



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA NEWS

Bus reliability (or the lack of it). LRA Cllr Chris Pond and EFTAG recently met TfL to discuss bus reliability problems, particularly relating to route 20.



Roding Road bridge. *Late news: lorry hits bridge – see local Guardian report [here](#)*

Following concerns raised by a resident, LRA Cllr Chris Pond recently asked the County Council to protect the bridge, which is a key part of the Town's road system.

The bridge, which was built in 1865 to traverse what was then a farm lane, has a height of 11ft 9ins above the carriageway. The resident says there have been 80 incidents in the last year of high vehicles approaching the bridge, and then realising there was insufficient space, with the consequent need to reverse or try multiple point turns - the chaos from each incident lasts about 50 minutes.

(About 3 years ago a double-deck bus (height 14ft 6ins) had its top deck sheared off by the bridge – fortunately the bus was empty - [more](#).) Chris and County Cllr Valerie Metcalfe have suggested Highways install two sets of over-height detectors, one at the corner of Roding Gardens, and the other no more than 5 yards south of the junction with Alderton Hill. (These detectors commonly sound a klaxon and flashing lights to waken the driver from the false security a satnav gives.)



East London & West Essex Guardian

BBC Essex plan to have a piece on Loughton at 7.30pm on Monday November 5th, with contributions from LRA Cllr Chris Pond (Loughton history) and Neil Bartlett (SaveJesselGreen) and Independent Cllr Stephen Murray on Jessel Green.

Make Burton Road one-way? In reply to a query from a resident, Chris Pond said that this question has been raised occasionally in the past.

However, the general thrust of the advice we have received is that to do so would inconvenience people living on the Debden estate, and might make things worse by encouraging left turns into Torrington Drive and right turns into the Broadway from Torrington Drive, especially by lorries.



Epping Forest car-parks – opening & closing times. Following comments on social media showing confusion on this topic, our representative on the Epping Forest Consultative Committee asked for the official version. This is that car-parks should be open between 9am and 4pm in the winter months, except in unavoidable circumstances (for instance special events and working in the area).

They also confirmed that there is no general policy of installing double gates with "dragon's teeth" exits at the car-parks - each car-park is looked at individually.

“Rough sleeper” at Loughton station. LRA Cllrs are investigating reports that a man in a sleeping bag is being dropped off outside the station each morning.

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>

Reminder – Town Council Christmas Card Competition

- submit your Christmas card designs by Wednesday October 31st!
Need help or inspiration? Come into Loughton Library on Saturday October 20th, between 10am and 4pm - there will be free materials available, courtesy of *Hobbycraft*, Loughton. [More.](#)



The Broadway parking review – next phase.

The long-awaited announcement of the next area proposed to be covered by a residents’ parking zone – and letters to the residents affected – are on their way. These proposals are phase 2 of the original Debden parking scheme - it was always expected that preventing commuters from parking in front of residents' houses near to Debden station would displace them into the surrounding roads.



In the area round the station, residents decided they'd rather pay and have a better chance of finding a parking space near home.

(Similar schemes are operating or proposed in roads to the west of the High Road)

The money goes to NEPP, which was set up by the County Council and overseen by the local District Councils. It pays for schemes to be set up and for the wardens and this is NOT a profit-making scheme (unlike others elsewhere in the country).

Local shops.

- **High Road.** We understand that *Halfords* will close on December 9th, following a rent increase.
- **The Broadway.**
 - **Save The Children** has gone and we understand a Turkish Barber will replace them.
 - We understand that **the Restore shop** will become an Eastern European market
 - The District Council is belatedly planning to do an **Economic Impact Assessment** in relation to the effect of the new Retail Park.

Potholes and Priorities

- **Good News:** in the last week or so, County Highways have repaired over 100 potholes
- **Not-So-Good News:**
 - The focus on repairing “higher-priority” defects has left Loughton with **lots of missing or damaged bollards** on traffic islands or verges because these never get high enough up Highways’ priority list to justify being repaired
 - **the County Council are proposing to “relax” their standards** for various types of highways repairs, removing the 28-day target set by their current maintenance standards in favour of a vague requirement to plan the work sometime



(this appears to be because they have been having to pay out to residents who've put in claims for vehicle damage from potholes not repaired within the 28 days currently laid down).

Planning appeals (details – enter reference [here](#)).

(The LRA Plans Group has commented to the Planning Inspectorate on each of these appeals.)

- **Sterling House, Langston Road:** prior approval for change of use from offices to residential units ((EPF/0640/18)
- **Landmark House, The Broadway** (was *Sir Winston Churchill* pub): variation of opening hours (EPF/3059/17)
- **12A Alderton Close:** residential redevelopment to provide 4 x 3 bed houses (EPF/1012/17)
- **13 -15a Alderton Hill:** 106 retirement units. At their last meeting, the District Council's planning committee resolved that the Council (as advised their legal consultants) should not pursue the second reason for the refusal of this application at the appeal (this related to the lack of any affordable housing). (EPF/2499/17)



District Council planning decisions

- **Landmark House** (corner of The Broadway and Rectory Lane) refusal of an application to change the previous restaurant permission for 3 units to restaurant, take-away and outside seating because of the likely disturbance to residents above. The Council suggested that the applicant consider removing the outside seating & demonstrating that there would be no problems of cooking odours.
- **143-149 High Road and 2 Old Station Road** (the block to the south of the mini-roundabout): approval of a planning application to add a floor to provide 5 flats.
- **Vere Road:** approval of an application by the Council to demolish existing garages and create a public car-park.



Enforcement cases. The District Council Planning Enforcement team look into complaints that the planning rules aren't being followed, and may take action – often they find there's not been a breach of planning rules, or the position is sorted out by planning permission being applied for and granted. Recent complaints in Loughton cover the following topics:

- building not as approved plans front elevation forward of building line
- large outbuilding erected in rear garden without planning permission
- breach of landscaping details in planning permission and creation of new access
- rear extension not being built to plans (built closer to boundary)
- part of protected hedge in Conservation Area removed.

Loughton Town Council

- **how best to respond to residents' concerns about increasing crime levels and the lack of visible policing?**

The Council's Recreation Committee meeting on 7 November will consider the possibility of employing Special Constables, or Police Constables, or a security firm, or of working to increase public awareness, to enable a 2019/20 budget item for this to be included if so wished. [More](#) (Agenda item 7.1).

- **Environment & Heritage Committee**

- **Heritage plaques.** The Committee has agreed to progress the installation of a plaque to commemorate the former home of Lord Len Murray of Epping Forest at 29 The Crescent;
- **new bus shelter in Newmans Lane.** The Committee is considering installing a new shelter in 2019/20, close to the Hedgers Close sheltered housing scheme, costing around £4,000.

NHS

- **Primary Care in Essex:** [report](#) to Essex County Council committee summarising the present system
- **Princess Alexandra Hospital Board meeting papers** October 4th. The hospital is building a new 27-bed inpatient ward, to be ready by the end of the year, which should provide greater capacity during the winter months. Despite some improvements after the last CQC report, performance is not yet at a satisfactory level.

Police & crime

- **Reporting something suspicious:** as well as reporting it at www.essex.police.uk or 101, you can report information about suspicious activity, even if a crime has not yet occurred, by emailing the local hub at EppingForestCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk
- things you can do to [secure your home](#).
- **the crimes that need never have happened:** wallets stolen from cars, burglaries through insecure doors, tools stolen from an insecure

building site, and bikes stolen from an unlocked shed. [EFNW]

Sites are being sought for a Holocaust memorial by a newly-formed working group, chaired by Buckhurst Hill councillor Gavin Chambers, with LRA District Cllr Howard Kaufman as deputy chairman. The working group is looking at various suitable locations across the district with a focus on Loughton and Chigwell. [More](#).

Charging points at the Retail Park. For some time a resident has been pressing the District Council to sort out the vehicle charging points at Langston Road – either they don't work or other drivers park there, blocking access. The spare parts needed are meant to have arrived by now.....

Harlequin ladybirds.

- We've seen reports on social media of a recent local invasion. [More](#).
- [How to record](#) the ladybirds you find.

The climax of the National Jazz Archive's 30th anniversary year is a [fundraising concert by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra's Nonet](#) at the 100 Club in London's Oxford Street on Wednesday 21 November, as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival.

Hills Amenity Society Autumn/Winter Newsletter [here](#)

Lots of local news and comment, an invitation to residents to join the thirty-five who have signed up to the *HillsWatch* page on Facebook, and an article on the background to Oriolet Hospital Blue Plaque which has been unveiled at 91 Staples Road.

Membership of the Hills Amenity Society costs just £5 per household a year payable to Hills Amenity Society and may be sent to The Treasurer, Woodpeckers, 37 Woodbury Hill.

Essex Police



Cattle escape. On October 6th a number of cattle escaped from the Roding Valley Nature Reserve and wandered onto Oakwood Hill. Several residents notified the police of the traffic hazard, and they were soon rounded up.

Halloween [*This 2016 item is just as relevant this year!*]

- **The police** will be doing as much as they can over Halloween, but recent reductions in their strength mean they will need as much help as possible from residents – and parents can help by preventing problems arising!
- **advice for parents** from *Essex Watch*
- **Poster:** [No Trick or Treat](#) to put in your window



Advice if you don't wish to be involved in Halloween

[Essex Police]

- If you don't want trick or treaters callers, turn off any lights at the front door.
- If possible do not open the door, but to look out of the window to check.
- If you do open your door, take precautions such as using your door viewer and putting your door-chain on if you're not sure who is outside.
- Consider asking a neighbour if you can spend the evening with them if you feel very worried. Keep the telephone number of a relative or friend to hand in case you need to phone them.
- If you notice any suspicious activity during Halloween, call 101 to speak to your local Community Policing team. There will be extra police patrols over the Halloween period, which will target people who cause criminal damage or behave in an anti-social manner.
- In an emergency, when a crime is being committed or if there is a risk of injury or serious damage to property, dial 999.

OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Disposing of large unwanted domestic items

More [here](#).

The most environmentally friendly way to get rid of your unwanted items is to donate to charity or use an organisation that will take the items to reuse, such as “Epping ReUse” (other charity organisations are available.)

Epping Forest District Council offers a special collection service for bulky domestic household items such as beds, chairs, sofas, fridges and washing machines.

There is a charge based on the number of items with a 50% concession for residents aged over 60.



If you're a victim of crime, and you're finding it difficult to get over whatever happened to you or to a loved one - even if it is years after the event - please contact Victim Support Essex (0800 178 1694. 9am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday; 10am - 4pm Saturdays).

If you need support outside of these hours, call the Supportline for free on 0808 1689111 or email essex@victimsupport.org.uk





Stalls for charities/ voluntary organisations/ businesses.
Stalls £10 – support the Roding Valley High School PTA fundraising. [Application form.](#)
Apply asap to adamomer@ntlworld.com / [07948 731 017](tel:07948731017)

HELP WANTED

Loughton Film needs help!

<https://www.filmloughton.com/>

We now have a fully-equipped film club, in comfortable surroundings at the Methodist Church, High Road, showing up-to-date films every 4-6 weeks (7.30pm on Saturdays)

The next one's on Saturday October 27th – the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.

BUT to keep going they need help

- setting up from 6.15pm (you don't have to be there every time)
- on the Committee, to help plan and arrange the showings.

To find out more, please contact Philip Beales (info@filmloughton.com or 020 8418 0459)

Loughton Festival 2019. Planning is starting for this annual local community festival, which runs for a full month each year. The volunteers support a different local charity by using the events to raise funds and to publicise the work the charity does in Epping Forest.



They need to hear from you NOW if:

- you'd like to help us organise events in general
- you have an idea for an event, and you are willing to help us organise it
- you belong to a local organisation that would like to include its own event (called an associated events) in the Loughton Festival programme next June.

Please note: all associated events are included in the programme and on the website provided that the event will add to the Festival's fundraising for a local charity and that your organisation will include the Festival logo on all the event's publicity.

Please get in touch asap if you would like to be involved – email info@loughtonfestival.org



Easy way to [register](#) as an Organ Donor with the NHS.

Somewhere to store and sort donations over a 3 month period from November to end-January?

Essex Youth Offending Service are helping charity *Cool To Be Kind* again this Christmas for their *Rucksacks for the homeless* appeal.

Due to the overwhelming success of last year's project they're in desperate need of storage places to make this happen. If you can help or know of any storage that may be available for free please contact karen Sinclair on either 07912 9122509 or karen.sinclair@essex.gov.uk

GENERAL

Hedgehogs and bonfires. If you're lucky enough to have a hedgehog nearby:

- 1 - safest is to build your bonfire on the day you want to light it.
- 2 - if that is impossible, then please do check - blunt end of a garden rake poked into the base, then lever it all up and rescue whoever might be living there.

There are many more simple ideas to help hedgehogs at [Hedgehog Street](#) and the [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#).



Rogue Trader Leaflets.

As autumn approaches Trading Standards is warning Essex residents about leaflets through the door offering gardening and tree services.

They are becoming more concerned about the circulation of leaflets with fake or incomplete address details that are often associated with very poor workmanship and distraction burglaries.

They're regularly publishing leaflets that concern them on their social media pages - [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#): feel free to share.

If you have any concerns 03454 040506 [Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline](#)



Please don't leave out milk for hedgehogs!

Starting to feel like the rescues are fighting a losing battle. Yet another hedgehog coming in that's been given "a nice bowl of milk". - [update. Two hours after arrival it vomited congealed milk and died.]

For anyone who has missed it - Hedgehogs are lactose (milk sugars) intolerant. Milk makes them extremely ill or dead.



**KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS
BETWEEN OUR EMAIL BULLETINS**

TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @LoughtonRA
Not on Twitter? See our tweets at www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

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 November 2nd.
- 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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