



LRA's Loughton News

18 October 2024

In this issue we give timings on when work will start on [The Broadway refurbishment](#), and an update on [the Safer Streets project at the Oakwood Hill estate](#).

From the police, [arrests were made on The Broadway](#) recently, and [a shoplifter charged](#).

Also be aware that [the High Road south to Buckhurst Hill will be closed each night](#) from next Monday for 6 days by the County Council.

In the Forest, please [be aware of deer during the current rutting season](#) and we provide some helpful tips, more dates for conservation volunteering are available, and there is [a guided walk to explore fungi](#) coming up.

Thank you for being part of LRA. You can contact us by emailing contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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The Broadway Refurbishment

Further details have been provided by the District Council. A November start is being planned. Scaffolding is to be erected in January 2025 to avoid any potential disruption to the commercial tenants during the Christmas trading period. [More](#)

Ground floor commercial tenants and residents of the first and second floor flats above should be receiving letters outlining a series of phased works over the next 12 months.



High Road Food Markets

We reported in September that the market company and District Council has finally reached the stage where terms of the legal agreement were being discussed. [Background on our website](#)

The District Council had said that their permission was needed for the market to be held on Centric Parade. After six months of discussions with solicitors, it emerged that the land in question is a Public Highway and so is the responsibility of Essex County Council Highways. As permission now needs to be sought from Highways, the market won't be able to start until Spring 2025.

School Traffic Issues

LRA Cllrs Barbara Cohen and Rose Brookes, along with other stakeholders, attended a meeting called by the new headteacher of Buckhurst Hill Community Primary School to address traffic issues at the beginning and end of the school day.

The school is situated at a dead end at the bottom of Lower Queens Road which makes it particularly problematic. LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke (Roding ward District Cllr) was also invited to attend as he had been involved in parking issues at the Alderton Junior and Infant School.

Weed Clearing

Following the successful clearing of weeds in Witham Close at the Loughton end of Buckhurst Hill East and Whitebridge ward, LRA Cllr Rose Brookes asked if Rous Road in Buckhurst Hill could also be cleared. A team from Biffa tackled the vegetation, although were not able to clear weeds where the pavement might be damaged.

Loughton Life - Latest Issue

The latest issue of Loughton Life has been delivered to all households in the town. Our thanks to the many people involved producing and distributing it. In case you missed it in your letterbox, [here it is](#) (PDF).



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.



Corner Garth, corner of Nursery Road and Highview Close
LRAPG has reported another breach of planning control at this property. Previously the developer has erected unsafe Heras fencing around the site and were made to put up a safe hoarding. Now the entire house has been demolished without planning permission.

LRAPG has reported the breach to the District Council. LRAPG has consistently asked the council to verify the exact amount of demolition on planning applications by asking for demolition drawings - many schemes for extensions suggest the whole dwelling may be lost but officers continue to ignore the request. The unnecessary loss of embedded carbon is a material consideration; Epping Forest is way behind other councils who have circular economy policies that ensure any demolition has to be justified and any material to be removed is reused and does not go to landfill sites.

Princess of Wales, Westall Road

As we reported last month, The District Council bought the pub in recent years with the intention to redevelop the site for housing and has recently issued a demolition notice. LRAPG has told the Council that planning consent is however required before demolition, as legislation from 2017 removed all permitted development rights for pubs, including demolition, meaning that planning consent is required in all cases in England before a pub can be demolished.

The pub backs onto residents so it is important permission is sought and neighbours consulted, to ensure the demolition is carried out sensitively and the site is properly secured and not left looking a mess given it could be several years before the Council does anything with the premises.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- High Road - the road south to Buckhurst Hill will be closed 21-26 October between 8pm and 5am for signage installation works by the County Council. [More](#)

We are unaware of bus diversions that TtL are planning as a result of the road closure.

- Manor Road - the road will be closed 21-26 October for signage installation works by the County Council. [More](#)
- Borders Lane - the road will be closed between Ladyfields and Chigwell Lane from 30 October to 2 November for new connection 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.

Potholes and Drains Repaired

Potholes in York Hill and near 103 Staples Road were fixed two weeks ago. At the same time, long blocked drains in the vicinity were cleared.

Cycling and Walking Routes Consultation - Have Your Say

The County Council want to improve cycling and walking routes to provide residents with more travel options in various parts of Essex, including Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell and Loughton as, part of a broader initiative to improve travel options and encourage healthier lifestyles.

[An interactive map is here.](#) [More](#). The consultation runs until 31 October.

Christmas and New Year Travel Updates

Train operators are starting to publish details of closures and engineering works over the festive season. Updates are currently published by [Transport for London](#), [National Rail](#) and [London Travelwatch](#).

Police, Fire and Crime

Arrests on The Broadway

Police were called to The Broadway Debden on 24 September following reports of a group of boys holding weapons and wearing balaclavas.

Officers, supported by CCTV operators from the District Council, located the suspects and two 17 year-old boys were arrested at the scene shortly before 3pm.

A 17 year-old boy from Basildon was charged with possession of a bladed article in a public place. He was remanded into custody and appeared at Chelmsford Magistrates Court on Wednesday, 25 September. Following that Court appearance, he was sentenced to six months in prison and fined a total of £239.

A 17 year-old boy from Leyton was charged with possession of a bladed article in a public place.



Shoplifter Charged

Whilst on patrol in Debden, PCSO Harrison from Epping Forest Town Team noticed unusual behaviour from a male cycling away from the Epping Forest Shopping Park on 2 October.

Enquiries revealed that the male fitted the description of a suspect who had just stolen £254 worth of goods from a shop. PCSO Harrison circulated his description and direction of travel to her colleagues. Officers arrested the male after finding him a short while later, hiding in another shop with the stolen property still on him.

A 51 year old male from Loughton was charged with theft. He will appear at Chelmsford Crown Court for sentencing on 4 November.

'Authorised Push Payment' (APP) Scams

APP scams, also known as a bank transfer scam, occur when you send money from your bank account to a scammer. This can happen if a scammer impersonates someone or a company you know. However, you'll actually be sending money to an account controlled by the fraudster.

New rules now apply if you report this scam and a loss of money to your bank. This includes a maximum amount of money you can claim back now is £85,000, and being reimbursed within five UK business days unless your bank or payment provider needs to gather more information about what happened. A charge or excess of £100 per claim may be made.

If you have lost money to such a scam, contact your bank or payment provider immediately, as time is of the essence to stop further loss of money. [More](#)

Caller's Phone Numbers can be Faked

Phone numbers, including national, premium rate and local numbers (including those starting with 0800, 0845 and 020), can be bought, often without needing to provide ID to get them. Scammers often use these numbers. They'll divert them to unregistered pay-as-you-go mobile numbers or to a separate answering service, making them difficult to trace.

Scammers also use software to have any number they wish to appear on your phone screen. This method, known as 'spoofing', means they can appear to be calling from a legitimate number linked to a person or company, when in fact they aren't.

Always be wary of the identity of a person you don't know when speaking to them on the phone. If a scammer gives out a phone number, that number cannot always be traced to someone.

A Genuine Police Officer?

There have been occasions when fraudsters have posed as police officers, both in person and on the phone, to trick people into giving them personal information and defraud them of money. If you're unsure about whether the person you're dealing with is a genuine police officer – stop – and call 101 to check their identity.

If you've been on the phone to someone who called you but have doubts about them, hang up and wait five minutes before you call the police, There have been cases of fraudsters keeping the line open after a victim has hung up. Leaving several minutes between calls will make sure that the call has closed.

Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) - Have Your Say

The CRMP will outline how the Service plans to identify and manage risks across Essex over the next five years, focusing on emerging risks and how proactive prevention and education will build safer, more resilient communities.

[More](#). The consultation runs until 17 November.

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 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

Oakwood Hill Estate

As part of the Safer Streets project, the District Council has reported that improvements are underway with weeds being removed to refresh the pathways, and three additional waste bins will be placed throughout the estate to support cleanliness. Crimestoppers Zones have been established throughout the estate with signage installed to encourage reporting of suspicious activities, complemented by outreach efforts such as distribution of leaflets and speaking face to face with residents.

Future improvements include new CCTV cameras, improved lighting, regular weed management, removing graffiti around the estate, cleaning road signs and ensuring regular maintenance and community upkeep. [More](#)

The police will be at the Community Safety Day of Action at the Oakwood Hill Community Hall next Wednesday 23 October from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Oak Processionary Moth

In June Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was detected in two trees on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground; one being a small Oak tree between the river and the lake which was subject to an infestation in 2022, and the second a mature Oak at the rear of properties bordering the recreation ground in River Way, with works undertaken to remove them.

A tree where OPM was detected on Hillyfields Open Space has been reported to the City of London Corporation as it falls within their section of the area.



Loughton Wombles Out and About

During the last couple of months the Wombles were seen on 27 July litter picking on Deepdene Road and Bushfields. On 31 August, two groups were out, one on Rectory Lane towards Pyrles Lane, the other going down Hillyfields and around into Pyrles Lane.

Loughton Day in September was a great success and enjoyed by hundreds of local residents. The Wombles did a fantastic job keeping Loughton Cricket Ground litter free. [More](#) (PDF)

Image: Town Council

Roding Valley Recreation Ground Football Pitch

Only one team has booked a football pitch for the forthcoming 2024/25 season, so the Town Council will arrange for only one pitch to be marked out for the oncoming football season. Whilst provision should be made for social football the cost effectiveness of organised football appears unfeasible.

South Loughton Cricket Club Pavilion

The club is currently in the early stages of planning to replace the existing pavilion on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. There are likely to be some changes in existing dimensions with the overall height of the new pavilion to be six metres. Residents living in properties in River Way would be consulted on the plans.

A planning application is yet to be made.

Independent Playground Inspection

A full independent inspection of all Town Council playgrounds conducted in May 2024 resulted in a very positive report with minimal remedial works necessary. All works recommended in the May 2024 inspection report have now been completed. The next major independent inspection of all playgrounds is planned for November 2024.

Murray Hall

A new heating thermostat has been installed providing greater control and flexibility, with electricity bills switched to British Gas which should result in more reliable billing.

It has been observed that the air conditioning units are not working and repair quotes have been sought.

The East 15 Acting School has returned to the hall, through to May 2025.

Energy Efficiency for Council Homes

A programme of home improvements aimed at reducing energy bills for District Council tenants is underway with a £16 million housing energy efficiency retrofit programme. This will primarily help tenants significantly reduce their fuel bills but will also support the Council in achieving government targets on greenhouse gas emissions.

Work has already begun as part of a collaborative project with E.ON to introduce

energy efficiency retrofit measures for 132 homes, predominantly targeting rural areas where many properties are off the gas grid. By the end of 2030/2031, the goal is to ensure that all Council housing is in a SAP ([Standard Assessment Procedure](#)) band C or above. They will be installing retrofit measures to bring all homes to this standard. The selection of measures will be specific to each home and may range from loft insulation top-ups to external wall insulation and solar panels. [More](#)

Tenant Survey

From 21 October until the end of March 2025, the District Council will be conducting a telephone survey in partnership with Acuity Research & Practice Ltd with a sample of its tenants.



Acuity will only call between 9am-8pm on weekdays and 10am-6pm on Saturdays, the number will display as 01992 905307. [More](#)



Group Buying Scheme for Heat Pumps

The County Council have a new group-buying scheme to help residents heat their home more efficiently with an air-source heat pump. The Council's initiative will allow vetted installers to bid for the installation work of interested homeowners.

This allows homeowners to receive exclusive pricing and competitive offers. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Childhood Vaccinations

All routine childhood vaccinations are free, and even if your child misses a dose, you can book a catch-up appointment. Check their Red Book or contact your GP practice to check they're up to date. [More](#)

Local News

Saving Slow Worms

Following the closure of the former Pyrles Lane nursery, the abandoned site proved to be an extremely attractive home for slow worms who were drawn to the overgrown long grass and brambles. Neither a worm nor a snake, but in fact, a legless lizard, the slow worm is native to the UK and are protected due to declining numbers. Growing up to 40-50cm in length and living for as long as 20 years, the worms can be found in heathland, tussocky grassland and woodland edges where they can find invertebrates to eat and a sunny patch to sunbathe.

In preparation for redeveloping the site for housing, ecologists placed metal sheets at various points within the site which over the course of the day would absorb heat

from the sun and draw the slow worms to gather underneath. The sheets were checked daily Monday – Friday and any slow worms then collected for relocation.

Between April and October, this slow but meticulous process, known as translocation, resulted in around 500 slow worms being collected. The District Council aren't disclosing where they are being relocated to but have said the pristine habitat of Epping Forest is an environment where they have every confidence they will continue to thrive. [More](#)

Loughton Library Events

Upcoming events at the library include:

- 30 October - a Halloween Themed Craft and Spooky Storytime event. Parental supervision required. [More](#)
- 2 November - Warm Welcomes - tea, coffee and a nice place for a catch up with friends or even make some new ones. For those of you with an inquisitive mind, there are also crosswords, word searches and a puzzle to complete. [More](#)
- 7 December - Christmas Crafts - Drop in to make some Christmas crafts. [More](#)



More about the libraries at [Loughton](#) and [Debden](#).

Printing at Loughton Library

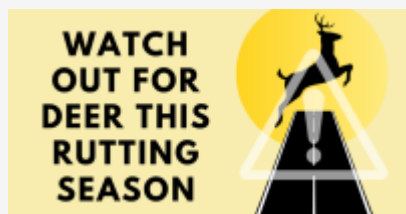
Library members can now use Wi-Fi printing at Loughton Library, which allows you to send documents from devices such as a phone, tablet, or laptop from anywhere and collect prints upon arrival. A fee applies, which can be paid online or at the library. [More](#)

M25 Service Station Proposed

Brentwood Borough Council are considering a planning application for a service station either side of the M25, between junctions 27 and 28. The proposal includes up to 850 car and motorcycle parking spaces (including accessible EV and accessible spaces), up to 450 Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) parking spaces, coach and caravan parking, two amenity buildings, two fuel filling stations, two drive-through food and drink establishments; new access slip roads from the M25 (clockwise and anticlockwise), and associated landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works.

[More](#), including [how to comment](#).

Epping Forest



Be Deer Aware

Deer are in their rutting season now when they engage in fierce mating battles, with activity most intense soon after dawn and before dusk, although some activity occurs throughout the day.

If you're out and about in the Forest during the rutting season it is wise to follow a few simple rules:

- If you have your dog with you, keep it on a lead and under close control.
- Keep your distance! Do not approach any deer closer than 50m and stay at least 100m from rutting deer.
- Pay special attention to any signage and follow its advice.
- If you find a deer advancing towards you or acting in a threatening manner, do not shout or wave at it. Back off slowly if possible; the deer may be satisfied that you have left its personal zone. Do not run, though, as this may trigger the animal into chasing you.

[More](#)

Hands-on Conservation Volunteering

If you are interested in nature and you can help the [Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) with practical habitat management activities. Perhaps you have volunteer days at work, and would like to make a positive impact on the environment? [More and available dates](#). Booking required.

Guided Walk

The [Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) have an upcoming walk in collaboration with [fungi.futures](#). This is a specialist walk exploring fantastic fungi in the ancient woodland and get to know their roles and importance in an ecosystem. [More](#). Booking required.

Forest Focus - September 2024

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



And More



Where Can I Dispose of Something?

If you've got something you no longer need or want, find the best way to get rid of it. Whether it's finding something a new home, the nearest place to recycle, or checking if something's accepted in your bin, [try LoveEssex's Waste Disposal Search](#).

Just enter the item and your postcode.

Find, Secure, or Erase a Lost Android Device

If you lose an Android device or Wear OS watch, you can find, secure, or erase it remotely. You can also help a friend find, secure, or erase their lost device with Google's [Find My Device app](#) or [online](#). [More](#)

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.

These regular news emails are issued every 3-4 weeks, with some news special emails issued from time to time. The next news email is planned to be issued on Friday 8 November.

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



All our past issues of Loughton News emails, Loughton Life, and more



The latest news and items of interest. You don't need to be registered for either

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