



# LRA's Loughton News

12 April 2024

In this issue, the police report [arrests near Loughton Station](#), [four convictions](#) for a violent attack locally, [50 speeding tickets issued](#) and [a shoplifter nabbed](#).

The next [Loughton Wombles litter pick](#) is on 20 April, [unwanted banners around town](#) are being removed, and [new signs have been installed](#) on a path near Loughton Station.

In the Forest, the Epping Forest Heritage Trust are running [Conservation Volunteer Days](#) where you can help out.

[Local elections are in 20 days](#). If you need to register for Postal Voting, the deadline is next Wednesday. Remember that a Photo ID is required if voting in person.

Thank you for being part of LRA. You can always [contact us by email](#) to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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## Temporary Traffic Lights Trouble

Independent Cllr Stephen Murray noticed that UK Power Networks' temporary traffic lights near Poets Place on Alderton Hill were giving signals that sent cars heading towards each other. LRA Cllr Chris Pond reported this to Highways who sent an inspector. The County Council issued a "rectify within 2 hours" notice to UKPN and the problem was resolved.

Apparently, the lights were meant to be controlling pedestrian, not vehicular, traffic. This was not apparent to drivers.

## May Elections

In 20 days on Thursday 2 May there will be local elections. You will be able to vote LRA as we will continue to stand candidates in Loughton's Town and District wards.



If you are not already registered for Postal Voting the last day to register is next Wednesday 17 April either by [completing this form](#) or [applying online](#). Ballot papers should be delivered from 19 April.

If you are voting in person, [you will need to show one form of photo ID](#) such as a passport. If you do not have an acceptable form of photo ID, you can [apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate](#) (VAC) by 5pm on 24 April. Unless you bring photo ID or a VAC to the polling station, you will not be able to vote.

## ***Planning and Licensing***

[Read more on our website](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information and how to comment to the Town Council and the District Council, and to the LRA Plans Group – please have your say.

### **38 Church Hill**

There have been previous attempts to turn the basement of this property into an online pharmacy which LRAPG objected to. This new application attempts to put the basement into Class E which can be used for a range of different uses. The planning consent for the Estate Agents was granted planning permission in 2001 and is subject to a condition that the area can only be used for an Estate Agents and no other use within the A2 use class or any other future use class which includes Class E.

LRAPG object to the space being used for anything other than an Estate Agents as per the original planning consent because of the likely impact on the amenity of the residents above and adjoining the premises.

Reference [EPF/0553/24](#). The formal consultation period ends 15 March.

### **27 St Johns Road**

The application proposes demolition of the existing four bedroom house and replacing it with a new four bedroom house.

ARA Homes Ltd have applied to knock down and replace the existing dwelling which appears to be in good condition and is not unattractive. No justification has been provided for its demolition and or about the recycling of the existing materials in the building. It is not sustainable to knock down existing buildings and replace them with completely new builds. The existing building represented an enormous investment in carbon and energy already, and to simply throw it into the skip is unacceptable. It is also contrary to the principles of the circular economy.

LRAPG considers the District Council needs to resist the loss of existing fabric and insist the existing dwelling is retro fitted with sustainable energy efficiencies and improved rather than allowing it to be demolished and sent to landfill. Any scheme that replaces an existing building should have a carbon assessment of the whole-life

carbon footprint of it compared to the option of re-use.

Reference [EPF/0483/24](#). The formal consultation period ends 16 March.

## ***Roads, Parking and Travel***

### **Planned Road Closures**

- Baldwins Hill - the road will be closed until 14 April for hydrant installation works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Forest Road - the road will be closed from 26 April to 1 May between 8pm and 5am for road resurfacing. [More](#)

Dates can change so [check here for the latest updates](#), and for other planned roadworks including ones that involve only temporary traffic lights.



### **Central Line Service Disruption**

The service on the Central Line remains disrupted with fewer trains in service due to motor failures. Transport for London (TfL) has said that they have increased the rate at which they can repair and replace defective motors, and are working to reduce the number of trains out of service for other age-related reasons. The majority of speed restrictions on the Epping and Hainault branches have now been lifted although some speed restrictions remain in place for safety reasons because of issues with track monitoring equipment.

TfL provide further updates on [their website](#).

The temporary shuttle buses between Chingford, Loughton and Epping have stopped as very few people used them.

### **Road Repairs**

In February in our district, the County Council repaired 166 potholes and 25 pavements, cleared no drains and fixed 91 streetlights.

## ***Police, Fire and Crime***

### **Three Arrested and Knives Seized**

Three people were arrested and three knives seized after reports suggested three people had approached a teenage boy at Loughton Station and threatened him with a knife on 28 March.

Officers responded to the reports and carried out a widespread search alongside colleagues from British Transport Police (BTP).

Three boys aged 17, 15 and 14, were taken into custody and questioned on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon and robbery. [More](#)

### **Four Convicted over Violent Attack**

Four men were found guilty of a violent burglary in Queens Road, when a group of men armed with knives and pepper spray forced their way into an address in July last year.

Witnesses saw the men leaving the area, with CCTV footage showing the group arriving and leaving in a car, which was stopped later that evening on the M6 motorway.

They all denied the charges but following a 3 week trial at Chelmsford Crown Court, they were all found guilty of conspiracy to commit aggravated burglary. [More](#)

### **50 Motorists Caught Speeding**

Over three days in March, the police conducted speed checks across the west of the county highlighting road safety issues and targeting drivers who were breaking the law by speeding.

In our district over 50 speeding tickets were handed out to motorists who were driving over the speed limits. [More](#)

### **Shoplifter Nabbed**

While off duty, PC Amner (a member of the District Council policing team) was doing his weekly shop when he spotted a shoplifting in progress. He assisted store staff in detaining the suspect, who was then arrested when on duty officers arrived.

### **The Police in February**

In February the police in our district:

- helped to find 32 people who were reported missing and helped them to get the support they needed.
- responded to 32 mental-health related incidents and worked with local partners to help those concerned get the help and support they needed.
- investigated 77 reports of antisocial behaviour having listened to local communities about the things which were causing them concern.
- attended 51 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- investigated 177 reports of domestic violence incidents and made sure victims were given help, support, and advice, putting them in contact with relevant organisations where appropriate.
- solved 75 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- submitted 278 pieces of intelligence which assists us in targeting criminal activity in our community.
- stopped and searched 53 people within our district to make sure they weren't carrying anything which could cause harm to themselves or someone else.

### **Missing Vulnerable Persons**

Caring for vulnerable people, including those with dementia or Alzheimer's, can be challenging. There is a risk they can at some point start to 'walk about'. This may only be into the garden or street for a short time, but some people can get lost and go missing.

The Herbert Protocol is a form that carers, family or friends of a vulnerable person, or the person themselves can fill in. It contains a list of information to help the police if the person goes missing, including medication required, mobile numbers, places previously located and a recent photograph. [More and the form](#)

### Unexpected Doorstep Callers

The police advise that you should only let someone into your home if you're absolutely sure that they're genuine. Any genuine person will have ID that they won't mind showing you. You don't need to open the door for them and if you feel uneasy, you can always ask someone to come back another time. Anyone legitimate will not object to this.

Bogus callers can trick their way into your home by pretending to be someone they aren't – whether that's a meter reader, police officer, council official, or just someone who needs help. Doorstep traders aren't always honest. They can try to trick or push you into buying goods or services at high prices.

***Don't agree to anything, sign a contract or pay for anything*** until you've talked to someone you trust – and don't be afraid to tell them to leave.

### Securing Your Online Accounts

[Action Fraud](#) recommend you use a strong and different password for your email and social media accounts and different from all your other passwords. Combining three random words that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.

Turning on Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for your email and social media accounts gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your email or social media account. This works by asking for more information to prove your identity. For example, getting a code sent to your phone when you sign in using a new device or change settings such as your password. You won't be asked for this every time you check your email or social media.

[More](#)



### More from the Police

[Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to February 2024.

Some items we report on come from the Dispatch Newsletter from Essex Police. You can [subscribe here for free](#) (choose the Epping Forest edition)

## Council News

### Wombles Next Litter Picks

The Town Council's Wombles will be out again picking up litter and the things that folks leave behind on 20 April and 25 May.

Can you help keep our town tidy? As well as helping a worthy cause, it is a great opportunity to socialise and make new friends. Contact Debbie at the Town Council [by email](#) or call 020 8508 4200.

### Unwanted and Neglected Banners

Residents have been increasingly concerned about the number of advertising banners (typically advertising events or functions) left in place long after events has taken place causing unsightly clutter. Essex Highways have reported that this would be 'an offence under the Highways Act 1980, [but] this would be a low priority for enforcement, [and] we don't currently have the resources to remove this type of signage'.

The District Council has powers to remove and issue penalties in relation to illegal fly-posting. The Town Council have pursued the issue with the District Council who have now agreed that their Highway Rangers will remove the offending advertising banners from around the town.



### New Signs

Gillingham Path is the alleyway linking the entrance to Loughton Station with Roding Road and now has new street signs in place at either end.

Donald Gillingham (1906-65) was the author of *Unto the Fields* published in 1953, which chronicled the building of the Debden Estate, and the conversion of the Roding Valley into housing (which he much deplored) . He lived at 28 Roding Road where there is a blue Heritage Plaque.

Image: Town Council

### Tree Survey

Following a survey of trees across all Town Council sites, it was noted that there is minimal work needed to conform to health and safety recommendation, except for the Roding Valley Recreation Ground where, due to the sheer volume of trees, there are a number of trees requiring attention.

### Murray Hall – Electric Charging Point

An Electric Vehicle charging point has been installed for use by the Town Council's van. LRA Cllr Chris Pond secured funding for over 80% of the installation costs from the County Council's Locality Fund.

### Brazilian Butt/Bum Lift (BBL) Procedures

The District Council are investigating a number of complaints relating to Brazilian Butt/Bum Lift (BBL) procedures carried out at premises within the District. As a result they have issued a Prohibition Notice preventing one practitioner from carrying out any further procedures in an unsafe way and has also issued Improvement Notice under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Further investigation is ongoing.

Practitioners undertaking these procedures are not legally required to have any medical qualification and are not subject to mandatory licensing. Procedures including BBL, thread lifting, and platelet-rich therapy are not always performed by medically trained practitioners. Outside the medical profession, there are few, if any, training courses that are accredited by an awarding body that oversees the content and quality of the training being provided. Basic training courses like the one featured in recent ITV News coverage are unlikely to give the quality of the training needed. The Government is developing a licensing regime. [More](#)

### **Community Safety Projects Funding**

Local groups can apply to the Community Safety Initiatives Fund to fund projects or initiatives that aim to improve the safety of residents and address violence and vulnerability.

[Applications](#) must be made by 12 May to the County Council with grants available from £500 to £2,000.

### **Water for Essex**

The County Council has launched [the Water Strategy for Essex](#). This discusses challenges of water shortages and water quality, and makes 30 recommendations on ways to save water, support land use change, increase natural green infrastructure and develop new water supplies.

The Council has also developed the [Essex Water Your Future online explorer](#) which is an interactive tool with informational videos and links to solutions to our county's water challenges.

## **Local News**



### **Bags for Sale at Loughton Library**

On sale now are strong, sturdy bags to carry books and other items with book related themes. They come in three varieties from £3 to £6 each.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

### **Childhood Vaccinations**

In some parts of the country, childhood vaccination rates are falling leaving children vulnerable to serious illness such as measles and whooping cough. England no longer has the high levels of population immunity recommended by the World Health

Organisation for highly infectious diseases, like measles, to be eliminated (95%).

This means outbreaks are more likely to occur posing a greater risk for those who are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated.

The NHS free childhood vaccination programme prevents around 5,000 deaths a year and more than 100,000 hospital admissions in England. [Here are the routine childhood immunisations](#). You will usually be contacted by your GP but if you know your child is due for a vaccination, you don't need to wait to be contacted. [More](#)

## ***Epping Forest***

### **Conservation Volunteer Days**

The Epping Forest Heritage Trust invites anyone who is interested in nature, love the outdoors, and want to improve your health and well-being, to join them for a day in the Forest to carry out practical habitat management work and help improve the biodiversity of Epping Forest.



They welcome people from all backgrounds and walks of life. The sessions will be led by our Conservation Officer with full approval and support from the City of London Corporation. Tools and training will be provided.

[There are seven days in April and May](#). Booking required.

### **Art of the Forest**

The Essex Art Club (EAC) has an exhibition at the Visitor Centre in Chingford until 12 May. The history of the EAC spans 120 years and a membership that has included Sir Winston Churchill. The exhibition is free and no booking is required.

### **Forest Focus - March 2024**

Some items here come from Forest Focus. The edition for [March](#) has lots more interesting articles. You can [subscribe here for free](#).



## ***And More***

### **A Buzz about Bees**

Did you know that there are around 270 species of bee in the UK and 250 of those are solitary?

The Buzz Club has partnered with The Wildlife Community to investigate what bees favour in solitary bee hotels and how to make them optimal for as many different bee species as possible. Finding this out will help us conserve pollinators in our gardens across the UK and help protect them against threats such as climate change.



Anyone who has a solitary bee hotel in their garden can take part. [More and how to register](#)

### **Broadband Bills Help**

If you, or someone you know, need help with broadband costs, several providers offer special discounted deals to help people receiving benefits.

If you receive Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support, you may be eligible for a social tariff and save up to £202 a year. [More](#)

*Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 10 May, although that date could change.*

***Get more from LRA and keep up with what's happening between issues of Loughton News***

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