



# LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## LRA NEWS

### LRA's Christmas Quiz [result & answers](#)



**Traffic chaos in Loughton, Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>:** LRA Cllr Chris Pond went down to investigate. There were emergency repairs by National Grid Gas at Roding Road and Thames Water at The Crown. There was a separate issue outside the Lincoln Hall which Chris thinks was an electricity problem. He followed the traffic problems up with Radio Essex and with County Highways, who were aware of the situation, and who switched off some of the other traffic lights to try to ease traffic flow.

**Speeding in Valley Hill and Buckhurst Hill Way.** We have again had complaints from residents. LRA Cllr David Wixley has asked County Highways to repair the two pedestrian refuges between The Meadway and Greensted Road and to re-instate the white centre line and hatching (which wasn't done when the road near Felstead Road and Hubbard Court was resurfaced about three years ago). Last year David got Highways to re-paint the double yellow lines on the Valley Hill side-junction corners, but they missed the Felstead Road junction, which he is reminding them about. David comments that it should be safe for White Bridge School children and parents to cross the road at school times if they use the lollipop people crossing points at Greensted Road and Cheltenham Gardens/The Meadway (David was responsible for organising the second of these while he was a governor at the school).

## 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>**

**Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> half-term activities –  
see *EVENTS* email**



**Essex Book Festival programme for 2017** is available in Loughton Library, Traps Hill, or you can view it online. The Box Office is now open. See our *EVENTS* email for details of an event on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>: talk: *the joys and pitfalls of publishing*. 2.30pm. Loughton Library, Traps Hill.

**Epping Forest College rated “inadequate” in 8 areas in [Ofsted report](#):** outcomes for learners, personal development, behaviour & welfare and quality of teaching, learning & assessment. (The College has had repeated problems over many years.)The Principal (in post since last September) says she knew of the problems and is taking steps to put things right - [more](#).



**Plans South move.** Without consultation with the public, or even with the Cllrs on the Committee, the Conservative administration in Epping have decided to move the meetings of our local Planning Committee (“Plans South”) from Roding Valley High School (RVHS) to the Council Chamber in Epping. We accept that the facilities in Epping are better than those at RVHS, but RVHS is very convenient for those residents who are concerned about a particular planning application and want to attend the meetings – or even speak at them – whereas the Council offices in Epping are effectively inaccessible in the evenings to those without cars. Failing to consult the Committee is actually a breach of the Council’s own rules and shows a high-handed disregard for residents’ interests!

**Council tax increase – Essex County Council (ECC).** In its 2017/18 budget, the Council plans to increase Council tax by the 3% allowed by the Government as a social care ‘levy’, but won’t make any other increase. It also plans to invest more than £260m of capital on schools, special education needs and roads [*this comes after years of under-spending on the County’s roads by successive Conservative administrations*]. The budget plans will be discussed at a meeting of Cabinet on 24 January before going to Full Council on 14 February. [More.](#)



**Council tax increase – Essex Police:** the Police and Crime Commissioner has proposed a 3.25% increase in the Police component of Council tax, equivalent to £4.95 per year for a band D property. The additional money will fund additional resources in line with commitments under the recently published [Police and Crime Plan](#), including an increase in police officers, the doubling of the Special Constable Programme and improvements in the 101 public contact system.

### **Loughton Town Council (LTC)**

- **precept for 2017/18.** At the next full Council meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Council will consider its first Council Tax increase for 7 years. If approved, the annual Band D charge would go up by under 5p a week (£2.46pa), raising the current figure of £49.18 to £51.64pa. (still under £1 a week and well below some other local town/parish councils’ rates).



The increase would provide a much-needed increase in the reserve the Council holds for work on the Neighbourhood Plan and the District Council’s draft Local Plan (dLP) – LTC has strongly objected to various aspects of the dLP (as have LRA & residents) and it seems likely that LTC will need to pay for professional help during the next stages of its development. More [here](#) & [here](#).

- **Hillyfields Open Space.** There was a very positive response to the public consultation held last November about installing a ditch and bund along the boundary of Hillyfields with Pyrles Lane and Rectory Lane to prevent vehicle incursions. The City of London (CoL), the District Council & LTC will sort out the details; the cost will be shared between LTC and CoL, which will carry out the work in-house.

**Homeless people near Debden station.** A number of concerned residents have contacted us.

The original individual has apparently been offered help and accommodation by councils but has so far not taken these up. A recent report from a resident suggests that he is now outside Cassis Court with ever-growing amount of possessions, and another homeless person is joining him.

While it is understandable that kind-hearted residents are supporting him, other residents who have to pass by are (rightly or wrongly) becoming concerned about their safety, particularly late at night.

## Essex Police

- **Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>. Public meeting to meet your local police team.** Find out more about what's going on in your local area and meet your local policing team. 7 - 8pm. St. Mary's Church, 201 High Road. This is an open meeting - all members of the public are welcome – **don't miss it.**
- **Christmas crackdown:** across the County, 130 people arrested for alcohol-related offences and 60+ for drug-related arrests. [More.](#)
- **Successful detective work at Loughton:** an offender has been charged with 9 offences, including theft from motor vehicles and burglary.
- **Alleged burglar charged** following a burglary at a home in Loughton. [More](#)



## District Council

- **Funding C.A.R.E.** Through an in-house agency (C.A.R.E. - Caring and Repairing in Epping Forest) the Council provides services to help owner-occupiers and private tenants with care and support to maintain independent living in the community. The County Council has announced it will stop supporting C.A.R.E. (currently it provides £51,000 a year), so the District Council, despite its own funding problems, is proposing to make up the shortfall.
- **Draft Local Plan.** The Council is analysing the responses received to the public consultation. They intend to report the high level outputs to Cllrs and then to Cabinet on March 9<sup>th</sup>. They are also reviewing their timetable. The next stage will be to finalise the Plan taking into account responses received to the consultation, and further evidence which they are currently collating. The Pre-Submission Plan will then be published, and representations will be invited on its legal compliance and soundness. The Plan will then be submitted to the Government for Examination-in-Public; the representations received will be provided to the Planning Inspector in charge of this process.  
*[LRA remains very concerned about these proposals, and will keep residents informed.]*  
You can read the City of London's response [here.](#)
- **Traps Hill car-park CCTV.** The Council is installing CCTV and improved lighting. Work should be completed by the end of this month. The Council expects the new CCTV will improve public safety and help reduce or eradicate the use of so-called 'legal highs' and thefts of and from vehicles.  
*[We hope they can also put a camera overlooking the children's play park, to deter nuisance youths]*
- **Torrington Drive: new parking bays.** The Council have been unable to complete the bays because of a dispute with County Highways over the discharge of surface water from the bays on to the public highway - Highways have refused to grant a license to access the highway. For the same reason, the District Council haven't been able to carry out any further work on the bays on the green. The Council's Housing Management section are currently working on the terms of residents' permits for the bays, and should be contacting the residents in the near future.



## Epping Forest

- **Rough Sleepers.** This financial year to date, 40 camps in various parts of the Forest have been dealt with by joint work by Forest staff, the Police, Immigration Enforcement and District Council housing and homelessness officers; outcomes include referrals to hostel accommodation and a number of arrests, with some rough sleepers being repatriated to their countries of origin
- **Ramorum disease** ([Phytophthora ramorum](#)) was confirmed as being present in the Warren Plantation on Rhododendrons in early October. This is a serious threat to beech trees and the beech forest, and clearance work is already underway. In addition, some larch trees will be felled. The value of the timber should offset most if not all of the cost of the felling. [More](#) (item 10, para 22 & Appendices)
- **Longhorn cattle.** Epping Forest has purchased 36 Longhorn cattle to increase the numbers for the forthcoming grazing season, including a new bull "Uther", taking the head-count to 74. Of the original Longhorn cows, 15 will be calving from the end of January onwards. [More](#) (item 10, para 31).

- **Deer management.** For the time being, the Conservators plan to use the Forest Keepers (who are trained and qualified in accordance with nationally recognised standards) to manage the deer on the Buffer Lands. They will carry out an independent review of current deer management practice, and there will be public consultation on the findings and any proposals. [More](#) (item 11)



**Properties for sale:**

- **Debden Hall:** we understand that it's up for sale at £2.6m
- **Loughton house prices** up 60+% in 10 yrs. [More](#)

## OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

 **Snapchat.** Keep your children safe - everything a parent [needs to know](#).

**Multi-agency free support & advice in Loughton,** arranged by the District Council; 1.30 – 3.30pm on Wednesdays January 18<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> & 15 and March 1<sup>st</sup> at Loughton Jobcentre Plus, 1st Floor, 284 High Road (just south of Kings Green & the War Memorial). [More](#).

- |                       |                                     |                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Dealing with debt   | • Council tax arrears               | • Domestic abuse |
| • Help with budgeting | • Support with mental health issues | • Housing issues |
| • At risk of eviction | • Training available locally        |                  |

**Home security advice.** Our thanks to the resident who passed on the information that Ross Brazier of Essex police is the man to contact: dial the police non-emergency number 101 - his extension is 313416 – or email [ross.brazier@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ross.brazier@essex.pnn.police.uk)

**Need help or emotional support?** You can call 116 123 to talk to the Samaritans, 24 hours a day, any day of the year.



## HELP WANTED



**Loughton [Building Design Award](#). Deadline January 31st!**

The Town Council would like to know of any building projects you feel have enhanced the town by good design and construction and/or sympathetic restoration.

**Get the Neighbourhood Watch news!** Although we carry some Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch (EFNW) items, you can get much more by joining their 4,600+ members on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/groups/EFNHW](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EFNHW)) No comments, just local news!



**The Jazz Archive needs you...** The Archive is housed at Loughton Library, Traps Hill. They are looking for new trustees to join the board and to help manage the Archive. In particular, they are seeking trustees with experience of one or more of: archives and collection management, volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising and IT. Trustees usually meet four times a year, and take an active role in Trustee subgroups and support NJA events and activities. Full details [here](#). Applications should be submitted by February 10<sup>th</sup>.



**Loughton Rotary**'s current project, in partnership with the Town Council, is to provide a defibrillator for the Town. Please contact them if you'd like to donate or sponsor, 020 8500 2527 or [pesh@londonresidential.co.uk](mailto:pesh@londonresidential.co.uk)  
Meetings: Thursdays 6.30pm, Blue Boar, Abridge. <http://www.loughtonrotary.org.uk>



**Be a brick!** Essex Libraries want to start Lego clubs and need bricks to begin. If you have any to spare, please drop them in to Loughton or Debden Libraries. [pic.twitter.com/hfCKjSHqk3](https://pic.twitter.com/hfCKjSHqk3)



**Could you be a foster carer?** This year Essex needs around 100 families to provide a safe, loving and caring home for children as foster carers. If you think you could help you can [find out more here](#).

**Help prevent youth re-offending.** Essex Youth Offending Service are actively seeking over-18 volunteers from the community to help them in their work of preventing re-offending by young people 10 - 17 years. Full training and support provided; can be fitted round existing commitments. To learn more contact [jodie.fenemer@essex.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.fenemer@essex.gov.uk) or ring 03330139773.

**Marathon cancer fundraising challenge.** David Griffiths, a Loughton resident, is trying to raise as much money as possible for the Institute of Cancer Research. He's attempting 10 full marathons and a 70 mile ultra marathon this year. [More](#). To sponsor him, please donate at <http://www.justgiving.com/David-Griffiths32>



**Threat to walkers:** Network Rail intend to close 132 foot-crossings in East Anglia. The Ramblers are fighting this with a petition – they say Network Rail cares little about local people or communities, and are also happy to push walkers on to busy roads. [To sign](#).

---

## GENERAL

**citizenAID™** is designed to guide the public to react safely, to pass effective messages to the emergency services, to prioritise the injured and to give life-saving first aid. The free *citizenAID* App (no ads) will reduce the anxiety from difficult decision-making in an unfamiliar situation. Follow the logical steps to do the right things in the right order. Download it from *Google Play* or the *Apple App* store.





**800th anniversary** of the Charter of Epping Forest, 1217.  
 Letter from #Epping Forest Verderer, Richard Morris, in The Times

**⚠️ Amazon email warning.** If you get an “Order confirmation” email, purporting to be from Amazon, claiming that you have bought something and asking you to log in and fill in a claim refund – don’t. They’re after your details to rip you off. If in any doubt, check at <http://www.hoax-slayer.net/> and go direct to the company’s website and log in there.

**Gritting the roads.**

- **main roads** are gritted by the County Council: [ow.ly/rDSu307S0oA](http://ow.ly/rDSu307S0oA)
- **salt/grit bins** are looked after by [Loughton Town Council](#).



**Be safe in the snow and ice!** **⚠️**  
 If you have to go out on slippery paths, then wearing slip-on “ice grips” can give you a much better grip and reduce the risk of a fall. Try Googling “ice grips UK” for suppliers, or email me for the ones we use.

**[Loughton Rugby club](#) needs you.** Committed Players wanted. Training Weds 7:30pm  
 Matches Sats. ~season Sept-Feb.



**Cut night flight noise at Stansted:** [public consultation](#) launched.

**Do you know what’s in your food?** The new *Be Food Smart* app has been launched and highlights just how much sugar, saturated fat and salt can be found in everyday food and drink. Download it from the iTunes Store or Google Play. More information on the [NHS website](#).



**TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @LoughtonRA**



**FACEBOOK: Like and Follow our Facebook page by going to [www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents](http://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents)**

**NOTES**

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
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](mailto: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

© 2017 Loughton Residents Association

**For more about LRA & Loughton see [www.loughtonresidents.co.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.co.uk)  
or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**

Promoted by & on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association of 20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN