



LRA's Loughton News

27 September 2024

In this issue we give [an update on the Clean Air Zone](#) that that the District Council proposed in 2020, and give [LRAPG's view on a recent planning application for what was The Last Post](#) on the High Road.

There's also the latest on the [Central Line train refurbishment](#), and what [the Police's Town Team priorities](#) are for the next three months.

The [Loughton Horticultural Show](#) was successfully held earlier this month with awards for presentations and local allotments, and [Loughton Day](#) where the sun shone and large numbers of residents and visitors turned up to attend.

In the Forest, we also link to an article on [how the Forest has changed through the millennia and the approach now taken for Habitat Restoration](#) of which [more funding has been made available](#). As the nights draw in, also [watch out for deer](#) moving about the Forest and crossing the roads that pass through the Forest, particularly at dusk and dawn.

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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An Epping Forest Clean Air Zone?

Members will recall that in late 2020 the District Council announced a decision to introduce an Interim Air Pollution Strategy, including a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in 2025 for essentially the main Forest south of Epping. This proposal formed part of the Council's approach to get the Local Plan agreed, by arguing a CAZ would mitigate the effect on the Forest of increased pollution from more housing and associated activities (e.g. traffic and gas boilers). LRA Cllrs argued consistently that the Council should carry out the mitigation measures **before** any more new housing was built, however this was not agreed to during the adoption of the Local Plan. [Background on our website](#).

At the time, the Council planned to set up an advisory panel to look at the mitigation strategies needed to avoid a CAZ, however they then dropped this idea. They appear to have postponed action on a CAZ while waiting for further measurements of pollution in the Forest, but although these results should have been available last spring, nothing more has been heard.

LRA Comment: *With 2025 now a few months away, it is self-evident that the Council has no intention of introducing a CAZ next year. In the meantime the Council is approving the development of new buildings near to the Forest whose residents will generate more pollution in the Forest, and it is extracting significant sums from the developers to pay for anti-pollution measures which may never be carried out.*

The Broadway Refurbishment

Following the District Council Cabinet meeting on 2 September where refurbishment of The Broadway was agreed, the Council has published questions raised by LRA Cllrs and Independent Cllr Stephen Murray, along with answers. [More](#) (item 45, p9-11)



Local Planning Committees Changed

As we reported in June, the District Council cabinet agreed to recommendations made following a recent review of the Council's development management function conducted by PAS (Planning Advisory Service, which is part of the Local Government Association). [More](#) and the [full report](#) (from p17).

The new structure for local planning committees starts on 2 October. There will be two committees ('[Committee A](#)' and '[Committee B](#)') with the previous Plans South committee no longer existing. Membership will be pro rata reflecting the District Council Cllr makeup where the Conservatives have a majority - so LRA does badly. Ward Cllrs will not be allowed to speak on applications in their own ward.

LRA Comment: *The voice of residents will be much diluted. So much for local democracy.*

A Third Wheelie Bin?

The District Council has been running a trial in Theydon Bois with a blue-lidded bin for recycling. The bin replaces recycling sacks and the blue glass box, with all recycling placed into the bin separately including glass bottles and jars.

The Council will soon consider whether to roll out the third wheelie bin across the district. At the Council's Cabinet meeting on 2 September LRA Cllr Chris Pond told the meeting of his concerns of another wheelie bin being imposed on householders where space to store the bins is limited. Chris said "*I do not think the imposition of an extra wheelie bin whether it has a blue lid or some other decorative feature on the top is a good idea particularly if you are the owner of a flat or a very narrow cottage without much ground.*"

Can you help deliver Loughton Life, please?

At the end of September LRA's 100 or so volunteers will be busy delivering our Townwide Autumn edition of Loughton Life to every household in Loughton, but we urgently need some more deliverers for:



- Doubleday Road
- Kingsley Road
- Ibbetson Path
- Mornington Road, Paley Gardens

If you or someone you know can help in these areas, please email Martine at martine@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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.

227 High Road (previously The Last Post)

This application proposes a change of use from a pub to a shared space comprising retail, a café, meeting space, health and wellbeing services, and office accommodation



LRAPG has objected to this application.

The Last Post is locally listed and is a very good example of neo-geo architecture. LRAPG consider the proposed second floor addition, by reason of its height and detailed design, will significantly impact on the setting of The Last Post.

The use of green tiles is an inappropriate material that will distract from the main building. Instead, the extensions need to be finished in matching brickwork. The view from the High Road is clumsy with an unaligned lower corner poking out into the delivery area. Whereas the stone parapet is intended to align with the heritage front of the building, the fenestration of the rear portion clashes horribly with the front portion and is much more noticeable than the parapet. The clash results from the shape and size of the rear section windows, and the lower level of the rear section windows when compared with the front.

The present telephone exchange presents a bland background, which is set back far enough not to be noticed when passing by the Last Post, whereas the new block will stand out like a sore thumb.

The applicant has provided no details of what the proposed health and wellbeing services are or who will run them. There is no detail over what percentage of the floor will be cafe or meeting/community space. If genuine community space is being

provided, the amount and type of community space needs to be detailed and secured by condition to ensure it is actually provided. Nor is there any justification provided for the other health uses.

Overall the extensions relate poorly to The Last Post and are harmful to its setting. As such, the scheme needs a significant redesign or should be refused.

Reference [EPF/1693/24](#). The formal consultation period ended on 17 September but you can still comment to the Council.

Princess of Wales, Westall Road

The District Council bought the pub in recent years with the intention to redevelop the site for housing.

The Council has now issued a demolition notice. No planning application for housing has been made, however in a report to the Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee, work is in the design stage for 15 units to include 10 one-bedroom flats, 2 two-bedroom flats and 3 three-bedroom flats.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- York Hill - the road will be closed between the High Road/Church Hill to Staples Road from 1-2 October for carriageway patching works by the County Council. [More](#)
- Staples Road - the road will be closed from 3-5 October for carriageway patching works by the County Council. [More](#)
- Felsted Road - the road will be closed on 11 October for manhole cover replacement. [More](#)
- Cheltenham Gardens - the road will be closed on 11 October for manhole cover replacement. [More](#)
- Willingale Road - the road will be closed between The Broadway to Grosvenor Drive from 7-12 October between 7pm and 5am for machine patching of the road. [More](#)



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

Central Line Trains

In November last year, [we reported](#) that that the first refurbished trains from Transport for London's (TfL) Central Line Improvement Programme (CLIP) would start to enter service, with all trains to be refurbished by 2029.

Since then TfL have managed to have one refurbished train enter service. It's clear that the refurbishment work is more difficult than anticipated, with the problems with

motor failures earlier in the year exacerbating the situation. (CLIP will replace the existing DC motors with AC motors.)

TfL is [reported](#) to expect a second refurbished train to be in service within weeks and more trains coming into service in 2025.

New Road Repair Method

A new, greener road repair method is being rolled out across Essex after successful trials in Colchester and Tendring. Developed by Roadmender, the technique uses recycled lorry tyres to cut waste and CO2 emissions, without needing to dig up roads. It dries quickly, minimizing disruption, and has proven durable in trials. Two Essex Highways crews will begin using the method across the county, improving road conditions while benefiting the environment.

Police, Fire and Crime



Police Town Team Priorities

Sergeant Jamie Shepherd is a sergeant for the Epping Forest Town Team. The Town Team are responsible for policing the local towns in Epping Forest, covering the high streets in Epping, Loughton, Debden and Waltham Abbey.

Sgt Shepherd has said "We are here to tackle on going Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), be visible, tackle persistent offenders in the high streets and work with councils, business and other agencies in order to do this. I want people to feel safe in our towns. I have a team of 6 Police Constables and 1 PCSO, all of which have various skills and

attributes. Hopefully you have seen them out and about. Feel free to say hello when you see us."

He added "The school holidays are over (if you're like me it felt like a long time with my kids). That brings a change in issues and policing. In order to focus my team, I have set three key priorities over the next three months until the Christmas period. They fit in with our force plan. These priorities are not everything we do but a clear direction of travel.

They are:

- Tackle shoplifting and violence against shop workers.
- ASB in Debden and vehicle ASB at the Cottis Lane Car Park in Epping.
- Drugs use and supply in the high streets.

These priorities have come from community engagement surveys, local council meetings and data analysis on crime trends."

ASB on The Broadway

Epping Forest College is mindful that some students can cause Anti-Social Behaviour on The Broadway and the College has excluded students for this where appropriate. They work with the District Council and the police where students are

loitering in areas where they should not be or causing problems. They also have their own Anti-Social Behaviour officers that spend time on The Broadway.

The Police in August

In August the police in our district:

- helped to find 44 people who were reported missing and helped them to get the support they needed.
- responded to 18 mental-health related incidents and worked with local partners to help those concerned get the help and support they needed.
- investigated 104 reports of antisocial behaviour having listened to local communities about the things which were causing them concern.
- attended 45 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- investigated 213 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 70 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- submitted 326 pieces of intelligence which assists in targeting criminal activity in our community.
- stopped and searched 40 people within our district to make sure they weren't carrying anything which could cause harm to themselves or someone else.



Local Safer Streets Funding

£1.5m funding for community safety projects from across Essex has been announced by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex. The money has been granted to 19 community projects across Essex which all aim to help communities make streets and public spaces safe and secure.

In our district, £167,500 has been allocated for CCTV installation, lighting improvements, diversionary activities and community projects in the Oakwood Hill Estate which will be supported by match funding from local partners of £141,000.

Scam Warning: Unpaid Parking Fines

A convincing new scam text about an unpaid parking fine is circulating, and has been reported locally.

The text from a random number tells you: "an unpaid parking fine was found on your vehicle", and that you need to "pay immediately". The link then leads to what looks like a UK government website asking for your vehicle registration number and telling you to pay a £25 fine.

This is a scam.

If you receive an unexpected text message, don't be tempted to click on any links or follow instructions to log into any accounts. Links can contain malware that could infect your device and lead to scammers doing further damage.

You can report scam websites to the [National Cyber Security Centre](#) and texts can be forwarded to 7726. You can also report the scam to [Action Fraud](#). If you lose money to a scam, contact your bank immediately using the number on the back of your card.

Help the Police Help Young People?

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is the nationally recognised police uniformed youth group, and is about building positive relationships between young people, their communities, and police.

The police are now looking for local people volunteer as cadet leaders, which involves mentoring local teens to help them to grow into confident, well-rounded members of our community. You don't need to have a policing background to be a cadet leader. [More about police cadets](#) and [cadet leaders](#).

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 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



Loughton Horticultural Show

The event in September had exhibits including painted flowerpots, pebble art, autumnal 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.

A plant sale was run with hardy perennials and winter bedding from Matthews Plants. Teas and coffees were served with mouth-watering homemade delicious cakes along with a selection of cakes kindly donated by Cook Loughton. All donations on the day went to Loughton Voluntary Care.

Judging for the Town Mayor's Best Allotment (now in its 14th year) took place in July across the three Loughton allotment sites. Over 200 allotments were inspected with the final judging made by Ray How and Robin Warner from the National Allotment Society.

The prize presentation took place at the end of the Show. Winners of the 'Best in Show' went to GROW Community Garden for their entry in the Vegetable Class of 2 x Sweet Corn with husks.



Town Mayor LRA Cllr Katie Valentine presented the overall winners, the Gichev family from the Willingale Road allotments, the Best Allotment Cup engraved with their name, (with a replica cup to keep), a certificate and a £25 gift voucher. The Town Mayor's Overall Best Newcomer award was jointly won by Zdravka Gueorgiovska from Willingale Road allotments and Tony Maryan from Loughton Potato Ground, who received the best newcomer's shield and a certificate. Highly Commended winners were awarded certificates of which there were 10 across the three allotment sites.

The Town Council is extremely grateful to the judges and volunteers who gave their time and expertise in making the show a success. [More](#)

Loughton Day

Once again, the sun shone, and large numbers of residents and visitors attended Loughton Day which had numerous community group stalls, local organisations, and businesses.



There was something for everyone, with a great variety of community and charity stalls. The Scouts cooked up a tasty BBQ, Churches Together provided a scrumptious tea tent and both the pizza and caribbean food stalls proved very popular. Town Cllrs ran a second-hand book stall with all money going to the Town Mayor's chosen charity, Loughton Voluntary Care.

Loughton Wombles were out in force keeping the cricket field litter free, and Thames Water provided a drinking station to keep all visitors hydrated. Daniel Robinson provided a generous donation and sponsorship of the event, and the Loughton Cricket Club hosted. The Town Council are grateful to them all.

The whole concept and ethos of the event was successfully achieved; to bring the Loughton community together and for local groups to advertise exactly 'what they do' and promote interest and increase memberships for their respective organisations they represent and work so hard for to make Loughton a better and more inclusive place to live. [More](#)

Image: Town Council

Fined for Cutting Down Trees

The District Council has successfully prosecuted those involved in felling 132 trees which were subject of a woodland Tree Preservation Order at the Debden Hall Estate in 2021. Felling of them is an offence under Section 210 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The landowner was ordered to pay £300,000 and has paid the District Council's legal costs, plus he has given an undertaking to planting 101 new trees. The two arborists who carried out the felling were ordered to pay £20,000 each, plus costs.

Think Loughton - Latest Edition



[The latest edition from the Town Council is online,](#)
in case you missed it arriving in your letterbox.

Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments

Pensioners are being urged to check if they are eligible for pension credit to become eligible for the winter fuel payment. The Pension Credit is worth, on average, £3,900 per year for those who are over the state pension age (66+ years) and on a low income.

Receiving the Pension Credit also unlocks additional support including:

- Help with rent and Council Tax
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments
- Free TV licence for those over 75 years.

[More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Covid and Flu Vaccinations

The NHS is providing free Covid and Flu vaccinations again this year, to eligible groups.

Eligible people will begin receiving invitations from the NHS to get their jabs, while GP practices and other local NHS services will also be contacting people to offer both vaccines. The flu vaccine can also be booked by searching online for a local pharmacy.

Eligible groups include those aged 65 years and over. [More](#)

For the first time, the NHS is also offering vaccines for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common cause of coughs and colds which can be dangerous to older people and young children. The jab, introduced earlier this month, is available to those aged 75 to 79, and is being offered to pregnant women from 28 weeks, to protect their child.

Local News

Roding Valley Meadows

The nature reserve is the largest remaining species-rich water meadow in Essex with its famous display of wildflowers and wonderful mosaic of habitats. [Read more in Wild Magazine](#) (p30-33) from the Essex Wildlife Trust.

The reserve is next to the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.



Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Have Your Say

The draft Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy is open for public consultation. Review the strategy and share your feedback to help protect and enhance our county's diverse landscape, wildlife and habitats.

[More. Have your say here.](#) The consultation runs until 25 October.

Epping Forest

Habitat Restoration - A Further Grant

A grant totalling £2.35m from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs through their Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) has been awarded for habitat restoration across a 10 year period at sites throughout the Forest. This grant is on top of another grant of £2.02m which was secured in 2020. Together, these grants cover habitat restoration over a 10 year period at sites throughout the Forest. The latest grant will:

- Manage and restore 139 hectares of wood pasture
- Conserve 481 veteran trees
- Manage 60 hectares of grassland
- Care for two scheduled monuments - Ambresbury Banks and sections of the Purlieu Bank
- Manage 12 hectares of heathland
- Support the Forest's conservation grazing programme
- Provide funding to allow the Field Studies Council to run more engagement sessions to inform young people about our conservation work with grazing.

[More on the habitat restoration plans.](#)

Reviving the Mosaic

Epping Forest is one of only a few remaining large-scale examples of ancient wood pasture in Britain. It is a living testament to the complex relationship between nature and people. For millennia human hands shaped its landscape into a thriving mosaic of habitats. As traditional practices faded so too did the Forest's ecological tapestry. Facing the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change the Forest still depends on and reflects its human populations. Can active restoration revive the Forest's past and secure its future?



[Read more](#) from Tanith Cook, Head of Conservation for the Forest on how the Forest has changed through the millennia and the approach now taken for Habitat Restoration in [Forest Focus](#) (scroll down to 'Reviving the mosaic').

Skylark Send-Off

The end of the skylark breeding season was marked in September with the removal of the temporary fencing in sections of Wanstead Flats (part of the Forest), where skylarks are known to make their nests between February and September. Skylarks are some of the UK's rarest and most fascinating birds, and Wanstead Flats is now their closest remaining nesting site to central London. [More](#) and [a video of the day](#).



Bat Walk and Talk

Join bat experts to learn more about the fascinating bats that can be found in the Forest, then head out with bat detectors around the grounds of Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, Barn Hoppitt and Warren Pond at dusk to look for autumnal bat activity (weather dependent!). Booking required. Events are on [18 October](#) and [29 October](#).

Be Deer Aware

As the nights draw in and September comes to a close, please be aware that the deer rut is about to begin. There will be increased numbers of deer moving about the Forest and crossing the roads that pass through the Forest, particularly at dusk and dawn.

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



Discounted Compost Bins are Back

The County Council have increased the subsidy offered on compost bins for the month of September. You can now get 220 litre bins from £10 and 330 litre bins from £20. If you purchase two of the same size compost bins you can get a further 50% off the price of the second bin. [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 18 October.

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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