Essex Police are now using Snapchat in an effort to connect with younger members of the community. [More](#). It will be used to support campaigns, cover live events and deliver key messages.



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Trees being felled?

- if it's part of other building works, you may be able to check what work's been authorised at that address in the planning permission [here](#)
- if you think that they are exceeding the permission, or otherwise where you think they may be protected by Tree Protection Orders, please contact the District Council (01992 564000).



If you have been affected by crime, call Victim Support (0300 30 30 165) They're an independent charity - services are free & available to everyone, whether or not the crime has been reported & regardless of when it happened. www.victimsupport.org.uk

Set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group for your road. Its easy, and doesn't involve much work once set up. [Find out more](#).

Play a brass instrument (trumpet, trombone, horn etc)?

Interested in joining Roding Players Orchestra? www.rodingplayers.co.uk



Help with research. Are you studying or returning to study and need research materials? Log in to [Access to Research](#), free with your library card in any Essex library. It's one of the many specialist sites they offer.

You can get abstracts or the full text of ten million academic articles and reports. It's invaluable!

Free seed pack from the Woodland Trust. The Trust wants to plant 64 million trees by 2025. Your mixed pack of seeds will contain rowan, dog rose, alder buckthorn and holly and will come with full planting instructions and care advice - the Woodland Trust will stay in touch to help you as your seedlings germinate and grow. Find out more and [claim your free seed pack](#)



Bid for [Free tickets and experiences](#) for the [Essex Big Weekend](#) on April 1st & 2nd - as many attractions as you wish. Two tickets per household will be allocated by ballot to the lucky winners. Family tickets also available. Attractions already free to enter will be offering a range of extras such as guided tours, refreshments and special gifts. Make your bid [here](#)

HELP WANTED



Could you be a CAB volunteer? Or help raise funds for their vital work?
See <http://www.efcab.org.uk/index.php>

Can you identify two local boys who often hang around Loughton and Buckhurst Hill stations, and attempted a mugging around 10.15 one evening recently. They're described as around 17-18 years old,

5ft 8in, covered their faces with bandannas and wearing caps. If you know who they are, please let the police know at <https://www.essex.police.uk/> or on 101.

If you and your children visit Essex Libraries, help them provide the best possible service for your children by encouraging them to take part in an anonymous survey. Up to 26 February, library staff and volunteers will be asking families and young people to tell them what they think of library services.



Help Essex Libraries with the Summer Reading Challenge. Volunteers tell us they enjoy helping children develop a love of reading. Do you know anyone 14 years old or over who would like to get involved this summer? All they need to do is go to the [website](#) to find out more and apply online.

Volunteering for Victim Support: they are looking for reliable volunteers with great listening skills, who have 6-8 hours to spare a week. They will train you to offer practical and emotional support to people affected by crime. Find out more by emailing essexvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk or calling the Essex Service Delivery team on 01277 357557. www.victimsupport.org.uk



GENERAL

How to stay safe at a cash machine!

Please watch this Police video – and please put your credit/debit card 24-hour contact numbers in your mobile phone
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvQOaOUSInI>



Using your phone in your car. You can be prosecuted for using a mobile phone while your car is stationary with the engine still running. www.theaa.com/driving-advice/legal/mobile-phones



Scams

- **Man trying to flag down cars on M11 slip road (junction 5),** waving a white piece of paper. This is a scam – beware. If anyone is in the car with you, please ask them to let the police know.
- **UPS parcel.** I recently had an email saying “Your parcel was successfully delivered February 07 to UPS Station, but our courier could (sic) not contact you. Please review delivery label in attachment!” Opening the attachment would have installed malware on my computer - **always check any suspicious emails at <http://www.hoax-slayer.com> first**
- **Some-one at the door?** A reminder from EFNW, following a recent incident, to warn your older relatives and neighbours that if someone calls unexpectedly from a utility company, or even the police, and they say they want to come in for whatever reason, don't let them in. Waving an identity card doesn't make them genuine! Close the door and check with the company or the police. **If someone is vulnerable,** most utility companies will allow them to set up a password - if someone calls and doesn't know the password, they clearly aren't genuine





TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @LoughtonRA



FACEBOOK: *Like and Follow* our Facebook page by going to www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday March 3rd.
2. In the process of drafting these items and sending them by email, some links to websites or email addresses can be broken; you can get round this by right-clicking on the link and then clicking “open” or, if this does not work, by cutting and pasting the address into an email or browser as appropriate.
3. If a web address doesn't work, or anything else is wrong, please let us know at david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk
4. LRA gives no warranty about, and will take no responsibility for, items or services offered – purchasers/users should make their own enquiries, and will be acting at their own risk.
5. To enlarge a picture, click on it and then drag one of the corners outwards
6. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch

David Linnell

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**For more about LRA & Loughton see www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk**

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