



LRA's Loughton News

15 September 2023

In this issue, residents near the Fairview Homes development on what was Luctons Field have been finding out [how large the development is going to be](#).

After the successful [Horticultural Show](#) and opening of the [new Playground](#), comes [Loughton Day](#) tomorrow (Saturday 16 September). [The weather is looking promising](#), so why not pop along and enjoy the day at the Cricket Club near the High Road ([map](#)). Entry is free.

Read also about [the RAAC problem affecting schools](#) across the country and it's effect locally.

Could you help deliver Loughton Life? The Townwide edition comes out in late September and [there are a few roads where we need deliverers](#).

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



Fairview Homes Development on Luctons Field

The building work on Luctons Field has been ongoing for some time. Residents have now noticed the reality of how large the development is with the height and proximity apparent as the building gets higher.

The case has been reported to the District Council Planning Enforcement team which

is currently investigating possible breaches. However, in a meeting at the home of one of the residents affected (which was attended by one of the ward Cllrs, LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke), the leading Planning Enforcement Officer stated that the printed document residents have is not part of the approved plan. Nonetheless, he would also investigate to find out who printed the document and for what purpose.

The investigation is ongoing and Chidi is putting pressure on officers on the matter.

LRA Comment: *We agree this was an over development of the site, providing many more houses than the agreed numbers set out in the Local Plan. We opposed this at the time of the Public Inquiry in Spring 2021, when three senior LRA members spent days opposing the application. ([Background on our website.](#))*



The Inspector ignored us. Inspectors are judge and jury in these cases; their decision is final. We were not helped by the District Council, who had failed to adjudge the application, which in LRA's view, they should have refused outright. They let down residents entirely.

If the buildings being erected are not in accordance with the approved plans the community was consulted on, they must act immediately to stop any infraction.

Can you help deliver Loughton Life, please?

Very soon LRA's 100 or so volunteers will be delivering our Townwide Loughton Life newsletter to every household in Loughton – we're very grateful for their help.



We now need some more deliverers for:

- Chequers Road
- Swanshope
- Droveaway

If you or someone you know can help in these areas, please [email Martine](#).

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

Land at Chequers Road

This application is for developing the land with a relocated substation and landscaping.



LRAPG has objected to the principle of filling in these spaces which are a characteristic of the area. LRAPG also object to placing the substation and crossover in the middle of the site. By placing the crossover and substation more than halfway across this green area, it will be far more conspicuous than it need be, particularly with the removal of part of the green for the crossover. It would be far less obtrusive if placed at the west edge of the plot. Substations also hum and the council has been asked for an acoustic report, evidence for the need for the substation and where the existing substation is. If needed, the substation should have been incorporated into the development of the garages opposite to protect this green space.

Flat asphalted roofs do not last long; the substation should have a pitched roof with good quality clay tiles.



Reference [EPF/1772/23](#). The formal consultation period ended 14 September but you can still comment to the Council.

Top image: Google



Gardeners Arms Pub, York Hill

This is an application for installation of an external fire escape stairwell and internal secondary glazing to all windows and doors, along with mechanical supply and extraction of air including air conditioning.

conditioning.

There has been a lot of antisocial behaviour around the Gardeners Arms pub over the last few years culminating with a licence review where stricter controls were imposed. These extra measures don't seem to have resolved the matter with complaints still being made about the running of the pub.

LRAPG considers the works proposed in this application may lead to an intensification of the use and further disturbance to local residents. The fire escape is considered to be unacceptable intervention to this Grade 2 listed building. The applicant says it is required under building regulations, but no evidence has been provided and, in any event, there are better solutions that are less harmful to the special character of the listed building.

Because of the ongoing anti-social behaviour the LRAPG has asked a condition is imposed to prevent the access from being used by patrons or for servicing the function room or any other part of the premises; restricting the access for means of escape only. There are concerns the new means of escape is also likely to lead to an intensification of the use of the function room. Local residents are already disturbed on a regular basis therefore a request has been made to establish the existing capacity and impose a condition restricting numbers to the same capacity should the means of escape be allowed. The air conditioning extracts are also considered to be harmful to the fabric of the listed building.

Reference [EPF/1431/23](#) and [EPF/1432/23](#). The formal consultation periods ended 6 September but you can still comment to the Council.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Shaftesbury - the road will be closed until 16 September for an excavation to recover trunk mains valves and conduct repairs. [More](#). To maintain vehicle access, we assume that either stop/go boards will be used or the emergency gate on Staples Road will be opened.
- Connaught Avenue - the road will be closed from 18 September to 11 October for pipe replacement works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Forest Road - the road will be closed on 25 September for works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Etheridge Road - the road will be closed on 29 September for works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Old Station Road - the road will be closed on 29 September for manhole cover replacement works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- High Beech Road - the road will be closed until 2 October for water connection works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Algiers Road - the road will be closed until 3 October for works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- River Way - the road will be closed on 13 October for 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.

Bus route 542

This route has not been a reliable service and the operator, Galleon, had defaulted on the contract, although reports indicate that the service had been operating on most days in the summer holidays. On 31 August, it was announced in the trade press that Loughborough based operator, the expanding and very reputable Vectare, had bought out Galleon.

A Vectare spokesman said that it intends “for things to be business as usual at Galleon Travel” . LRA hopes not, as far as the 542 is concerned.

ULEZ Expansion

The expanded [Ultra Low Emission Zone](#) (ULEZ) is now in place covering all London boroughs. [More](#)

[Check if your vehicle is compliant](#) (it takes just seconds). If your vehicle **doesn't** meet the ULEZ emissions standards and isn't exempt, you need to pay a £12.50 daily charge to drive within the zone.

[Here's a map](#) showing where it is being expanded to. The ULEZ boundary does not cover the borough/county boundary exactly. For instance in Chingford, Station Road, Bury Road and Rangers Road are exempt and so are streets to the west of Station Road. But all streets to its east, and the station itself, will be in the zone. [Here's a detailed map](#).

Police, Fire and Crime



Meet the Police

Officers will be at [Loughton Day](#) at the Loughton Cricket Club on 16 September. Officers will be available to talk about community issues, crime prevention advice and recruitment - or you just meet the team!

Stop And Search - Find Out More

Police officers are responsible for making sure that your rights are protected, and, in turn, they expect members of the public to acknowledge their responsibilities and comply with their requests in a reasonable and calm manner. More, including [why](#) and [how](#) Stop and Search is used, [the process](#) and [your rights and responsibilities](#).

Stop and Think Roadshows

"Stop & Think" roadshows for Years 7 and 8 pupils is being funded for all seven of the district's secondary schools. The interactive workshop covers 'Stop & Search' procedures and protocols, and building positive relationships with the police.

Check the Keys When Buying a Used Car

Most stolen vehicles are only ever taken with one key, so be cautious if buying a car with only one key. Make sure the metal part (which may be inside the actual fob) fits the door lock(s) and opens the vehicle. [More on crime prevention](#).

Fire Home Safety Check

In a bid to reduce the number of house fires, the Fire Service are encouraging everyone to complete the online home safety check to evaluate fire risk at home. By answering some simple questions about your home, lifestyle, working smoke alarms, cooking and fire escape plans you will be provided with tailored advice and handy tips throughout to help reduce the risk of a fire in your home. [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 July 2023.

Council News



Loughton Day
Saturday 16 September 2023
11am - 4pm

Loughton Cricket Club
The Uplands, Loughton IG10 1NQ
Come along and enjoy the day
Free Admission
See what Loughton Community Groups
have to offer!
Food, Drink, Entertainment,
Live Music and Much More ...!

contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk



New Childrens Playground Roding Valley Recreation Ground

The new Roding Valley Recreation Ground Children's Playground has been opened by the Town Council. The official opening on 1 September was performed by the Town Mayor, LRA Cllr Mick Stubbings, who welcomed residents to the new facilities.



LRA Cllr David Wixley provided both the background and insight into the completion of the project, dismantling both the old playground and building the new, and the contractor, HAGS, explained the design and approach, using the Council's request for innovation, inclusivity, incorporating residents feedback, and the recycling of materials.



Despite the weather, children were still able to enjoy the new playground, which was soon "buzzing" as they enjoyed the new facility.

[Click to enlarge images](#)



Loughton Horticultural Show

Following last year's successful event the show was again staged on 2 September

Exhibits included Coronation themed floral arrangements, beautiful blooms, an array of assorted flavoured chutneys and jams, home baked Victoria sponge cakes and tables laid full of prize worthy vegetables and fruit.

Winners of the 'Best in Show' went to Francis Sheridan, with his amazing Funniest Cress Head (pictured).

Judging took place for the Town Mayor's Best Allotment in Loughton, now in its 13th year, in July with plots from the Loughton Potato Ground, the Roding Road and Willingale Road allotments. Over 200 allotments were inspected. The overall winner was The Sheridan Family from the Roding Road allotments who also received a certificate for the Site Winner.

The Sheridan family were presented with the Horticultural Association Challenge Cup by the Town Mayor, LRA Cllr Mick Stubbings, along with a £25 gift voucher and a certificate. The judges commented that they had utilised the space very well and they could see it was well used and cultivated by the whole family.

The Town Mayor's Overall Best Newcomer award was made to Tracy Smythe from Roding Road Allotments who received the best newcomer's shield and a certificate and also the Best Allotment on site award. The judges said she had utilised the space very well and made a great start to her allotment plot. Best Newcomer on the

Loughton Potato Ground was Joshua Boucher and Best Newcomer on Willingale Road Allotments was awarded to Sarah Barson.

County Council Climate Plan

The County Council has approved a new climate plan. The Climate Action Plan 2023-2025 is the second iteration of the original Essex Climate Action Plan, and it will see a 25% increase in climate-related investment. [More](#)

Anti Social Behaviour

The District Council are planning a 12 month programme with government funding committing Council volunteers to 3 days per week between 3pm to 8pm with high visibility presence in the Debden Broadway area supported by the local Policing teams.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme - Consultation

Council Tax Reduction (CTR) is a discount that helps people on low incomes pay their Council Tax bill. The level of discount is based on the income of each household.

The District Council is proposing changes to the scheme. Under the current scheme, residents receiving CTR need to notify the Council every time their income changes, which may result in a change to their support. This proposed system, would mean most changes to income would no longer need to be reported to the Council. [More](#)

Local News

The RAAC Situation

Many schools across the County have been affected by the problem of RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in buildings. We understand the only school in Loughton affected is Roding Valley High School which has had to close 18 classrooms, all of their catering facilities and some staff workspaces. This means they have lost the capacity for 550 students to learn on site each day and had to implement a rota system for on-site and home learning.

They have been able to secure 18 modular classrooms and a toilet block which are scheduled to be installed in the coming weeks.

Some children from Buckhurst Hill Community Primary school (which is also affected) are being taught at the White Bridge Primary school.

In 1999 the County Council undertook a large mapping exercise to identify where RAAC existed across the County's school estates and, following this, surveys were undertaken to establish it's condition.

Works to address RAAC were then initiated and prioritised based on the condition of the material. These works involved either replacing the RAAC panels or installing a support system. Sites that had RAAC which were identified as being of poor or below average condition were addressed as a priority, and this work was completed by 2006.

[More on the County-wide situation, why Essex has been particularly affected, and what is RAAC?](#)

BT Phone Landlines

BT is changing the way their customer's landline phones connect to the BT network. Landline phones currently connect to the PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network), which will be switched off in 2025. Going forward, landline phone will connect to a broadband Internet connection. Most existing phones should not need replacement and can be plugged into a broadband Internet connection, in some cases with an adaptor, and in most cases you'll be able to keep your current phone number.

We have reports that this is happening in Loughton already.

If you are affected, BT will contact you with details and provide and install any additional equipment you need for the changeover. [More from BT](#) and [AgeUK](#).

Find a Care Home

The Essex Care Search website enables you to find older people residential or nursing care home within Essex. This has been developed in collaboration with Essex County Council (ECC), Essex NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Essex Care Association (ECA). [More](#)

Loughton Leisure Centre

During August, Places Leisure offered free swimming passes to children receiving free school meals. [More](#)

Applications for Health Grants

The County Council, through their Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) programme, is taking application for grants that help people live a healthy life and achieve their full potential. The programme focuses on closing the health inequalities experienced in the county.

Applications would need to have projects that:

- are new or add something to a service
- help achieve good physical and mental health outcomes at either an individual level or a community level. This includes improved quality and length of life

Applicants can include voluntary and community organisations, registered charity, or a community benefit society, with grants starting from £500. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Flu and Covid Vaccine

The NHS flu and covid vaccine programmes have been brought forward due to risk of new covid variants. The adult covid and flu vaccination programmes had been due to start in October to maximise protection over the winter months, but now those

most at risk including adult care home residents will be vaccinated from this week.

Eligible people should wait to receive an invite from their local provider. [More](#), including eligibility criteria for each vaccine.

Stay Safe and Well this Winter

FREE EVENT
Includes an information bag and lunch

About the day
Informative talks from health and wellbeing advisors on how to stay safe and well over the winter months. Plus, an interactive theatre performance about scamming. Health checks and flu vaccinations subject to availability.

Booking is required
Please call 01992 564225 or book online: eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com to confirm your place.

Wednesday 4 October
Arrive 10.30am to start 11am
Event ends: 3.30pm
The Merry Hall,
Loughton Community Centre,
100 Bardon Lane, Loughton,
Essex, E010 3BB

Epping Forest District Council
Loughton Town Council
For further information please contact Karin Morris,
Deputy People's Community Engagement Officer, 01992 564222

Community Safety

Stay Safe and Well - Event

This event features informative talks from health and wellbeing advisors on how to stay safe and well. A seated exercise session suitable for all will take place as well as a free information bag, lunch, and an interactive performance about scamming. Health checks and flu vaccinations dependent on month and subject to availability. Free entry but booking required. [More](#)

In association with the Town and District Councils and the NHS.

Click image to enlarge

Epping Forest



Walks in the Forest

New signs have been installed at Loughton and Epping stations showing a map and directions to the Forest.

With the hot weather behind us, walking is more comfortable. Why not try one of the [ten waymarked trails](#) in the Forest? Walks near Loughton are the [Beech Trail](#) (accessed from near Earl's Path or Staples Road) or the [Golden Hill Trail](#) (accessed from Golding's Hill).

And More

Know Your Portions

If you are unsure about the right portion size for each food that you cook, take away the guesswork away and cook just what you need with [this portion calculator](#).

Simply select the food type, enter the number of people that are eating and for how many meals, and the tool will calculate recommended portions.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 13 October, 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

1. If you find any links not working or anything else is wrong let us know at loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk. Links to on other websites are beyond our control and may not work over time.
2. 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.

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

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

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