



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA NEWS

2 Connaught Avenue – new planning application. This makes changes to the earlier applications for a single dwelling; no basement and at first sight with a wider footprint than previously approved. We would welcome comments on the application, as would the Town and District Councils. It will be considered by Loughton Town Council's Planning & Licensing Committee on February 6th. The LRA Plans Group is grateful to the volunteers who've delivered a letter to nearby residents (if you'd like a copy, email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)



Parking in Forest Road, Smarts Lane etc. LRA Cllr Chris Pond recently asked for an update from NEPP about their promised proposals. They say that plans are in the process of being devised and local enquiries arranged to ascertain the exact extent (days and time duration) of any scheme to ensure that the least number of residential objections are received when their proposal is advertised towards the end of March/beginning of April. NEPP will contact residents in due course. When we know the details, we'll also let you know our views, and ask for your opinions.

Play-house on the roadway. After a delapidated play-house had remained at the roadside for a week, a nearby resident contacted us. LRA Cllr Judy Jennings went along and identified the owners. They are planning to get a skip to have it removed. Judy will check up again later to see if it has gone.

High kerbs, Traps Hill. The new mini-roundabout on has left much higher pavement kerbs where it crosses Rowans Way. Following a query from a resident, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked for dropped kerbs, but given County Highways backlog, they won't appear soon.

A-boards and other obstructions. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has followed up a resident's enquiry. Highways will remove A-boards on the highway if they are causing an obstruction* - use the Highway's [Report it Tool](#). Otherwise they fall within the remit of the District Council's planning department, who are unlikely to take action.

* "Obstruction" generally means not leaving enough space for a wheelchair to pass safely.

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- **Oakwood Hill pedestrian refuge.** You may remember the unfortunate accident which led to the death of Emilie Buckner 3 years ago. Attempts to get speed controls came to nothing (although we know residents are still concerned about speeding here). However, the road will be [closed for 5 days](#) from April 10th while Essex County Council undertakes improvements to the existing pedestrian crossing. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the District & County Councils use their powers to prevent any non-emergency utility roadworks in the High Road and Borders Lane in this period, to avoid even more chaos than the closure will inevitably cause..
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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>

Tube strike. Station staff who are RMT union members are currently planning strikes. If they go ahead, there will be a significant impact on Tube journeys from 18.00 Sunday 5 February until around 11:00 Wednesday 8 February. Please check before you travel, allow more time for your journey and avoid the peak times if at all possible. For the latest information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/tube-strike



Police & Crime Commissioner Public Meeting – Epping Forest.

6.30 – 8.30pm. Civic Offices, High Street, Epping.

Come along & find out what's happening!

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/events/public-meeting-epping-2/

Council Tax

- **Police increase:** precept increase of 3.25%, equivalent to an increase of £4.95 a year from £152.10 to £157.05 for a Band D property, raising £3.1m of additional council tax receipts. Detailed reasons for the increase [here](#) (paras 4.3 – 4.5)
- **County Council increase:** summary [here](#).
This will go to Full Council on 14 February 14th.



District Council

- **Site of Former Winston Churchill Public House.** The Council estimates that the 64 apartments will be ready for occupancy in September 2017. Marketing of the ground floor retail units has commenced. These will be managed by the Council, which expects to produce a good return.
- **Langston Road retail park:** progress [report](#)
- **Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow):** discussion on adverse CQC report took place recently at a District Council meeting – see the webcast [here](#)
- **Loughton Leisure Centre, Traps Hill.** As part of appointing a new firm to run the District's leisure centres, we're promised a substantial extension of the Centre's [health and fitness offer](#).
- **Homeless man near Debden Station:** some residents are becoming increasingly concerned about his presence. We understand the Council is looking for a legal way to resolve the situation.



- **113 Church Hill (old Co-op Dairy site).** The District Council planning committee has turned down an application for a block of flats, because of access problems. We await fresh plans, or an appeal.



New 167 bus [timetable](#) from March 11th (scroll down past the official forms) – still headed “Debden” but buses will terminate at Loughton Station).
As soon as we hear what plans Essex County Council have to replace the service north of Loughton station, we’ll let you know.

Loughton Town Council

- **Salt/grit bins.** The Local Highways Panel has agreed to install a new bin at the junction of Shaftesbury with Staples Road.
- **War Memorials.** The WWII memorial from St Mary’s Church has been given to the Town Council for safe keeping. This joins the WWI memorials from Lincoln Hall and St Mary’s already in storage.
- **Air-quality in Loughton.** [Report](#) (page 9)

Seeing to drive

- **driving licences revoked at the roadside.** Last year 63 drivers had their driving licences revoked after failing eyesight tests at the roadside in Essex (simple eyesight tests at a distance of 20m) as they were believed to present a severe risk to other drivers and pedestrians.
- **drivers involved in collisions:** Essex Police officers also visited 226 drivers involved in collisions where eyesight issues might have been a contributory factor. As a result, 26 drivers failed an eyesight test and either had their licence revoked or agreed to surrender it voluntarily.
- **if you’re concerned** about a friend or relative’s ability to drive safely as a result of eyesight or health concerns, contact the Casualty Reduction Unit by calling 101 or emailing driving.complaints@essex.pnn.police.uk - officers will have a conversation with them about their circumstances and discuss the implications their health could have on their driving ability. They do what they can to keep people on the roads.



Roadworks

- **Colson Road.** Although the junction with Rectory Lane has so far remained open, it may be shut off at any time by the contractors working on the road-widening
- **Chigwell Lane “Rolls Park” roundabout.** As part of the improvement works, signals are being introduced here. While this is being done, there’s 3-way signalling, in off-peak hours (9.30am - 3.30pm) which are causing long delays. They’re due to remain until March 18th but shortly they’ll be reduced to only 2-way (or occasionally 3-way)
- **Torrington Drive parking spaces.** Because of a dispute between Essex Highways and the District Council over the drainage for the parking bays, the District Council is having to arrange additional soil tests. Providing Essex Highways accept the results and give permission for the crossovers to be completed, they will be able to proceed with the bays – all this may take some time.

Royal Gunpowder Mills. PGL have lodged an appeal against the District Council’s decision to refuse their planning application.



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Free courses from Google: search engines, social media & more - grow your digital skills. Ask staff at Loughton Library, Traps Hill, if you are interested in enrolling as they can help you set up an account.



Building sites. If some-one carrying out building work works at unsocial times, or spreads mud on the road, you can check whether it’s covered by a planning permission [here](#) and see whether there are conditions on working hours and wheel-washing equipment. If conditions are being flouted, contact the District Council Building Control team (01992 564000). Similarly if you think what’s being built doesn’t agree with the plans.



Dementia: the District Council has 176 [#DementiaFriends](#). Get in touch if you're interested in learning about dementia & help raise awareness <http://ht.ly/2GYT308lx6n> [More](#), including useful websites.



Emotional well-being App for youngsters. This Mobile App and website signposts users to a number of Apps, websites and downloads that had been approved as helping young people to support their own mental health and emotional well-being. Created by the Epping Forest Youth Council with help & support from the District Council. <http://www.milife.org.uk/signup.htm> [More](#)

Nappies. Parents in Essex can claim £30 cash back on the purchase of cloth nappies per baby. Cloth nappies come in many different styles and prints, as well as being better for the environment and saving you money. Why not use your [£30 cash back](#) to give them a try?





Back to Hockey at Old Loughtonians Hockey Club in Luxborough Lane, Chigwell, offers free weekly classes in the basics of hockey to adult beginners and ex-players – all welcome. See details in our *EVENTS* email.

Spring-cleaning - save a trip to a recycling centre - you don't have to throw it away.

You can Give it away Swap it Donate it Sell it

[More](#)



Wednesday April 12th. EFCC Business Fair and Networking Event. Theydon Bois Village Hall Stalls available from £25 (table and chairs), large stalls by quotation.

Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce [Business Fair](#). 10.30am – 4.30pm.

Activities planned throughout the day; a great chance to meet other businesses and colleagues and conjure up some business.

Speakers and presentations will include discussions on business topics to be announced soon.

HELP WANTED

Epping Forest's Great Spring Clean throughout Epping Forest Friday March 3rd to Sunday 5th. EFCT is calling on all community/local groups to join in - working with the Conservators of Epping Forest, they are coordinating activities in Epping Forest and providing support to participating groups.

If your group is considering, or already has, an activity planned for this time or you would like to develop a litter pick in your area, let them know and they'll get it in the Forest-wide programme. Please respond by Tuesday 14th February. [Details](#). [Form](#).



Loughton Foodbank February shopping list To all donors and supporters- Loughton Foodbank is currently running low of the following... <http://fb.me/1744Cwx87>

Extend first MOT date to 4 years? Give your views in the [public consultation](#).



GENERAL

Stay safe

- **Where do you leave your car key fob?** If your fob in the house is too close to your car on your driveway, your car may not be locked! Worth checking.....
- **Cyber crime** - Take Action Fraud's quick test to help protect yourself – plus how to stay safe online! www.actionfraud.uk
- **“workmen” who knock** on your door and say there’s a loose roof tile: LRA Cllr Philip Beales reports this scam cost an unwary resident £200 recently. Make sure there’s really a problem and then use a trusted local trader – ask your friends and neighbours, enquire on [Streetlife Loughton](#) or look on [Which? Trusted Traders](#).
- **if you see an unattended bag** please don't ignore it, take action! Ask people if they own the bag and if not, phone the police on 999.



- If you suspect a neighbour is involved with terrorism, phone the anti-terrorist helpline.



Litter

- **report it.** If there are large amounts of litter in your street or fly-tipped rubbish near where you live, let the Council know (erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or 01992 564608). Give as much detail as possible so they can investigate what further action can be taken.
- **Anti-litter campaign [results](#).**



Do you need to renew your E111 card?

If you're planning to go abroad this year, check the expiry date on your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and if necessary renew it [here](#) (watch out for fake sites that try to charge you – it's free!)

Disposing of low-energy light-bulbs: put them in a carrier bag and left on top of your green bin, marked WEEE (waste electrical)



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 Saturday February 18th.
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

