



LRA's Loughton News

13 October 2023

In this issue, read about how the [police have been out and about](#), with [extra patrols on The Broadway](#) and [tackling dangerous and anti-social driving](#).

Also there are [changes proposed to the Epping New Road](#) aiming to improve safety.

[Loughton Day in September was a success](#) with good weather and large numbers of residents and visitors turned up.

Various consultations are under way where you can comment - [Recycling Centre Bookings](#), [the County Waste Strategy](#) and [changes to Social Housing Standards](#)

In the Forest, please remember [foraging is not allowed](#), and [the deer rutting season is starting](#). With Halloween in a couple of weeks, there's [ways to keep children safe](#) and [Chasing Pumpkins \(or slightly slower Pumpkin Plod\)](#) is coming to the Forest.

You should have received the Townwide edition of Loughton Life (or will do so shortly). Our appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who do the deliveries, in all seasons. You can also [read Loughton Life on our website](#).

Thank you for supporting LRA, which is 100% run by volunteers locally. You can always [contact us by email](#) to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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LRA News

13 – 15A Alderton Hill Another proposed block of flats

Thank you to all our members who responded to our [news email special](#) earlier this week, and made comments to the Planning Inspector.

The Appeal will be heard on 5 December, and we'll let you know the outcome.



Aura Grill and Bar, 179-181 High Road

In April 2022 the District Council issued Aura Bar and Grill an enforcement notice to demolish a steel framed extension at the rear of the property and a second notice to remove an extraction system. The owners appealed against the notices to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. The LRA Plans Group supported the enforcement notices and asked for the appeals to be dismissed.

The Planning Inspector dismissed both appeals and have upheld the Council's requirement for the extension to be demolished and the extraction system to be removed. The inspector agreed the structures were harmful to the area and adjoining residents and should be removed within one month which has now expired.

LRA Comment: *We call on the District Council to ensure the enforcement notices are complied with and the structures removed immediately.*

Cleaning the Streets

A resident who had recently moved to Roding ward contacted LRA Cllr Rose Brookes and Independent Cllr Stephen Murray about the state of his street, particularly drawing attention to the excessive detritus in the gutters. They met the new constituent and spent an hour walking round nearby streets.

Rose and Stephen then organised the cleaning of his road. Subsequently they met the District Council's waste contract manager and the officer responsible for Loughton, to look at other roads in Roding ward. Biffa have since cleaned another road.

Roads are no longer inspected regularly in the way they used to be in previous waste contracts. If your street is not cleaned to your satisfaction, [report it to the District Council](#).

Fairview Homes Development on Luctons Field

As we reported last time, residents noticed the reality of how large the development is on Luctons Field with the height and proximity apparent as the building gets higher.

The District Council planning officer leading on the case has concluded his investigation however, unfortunately, he has not found any breaches. In the officer's response to the resident who raised the initial complaint, he stated "*In conclusion, at this time we are satisfied that works at the site are taking place in accordance with the approved plans and that a breach of planning control has not occurred.*"

In response to this, LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke put forward concerns and raised further

issues regarding parking. As part of the planning conditions attached by the Inspectorate, Fairview is meant to provide parking spaces for its staff and contractors working or visiting the site. Below is the response he received from the planning officer:



“This issue is common on building sites and difficult to manage. The Construction Management Plan (CMP) states that limited parking is available on site, which I have witnessed during my site visits. I spoke with a Fairview Home’s representative last week and raised this matter again. It would be difficult to prove that Fairview Homes are not encouraging staff to utilise alternative means of transport on a day-to-day basis. You may wish to seek independent legal advice on this if you so wish, as the CMP is approved, therefore discharging the condition.”



Bright Lights on The Broadway

This year the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership will be organising another Christmas event for children on The Broadway. There will be a pop-up Santa’s Grotto in an empty shop unit, the Thomas Willingale Primary School choir will sing, and there will be a children’s fairground ride and refreshments. This will be followed by various entertainment by Bricklamps Path.

The event is Wednesday 29 November. Please mark the date.

If you able to steward in the afternoon or if you would like to donate Christmas presents, please [email LRA Cllr Rose Brookes](#).

LRA Short General Meeting

Tuesday 31 October, 7.30pm
Lopping Hall (the small hall), High Road

We envisage the General Meeting will take five minutes followed by our Executive Committee meeting. Members can leave or are welcome to stay. Executive Committee meetings last around one hour.

If this email has been forwarded to you, get it sent directly to your inbox by [supporting LRA for only £5 a year](#).

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.

Roding Valley High School RAAC and New Temporary Buildings

Unfortunately Roding Valley High School (RVHS) is one of the schools that has reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) inside one of its buildings. A recent survey confirmed RAAC panels were used in the construction of the roof a building that houses 18 classrooms and the canteen/kitchen for the school. The Department for Education instructed RVHS to close the building immediately.



The school has quickly sourced 18 modular classrooms and a toilet block which have had to be installed along Brook Road without obtaining the necessary planning consents. LRAPG Group understands the need to do this but hopes a retrospective planning application will be submitted shortly so a timetable can be agreed for the replacement of the RAAC in the existing building and the removal of the temporary structures as soon as practically possible.



building and the removal of

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Connaught Avenue - the road will be closed until 16 October for pipe replacement works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Wellfields - the road will be closed on 16 October for works by Thames Water. [More](#)

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



A104 Epping New Road - Proposed Road Safety Scheme

The government is funding £1.36m for safety improvements on the road. Plans have been developed by Essex Highways and are now under consideration.



The proposed plans include:

- Average speed cameras to enforce the existing 30mph and 40mph speed limit.

- A northwards extension to the existing 30mph speed limit in Buckhurst Hill to cover the Rangers Road junction which also includes average speed cameras.
- A series of traffic islands along the length including crossing points at the key forest crossing points, working with conservators to provide an integrated approach with the car park access improvements.

[Full details are here.](#)

Police, Fire and Crime

Police Out in the District

A day of action to combat issues including burglary, hate crime and speeding saw more than 50 officers deployed across the district. This was part of Operation Community, which brings together teams from across the force to engage with local residents, businesses and colleges to deliver community safety action alongside partner organisations.



Officers completed 64 hours of anti-burglary foot patrols where there have been break-ins in the past three months in areas of Waltham Abbey, Chigwell, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Epping. They were joined by colleagues from CID who visited victims and also carried out their own patrols in Debden, Stapleford Abbots and Abridge.

At New City College in Debden, officers from the Child Abuse investigation Team (CAIT) gave a talk to 60 students about consent and handed out personal alarms. [More](#)



Extra Patrols on The Broadway

The police are working with the District Council's community resilience officers on Operation Dial to carry out extra patrols to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) around Debden Broadway.

This initiative is part of a larger £1.1 million investment by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to tackle ASB in 11 hotspot areas

across the county.

Officers will conduct regular patrols along The Broadway, engaging with the public to address concerns of anti-social behaviour, build relationships with local residents and businesses, and report any illegal activity. [More](#)

Police Dispersal Order

The police had a dispersal order in place over the weekend of 23-24 September across Epping Forest district and Harlow, following concerns relating to car meets and related anti-social behaviour. It gave officers extra powers to direct people to leave the area for 48 hours.

Stolen Cars Seized

Acting on information received, in the Epping Forest area, the police found several stolen vehicles that had been stolen from within Essex and several London areas and were in the process of having their identities changed. [More](#)



Dangerous and Anti-Social Driving

The police are aware of numerous car meets in the Langston Road and Lenthall Road areas over the summer months involving dangerous driving and excessively loud noise. They have worked to tackle this and they hope you have noticed a significant improvement.

They identified several drivers who will be prosecuted at court in due course and to assist this they are gathering information on the effect it has had on local residents. They have written to every person we received a call from where their address was given however numerous others called them without providing an address so they are aware there will other residents who can also assist them.

If you have been affected in any way by these car meets then please [email Roads Policing Sergeant 13 Willsher](#) so an information and witness appeal pack can be sent to you for your consideration.

Increase in the Theft of Ford Fiestas

The police have seen an increase in people reporting their Ford Fiestas being stolen. To help keep your vehicle safe, consider using extra security features such as a full round steering lock or on-board diagnostic (OBD) protection, which can help prevent thieves gaining access to your car. [More](#) on preventing car theft.



More Than Neighbourhood Watch

Alongside Neighbourhood Watch, did you know that there are other Watch schemes, under the umbrella of Essex Watch? These include Allotment Watch, Dog Watch, and Heritage Watch, amongst others.

They are free police initiatives run for the benefit of those involved, which, depending on the scheme, can eventually be run locally by the members themselves.

They work by developing a close relationship between the scheme members and us - your local police service. Members of these specialised schemes are more likely to know what is going on within their own area of interest and being part of a watch scheme can play a vital role in making the community safer and better place to live and work. [More](#)

Is Your Webmail Storage Really Full?

An LRA member recently received an email supposedly from their email provider advising them their webmail storage was almost full.

This was a scam. The link in the email went to a dubious website and asked for their email password. This would have been used by the scammer to hijack the email account.

Scammers can be very clever so always be careful when clicking on links in emails.

What is 7726?

7726 is a number that you can text to report unwanted spam text messages or phone calls on a mobile to.

The number '7726' was chosen because it spells 'SPAM' on an alphanumeric phone keypad – that's a handy way of remembering it. [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 August 2023.

Council News



Loughton Day 2023

The sun shone, and large numbers of residents and visitors turned up to attend this inaugural Loughton Community event. The Loughton Cricket Club field was filled with numerous community groups stalls, local organisations, and businesses.

There was something for everyone, with a great variety of community and charity stalls. The

Scouts cooked up a tasty BBQ, Churches Together provided a scrumptious tea tent and the Caribbean food stall proved very popular. [More](#) and photos on the Town Council's [Facebook page](#).



What's On in Epping Forest?

The District Council has published details of all activities, events, exhibitions and workshops from the Community Development and Wellbeing team. There's something for everyone, from creative October half term activities to keeping active with walking football and Museum Movers. [More](#) (PDF)

Under-Age Vape Sales

Disposable Vapes have been in the news a lot over the last few months, with particular concerns about their use by children. The County Council have an ongoing programme of advice for retailers and a test purchasing programme for the monitoring of compliance with the law around age restricted sales.



Over 60 complaints have been received by their Trading Standards team about sales of age restricted products to under-18s in the last 6 months by traders within Essex, three quarters of which have related to disposable vapes. In the last 6 months three Essex traders have repeatedly sold vapes to under-18s after receiving warning letters, and follow up formal action is now being taken in these cases.

If you have concerns about an Essex trader selling any age restricted product to under 18 then report it to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Support

The County Council maintain a directory of SEND support services, groups and activities for children and young people.

[Here is the directory.](#)

Emergency help with food and bills

The Essential Living Fund is available to help residents in Essex that are in need of support. The fund can help pay for heating, electricity, water and food. The offer also extends to essential household items such as a fridge, cooker or washing machine.

To qualify, you will be asked questions about your income, earnings and savings. You will also need to provide proof of your financial situation. [More](#)

Recycling Centre Bookings - Have Your Say

Since earlier this year, visits to County Council recycling centres, including the one at Luxborough Lane in Chigwell have required to be booked in advance.

The Council are now proposing the booking process is made permanent.

[More](#), and you can [have your say here](#). The consultation is open until 19 November 2023.

County Waste Strategy - Have Your Say

A plan has been drafted a plan to manage waste in Essex over the next 30 years which has been developed by the Essex Waste Partnership which brings together the 12 borough, city and district councils in the county with the County Council. The partnership aims to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.

[More](#). [The strategy is here](#) (PDF) and you can [have your say here](#). The consultation is open until Wednesday 22 November 2023.

Standards for Social Housing Landlords - Have Your Say

The Government sets out rules, known as consumer standards, for how social housing landlords should manage their homes and the services tenants expect from them.

There are 4 consumer standards for social housing tenants:

1. Good and safe homes
2. Good relationships with tenants

3. Safe and well-kept neighbourhoods
4. Renting homes to tenants

The Regulator of Social Housing is making suggestions for changes to the standards and is asking for tenants' feedback on the proposed changes.

[More](#), and you can [have your say here](#). The consultation is open until 17 October.

Alternatively, District Council tenants can give their feedback to the tenant and leaseholder panel:

- Email ResidentInvolvement@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
- Call 01992 564000

Please send our comments by 5pm on Friday 6 October, to allow enough time for the panel to collate all responses and meet the regulators deadline.

The Essex Energy Switch

The Essex Energy Switch is a group buying scheme for gas and electricity helps local communities come together to take the hassle out of searching for a better energy rate. It is free to register and there is no obligation to accept an offer. [More](#)

New Greater Essex Combined Authority?

Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council, along with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, have agreed to work toward a level 2 devolution deal – which if agreed, would involve creating a new Greater Essex Combined Authority. This would mean the three authorities make collective decisions about the power and budget given to them by the Government.

Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council will not merge under the deal. Each authority would remain independent. The deal would also not involve a directly elected mayor. [More](#)

Local News

Barclays Bank - Drop In

As Barclays Bank on the High Road has now closed, bank staff will be at the Methodist Church every Tuesday and Friday between 10am and 2pm. There is no cash service, but they are available to help with banking needs. You can just drop in for a chat when we're open, or [book an appointment here](#).

Luxborough Way (Lane) Bridge

The bridge was closed in January 2020 after significant defects were identified to critical components resulting in the bridge being no longer safe for public use. The bridge supports a number of very high voltage electricity cables which could cause serious harm through injury and considerable disruption to supply if they were damaged. A temporary bridge has been in place since. A new bridge will now be

constructed and, during the works, the temporary footbridge will be removed. This work will start on 30 October and should be completed in February.

During that time, there will be no access across the river. A signed diversion route will be in place. Access to Luxborough Lakes will be maintained throughout the duration of the works. [More](#)

Finding Artefacts in the Fields

The advent of autumn sees farmers ploughing their fields ready for new crops to be planted which makes them attractive to those with metal detectors to find historic artefacts. Most metal detectorists are responsible people and ask the landowner for permission to go on to their land (which is the first rule of metal detecting). Some of the most significant hoards in this country wouldn't have been discovered if it wasn't for detectorists.

However the law (the 1996 Treasure Act) requires finds to be reported and the [Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting](#) to be followed. The records for these finds can be accessed by the public who are interested in what has been found near them as well as by researchers who use the data to help answer important questions about particular aspects of regional or national history. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Supporting Neurodiverse Children

Essex Family Forum, SEND the Right Message (STRM) Support Services and MyOTAS (My Own Time And Space) Charity have produced a pack which is full of useful information for families with a neurodiverse child.

This pack includes information about the diagnosis process, how to get support for your child at school, health and wellbeing and much more. There are also signposts to useful books, blogs and online resources which are all tried and tested resources that the team have used and found helpful. [More](#)

Epping Forest

A time of change

September sees the summer bird visitors slowly depart over the coming weeks, while winter migrants begin to arrive. Some animals get busy storing food while others seek safe refuge for hibernation.



There is a renewed sense of busyness in the Forest with rustlings and scuttlings in the undergrowth as many small mammals venture abroad more during daylight hours to forage for winter stores.

Foraging is Not Permitted in Epping Forest



We do hope you will enjoy seeing the Forest's fungi over the autumn months but please be reminded that it is in breach of the [Epping Forest byelaws](#) to remove fruit or fungi from the Forest. Those caught, may be prosecuted.

Sloes, hips, and driftwood can still be collected with the latter covered by elaborate rules in the byelaws.

Forest Focus - September 2023

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



Watch out – Deer About!

With the autumn rut starting now, male fallow deer are becoming bolder and more noticeable with some beginning to establish their rutting stands by scraping the ground and urinating in their chosen spot. During the rutting season the deer may be more active and distracted than usual and therefore pose an increased hazard on the roads which run through the Forest woodland. Please take great care and keep to the 40mph speed limit.

If you hit a deer, Stop.

Call 999 if the deer is in the middle of the road. Deer may lash out and injure themselves you if you attempt move it. [Here is more advice](#).

Conservation Volunteer Days

Thanks to the [City Bridge Trust](#), the [Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) (EFHT) is expanding their conservation activities in the Forest, including putting on women's only sessions. They tend to work in smaller areas where a sensitive and delicate approach is essential. Tasks may involve but are not limited to

- Clearing bracken and other invasive shrubs on Forest heathland.
- Clearing dense Holly growth to allow light to reach the Forest floor, helping to re-establish plant and animal life.
- Removing small Hawthorn, Silver birch and other young trees to open up the grassland more.

They welcome people from all backgrounds and walks of life. [Book here](#).

Agenda for Nature - Panel Discussion

EFHT is bringing together a panel of people to discuss the challenges that face nature and trees across the UK, as well as Epping Forest more specifically, alongside the opportunities that lie ahead to influence on behalf of nature. The case that must be made to protect and recover nature across the UK for the benefit of everyone.

The event is on Saturday 14 October at 2:30pm. [Booking is required](#).

Can You Help EFHT?

EFHT are building a small team of volunteers to monitor planning applications, develop responses, and check as projects are built. They really need more volunteers to help us do this work. Might you be able to help? [More](#)

Chasing Pumpkins

Chasing Pumpkins is a 5km or 10km trail run through Epping Forest on 28 October, in support of Haven House. [Booking is required.](#)

There is also [Pumpkin Plod](#) on the same day which is a 3km adventure trail through Epping Forest, with pumpkin fun and treats - a perfect Halloween afternoon activity for the whole family. [Booking is required.](#)

And More



Tyre Safety Month

October is national Tyre Safety month and the police are urging the public to check their tyres.

The awareness raising month is organised by TyreSafe, who are encouraging drivers to check the air pressure, condition and tread depth on their tyres at least once a month and prior to long journeys. Regular tyre safety checks can reduce the risk of an incident on our roads so it's important that drivers regularly take a few minutes to check their tyres to ensure their and their passengers' safety. [More](#)

Ban on Single Use Plastic Items

Businesses can no longer supply, sell or offer certain single-use plastic items in England. This includes all types of single-use plastic, including items that are biodegradable, compostable and recycled or wholly or partly made from plastic, including the coating or lining.

Businesses can still use plastic packaging in some cases such as a pre-filled salad bowl or ready meal packaged in a tray, a plate filled at the counter of a takeaway, or a tray used to deliver food. [More](#)

Preserving Your Digital Legacy

Some social media companies and online services have put tools in place that allow you to decide how your loved ones can access your accounts should you lack capacity to access them yourself, or after your death.

STEP is an organisation that engages with governments and service providers globally to produce industry solutions and best practice that will help families plan for their futures with certainty and clarity. [Useful information is on their website](#), and they also suggest that a good first step is to talk to family and friends about what you want to happen to your sentimental assets.

Keep Your Children Safe this Halloween

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. The Child Accident Prevention Trust have [some tips for a safe Halloween](#) that cover Halloween costumes, fire protection, being visible on the evening, staying safe near roads, and carving the pumpkin.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 3 November, although that date could change.

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

For all our Tweets, past issues of Loughton News and Loughton Life, and more



For the latest news and items of interest:



You don't need to be registered for either

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We can be contacted at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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