



LRA's Loughton News

26 May 2023

In this issue we report that [The Last Post has closed](#) as a pub, with new planning applications being made to change the use to a pub/restaurant and adding a side extension.

Also the RideLondon cycle event is coming to Essex on Sunday 28 May, so [there will be road closures](#) near Loughton.

The [Jessel Green Community Fun Day](#) will be on Sunday 25 June, with bouncy castles, inflatables, fun fair rides, a Punch and Judy and a children's entertainer.

The Loughton Wombles continue their work to tidy up litter around town - [would you like to be a Womble?](#)

And [our libraries have events](#) for local history and to help prepare children for school later this year.

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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Could You be an LRA Cllr?

Next year we would like some LRA members to join our team of experienced Cllrs on the Town and District Councils.

Please have a chat with Michael Benbow on 020 8508 4457 or Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 who can explain what is involved - or [email us](#).

LRA News

Brook Road/Brooklyn Avenue Potholes

Lee Scott, County Council cabinet member for Highways, has told LRA Cllr Chris Pond that all the road defects in Brook Road and Brooklyn Avenue were 'made safe' in early May. He was then immediately told by residents that the repairs were sloppy. He wants to say that Essex Highways are simply making holes (which were dangerous) safe again, and the repairs are not to make them elegant.

He and Chris both know the roads need resurfacing properly; a system is being brought in (Cllr Scott says) whereby Chris will be able to nominate them for surfacing. Details are awaited.

In the past there has been a (limited) funding pot that has enabled County Cllrs to nominate defects to be fixed (but only those in carriageways, not footways, which is a disadvantage) which LRA Cllr Chris Pond has taken advantage of. It is planned to continue this scheme in the current financial year, and the Council has been conducting a review of the scheme with [recommendations and comments here](#) (PDF).

Loughton Library Upper Floor Closed

A resident asked LRA Cllr Chris Pond why the upper floor of the library had been closed, as it was much used by students for revision.

Chris took this up immediately with the County Council and was told the closure was due to much vandalism, and so asked for the situation to be urgently reviewed.

Loughton's Water Supply

Loughton residents suffered a failure of the water supply in mid-May for nearly 12 hours. This incident yet again showed water infrastructure locally is decayed and no longer robust.

And, of course, such supply failures can also disrupt traffic and bus services when roads need to be closed for emergency works.

There is now a (somewhat belated) recognition by the government and the regulator Ofwat that the problem is nationwide. Residents would have read news reports of increased investment by water companies in coming years to tackle storm overflows, increase water resilience and reducing nutrient pollution. At this point, [the plans for the next two years](#) do not appear to increase investment to improve the water infrastructure around Loughton.

In the meantime, what to do during water supply failures is on [our website](#).

Future Schooling Needs in Loughton

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been told that discussions are ongoing about providing extra space for the Oakview Special Educational Needs (SEN) school on a new site, not in Loughton. This was part of a webinar for Cllrs whereby it was learned that no new [non-SEN] school (primary or secondary) was forecast to be necessary in Loughton up to 2033. The estimates take into account housing allocations in local plans and may reflect LRA success in reducing the planned thousand new dwellings in Loughton to 455. Flats are estimated by experience to produce only 50% of new children on school rolls as houses.

Essex Bus Routes

The County Council is proposing to withdraw some bus routes that have low use and cost the Council at least £10 per passenger journey ([news article](#)). This includes bus route 804, which is the school bus that runs from The Broadway to West Hatch School.

The Council has a long standing value for money measure whereby it will not generally subsidise buses by more than £5 per passenger journey. [This Council document](#) (PDF) outlines the rationale for the withdrawal of some routes and the redesign of others.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has suggested bus route 542 (which hasn't run since Christmas) and route 804 be redesigned together, and has discussed this with Lee Scott, County Council cabinet member for Highways. All proposals will be subject to consultation.

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.

The Last Post, 227 High Road

Wetherspoons shut the pub on 14 May and returned the lease. A planning application has now been submitted to allow the vacant pub to be used as a restaurant, pub or a combination of the two uses. The new lessee has yet to be publicly named.



However there is past history of the pub using the delivery yard for tables and chairs, particularly after the relaxation of the first Covid lockdown where several local residents complained about noise and antisocial behaviour. The original planning permission secured this area by condition to be reserved for loading and unloading. The owners have applied for tables and chairs in this location in the past, the most recent being in 2020.

If the new planning application were approved, there would be no guarantee that the existing delivery areas near the pub will be available. The loss of the existing parking and delivery area would result in increased on-street parking and congestion within the vicinity of the site, to the detriment of the free-flowing traffic and safe operation of the High Road.

LRAPG has asked the council to impose conditions as per the original planning permission to cover the yard and the following areas:

- Restricting the side yard for servicing to prevent it from being used for tables and chairs and to prevent servicing from happening on the main road which blocks the traffic.

- No takeaway food deliveries.
- The hours of opening restricted to 8am to 11pm each day.

Reference [EPF/0947/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 30 May.



A second application proposes to fill in the loading area on the side of the pub for an extension. LRAPG have objected to the extension which would result in the loss of the dedicated area for loading and unloading. The building should be free from side extensions to maintain its pure stand-alone setting on the High Road.

Reference [EPF/0949/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 31 May.

10 Rectory Lane

This application proposes demolition of the existing commercial building and construction of a new building to provide five commercial units (including workshop, showroom and office space), together with parking and landscaping.



LRAPG have no objection in principle to the redevelopment and welcome the enhanced employment use. However, too many employment uses have been lost to residential under permitted development rights. LRAPG has therefore urged the District Council to enter into a section 106 (legal) agreement with the applicant to ensure the units do not flip to residential under permitted development rights after they have been completed. The planning statement says they originally wanted a residential use and LRAPG does not consider a planning condition is strong enough to protect the use and can easily be appealed against. Planning conditions have also been requested to restrict the parking spaces to the users of the development and ensure the cycle spaces are provided and retained.



In order to protect the amenity of residents on Golding's Hill, LRAPG has asked for the rear roof to be conditioned not to be used as a terrace and for the rear glazing to be obscured – mezzanine floors could easily be inserted without the need for consent that would result in overlooking without such a condition.

Reference [EPF/0829/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 31 May.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- There are road closures on Sunday 28 May for RideLondon. [See our news item below](#) for more details.
- St John's Road - the road will be closed until 5 June for works by Thames Water. [More](#)

- Pyrles Lane - the road will be closed from 10am to 3pm until 8 June for joint sealing work by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Clays Lane - the road will be closed between Golding's Hill and Stanmore Way from 27 May to 8 July while scaffolding works are undertaken by BTS Group. [More](#)
- Oakwood Hill - the road will be closed between Roding Road and Chigwell Road from 26 to 28 June for carriageway patching. [More](#)



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



On Street Parking on Bank Holidays

Remember that NEPP wardens now work on Bank Holidays. Unless the sign says that charges don't apply, they do!

Essex to Heathrow on the Elizabeth Line

Transport for London has introduced full through-running of the Elizabeth line, allowing direct journeys between Shenfield in the east and Heathrow in the west, along with more frequent trains.

That means you can catch the Elizabeth Line at Stratford and go to Heathrow without having to change at Paddington. [Here is the full timetable.](#)

Roadworks in March

In Epping Forest District, County Highways made 229 repairs to roads, fixed 17 pavement defects, fixed 102 streetlights and cleared 3033 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](#)

Top Concerns from Young People

From December 2022 to March 2023 more than 1,560 young people took part in the fourth Essex Violence and Vulnerability Youth Voices Listening Project. In Epping Forest District, the top three concerns were:

- Violence with no consequences
- Vaping and underage drinking
- Knives

[More](#)

Be Aware of Passport Service Scams

You may have seen in the media there are potentially long lead times with passport applications this summer.

Scammers are looking to take advantage of this and are offering fake fast track passport services claiming for a fee they can make sure you get it on time for your holiday. They might even be offering a great holiday deal with the promise of a quick passport renewal thrown in.

Stay scam savvy by reading online reviews from reputable sources before booking any holidays and when renewing a passport, only use [the government's official website](#). [More fraud prevention advice](#) from the police

Security Marking Your Property

You have a much better chance of getting things back if you've security marked your valuables and equipment (jewellery, TVs etc) and you've registered them on [Immobilise](#), the free property-recording website that the police use to trace the owners of property they recover from thieves [More](#)

Immobilise is also the only ownership registration service supported by all UK police forces, the Greater London Authority, and the mobile phone industry.

More from the Police

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

Council News



Jessel Green Community Fun Day Sunday 25 June

In addition to all the usual bouncy castles, inflatables, fun fair rides, there will be a Punch and Judy and a children's entertainer. Essex Kites will be attending with their Kite making workshop and

new this year they will have a Carnival making workshop. There will be the usual free soft play area for the under 5s, a tea and cake tent, food outlets and lots more. [More](#)

Plans are well under way but it's not too late to register for a stall. Local crafts, charities, small businesses are all welcome. If you would like to support the event, contact the Town Council by [email](#) or call 0208 508 4200 to book your pitch or make a donation.

Correction: In a February news email and in Loughton Life we said in error the event would be on a Saturday. Our apologies.

Can You Be a (Loughton) Womble?

The Town Council is looking for residents to volunteer to become Loughton Wombles to unite and tackle the continuing problem of litter.

We well as helping a worthy cause, it is a great opportunity to socialise and make new friends. If you'd like to join in and help contact Debbie [by email](#) or call 020 8508 4200.

The summer litter pick dates are:

- Sunday 25 June
- Saturday 22 July
- Saturday 19 August



Booking a Recycling Centre Visit

You can now book on the same day to visit a County Council recycling centre including the one at Luxborough Lane in Chigwell. There is no charge to book, but a booking will be needed for each visit with each slot being 30 minutes. [More](#).

If you (or someone you know) cannot book online, in the first instance, the Council suggests asking a friend, family member, colleague, carer or neighbour Alternatively, you can phone the County Council 0345 743 0430 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm who will make the booking on your behalf.

Win a Bin

In May were both the [International Compost Awareness Week](#) and [National Gardening Week](#). Adding compost to your garden leads to healthier, more resilient soil - making the garden a better place for plants, vegetables and wildlife.



This spring, Love Essex is offering residents the chance to [win a HotBin Mini 100 litre Compost Bin](#) which can break down food and garden waste quickly into nutrient-rich compost.

Fines for Fly Tipping

The District Council has successfully prosecuted two individuals for fly-tipping offences with fines of £1500. [More](#)

The Council do not clear fly-tipping from private land (as that is the landowner's responsibility). However they do ask fly-tipping incidents on private land are reported so that they can investigate who is responsible.

[Report incidents here](#)

If you see someone fly-tipping:

- Do not approach them as they may react badly to being challenged

- Do not touch the waste or open containers as they may contain hazardous material
- Report it – call the police if the offenders are still on site. After the event you can report the fly-tipping to the Council who will investigate to find out who is responsible.

County Council Electric Vehicle Charging Draft Strategy

The Council has drafted [this strategy](#) which aims for an accessible, reliable, easy-to-use, safe, and fairly-priced charging network, support communities with the socio-economic inequalities of using and charging an EV, and tackling the environmental priorities of reducing car travel and decarbonising vehicle emissions across the county.

There are only 300+ public EV charge points in Essex (below the national average) and 30-50% of Essex households do not have off-street parking so have no current (and legal) means of charging their car using their electricity supply.

Local News

RideLondon-Essex

This bicycle event returns to Essex on Sunday 28 May with riders that are pre-registered riding one of three routes that start in London with two of the routes extending into Essex.

- More on the Essex 60 route that goes out to Epping and Ongar ([detailed map](#)).
- More on the Essex 100 route that goes out to Great Dunmow and Braintree ([detailed map](#)).

These routes do not pass through Loughton but do go via the Epping New Road which will be closed to traffic. Access in and out of Loughton and surrounding areas will therefore be restricted. Some crossing points will be in place for traffic. More on [road closures](#) and [crossing points](#) (PDFs).

Love Your Library

This event is returning with a theme of Local and Community History on 27 May. Meet at Loughton Library to find out more about the history of your local area. Did you know some libraries have historical maps of the area? You'll have to pop in and see them for yourself, as these are for in-library use only.



Also a Heritage Blue Plaque walk through Loughton led by LRA Cllr Chris Pond will take place in partnership with the Town Council. [More](#)

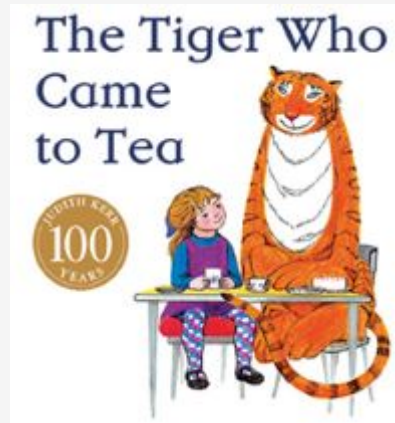
Ready...Steady...Go To School Challenge at the Library

This is a fun challenge full of activities which will help your child practice skills that they'll need to help them feel confident and be ready to start school in September, running in all Essex libraries from May to July, and includes a range of activities within seven challenge areas. As your child completes activities, they'll collect stamps in a special booklet, and once they have all seven stamps, they'll get a

certificate! [More](#)

Starting School This September?

The Big School Meet Up at Loughton Library on 30 May ([details](#)) and Debden Library on 2 June ([details](#)) is a chance to meet other children and their families also starting school this September. Get to know each other whilst you enjoy chatting and making new friends. Enjoy a fun storytime and get some starting school tips from other parents and carers.



The Tiger Who Came to Tea Exhibition

Epping Forest District Museum is delighted to present an exhibition exploring the life and celebrating the work of one of Britain's best known author-illustrators for children, Judith Kerr.

The exhibition commemorates the centenary of Judith Kerr's birth and contribution to children's literature. 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' the exhibition features high quality facsimiles of Judith Kerr's original illustrations from the Seven Stories collection and promises to re-introduce the beloved

picture book to a new generation of family audiences.

The exhibition is open from 27 May to 2 September. [More](#)

Can You Recycle Toothpaste Tubes or Wine Corks?

Increasingly you can recycle toothpaste tubes, but not necessarily in your home recycling as they have typically been made from a mixture of plastic and metal, to provide flexibility and help them hold their shape when squeezed. This makes them durable - and it's easier to squeeze every last drop out - but it also makes them a nightmare to recycle. Big manufacturers are working towards all their toothpaste ranges being recyclable by 2025. [More](#)

Currently the District Council asks for toothpaste tube to be [put in your black bin](#).

And wine corks should **not** go into the food and garden bin, but into your black bin.

Health and Wellbeing

Covid Vaccine

Get your Covid spring booster jab at the Town Council's offices every Saturday, from 9.30am – 3.30pm. No appointment needed - just pop in. Spring boosters are for anyone aged 75 or older and those with a weakened immune system. Please help spread the word and encourage anyone you know aged 75+ to drop by and top up their protection against new strains of the Covid virus. If you can't make it on a Saturday, you can book an appointment at a pharmacy or a local GP practice [online](#) or call 119. [More](#)



The NHS is also encouraging anyone who hasn't had a first or second dose of the Covid vaccine to come forward for them. Book now to make sure you get both jabs before the offer ends for many people on 30 June. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Wildlife and New Growth in the Forest.

Bird song is at its peak and if you've ever intended to listen to the dawn chorus, May is the best time to set your alarm and head quietly off to the woods just before dawn breaks. To listen to the sounds of the night give way to the dawn chorus is a joy for the soul, an utterly privileged experience, not to be missed.

New growth abounds, with perhaps some of the loveliest being the bright green shoots appearing on the Forest's most venerable residents, the ancient pollards. It is amazing that an organism that spends the majority of its life in the slow lane, where its years equate to our minutes and hours, can go into turbo drive when spring arrives, producing an almost full canopy within days.

If you'd like to get to know some of the Forest's very special trees a little better and see the different forms that they take, Hatgate Plain (between Loughton and Theydon Bois) is an excellent place to start. Here you will find a community of trees, comprising mainly beech, hornbeam and oak. Many of the trees will quite probably be related, with parent trees, siblings, offspring and grandparent trees (and many generations) all present within metres of each other. [More](#)



Forest Focus - May 2023

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

And More

Cost of Shopping Items

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides a [tool](#) allowing you to compare the average prices of over 450 items in the consumer prices inflation basket.

The tool contains items ranging from bananas to nursery fees and aims to help improve the accessibility of our existing data by easily allowing users to track average price trends. In the past year, [95% of these items have increased in price](#), with cucumbers (up 52%), olive oil (up 49%) and hard cheese (up 44%) seeing the largest increases.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Tuesday 20 June 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



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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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