



# LRA's Loughton News

28 June 2024

In this issue we report police activity with [vehicle checks locally](#), [arrests for vehicle thefts](#) and a warning to be [vigilant around local ATMs](#).

[Loughton's Beacon](#) was lit to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, and the Town Council's [Think Loughton](#) is out.

Some [roads off Church Hill will be closed](#) for between 2-3 weeks for gas main replacement, so be aware of disruption in that area, and [Roding Road will continue to be closed](#) overnight until 11 July where the bridge for the Central Line crosses the road.

With the [General Election](#) on Thursday 4 July, remember unless you bring photo ID to the polling station, you will not be able to vote.

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

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## Clearing Ryegrass Path



After feedback from residents about overgrown weeds on Ryegrass Path (off Alderton Way) that had almost covered the full width of the footpath in places, LRA Cllr Ian Allgood leapt into action and cleared away the weeds with his trusty strimmer.

Nearby neighbours helped with use of their green bins to take care of the green waste.

### **Have You Renewed Your Membership?**

A few of our membership have not paid their subscriptions for 2024.

For details on how to renew, or to check that you have paid for this year, please email [membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

It is still only £5. We rely on your subscriptions and donations to fund our newsletters and run campaigns.

## ***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.

### **Davenant Foundation School, Chester Road**

There is an application to erect another pair of temporary classrooms in place whilst the replacement 6th form block is rebuilt. The toilet block already approved has not been installed. The school therefore wish to allow the toilet block to be replaced with another classroom block to provide four classrooms instead of the approved two.

LRAPG has sought assurances the school will keep to the original two years for all the temporary classrooms and will remove them and restore this green belt land as per the consent.

Reference [EPF/1048/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 13 June but you can still comment to the Council.

## **Debden House, Debden Green**

The London Borough of Newham applied in April for a premises license for Debden House to allow them to have the premises open every day from 9am to 1am, and to provide the following activities:

- the sale of alcohol on and off the premises from 11am to midnight
- the sale of late night refreshment from 11pm and 1am
- the provision of live and recorded music outside from 10am – 11pm
- recorded and live music inside from 10am – 1am
- the provision of film until midnight.

At a licensing hearing held in June the following decisions were made. There would be no change to the opening hours of the premises but there were changes to the hours of the various provisions.

The license was granted as follows:

- Playing of film 10am to 11pm Monday to Sunday
- Live music outside 10am to 10pm Thursday – Saturday; 12pm – 9pm Sunday
- Live music inside 10am – midnight Thursday – Saturday; 12pm – 9pm Sunday
- Recorded music outside 10am – 10pm Thursday – Saturday
- Recorded music outside 12pm - 9pm Sunday
- Recorded music inside 10am – midnight Monday to Saturday and 12pm – 9pm on Sunday
- Alcohol sales on and off the premises from 11am – 11pm Monday to Saturday and from 12pm – 11pm Sunday.

As a condition of the license the applicant must liaise with the council's environmental team regarding noise limiting.

The provision of late night refreshment was not granted. These provisions relate to Debden House and the café but not the campsite.

The applicant and objectors have 21 days to appeal this decision. Reference [WK/202420500](#)

## **Ancillary use of Existing Outbuildings as Residential Annexes.**

LRAPG are seeing more and more applications for separate self-contained units in the gardens of houses which are claimed to be ancillary. However it has also been noticed recent applications have been granted to certify the accommodation is no longer ancillary by reason of the 4 year rule (now 10 years). It is impossible for the District Council to monitor whether they are being used ancillary or let out to someone else. LRAPG has therefore asked for a legal agreement on these types of applications to ensure the accommodation remains ancillary, for which a planning condition is too easy to overcome.

## ***Roads, Parking and Travel***

### **Planned Road Closures**

- Roding Road - the road will be closed until 11 July each day between 10pm and 5am at the point where the bridge for the Central Line crosses the road, while bridge works are undertaken by Transport for London. [More](#)

- Englands Lane/Debden Road - the road will be closed north of Pyrles Lane between 1-5 July for reconstruction of the footpath by the County Council. [More](#)



### **Gas Mains Replacement - July-August**

Some roads will be closed for gas mains replacement by Cadent, so expect local disruption.

- Church Lane - closed 8-19 July. [More](#)
- Pump Hill - closed 27 July to 15 August. [More](#)
- The Uplands - closed 27 July to 16 August. [More](#)
- Majorams Avenue - closed 27 July to 15 August. [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 the Buses**

There are some changes, effective 28 July:

- Bus Route 542/542A - will be renumbered as 17/17A.
- Bus Route 418 - will be renumbered as 18.
- Bus Route 804 - will be withdrawn.

### **Road Repairs**

In March in our district, the County Council repaired 132 potholes and 38 pavements, cleared no drains and fixed 108 streetlights.

## ***Police, Fire and Crime***

### **The Police in April**

In May the police in our district:

- helped to find 53 people who were reported missing and helped them to get the support they needed.
- responded to 13 mental-health related incidents and worked with local partners to help those concerned get the help and support they needed.
- investigated 74 reports of antisocial behaviour having listened to local communities about the things which were causing them concern.
- attended 69 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- investigated 186 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 105 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- submitted 376 pieces of intelligence which assists them in targeting criminal activity in our community.



### **Vehicle Checks**

Police officers from the Epping Forest Town Team recently undertook traffic checks locally, following concerns raised from the public in relation to speeding and anti-social driving.

These checks were for safety issues, such as children not being belted in properly, and also to take drivers off the road who shouldn't be driving, such as those driving without a licence, using unsafe vehicles, or uninsured vehicles. The police were also looking for criminals who travel to commit crime. These stops help gather intelligence and make arrests where appropriate.

Over 100 cars were stopped, with numerous drivers reported for traffic offences and uninsured vehicles seized. Crime prevention advice was also given to drivers to help try and prevent vehicle theft.

### **Vehicle Thefts - Six Arrested**

Thanks to the work of Loughton Local Policing Team, six people were arrested in connection with stolen vehicles and 25 cars recovered. The arrests took place between 12 and 30 May across the district.

The arrests were:

- a 16-year-old boy in Loughton on suspicion of theft of two cars and driving without a licence
- two teenage boys on suspicion of theft of vehicles
- three men arrested on suspicion of vehicle theft - two men in Brentwood and one man in Ongar.

[More](#)

### **Be Vigilant at ATMs**

There have been reports of ATMs on the High Road being tampered with by fraudsters.

Fraudsters sometimes fit devices to cash machines that trap your card in the ATM, which they then retrieve as soon as you've left the area. If they have also seen you entering your PIN, they can then make withdrawals from your account.

If your card has been trapped in the ATM, contact your bank immediately.

The police advise to look out for devices attached to the machine – some are more obvious than others. Cover your PIN and keep an eye on your card at all times. If someone taps you on the shoulder or tries to speak to you, just ignore them.

If you do see something suspicious contact the police and the bank. If it doesn't look or feel right then don't insert your card.



### More from the Police

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

### General Election on Thursday 4 July

When voting, you will need to show one form of photo ID such as a passport, driving licence, or ENCTS bus pass (headed by the County Council). The passport need not be current.

***Unless you bring photo ID to the polling station, you will not be able to vote.***

[More](#)

### Lighting of Loughton's Beacon

On 6 June, the Town Council was honoured to host the lighting of the Beacon at Hillyfields to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Over 1,500 beacons were lit across the length and breadth of the country and overseas. Town Mayor LRA Cllr Katie Valentine welcomed everyone to the ceremony which included a tribute, read by the 41st Epping Forest Cubs, and prayers were delivered by Reverend Chris Davies representing Churches Together in Loughton. Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mr Amrik Sandhu, one of the King's official representatives for the country led the countdown and lighting of the flame. A large crowd of Loughton residents attended and supported this historic, commemorative event. [More](#), including more photos.



Image: Town Council

### Fun on Jessel Green

Once again, the sun shone and the crowds arrived and filled Jessel Green on 23 June for the annual, not-for-profit community family fun day organised by the Town





Council.

Inflatables, fun fair rides, food, community, and charity stalls lined the perimeter of the Green. Families enjoyed the soft play area for the under 5's, a fabulous dance performance from Straight Up Dance UK and the ever-popular Mr Happy. A

wonderful display of kites flew above the event, together with a kite making workshop, all provided by the Essex Kite Flying Association.

There was a great variety of community and charity stalls, and the Town Cllrs manned a tombola stall with all money going to the Town Mayor's chosen charity, Haven House Children's Hospice.

Loughton Town Council would like to thank the Red Balloon Family Foundation, Epping Forest and Restore Community Churches for all their assistance. John Walsh and his team at the Cottage Loaf pub, for their generous sponsorship, and providing the live music from 4pm into the evening that rounded off the day perfectly.

[More](#), including more photos.

### **Health and Wellbeing in the Oakwood Hill Area**

The District Council has received Public Health Accelerator Funding to support tackling health inequalities in the Oakwood Hill area. This funding will enable the recruitment of a Community Engagement Officer specifically for the area who will be responsible for coordination and development of a wide range of partnership projects to improve health and wellbeing of residents.

### **Roding Road Memorial Garden**

In mid-March, a major incident involving a stolen vehicle resulted in extensive damage to the garden with a section of railings damaged, paving stones broken and the wooden bench destroyed.

Repair work has now been completed. The memorial bench was not insured however the Town Council received an offer from a former Town Cllr to pay for a replacement bench which will also include the commemorative plaque retrieved from the previous bench.

### **Memorial Benches**

A memorial bench for Alan Wintle, former long-time volunteer litter picker, has been installed at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

A bench at the Recreation Ground for the Lee family will be installed shortly.

### **Roding Valley Recreation Ground**

Notice boards at the Recreation Ground have had signs added referring the District Council's Public Spaces Protection Order for [Dog Control](#) (PDF).

### **Think Loughton - Latest Edition**

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



### **Epping Housing Development**

Although outside of Loughton, members may have an interest in the District Council's plan to develop an area between the south of Epping and the M25 into a housing development of over 450 homes.

There is a consultation underway until 25 July. [More](#) and how to have your say (scroll to the bottom of the page).

### **Caring for Dementia**

Loughton and Epping Town Councils, Buckhurst Hill Parish Council, and the District Council (EFDC) have secured funding from the County Council to create the Dementia Friendly Community Carers project.

The project will run until April 2025, with weekly groups being held in various locations throughout the district. These groups will provide carers with valuable information, advice, and time away from their caregiving responsibilities in a safe, friendly and supportive environment.

The first 4 week programme will be held each Wednesday in Buckhurst Hill starting from 24 July. Contact Laura for more information and to reserve your place by email at [lcleverley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:lcleverley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) or call 07548 145652. [More](#)



### **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)

## **Health and Wellbeing**

### **Community Group Funding**

Six community groups and projects have benefited from Qualis' Community Benefit Fund.

This includes a £500 paid to Forest Creative Writers Group to support the group in covering its overhead costs and the production of an annual anthology of select works, and £4,300 paid to Restore Community to enable them to install secure



storage space within Oakwood Community Centre. [More](#), including other beneficiaries.

### **Taking Care in the Hot Weather**

With the recent hot weather, and possible heatwaves during summer, take care and look out for vulnerable family, friends and neighbours. Be aware of how to keep cool and hydrated.

[More advice here](#), including about [people at higher risk](#), [signs of health exhaustion](#), [how to cool down](#) and [be prepared](#).

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.

Also 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 [be careful in the Forest](#).

## **Local News**

### **Heart Defibrillators**

The charity [London Hearts](#) has a mission is to make sure everyone is never more than 200 meters from a defibrillator at any time. They realise that it is not always possible to locate a Defibrillator externally due to logistics and specific requirements, so are currently running a special scheme to assist businesses, sports clubs, individuals etc. to obtain an internal/portable dual functioning defibrillator for around £660.

The aim of this scheme is to generally increase the numbers of life-saving defibrillators in order to improve survival rates from out of hospital cardiac arrests. [More](#)

[More on defibrillators](#) and [find the nearest one here](#)

## **Epping Forest**



### **Air Quality Monitors**

If you come across a device like this in the Forest, you may be interested to know that 11 of these are in place, thanks to Natural England funding, to monitor air quality throughout the ancient woodland.

Image: Epping Forest

### **Stop Fires in the Forest**

Do not use barbecues or start fires anywhere in the Forest at any time, and do not drop litter in the ancient woodland.

Discarded litter and glass bottles can also cause fires. Just the tiniest spark from a barbecue or fire can cause a wildfire. Fires can actually spread underground with heat transferring via roots and beneath the surface.

And please do not smoke in the forest - a discarded cigarette butt can cause a fire.

If you see smoke or fire out of control call 999. If you see people using a barbecue or have any concerns about fire in the Forest call 020 8532 1010, but please always call 999 if an emergency response is required.

### **New Superintendent for the Forest**

The new Superintendent for the Forest is Jacqueline Eggleston, who has worked for the Forest for a number of years in the role of Visitor Services Manager and is well known by both Epping Forest partners and visitors alike.

The Superintendent is responsible for the delivery of the charity's strategy and vision, management of a team of 100 staff and hundreds of local volunteers. They are also responsible for managing a budget of £31m over the next five years, in addition to capital projects of £6.5m and asset maintenance of £10.6m. [More](#)

### **Neospora Alert**

There is a nasty disease that cattle can catch from eating grass contaminated with dog poo. Neospora can cause cows to abort and sadly, a number of our cows have contracted this disease which has no cure, resulting in a number of the girls losing their unborn calves in recent years.

Please pick up after your dog in Epping Forest. Not only is it a legal requirement to clear up after your dog in public open spaces and as well as being horrid for others to step in.

### **Garden Waste**

If you are lucky enough to live in a property that borders the beautiful ancient woodland of the Forest, please be sure that none of your garden waste or any other form of rubbish from your property is found dumped in the Forest.

As well as it being illegal to fly tip in the Forest, it is also in contravention of the Epping Forest byelaws to release non-native species, including plants into the Forest. Seeds and bulbs of non-native horticultural species escape from dumping sites and can colonise the Forest, potentially causing the spread of invasive species such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and Spanish bluebell. These invasive species disrupt and damage the Forest's delicate ecosystems.

### **Your Photo in the Epping Forest Calendar?**

Would you like to see one of your photos in the Epping Forest 2025 calendar?

You can submit four of your best, high resolution images to Don Taylor at [taylordong365@gmail.com](mailto:taylordong365@gmail.com) by Monday 1 July. Please title your image with your name and the location.

The judges will be looking for photos that reflect Epping Forest across the year and

can include themes along the lines of weather, wildlife, landscapes, habitats or whatever the Forest means to you. The judges' decision is final.

### Forest Focus - June 2024

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



## And More



### The Waste Hierarchy

Some ways of dealing with waste are better for the environment than others. The Waste Hierarchy outlines how we can manage our waste to reduce its impact on the environment and save resources.

Methods of waste management are ranked from the best option to the worst, based on their environmental impact. [Watch the video](#).

### Where's My Parcel?

If the parcel wasn't delivered to the location you agreed, it's the seller's legal responsibility to sort out the issue. Citizen's Advice has [this advice if something you ordered hasn't arrived](#)

*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 26 July*

**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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