



LRA's Loughton News

14 July 2023

In this issue read how the District Council has decided to take back [management of waste and recycling collections](#), another [successful Jessel Green Fun Day](#), and the [Clean Air Day at Alderton Infant School](#).

We also give an update on [the proposed Higgins office and Travelodge development](#) on Langston Road. On the buses, there's updates on [route 35](#), [route 542](#), and [route 549](#).

If you've ever considering having an allotment, now may be the time - the [Loughton Potato Ground have plots available](#).

If you're in the Forest, remember [no barbeques or fires are allowed](#) and [keep your dogs out of water](#) given the increased risk of blue-green algae blooms.

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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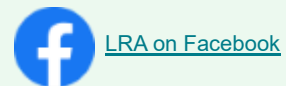
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LRA News

District Council to Manage Waste and Recycling Collections

The District Council has decided to create a council owned company that will collect household waste and recycling. It will also provide street cleansing.



The new arrangements are planned to be in place once the existing contract with

Biffa ends in November 2024, with the Council planning to take full management control including:

- A council owned operating company
- Buying, or leasing and maintaining its own vehicles
- Building a new operations hub at North Weald to support the vehicle fleet and crews

This follows last winter's disruption to the service. Earlier this year the Council decided to go to market and run a full procurement process for the Waste/Street Cleansing contract. At the time, the Council also announced they were planning to use part of North Weald Airfield to park and maintain refuse vehicles when not on the road, after a new contractor was in place. They have now decided outsourcing to a private company is not the way forward for the service.

The Council has not publicly released material related to the decision or given details on the outcomes they expect, except to say "value for money is much more important than the cheapest option [and] the new service will need to hit environmental targets as well as customer expectations." They also say they are "moving away from diesel, looking at ways to procure a greener, cleaner fleet powered by more sustainable fuels". [More](#)

LRA Comment: *This may save money as the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has [stated that the market for services in this area is highly concentrated](#) (p10) when they investigated the merger of Veolia and Suez in 2022, which can lead to higher costs for Councils. However, it could make the District Council vulnerable to strike action (from which it's been generally free since the 1980s). It does make a third wheelie bin more likely for recycling, which may be fine for houses with big gardens and side exits; but impractical for small houses and cottages.*

Clean Air Day at Alderton Infant School

On 15 June, LRA Cllrs Ian Allgood, Philip Abraham and Mick Stubbings joined the District Council's Environmental Health and Enforcement teams and North Essex Parking Partnership staff at Alderton Infant School to raise awareness of the negative effect idling vehicles have on children's health. The group encouraged drivers to turn off their engines during drop off and pick up times.

Ian said that it was a great pleasure to take part in this activity and he learnt a lot about the laws and consequences of leaving your car idling when parked, and hopes there will be more events like this to increase awareness and to reduce pollution to our children.

The initiative was a result of a letter from a group of pupils from Alderton Infant School called the eco warriors, who expressed their concerns about the negative impacts of air pollution on their developing lungs.

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.

Higgins Office and Hotel Development

As we reported in 2022, Higgins have proposed to build new offices and a 100 bedroom Travelodge hotel on Langston Road. ([Background on our website.](#))



The application is now going forward for a decision, with a recommendation for approval by District Council planning officers.

LRAPG consider officers should stop looking at paper reports and witness the traffic problems directly for themselves. Every resident in Loughton who drives past the site, for example, to access the M11, will know the junction at Chigwell Lane and Langston Road has been unable to cope with the additional traffic generated since the opening of the Epping Forest Shopping Park on Langston Road. In particular, the number of cars waiting to turn into Langston Road has caused the traffic to back up past Debden Broadway. There is an opportunity to negotiate with the developer, either for an additional lane for cars turning left into Langston Road to alleviate the traffic on Chigwell Lane and/or carry out other junction and signalling improvements.

Reference [EPF/1204/22](#).

Garage Site, Burney Drive

This application proposes demolition of existing garages and the addition of two new build two-storey flats. These would be designed to achieve Passivhaus standards, with three new parking spaces, standalone bin stores to the front of the property and private standalone cycle stores in rear gardens for each unit.



The District Council has actively been looking to replace backland garage sites with infill housing. Some sites have been sensitively designed to avoid infringing on neighbours but LRAPG has objected to the proposed development of this site which is too tight to shoehorn in two dwellings.

There is a garage to the rear of Colebrook Gardens that backs onto the development site and is the sole access for the garage. It is disappointing the District Council do not mention it in the planning application. LRAPG consider the owner should have been notified which is a requirement that has to be declared in the application form and hasn't. LRAPG also object to the loss of access to the garage which will put pressure on parking in Colebrook Gardens.

LRAPG also object to the principle of this development. The site is very closely surrounded by other dwellings. The proposed building will be too close to its neighbours, in particular those at 8 Colebrook Gardens. The occupiers of the

development will also look into surrounding gardens and windows to the detriment of their privacy.

The refuse strategy is also considered to be flawed. The collection point is on a very narrow access. Cars will not be able to pass when bins are placed on the collection point without putting them on the private forecourt of No 7 Burney Drive. Overall, LRAPG consider this is an unacceptable form of backland development and permission should be refused.

Reference [EPF/0726/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 18 July.



Garage Site, Castell Road

This application proposes demolition of existing garages and the addition of four new build two-storey flats. These would be designed to achieve Passivhaus standards, with eight new parking spaces, standalone bin stores to the front of the property, private standalone cycle stores in rear gardens for the ground floor units and shared cycle store to the front for the first floor units.

This is the second of two infill sites proposed by Epping Forest Council which LRAPG is objecting to. The site is very closely surrounded by other dwellings. The proposed building will be too close to its neighbours. In particular the first floor terrace will look down into the garden of 6 Chester Green to the detriment of their privacy. The refuse strategy is again flawed. The collection point is on a very narrow access. Cars will not be able to pass when bins are placed on the collection point. The safety of pedestrians using this narrow access is also compromised.

This is another unacceptable form of backland development and LRAPG consider permission should be refused.

Reference [EPF/0646/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 18 July.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Woodridden Hill - the road will be closed overnight from 22 to 31 July between midnight and 5am for mains renewal work by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Westfield - the road will be closed from 9:30am 27 Jul to 3:30pm 28 July for service connection works by Openreach. [More](#)
- Newmans Lane - the road will be closed from 24 to 26 July for road repairs by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Mannock Drive - the road will be closed from 17 July to 1 August between 8am and 6pm from Burney Drive to Goldingham Avenue for resurfacing. [More](#)



- Debden Road - the road will be closed from 24 July to 6 August for gas pipe replacement. [More](#)

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

Government extends £2 single bus fare

The discounted £2 single bus fare has been extended to 31 October, and £2.50 from then until 30 November 2024. All you need to do is ask your bus driver for a single ticket. [More](#)

Routes that include Loughton are:

- 66 to/from Waltham Cross.
- 418B to/from Harlow.

Tube and Rail Industrial Action

There is a week of industrial action on the tube from 23 July ([news article](#)). [The TfL website will provide updates](#).

There is also industrial action on the rail network from 17 July to 29 July. [The National Rail website has more details](#).

Bus Route 35

The 35 bus route (which only runs on Tuesday) between Debden to Chelmsford is to cease after 18 July as First Essex have lost the school contract on which it is piggybacked.

Bus Route 542

The 542 bus route between Debden and Loughton stations has not been running on weekdays due to the company having defaulted on the contract. We had previously reported that the route had not run since Christmas.

Bus Route 549 - Consultation

Transport for London are consulting about replacement of the very infrequent (every 90 minutes) route 549, which runs to/from Loughton Station/Palmerston Road/Buckhurst Hill Station/Buckhurst Way/Woodford/South Woodford Station.

The proposal is to replace it daily (including Sunday) by an extended Route W14 which would run beyond South Woodford to Wanstead and Whipps Cross hospital and run every hour. The journey time might be rather long, as it would use the back streets around Nightingale Lane.

[Your can comment here](#), with a deadline of 30 July. [An unofficial and easier to understand explanation is here](#).

Buses in Essex - Consultation

The County Council is reviewing its support for 162 local bus services, so they are conducting a public consultation. It does not cover services/journeys operated commercially by transport providers.

They are consulting on three groups of services:

- The vast majority where they we are proposing no change until at least 2028. [A list is here](#) (PDF). This includes the 66A and 418.
- An 'at risk' group which the Council will support until at least 2026 but they are looking for an increase in passenger numbers. [A list is here](#) (PDF). This includes the 542, 542A and 418B.
- A low use group which are clearly not meeting the needs of communities. [A list is here](#) (PDF). This includes the 804.

[More](#). This consultation closes on 5 October.

Closing Rail Ticket Offices - Consultation

Passengers are asked for their views on the proposed closure of the majority of ticket offices in England.

London TravelWatch have compiled [this list of train companies](#) in the greater London area with links to the detailed proposals and how to comment. The closing date for comments is 26 July.

Roadworks in May

In Epping Forest District, County Highways made 194 repairs to roads, fixed 20 pavement defects, fixed 118 streetlights and cleared 530 drains.

Police, Fire and Crime

Open Day at Loughton Fire Station

On 12 August, meet the team as well as the fire dogs, look around the station and fire engines, plus face painting, a bouncy castle, various food vans and stalls as well as a chip pan demonstration. [More](#)



Scams - Stop, Hang Up, Call 159

Sometimes, it can be difficult to tell if something is a scam. [Essex Trading Standards](#) are urging vigilance to avoid becoming a victim, so when you receive a message and the answer to any of the following questions is 'yes', it is very likely to be a scam:

- Have you been contacted out of the blue?
- Is grammar and spelling inaccurate?
- Have personal details been requested?
- Are contact details for the company/organisation vague?
- Is the offer too good to be true?
- Are you being pressured to take action?

If you are worried that a caller may be attempting to scam you, hang up and call 159. This connects you to a secure service that will enable you to speak directly to your bank. [More about calling 159.](#)

Beware of 'Ghost Brokers'

The police are warning of scammers that pose as middlemen for insurance companies, claiming they can offer you significantly cheaper price for well-known companies. To do this they forge insurance documents, falsify your details to bring the price down, or take out a genuine policy then cancel it soon after, leaving you uninsured.

Check with the insurance company directly to verify the broker's details.

More from the Police

[Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to May 2023.

Council News



Fun in the Sun at Jessel Green

Once again, the sun shone, in fact it was a boiling hot day, and crowds arrived and filled Jessel Green for the annual, not-for-profit community family fun day organised by the Town Council.

The usual inflatables, fun fair rides, food, community, and charity stalls lined the perimeter of the Green. Families enjoyed the soft play area for the under 5's, dance displays from Studio 1UK and Thunder Mas Band, the ever-popular Punch and Judy, Mr Happy, and pantomime characters from the Upstage Theatre. A fabulous display of kites, were provided by the Essex Kite Flying Association, flew above the event together with a kite making workshop.

[More](#) (PDF) plus [photos](#)

A Possible High Road Food Market

The Town Council is looking to support a weekly Sunday food market in the High Road. The concept is to organise a predominately food orientated market, offering such stalls as - fruit and veg, fish, butchery, continental type groceries & food, honeys and preserves, cheese, crepes, waffles etc,

The Council have asked publicly for potential market operators to contact them.



Summer Activity Programme

The District Council have published their [summer activity programme for July to September](#) (PDF). This includes details of all activities, workshops, events and exhibitions for children and adults happening across the district.

[More](#), including links to book events.

Recycling at Home

The County Council has been sending tools to households in Epping Forest district to help them recycle food at the kerbside. This includes a sticker for their general rubbish bin, caddy liners and a leaflet.



Currently, 26% of food waste in Essex ends up in the general rubbish bin. These tools have helped other authorities increase food recycling by up to 20%. It has also reduced the amount of food waste sent to landfill.

[More](#)



Have you heard of Wishcycling?

Wishcycling is putting items in the recycling bin in the hope or wish that they will be recycled.

There are lots of things that feel like they should or could be recycled, such as crisp packets, pens, contact lenses, and toothpaste tubes. But they are either not collected in our area or need to be recycled via retail drop-off points or [TerraCycle](#). Wishcycling can contaminate recycling and may lead to it being rejected - meaning more waste ends up in landfill.

[Find out what and where you can recycle in our area.](#)

Recycling Bathroom Items

Boots has a scheme for [recycling items bought at a Boots store](#) and otherwise hard to recycle. The [Langston Road store](#) is listed as having a collection point, but not the [High Road store](#).

Superdrug have teamed up with brands Benadryl, Buscopan, Calpol, Nurofen, Imodium, Nicorette, Optrex, BuscoMint, Dulcolax, Sudafed and Allevia to include collection boxes in every [Superdrug store](#), so you can recycle your empty medicine blister packets. There are Superdrug branches in the [High Road](#) and on [The Broadway](#).

Apply for the Essex Community Initiatives Fund

The County Council are inviting organisations in Essex to bid for funding to help create resilient and vibrant communities.

There are two levels of grants. The [main CIF](#) offers grants up to £10,000 towards projects that benefit the wider community. The [Micro Grant Community Chest Fund](#) offers grants of up to £1,000 to help communities connect.

Town and parish councils, community groups, social enterprises and individuals can apply.

Have Your Say: Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy

The County Council has launched consultation on a new [Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy](#). Residents and businesses are invited to take part until 30 July.

There are already 300 registered public charging points for electric vehicles in the county, but the demand is expected to grow significantly over the coming years. The Council has predicted up to 6,000 public charge points will be needed in the county by 2030. [More](#).

Local News

Taking Care in the Hot Weather

With the recent hot weather, and possible heat waves in summer, take care and look out for vulnerable family, friends and neighbours. Be aware of how to keep cool and hydrated.

[More advice here](#), including about [people at higher risk](#), [signs of health exhaustion](#), [how to cool down](#) and [be prepared](#).

Also swimming in lakes and reservoirs can be dangerous even if they look inviting in hot weather. This includes lakes in the Forest and Roding Valley Lake.

Also the Fire Service has advice about [using barbecues safely](#), [caravan and camping safety](#) and [bonfires](#). Given [embers from a fire pit set a house alight](#) in Loughton recently, their advice is to ensure coals or wood or anything used in a fire pit or barbecue are completely cool before you move or dispose of them.

And [be careful in the Forest](#).



Plots available

Contact Us

Check our website

www.loughtonpotatoground.com

Allotments Available

The [Loughton Potato Ground](#) has been in existence for nearly two hundred years and is the oldest in Essex. It is located between Baldwins Hill and Church Hill ([map](#)) and may be the only one in the country in continual existence for all that time.

They now have plots available. Would you like to

try planting your own vegetables? [Email now](#) or [visit the website](#) for more information.



Library Summer Reading Challenge

The Challenge starts 15 July at Loughton and Debden libraries.

Children will be asked to read six books throughout the summer holidays. As they read their library books, they will collect special stickers to fill up their folder, and other rewards along the way. After reading six books they will earn their certificate and medal, Children will be able to join a superstar team and their marvellous mascots as they navigate a fictional summer obstacle course, brought to life with illustrations by children's illustrator Loretta Schauer. As a special treat this year, you can get a free book when you sign up.

Pop into the library to join. It is open to all children, free of charge. [More](#)

Loughton Cricket Club

[Loughton Cricket Club](#) has opened its bar to local residents every Saturday afternoon from 2-8pm to encourage local people to watch a bit of cricket or simply pop in for a quiet drink.

All local residents are warmly invited. You can find Loughton Cricket Club directly opposite Zizzi's, with the entrance in The Uplands.

Image: Google



Health and Wellbeing

Strike Action Ahead – Help the NHS

NHS staff across Hertfordshire and west Essex are appealing for the public's support as they prepare for strike action. There will be 120 hours of continuous junior doctors' strike action from 7am on Thursday 13 July until 7am on Tuesday 18 July. This is followed by strike action from consultant doctors and dentists for 48 hours from 7am on Thursday 20 July until 7am on Saturday 22 July.

Significant disruption is expected during this time and local services are focused on protecting services for life threatening emergencies.

You should only attend A&E departments for a very serious illness or injury. If you have a pre-booked appointment at hospital or a clinic, please attend as scheduled, unless you have been contacted and your appointment has been postponed. If you need urgent health help, use NHS 111 online (www.111.nhs.uk) or call 111. Your symptoms will be assessed, and you will be provided with healthcare advice or an appointment to see a doctor or nurse if this is needed. NHS 111 can also send an

ambulance and can book an appointment for you in some services like urgent treatment centres. [More](#)

Survey on ADHD and ASD (Autism) Care Survey

Do you (or someone you know) have ADHD, ASD (autism), or another neurodiverse condition? [Healthwatch Essex](#) want to hear your thoughts on what your practice is doing well, and what could be improved to better meet your needs. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Forest Fire Warning

Do not use barbecues or start fires anywhere in the Forest at any time, and do not drop litter in the ancient woodland. Discarded litter and glass bottles can also cause fires. Just the tiniest spark from a barbecue or fire can cause a wildfire. Fires can actually spread underground with heat transferring via roots and beneath the surface.

And please do not smoke in the forest - a discarded cigarette butt can cause a fire.

If you see smoke or fire out of control call 999. If you see people using a barbecue or have any concerns about fire in the Forest call 020 8532 1010, but please always call 999 if an emergency response is required.

Aerial Views Exhibition

Aerial Views run to 28 September at the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford. Find out about 'balloomania' and how Epping Forest featured in the 1802 craze. [More](#)

Keep Dogs Out of the Water

Please avoid contact with the water in Forest ponds and take special care to keep dogs away. The recent warm weather & lack of rain has increased the risk of blue-green algae blooms across the Forest's ponds.

Contact your doctor or vet immediately if you or your dog are ill following exposure to the water.



Forest Focus - July 2023

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

And More

Plastic Free July

With summer in full swing, now is the perfect time to enjoy a picnic. To mark [Plastic Free July](#), why not opt for a plastic-free version? [LoveEssex](#) suggest these easy switches:

- If you're bringing drinks, [take your own reusable straws](#) instead of disposable ones
- Instead of wrapping food in clingfilm or foil, could you try using [wax wraps or reusable food containers](#)?
- Use your own cutlery, whether it's [metal or bamboo](#), instead of disposable plastic cutlery
- [Switch disposable wipes for cloth wipes](#). Simply dampen them and pop them in a small bag or container to keep them moist – perfect for sticky fingers!
- [Don't forget your reusable water bottle](#) for cold drinks like squash

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday August 4 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

To update your membership details, email membership@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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