



# LRA's Loughton News

5 May 2023

In this issue we report on how [planning applications are being approved](#) now that the new Local Plan has been adopted, even though a pollution-prevention strategy remains just a promise without apparent progress by the District Council.

With the bunting for [the Coronation](#) now up in the High Road and The Broadway, the Town Mayor will take an official tour of the town. Also the May Bank Holidays may affect your bin collection dates, so it's wise to [check for any changes](#).

Read also about [tree planting at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground](#), and the latest news from the [Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve](#).

In the Forest, read [what can happen with animals and litter](#), [take care around the bluebells](#) and reflect on [the ancient heritage of the Green Man](#).

The local elections in Epping Forest (none this year in Loughton) for District Council seats resulted in little overall change. The Liberal Democrats picked up the two Conservative seats of Lower Sheering and Epping Lindsey (after Conservative leader Chris Whitbread did a "midnight flit" from Epping Lindsey to safer Roydon). An Independent, Lisa Morgan, was elected in Grange Hill, we understand with the support of the Chigwell Residents' Association. We look forward to possible working with Residents Associations similar to LRA.

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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## LRA News

### More housing allowed at appeal without any sign of the District Council's Pollution Prevention Strategy being implemented

A Planning Inspector has recently approved an application to demolish a house in Algers Road and replace it with an oversized building containing 6 flats. LRA Plans Group had objected to the application because of the impact that pollution from the

extra vehicle traffic would have on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the pressure for parking spaces on Algiers Road. The District Council did turn down the application because of the impact on the SAC; an earlier appeal had dismissed the overdevelopment of the site and poor living accommodation arguments. However, since the refusal of consent, the Council has adopted a new Local Plan which refers to a pollution-prevention strategy (the "IAPMS", which purports to provide for ways of preventing increases in traffic from worsening pollution in the Forest).

LRA is concerned appeals such as this are being allowed when the Council has not yet brought any of the proposed measures into effect (in fact, they don't even seem to have started the process of doing so). This means that any increase in building near to the Forest, such as the Algiers Road flats, is bound to increase pollution in the Forest, during the time the flats are being built, and when they are occupied, until some future unknown date when the Council finally brings pollution-prevention measures into force.

LRA Cllrs have argued consistently that the Council should carry out the mitigation measures before any more new housing is built. Although this was not upheld during the adoption of the Local Plan, the Council should at least have an implementation plan showing how and when the measures will be put in place. It is very disappointing that the Planning Inspector and Natural England have fallen for the promise of a pollution-prevention strategy without any guarantees it is going to happen.

We also note the reluctance of the District Council to go along with the expanded [Ultra Low Emission Zone](#) (ULEZ) scheme covering all London boroughs proposed by London Mayor Sadiq Khan, and also their own tardiness to do anything about reducing the air pollution that is poisoning the Forest. It is somewhat ironic that [a scheme similar to the ULEZ has been proposed](#) in Council's pollution-prevention strategy.

### **Report Those Potholes and Road Defects**

In our last news email, [we reported](#) on the number of potholes and defects around town. As a reminder, if you see a road defect or pothole, [check if has been reported and, if not, report it.](#)

*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.

### **Garages at Pyrles Lane - Do You Have a View?**

This application proposes demolition of the existing garages and the addition of three new one bedroom/two person bungalows, designed to achieve [Passivhaus energy efficient standards](#), with four new parking spaces, standalone bin stores to

the front of the property and private cycle stores to rears of each house.

LRAPG are considering this application which has been submitted by the District Council. Whilst the existing garages are not currently used, parking is an issue along this part of Pyrles Lane. LRAPG are interested to know whether residents along Pyrles Lane have asked about using the garages in recent years or whether residents in the area consider the garages would be better redeveloped for secured parking meeting modern space standards. If you live in the area and have a view [please email us](#).

Reference [EPF/0669/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 17 May.

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

### **Planned Road Closures**

- Pyrles Lane - the road will be closed from 24 to 29 May between 10am and 3pm for joint sealing of the road by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Some roads will also be closed around town on Sunday 7 May for Coronation Big Lunch neighbourhood street parties.

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!

### **Travelling over the Coronation Weekend**

Public transport services are likely to be very busy due to people travelling to view the coronation procession and other related events over the weekend. Check the [TfL](#) and [National Rail](#) websites to plan ahead so you can get to your destination.

### **Elizabeth Line Full Through-Running on 21 May**

Transport for London will introduce full through-running of the Elizabeth line on Sunday 21 May, allowing direct journeys between Shenfield in the east and Heathrow and Reading in the west, along with more frequent trains.

That means you'll soon be able to catch the Elizabeth Line at Stratford and go to Heathrow without having to change at Paddington. [More](#)

### **TfL to scrap Day Travelcards?**

Transport for London is consulting on whether to withdraw Day Travelcards. Daily pay as you go caps would not be affected, nor would weekly and longer-term Travelcards. [More and how to comment](#).

### **Roadworks in February**

In Epping Forest District, County Highways made 123 repairs to roads, fixed 153 pavement defects, fixed 115 streetlights and didn't clear any drains.

### **Batteries and Fires**

Fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London. The London Fire Brigade has seen a 60% increase in e-bike and e-scooter fires in 2023 so far compared to 2022. If you own an e-bike or e-scooter [learn more](#) about what you can do to protect yourself and others.

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



### **Coffee with Cops**

The police will be holding a Coffee With Cops at St Mary's Church on the High Road on 25 May from 10:30am to 12.00pm. Come and talk to them if you have any community concerns you would like to discuss. [More](#)

### **Secure Your Phone**

Getting hacked is no fun – it can lead to identity theft, general loss of privacy, and compromised bank accounts. You might not always notice that your phone has been hacked in the first place. Here are some tips from the police to protect your phone:

- Get a quality antivirus app. An antivirus with real-time protection will monitor the security of your phone at all times and will inform you about any potential threats.
- Use a VPN when connected to public Wifi networks, such as airports or cafes. Many hackers use unprotected Wifi networks to execute man-in-the-middle attacks and hack into people's devices. A reliable VPN will encrypt your traffic and prevent any hackers from tinkering with it.
- Avoid downloading suspicious apps. Third-party apps from random websites and not the official stores are often malware disguised as legitimate applications. Never download apps from ads and untrustworthy sites.
- Do not click on ads on torrenting and similar sites. These ads could contain links to malicious websites, or trigger downloading of malicious files onto your device.

- Keep your phone updated. The OS updates always include critical security patches to keep your phone secure. If you miss these updates, the risk of your device becoming vulnerable to attacks increases.

### 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



### Bunting in Loughton

Bunting has gone up to enhance The Broadway and High Road for the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend. This will be removed towards the end of May.

The Town Mayor will take an official tour of the town and photographs will be taken of the best dressed businesses, houses, properties and streets. [More](#) (PDF)

Some roads will also be closed around town on Sunday 7 May for Coronation Big Lunch neighbourhood street parties. [More about the Coronation weekend](#).

### Bank Holiday - Council Services

- There may be changes to your bin collection days. [Check your collection dates here](#).
- Recycling centres will be closed between 9am-2pm on Saturday 6 May. The sites will reopen from 2pm-5pm. Any existing bookings between 9am-2pm on this date will be honoured if residents would like to visit after 2pm on the same date. Sites will be operating as usual on the Bank Holiday Monday.
- All libraries across Essex will be open on Saturday 6 May but closed on Monday 8 May.



[More](#) from the County Council.



### Loughton Wombles

Loughton Wombles carried out their ninth group litter pick on 25 March with two teams out. The first group of eight wombles met in Borders Lane and got to work picking litter. They came across a fly tipped vacuum hoover and a child's car seat, and in the undergrowth a 'Morrisons' carrier bag – the design was many years old. The second group met at Felstead Road playground and litter picked while walking down Green Walk and had a very busy

morning. [More](#) (PDF)

Image: Town Council

### **Heritage Blue Plaque Walk**

A Heritage Blue Plaque walk through Loughton led by LRA Cllr Chris Pond will take place Saturday 27 May from 11am in aid of Love Your Library Day. In partnership with the Town Council. [More](#)



### **The Town Mayor's Treasure Hunt**

On Sunday 23 April, residents were invited to take part in a Treasure Hunt which took place from The Lopping Hall and took in places of interest in the High Road.

The winning teams, led by Lynn Marsh and Liz Adams both completed the hunt in 48 minutes, answered all questions correctly and received a prize from the Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society of two tickets to one of their future productions along with books on walks around Loughton and Epping Forest.

Monies raised from the entrance fee were given to the Town Mayor's chosen charity, Lopping Hall, to go towards the installation of an air conditioning unit which will benefit all users of the building. [More](#)

### **A New High Road Food Market?**

The Town Council has been approached from a market provider to potentially set up a weekly food market in the High Road. The Council is entering discussions, which are at a very early stage.

### **Where Does your Food Waste Go?**

In Essex, food waste collected from your food waste recycling caddy is taken to an Anaerobic Digestion plant. Then it is processed to generate energy that is put back into the National Grid to power homes and businesses.

Using your food waste caddy keeps the cost and environmental impact of managing waste low, as food waste recycling is cheaper than general rubbish disposal. Keeping food waste separate can also help reduce smells in your kitchen and prevent pests foraging around your general rubbish.

### **Epping Forest Dementia Fair**

The Epping Forest Dementia Fair returns to Epping for its second year. The fair will provide lots of information, activities, and advice for people in the district affected by dementia and will be on 13 May from 10am to 2pm at St. John's Church in Epping. [More](#)

### **Where and How Do Local Councils Spend Your Council Tax?**

Across Essex, Local Authorities spend £3.9bn on suppliers, of which £949m (24%) goes to Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The County Council's spend £1.2bn on suppliers, of which £468m (39%) goes to SMEs.

An SME is an organisation with less than 250 employees and turnover of less than £50m or a balance sheet total of less than £43m. 9.7% of Essex businesses are SMEs and there are only 190 non-SME's in Essex. Nationally SMEs accounted for 61% of employment and 51% of turnover.

[More](#) (PDF) on what the County Council is doing on this, how it's allowing for climate change and how it hopes to work with other Essex councils on procurement.

### **The County Council's Residents' Panel**

The Panel is an opportunity for you to have your voice heard at a senior level within the County Council. You can tell them your views about the services and issues that matter to you, and they will listen to your feedback and look for ways to improve.

[More](#)

## **Local News**

### **Roding Valley Recreation Ground Tree Planting**

Fifty whips, including grey willows and a variety of species, have been planted on the Mound area between the end of Roding Road and the playground. The whips will grow into trees which will enhance the area and benefit local wildlife.

The whips were supplied by local resident Gareth Williams and his employer CGI.



They were planted by Gareth with LRA Cllrs Neil Mackinnon, David Wixley and Mick Stubbings (pictured).



### **Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve**

The largest remaining species-rich water meadow in Essex, Roding Valley Meadows is a mosaic of herb-rich meadows, hedgerows, marsh, ponds, scrub and woodland, and is famous for its array of wild flowers.

The Reserve is located next to the Roding Valley Recreation Ground ([map](#)).

Some recent news about the Reserve includes:

- A Felling Licence was obtained to remove poplars and thus restore an area to meadow.

- The District Council installed CCTV which has been successful in combating fly-tipping.
- "Pasture Pumps" have been installed near the river. These are activated by the cattle (Red Polls) themselves when drinking from their troughs thus providing for the troughs to be refilled as they are drinking.
- £7,000 was spent on removing Oak Processionary Moth nests last year but now it is intended to remove only those where members of the public are most at risk of coming into contact with them.
- Overflows from a sewer pipe manhole cover have been investigated by Thames Water. A camera put into the pipe revealed tree root penetration. The pipe was dug out and replaced with a resin-lined pipe and other work done. There are plans for the rest of the system to be investigated with cameras to check for blockages.
- Andrew's Pond – the bridge is replaced and a path reinstated. A rotten bench will have its legs replaced and some deadwood will be removed.
- Paths, originally created by former Forest Ranger Paul Cook, are being looked into being restored to their original condition.

[More on Roding Valley Meadows](#)

### **Last Post Pub, High Road**

As we reported last year, Wetherspoons put the pub up for sale (PDF) and the lease runs out in July. We now hear that a possible sale has fallen through.



### **RideLondon-Essex**

RideLondon is a bicycle event which returns to Essex and London 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).

### **Volunteer at our Libraries**

Our Libraries are seeking volunteers to support this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which runs from 15 July to 2 September. The Summer Reading Challenge is a national programme that runs during the school summer holidays where children of all ages are encouraged to read six library books. All children taking part receive a certificate and a medal when they complete the challenge.

You need to be 14 years or over to participate volunteer with a minimum commitment of 18 hours, and returning volunteers are welcome. You will be working with children



and their parents or carers, encouraging them to join the challenge and talking to them about the books they have been reading. Applications close on 30 June. [More](#)

## Health and Wellbeing

### Covid Vaccine

Get your Covid spring booster jab at the Town Council's offices every Saturday, from 9.30am – 3.30pm (closed on 6 May). 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](#)

### Adult Mental Health

Do you have lived experience of mental health providers or services in Essex? Are you willing to share your experiences to make a difference within the services provided across Essex? Healthwatch Essex are currently looking for people who have both lived experience and a passion for mental health to become Adult Mental Health Ambassadors. [More](#)

### Petition to Save the Margaret Centre

The Margaret Centre is a specialist inpatient unit which provides end of life and palliative care. While similar to a hospice it is run by the NHS and is part of Whipps Cross Hospital. When the new hospital is built, the Margaret Centre will be demolished, and the land sold for housing. Options for end of life care in the Whipps Cross catchment area are being reviewed and the options will be put the public in a public consultation in the Autumn.

[Action4Whipps](#) is campaigning for the options to include the Margaret Centre on the new Whipps Cross Hospital site and has a petition that you can sign. [More](#)

### Worried about Elderly Relatives Falling?

The NHS has [this guide to preventing falls and staying well](#), and avoiding some of the most common causes of falls in and around the house.

Volunteer Action Epping Forest's (chargeable) handyman service for homeowners can fit grab rails and supply disability aids. – Call 01992 910701 or 07529 222862. Council tenants should contact Qualis by calling 0333 2300464.

# Epping Forest



## Forest Focus - April 2023

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

## Aerial Views Exhibition

Aerial Views runs from 11 May to 28 September on Tuesday to Sundays at the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford. Find out about 'balloonomania' and how Epping Forest featured in the 1802 craze. [More](#)

## The True Danger of Litter

An injured swan was spotted at Hollow Pond that was highly distressed, bleeding heavily and trying to shake something out of its bill.

The Forest Keepers, volunteers from the Swan Sanctuary and a crew from the London Fire Brigade were soon on site to help the distressed bird. The swan was eventually caught and half a beer can was removed from its bill before it was taken to a vet for a check up and any necessary treatment. The swan will be released back to Hollow Pond as soon as possible.



Leaving litter poses a real threat to the Forest's wildlife and creates an increased risk of wildfires. Most visitors remove any litter and many volunteers help the Forest's team of litter pickers keep the Forest free of rubbish.



## Please Don't Trample the Bluebells

The Conservators of Epping Forest have observed the increasing popularity of posting pictures of the bluebells on social media, which has led to more visitors picking and walking on the wildflowers.

When the plants are trampled on, it can take them four to seven years to re-establish and grow again, so please don't pick or trample on the bluebells in the Forest.

## Spirit of the Forest

Many of the Forest's ancient and gnarly trees seemingly have a face formed from the contortions of holes and fissures of their trunks. When spring brings the leaves into life, there are even more possibilities of seeing fanciful faces amongst the greenery, reminiscent of the Green Man in tales of old.



The Green Man, so common on pub signs, village fairs, monuments and buildings as

well as garden centre ornaments, is an ancient symbol linked to pre-Christian Europe, although known in some form throughout many of the world's cultures. He is usually shown as a face crowned and encircled by leaves and shoots or with greenery spewing from his mouth and is indelibly linked with forests, woods and nature. He is commonly held to be a guardian of trees and nature spirit representing fertility and the cycle of growth each spring.

So when wandering the ancient woodlands of Epping Forest this spring, take a moment to reflect on this ancient heritage and keep an eye out for the Green Man's leafy face.

## ***And More***

### **Kids Go Free at the Theatre**

Every year, for the whole of August, a child aged 17 or under can go to any participating show for free where tickets are available as long as they're accompanied by a full paying adult. Adults can also buy up to two extra children's tickets at half price and there are no booking fees.

Tickets go on sale at 10am on 13 June. [More](#)

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*Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 26 May although that date could change.*

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

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