



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA NEWS

Closure of Alderton Hill between Roding Road & the station for 5(?) weeks.

- **167 bus.** We have asked that the re-routed 167s (along Brook Road and Brooklyn Avenue) use the stops marked *Forest Road*. NEPP have confirmed that they have been contacted about enforcement of controls on parking/access etc on Brook Road and Brooklyn Avenue, but they haven't yet said what they'll be doing
- **High vehicles.** We're very grateful to the resident who spotted the need for signage at the top of Alderton Hill to stop any high vehicles coming down the hill – we certainly don't want any trying to “escape” down Roding Road, and hitting the bridge!
LRA Cllr Chris Pond got onto this immediately.



EOS bus services will ease on July 31st. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been asking the County Council about the future of routes 66 and 87 - we understand that, at short notice, Arriva Kent (sic) have registered new routes which they'll run from August 1st. The new routes are broadly similar to the old EOS ones, except that route 66 reverts to half hourly instead of going to 3 per two hours.



Thames Water roadworks at the top of Alderton Hill.

A resident contacted LRA Cllr Chris Pond with concerns about the safety of the way the lights were positioned. Chris raised this with Highways, who confirmed an Inspector would check the site.

Bus 20 failed to stop.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up a complaint that one morning the 0830am bus towards Walthamstow failed to stop at Homebase, Loughton.
TfL investigated, and have confirmed the bus was full and so didn't stop.

Recycling bins, Sainsbury's. LRA Cllr Amy Beales and I followed up a resident's concerns about fly-tipping by the recycling bins near Loughton station. Sainsbury's will try to keep an eye on this, and to speed up clear-ups. If you spot any-one dumping material here, please let us know their vehicle details (contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk) and we'll pass them on.



Langston Road Retail Park. The District Council have responded to LRA Cllr Chris Roberts' complaints about overflowing rubbish bins and dirty pavements by promising more bins, and that the pavements will be cleaned by the site managers.

Fly-posting. There seems to have been a sudden increase in fly-posting in Loughton. We've been reporting any we see, to get them removed.
Please help by reporting any you see to erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Noise from Loughton Leisure Centre. For the last 3 months, a family living nearby has been disturbed by noise from the Centre, sometimes at anti-social hours, caused by construction work, loud music and instructions being barked by gym instructors.

LRA Cllr Rose Brookes has been following this up, but so far the residents' complaints to the Centre and the District Council have had no effect. Because they have appointed a firm to run the Centre, the Council seems to be ducking out of its responsibility to control how the firm behaves.

If you live near the Centre, and have had noise problems recently, please let us know at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

Broken signpost. LRA Cllr Chris Roberts spotted this broken signpost in Debden and reported it for repair.

Please report any broken street furniture (and other Highways problems) [here](#).



Concessionary bus fares. Following our report on the amount spent by the County Council on concessionary fares (£18m pa), a reader queried why this was so, given that this was a national scheme. LRA Cllr Chris Pond replied that the national scheme is financed county by county, so when a concessionary passenger boards a Loughton bus, the County Council pick up the bill.

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>

Loughton Health Centre has been rated *inadequate* by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and given 6 months to put things right. [Details](#)



Planning applications halted! Recent court decisions mean that the District Council is having to reconsider any planning applications within a specified distance of Epping Forest. There are potential implications for the new Local Plan. [Details](#).

Epstein's studio. LRA Cllr Stephen Pewsey reports that "the studio where world-famous sculptor Jacob Epstein created some of his most renowned works is in imminent danger of demolition.

Epstein lived at 49 Baldwins Hill in the 1930s before moving across the road to No. 50.

Property developers Millie Properties Ltd. have now applied for permission to destroy his studio, which is in the back garden of No. 49. OK, it's a sculptor's studio so it's not beautiful, but it has an important place in Loughton's cultural heritage and the international history of art. The District Council's Conservation Officer has not (so far) taken any steps to help preserve the building."

Give your views [here](#) (application EPF/1723/18)

Epping Forest College merger –

- the [College's response](#) to concerns expressed by the District Council about the merger and about the future of the College's land
- **The Principal, Saboohi Famili, is leaving** on July 31st, apparently as a result of the merger.



Essex Police

- **The Epping Forest Community Hub** is now in operation; it's a joint venture between the police and the District Council, and there's a Police Sergeant and two experienced Police Constables funded and tasked by the Council. [More](#)
- **A female shoplifter** was arrested in Debden on July 12th and charged and remanded on two counts of theft with perhaps more charges to follow.[EFNW]
- **[2017 report on the efficiency of Essex Police](#)**. The link (from EFNW) will take you to the report – one area highlighted for improvement is: “The force should review its efforts to reduce the levels of abandoned 101 calls to ensure that the changes are effective, and it should seek to reduce the levels of abandonment to more acceptable levels as soon as possible. “
[We share this view (as do most police officers); we and EFNW also want the police to explain more clearly to residents why follow-up visits are often inappropriate (nothing more to be gained); and why individual reports can be vital to building up a picture of where to focus police efforts. And if you feel that the police have failed to act – for example to collect your CCTV evidence of a crime – please complain to the police. We have an energetic and committed Divisional Commander, and he needs to know when things go wrong (as they will in all large organisations).]

Road Closures for surface dressing phase 2*.

- **Epping New Road, Robin Hood Roundabout**, July 25th – 30th, (10am – 5pm) [Source](#)
- **Englands Lane, Debden Lane, Loughton Lane, Theydon Green**, July 27th – 31st, [Source](#).

***Surface Dressing Works Phase 2:** - The crews will spray the existing road surface with a coating of hot bitumen and cover it with stone chippings. The chippings are then rolled into the bitumen to form a water resistant protective layer which makes the road less slippery and extends its life. See [map & explanation](#) .



Footpath: Burton Road – 87-89 Torrington Drive may be closed for building work in Burton Road at any time until the work is finished.

Inconsiderate parking around primary schools. The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) is providing £1/2m to fund a new scheme called [3PR](#) in north Essex, including our District, to help tackle this problem. NEPP will launch the scheme this September, working in partnership with local schools. [More](#).



Is there a hosepipe ban in Loughton?

No, but you're asked to use – and re-use – water considerately. [More](#).

[Advice](#) about how to conserve water, from Thames Water.

[EFNW]

Sterling House, Langston Road. Galliard Homes have applied to the District Council for “prior approval” to change the building’s use from offices to 129 residential units.

[The LRA Plans Group will look at the details of the application. However, we are concerned that it may not be appropriate for land zoned long-term for employment uses (industrial or offices) to be converted in this way for short-term commercial gain.]

Licensing applications

- **Home Bargains**, Unit 9, Epping Forest Retail Park, Langston Road. Till August 9th.
Supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises– Monday to Sunday 08:00 - 22:00

Hours Premises Are Open To The Public- Monday to Sunday 08:00 - 22:00

- **Green Owl Canteen**, 12-14 The Broadway. Till August 16th. Off sales (on-sales already granted), to allow customers to consume alcohol on outside seating at the front of the premises.

You can comment on these applications

- Till mid-day on Monday July 30th to the Town Council (contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk) – and you can attend their meeting on Monday evening, and you can speak if you give notice ([more](#))
- till the dates shown above to the District Council (licensing@eppingforestdc.gov.uk).

Your comments must relate to at least one of the four licensing objectives:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder;
2. Public safety;
3. The prevention of public nuisance;
4. The protection of children from harm.

Jessel Green. We are aware of studies linking green spaces and mental health – the local Guardian has recently highlighted another which, unusually, actually compared the effect of cleaning and “greening” an area with similar areas which were cleaned but not greened, or neither cleaned nor greened. The results support the need for areas such as Jessel Green to be retained. [More.](#)



District Council housebuilding programme

The 51 flats and houses at Burton Road are scheduled for handover in December 2018,

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has served legal papers requiring the Government to take control of deciding the latest Stansted Airport expansion proposals, or face proceedings in the High Court. [More.](#)

Roding Valley Recreation ground and Nature Reserve – which is which?

After the last bulletin, we were rightly taken to task by a reader for muddling the two (getting it right can be important if you’re reporting a problem or an incident there).

So, on the map below, The Recreation Ground is the open area to the north-west of the Roding river, and the Nature Reserve is the area to the south-east of the river.



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Lost-and-Found: Epping Forest Neighbourhood are now providing a new Twitter service – you can put items found and items lost on @eppingforestnhw



Supporting Carers in Essex stay healthy and connected.

Carers FIRST supports adult carers by providing specialist information and advice.

- They run groups and activities which give people a break and an opportunity to meet other carers
- they run local surgeries for carers by appointment
- they hold two Carers Groups each month in St Margaret's Hospital

If you're a Carer, don't wait until you are struggling or there is a crisis to talk to Carers FIRST about your situation and discuss what support you may need

(0300 303 1555, hello@carersfirst.org.uk or www.carersfirst.org.uk)



Get an 'H-bar' marking across your dropped kerb driveway access.

Find out more at the North Essex Parking Partnership

ow.ly/B3Eu30kW2FO



The Dementia Handbook for Carers brings together information about dementia, and the sources of care and support in Essex. For a free copy, email enquiries@healthwatchessex.org.uk

HELP WANTED

Great Eastern Path – call for CCTV & better lighting.

A resident has launched a petition (which we support) – see [here](#)

The Restorative Justice and Mediation Service needs volunteers for this scheme, which allows victims of crime and anti-social behaviour (such as neighbour disputes) the chance to communicate with the perpetrator/s - you can learn the relevant skills.

- Full training and ongoing support
- become part of a friendly and supportive team
- fit this role around your existing commitments.

Over 18? Live in Essex? Interested in learning more?

contact restorativejustice@essex.pnn.police.uk or ring 01245 291609



GENERAL

Traffic disruption this weekend: Prudential RideLondon [Check your travel options](#)

The annual Prudential RideLondon festival of cycling is taking place over the weekend.

The routes will be closed to traffic. Road users are advised to avoid the affected areas

wherever possible. Buses will be on diversion or stop short of their destinations.

Tube and Rail will be the best way to get around during the weekend.

**ROAD
CLOSED**

On Saturday, the event route is in central London. Some roads will be closed from 05:00 until 19:30. On Sunday, the event routes are in east, central and south west London and in the affected parts of Surrey. Some roads will be closed from 04:00 until 20:00.

National Planning Policy Framework.

The Government has published a [revised version](#) of this top-level statement of the way in which the Planning system should be run. We will be carefully examining the changes.

Calls from solar energy companies. Trading Standards advise that there are companies ringing residents offering free checks, equipment, repairs and/or maintenance contracts on their solar panel systems – these are either fraudulent or significantly over-priced. More [here](#).

If you want advice or help with your solar panels, we suggest you search on *Which? Trusted Traders* for a genuine firm.



Extension of licensing for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Until now, mandatory licensing of HMOs has applied only to the larger shared properties of 3 storeys or more with five or more people. Mandatory HMO licensing has now been extended to include all HMOs of any storey. Landlords of HMOs that are included within the new criteria have until October 2018 to apply to the District Council for a licence, after which they will be committing an offence.

Garden grabbing advert. LRA Cllr Stephen Pewsey spotted an ad by a “property services” firm offering help in finding a property in London – and in finding opportunities to build a second house in the grounds...no mention that this is normally strictly against Government policy (and would be resisted by Loughton Town Council and the LRA Plans Group).

Protecting your car.

[EFNW]

- **Key pouches.** EFNW has found evidence that the pouches you can use to protect your car keys from being accessed by thieves may fail to work after a time – possibly because of wear and tear in use. **Their advice:** check every-so-often by trying to open your car with the key in the bag.
- **And don't make it easy for thieves!**
This vehicle was spotted unattended in Buckhurst Hill, with items inside on display – please check your windows and doors when you leave your car!



Looking after you –what the District Council's Public Health team do (more [here](#) -item 5)

- **Food hygiene.** There are just over 1,200 registered food businesses in the District and just over half were routinely inspected, on a risk basis, last year (high risk food establishments are inspected every six months). Last year the team issued 258 written warnings and three Hygiene Improvement Notices, and there was one. Voluntary closure
- **Health and safety enforcement.** The Council is responsible for 4,469 premises and was required to carry out twelve intelligence led H&S inspections last year. It had also received 36 accident notifications, some of which could become lengthy cases.
- **Environmental pollution** cases range from major industrial users to residents' bonfires, or pollution from dry cleaners' solvents. Nitrogen oxide (NOx) levels are monitored across the District
- **Animal welfare:** Waltham Forest Borough Council deals with stray dogs in the District, under contract to our District Council. During 2017/18 35 dogs were collected (the majority were re-homed).
- **Other aspects:** pest control (114 complaints were received), dog fouling, animal welfare licensing (including licensing of dangerous dogs)
- **The Council's uniformed officers** deal with fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, fly-posting, noise nuisance complaints and many more. Fly-tipping in the District has increased and currently takes up 56% of officers'

time (2,338 incidents last year compared to 1,600 in 2010); noise nuisance complaints (1,384 were received) took up 33% of officers' time.

- **Licensing:** the Licensing team handle 4,500 licences per year under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Public Hire and Hackney Carriage licensing, plus special treatment licences, i.e. for tattooing
- **Major disasters;** the Council is a Category 1 Responder (the same level as Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service) and takes part in multi-agency exercises for major disasters. Past major incidents include flooding of the River Roding, an unexploded bomb in Roydon at Dobbs Weir Road, a Debden gas explosion and a Loughton gas leak.

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 August 10th.
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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