



LRA's Loughton News

26 July 2024

In this issue we report police activity with arrests of a [thief](#), [shoplifter](#) and [burglar](#), [targeting organised crime](#) along with a warning of [attempted car thefts](#) locally.

On the High Road, the District Council is starting to look at [redeveloping the shops they own](#), although it's early days. The County Council is also planning to [upgrade many bus shelters](#)

The [Big Walk is coming](#) to the Forest, and you can help [clean up the Forest](#) or [help with its biodiversity](#)

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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Your LRA



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Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership

LRA Cllr Rose Brookes stepped down as the Interim Chair of the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership at the AGM on 11 July after two years in this role. LRA Cllr Ian Allgood has agreed to step in for six months after other people withdrew their offers to chair.

Rose would like to thank the many LRA members for their generous donations to the Christmas events.

The improvement works to The Broadway will be discussed at the District Council Cabinet meeting on 2 September.

Buckhurst Hill East and Whitebridge

As members will be aware, this year LRA Cllrs Rose Brookes and Barbara Cohen were elected as Cllrs for Buckhurst Hill East and Whitebridge.

Rose has been attending Buckhurst Hill Parish Council meetings to give updates on her work in the ward. In addition to many individual requests for help, Rose and Barbara have been doing estate inspections with a housing officer. They have reported fly tipping in Buckhurst Hill and chased Qualis for work they have not completed. Rose visited Buckhurst Court (a District Council run block of flats for senior citizens), and has been exploring cycle storage for resident's bikes and helping with other issues. Barbara has been busy making reports of potholes for the County Council. In the last month a very high proportion of casework has come from Buckhurst Hill.

A post-election newsletter is planned to be distributed to residents of Buckhurst Hill East. Can you help deliver them? If so, please email Rose at vietrose02@aol.com

Clearing Overgrown Bushes



After feedback from residents about overgrown bushes on Traps Hill that made the footpath almost impassable (especially for wheelchair and pram users) LRA Cllr Ian Allgood leapt into action and trimmed back the bushes.

Ian took care to check for nesting birds, as it can be an offence to disturb them.

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.

13 Stanmore Way

This application proposes demolition of the existing house to erect a new building with a basement and second floor. This is a resubmission of refused application [EPF/0577/24](#).

LRAPG are concerned their objections to the previous application, on embedded carbon grounds, were not addressed by officers. Officers have been asked to address the objections properly with this revised scheme which is on the grounds of:

- The loss of embedded carbon by permitting the existing building to be lost.
- Allowing the existing building to be scrapped with no reference to the circular economy – this means reusing as much of the existing fabric as possible elsewhere – that includes the existing brickwork to the door handles to the carpets. Other councils insist on this so why not Epping Forest?
- There is no justification to demolish the existing house bar the owner wants to knock it down and build a bigger one. There is no public benefit to justify the loss of one private dwelling for another one.

Overall, the existing dwelling appears to be in good condition and is not unattractive. No justification has been provided for its demolition and or about the recycling of the existing materials in the building. There are no public benefits associated with the redevelopment and therefore permission should be refused

Reference [EPF/1312/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 24 July but you can still comment to the Council.

43 Alderton Hill

This application to demolish the existing house to erect a new building has been approved.

LRA Cllr Howard Kauffman has commented that *“I personally do not see that Alderton Hill should become Loughton’s equivalent of Bishop’s Avenue in wherever that is in Finchley where you get oversized buildings, mansion blocks that stick out - they’re just not in keep keeping with their street scene.”*



Howard added about the 50-foot-long side extension planned that *“I’ve never seen an extension of that size, I don’t understand it. Why should there be a brick wall halfway down a garden like that?”* He also said *“I understand a new house will come, but it’s got to be of a superlative design. And with respect, I don’t believe it is a superlative design. There are other new builds in Alderton Hill which are of superlative design. This is a pastiche mansion of dated design. It doesn’t achieve what it should do in my opinion.”*

The plans were also [objected to by the Town Council](#) with concerns including that the *“mansion-style design was detrimental to the visual amenity of the area”* and said it

"it is not sustainable to knock down existing buildings and replace them with completely new builds".

LRAPG also objected to the development on the grounds it was oversized and to the principle of knocking down an existing house that is in good condition and not unattractive.

Reference [EPF/0754/24](#) and [news report](#).

Image: Google

236-238 High Road (above Vivaldi and 8 Rocks)

Proposal: Prior approval for change of use from first and second floor office spaces (Class E) to 4 dwellings (Class C3)

LRAPG has objected to this application. The rooms are inappropriately stacked with, for example, some of the bedrooms on the first floor under living areas on the second floor or vice versa. This will lead to disturbance to the detriment of the amenity of the occupiers.

Reference [EPF/1325/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 24 July but you can still comment to the Council.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- The Uplands - the road will be closed until 15 August for gas mains replacement. [More](#)
- Valley Hill - the road will be closed between 7pm and 6am from 12 to 17 August between Greenstead Road and Roding Road for road surface patching. [More](#)
- Pump Hill - the road will be closed 12 to 30 August for gas mains 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.



Bus Route 549/W14

The previously consulted-on changes to route 549 will occur from 7 September. The route, to be called W14, will increase in frequency, and run additionally on Sundays, via Buckhurst Hill, Woodford, South Woodford and Snaresbrook, and terminate at Whipps Cross hospital. ([Background](#))

The timetable is yet to be published and the operator will change from Sullivan to Stagecoach.

Bus Shelter Upgrades

The County Council is planning to upgrade and install a range of bus shelters across the County as part of a new contract with Clear Channel who will sell advertising at the bus stop locations. The Council will receive a minimum guaranteed income and a profit-share from the advertising that will be ring-fenced for spending on the bus network.

[County Council owned bus shelters are shown on this map](#), along with if and when specific work will be undertaken. Some bus shelters locally are subject to work this financial year.

Licences for Skips, Scaffolding and Hoardings

You need a licence from Essex County Council to put up a skip, scaffolding, hoardings (temporary board fence around a building site), a crane or a cherry picker on any Essex Highways maintainable assets (e.g. road, pavement or verge).

- You must be a licenced skip or scaffolding contractor, with proof of public liability insurance to £10 million to apply for a skip or scaffold licence
- Only relevant contractors or commercial organisations may apply for a hoarding licence
- Skip applications take at least 5 working days to process
- Scaffolding applications take at least 15 working days to process
- Any monies paid are non-refundable. Please ensure you check you are applying to the [correct authority](#).
- Skip, scaffolding and hoarding licences are non-VAT-able

All licences are valid for 2 weeks. [More](#)

Transport Watchdog Review

[London TravelWatch](#) has released their annual review for 2023/24.

London TravelWatch is the statutory transport watchdog for London, representing the interests of people who travel around the city and surrounding commuter belt. They advocate on behalf of the public to improve the travelling experiences of people who move around the capital.

Police, Fire and Crime

Police Fraud Awareness

The police will be at a fraud awareness event at the Methodist Church on the High Road on 31 July between 2pm and 3pm. All are welcome.

Thief Arrested

PC Farrow from the Town Team was reviewing incidents from her beat to see if there was anything of note that she could assist with. She identified a theft from motor vehicle that had occurred overnight in Loughton, where the victim had indicated they had clear CCTV footage of the offender.

PC Forrow knows her beat well and quickly located and arrested the male, who was found hiding in the back seat of a car. He was charged and remanded on 2 July for offences of theft from motor vehicle and fraud.

Shoplifter Arrested

The Town Team's PC Mabey arrested a male on 3 July for shoplifting in Debden, 6 minutes after the call came in from the victim. The 26 year old male has been charged and remanded to court.

Burglar Arrested

A man arrested after officers responded within five minutes to reports of a break-in at a home in Loughton has pleaded guilty to burglary.

Police were called to reports of an incident in process in the town at just before 3.30pm on 17 July. Officers were on the scene within five minutes of the call coming through and a man was arrested. It is alleged that property to the value of around £25,000 had been taken. [More](#)

Targeting Organised Crime

Specialist officers have targeted an organised crime group, which are believed to be involved in money laundering connected to large scale cannabis production and supply. They executed a warrant on 19 July in Loughton and seized a large quantity of cash and a high value watch during the warrant. [More](#)

The Police in June:

In June the police in our district:

- helped to find 48 people who were reported missing and helped them to get the support they needed.
- responded to 20 mental-health related incidents and worked with local partners to help those concerned get the help and support they needed.
- investigated 105 reports of antisocial behaviour having listened to local communities about the things which were causing them concern.
- attended 51 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- investigated reports of domestic violence incidents and made sure victims were given help, support, and advice, putting them in contact with relevant organisations where appropriate.
- solved 77 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- have submitted 357 pieces of intelligence which assists us in targeting criminal activity in our community.
- stopped and searched 76 people within our district to make sure they weren't carrying anything which could cause harm to themselves or someone else.



Results of Reporting Fraudsters

Over 32 million suspicious emails have been reported to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS), which have led to more than 329,000 websites addresses being removed by the National Cyber Security Centre.

If you have received an email that doesn't feel right, report it by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk. Send emails to this address that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam – they will be checked.

Always report suspicious text messages or scam call numbers, free of charge, to 7726. Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.

- To report a scam text, forward it to 7726 and then send the sender's number when prompted.
- To report a scam call, text 7726 with the word 'Call' followed by the scam caller's number.

Beware of Car Thieves

We are aware of reports of attempted car thefts locally. If you have a keyless car, thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture its signal. Your car could be stolen within 10 seconds.

The police advise:

- When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag and check if the bag or pouch is still working every few months.
- Re-programme your keys if you buy a second hand car.
- If possible, turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used (refer to your car's instruction manual).

If you have CCTV and observe people trying to open car doors, [report it to the police online](#) or call 101. ***If the suspects are still on the scene, call 999.***

[More](#) on preventing car and vehicle theft

Policing and Fire and Rescue - Have Your Say

Plans for the Fire and Rescue Service and Police covering the next four years are now being consulted on.

The plans will set the future aims for keeping Essex safe and secure, by building on existing partnerships and seeking to develop them in innovative and ambitious ways. These include greater collaboration between police and the fire and rescue service and closer working with local councils, community safety partnerships, and voluntary, community and health sectors, and rural and business communities.

More on the [police and crime plan](#) and [fire and rescue plan](#).

[Have your say on priorities for both plans here.](#)

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 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

West Side of the High Road Redevelopment?

In 2019 the District Council bought a row of shops on the west side of the High Road, from numbers 200 (previously M&Co) to 226 (now Phone Clinic) for £23.8 million.



The Council is now considering redevelopment of the properties to provide modern commercial space with residential units above.

As a first step, the Council has created a fund of £1.02 million to progress feasibility, viability and achieve planning permission for redevelopment of the properties, along with a similar proposal for Brooker Road in Waltham Abbey. [More](#) (p 45-49)

LRA Comment: *LRA has generally supported removal of the very unattractive 1960s and 70s shops and storerooms, as well as the mess behind. But we need to ensure what goes there instead will be well-designed, user-friendly, and will not impact the amenity of residents living in the roads behind the High Road.*

We understand leases have all been issued to expire next year, so managing the transition will be key.

Image: Google

Jessel Green

The Town Council is supporting the adoption of Fields in Trust status for Jessel Green and other eligible 'housing' greens in Debden. The Town Clerk will be progressing this to the District Council. In 2021 the Loughton Cricket Club ground was similarly protected as a green space in perpetuity.

Oakwood Hill Estate

The District Council, as part of the Safer Streets project, has a one-year project to focus on:

- Increasing CCTV in the area
- Improving lighting
- Creating a safer environment for residents



- Promoting health and wellbeing within the community

Community action days are being organised to deliver key safety messages and engage with residents to understand their concerns.

A consultation has been underway on 25-26 July at the Oakwood Hill Community Centre ([more](#)). You can also email comments to safeststreets@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Borders Lane Spring Bulb Display

The housebuilding work on Borders Lane unfortunately made the spring bulb display disappear from view when construction was underway and hoardings went up.

The Town Council took the matter up and Fairview New Homes will provide a financial contribution towards replacing them. As the land is owned by the County Council, the Town Council will now seek permission for replanting.



Empowering Epping Forest Female Entrepreneurs

The District Council is offering free support to female residents who wish to start or have just started their own business. This programme offers support from the first idea to selling the first service or product, and will cover the stepping stones of

starting a business:

- Practical Skills
- Mindset
- Confidence
- Challenges
- Peer Support

[More](#), including how to register your interest.

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. [More](#) (PDF)



Waste Strategy Published

The Country Council has published their waste strategy, which explains how waste will be managed for the next 30 years. Read the [easy-read strategy](#) or the [detailed version](#) (PDFs).

Health and Wellbeing

Taking Care in the Hot Weather

In hot weather, take care and look out for vulnerable family, friends and neighbours. [More advice here](#)

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. The Fire Service has advice about [using barbecues safely](#), [caravan and camping safety](#) and [bonfires](#). Ensure coals or wood or anything used in a fire pit or barbecue are completely cool before you move or dispose of them. And [no fires or barbecues in the Forest](#).

Ambulance Service Performance

The [East of England Ambulance Service](#) had been in Special Measures in the past ([more](#)).

They have now reported on data up to 31 May with response times improved for Category 1 (life threatening illness or injury) and C2 category patients including chest pains and strokes.

NHS England has removed the service from the National Recovery Support Programme in recognition of the significant improvements made. The programme was formerly known as Special Measures. [Full report](#) (PDF)

Healthwatch Essex Reports

[Healthwatch Essex](#) are an independent voice for the people of Essex, helping to shape and improve health and social care services in the County.

They have now released their [Annual Report for 2023/24](#), detailing everything they have achieved over the past year.

Local News

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? [Visit the website](#) for more information and to [contact them](#).



Epping Forest



Summer Activities in the Forest

The latest [Forest Focus](#) has lots of good ideas for days out in the Forest, from short strolls and children's activities, to food and refreshments at Forest huts and High Beach Church. [More](#)

Epping Forest Big Walk

This annual organised walk returns on 15 September and is now one of the biggest annual events celebrating Epping Forest and its heritage. Whether you are a first-timer or a returning walker, join 200 people from all walks of life to walk through the wonderful Epping Forest, get to know this rare surviving piece of ancient woodland, and celebrate its irreplaceable biodiversity, culture and heritage.

Guided by volunteer walk leaders, the walk is 14 miles from Manor Park in Newham to Bell Common in Epping, with talks about the Forest along the way, as well as three refreshment breaks. You don't need to be an experienced hiker to join the walk, although you will need to be reasonably fit.

Booking required (booking opens 1 August). [More](#) including the timetable.

Help to Clean Up the Forest

There are two litter pick events for young people (aged 3 - 17) 16 and 28 August. In addition, a youth conservation session will be held on Thursday 22 August. [More](#)

Hands on Conservation Volunteering

If you are interested in nature, love the outdoors, and want to improve your health and wellbeing, why not join the Epping Forest Heritage Trust for a day to carry out hands-on work to help improve its biodiversity.

Booking required, with various dates available in August. [More](#)

No Fires or Barbeques in the Forest

Please be aware that no fires or barbecues are permitted anywhere in the Forest. Not only is it common sense not to light a fire in the Forest, it is against the Epping Forest Byelaws and those caught causing a fire may be prosecuted.

Forest Focus - July 2024

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



And More



Do You Know Your Flood Risk?

Have you ever wondered if you live in a flood risk area? Even if you don't live near a river, surface water can strike. During the summer months, when the ground is hard and dry, heavy rain can make drainage difficult.

Check your flood risk today and stay one step ahead. You may qualify for a grant to protect your property from future flooding. [More](#)

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 16 August

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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