



LRA's Loughton News

7 June 2024

In this issue we report on our new town [Mayor and Deputy Mayor](#) who have been elected by the Town Council.

There is an update on [the demolition of Loughton Library](#), and the new District Council-managed [Waste and Recycling Collections service](#) starting in November.

There are a series of [overnight closures of Roding Road](#) where the bridge for the Central Line crosses the road, and some [car park charges have changed](#) at District Council off-street car parks.

Also read about [cycling in the Forest](#), and [a new App that can help you find and navigate walks](#).

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.

News Sections

[LRA News](#)

[Planning and Licensing](#)

[Roads, Parking and Travel](#)

[Police, Fire and Crime](#)

[Council News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Epping Forest](#)

Your LRA



[LRA Website](#)



[LRA on Twitter](#)



[LRA on Facebook](#)

Contact LRA by email at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

[Links not working? Read the online version](#)

New Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor



We are delighted that LRA Cllr Katie Valentine has become the Town Mayor for 2024-25, and LRA Cllr Les House her deputy.

Outgoing Mayor LRA Cllr Mick Stubbings has said that his year had been a very enjoyable rollercoaster and he would highly recommend the position. He was now looking forward to relaxing and thanked the Town Clerk and his team for all their work behind the scenes.

Image: Town Council

LRA at the District Council

Following the May local election, a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the District Council have been elected by Cllrs, with LRA Cllr Louise Mead elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council. In addition, former LRA Cllr Caroline Pond (who had also been a District Council Chairman) received a gold long-service medal in recognition of 22 years as a District Cllr. [More](#)

May Local Elections

The (delayed) election results for the Town Council wards of Loughton Broadway and Loughton Debden have been declared, with three further LRA candidates elected as Town Cllrs. [Full details here](#)

Demolition of Loughton Library

As reported previously, the County Council gained approval to demolish Loughton Library and provide a 5-storey block containing a smaller new Library with 38 flats above it.



The County Council has now issued an application for the demolition, although they have not announced the next steps or timings. Council budget forecasts imply work will start before the end of this financial year (April 2025).

The Town Council will monitor progress. Protection would be put in place for the playground, and safety of the public and provision for the Holocaust Memorial. Also provision of public library service will be sourced whilst the development takes place.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been chasing this up with the County Council cabinet

member. No consideration has yet been given to where or how a temporary library will be provided in Loughton's town centre.

Local Planning Decisions

The District Council cabinet has 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).

Amongst the recommendations is the reduction of planning committees in the District to one or two. This would affect the existing Planning Sub-Committee South that reviews planning applications in the south of the district including Loughton.

***LRA Comment:** The impact on planning committees would be a bad one for Loughton, as it means that local Cllrs would no longer be in the majority on the committee which decides local applications. Of course, Cllrs have to apply the planning rules fairly, but local knowledge has often been essential in coming to decisions.*

General Election on 4 July

With the general election on 4 July, make sure you (and anyone you know) are registered to vote. [More](#)

If you are away on Election day, you can [register for a postal vote](#). Also remember when voting, you will need to show [one form of photo ID](#) such as a passport. Unless you bring photo ID to the polling station, you will not be able to vote.

LRA cannot participate in parliamentary elections. LRA members are free to support other parties or independent candidates, and many do. But in local politics, all LRA representatives zealously defend Loughton amenities.

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 Standard, 126 High Road

This is a retrospective application for the first floor roof terrace for open air restaurant tables.

LRAPG has objected to the principle of using the terrace for eating and drinking. People using the terrace can generate a significant amount of noise, which will impact on neighbours, particularly in the summer when bedroom windows are open. Music being played on the terrace, whether a noise limiter is used or not, will also disturb neighbours. Sound and vibration can travel easily, and users of the terrace will raise their voices over music.

Reference [EPF/0867/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 24 May but you can still comment to the Council.

251A High Road (Above Totally Wicked)

This application proposes a change of use of the first floor from D1 cookery school to C3 residential flat, and creation of an additional floor, with a two storey new build to the rear containing one flat with associated works.

LRAPG has objected to this poorly drafted planning application. This is the second time the application has been submitted but LRAPG considers the extensions, by reason of their height and bulk at the front and back, are detrimental to the character of this part of the High Road. The building forms part of a consistent roof form and this should be retained. There will be an unacceptable amount of overlooking from the terrace and one of the parking spaces cannot be safely accessed. LRAPG notes there are four parking spaces shown on the proposed block plan, but the application form says there will be two spaces. The proposed ground floor plan shows two spaces. The rear extension comes out in front of the rear of 249 High Road. This will enclose the occupiers of this building. The front elevation does not show the rear addition extending towards No 249. The drawings are therefore inaccurate.

Overall, LRAPG considers this is an over-development of the site that will provide low standard residential accommodation and permission should therefore be refused.

Reference [EPF/0867/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 24 May but you can still comment to the Council.



Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Roding Road - the road will be closed from 11 June to 11 July 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](#)

Dates can change so [check here for the latest updates](#), and for other planned roadworks



including ones that involve only temporary traffic lights.

Bus Route 542A Replaced

Bus route 16C has replaced the existing 542A bus route (anti-clockwise) between Loughton station and The Broadway on Sundays, and is now part of a longer route to/from Waltham Cross. [More](#) and [map](#).

District Council Car Park Charges

The District Council has changed some parking tariffs for their off-street car parks, including the ones at Burton Road, Burton Road South, Clifton Road, Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate, The Drive, High Beech Road, Old Station Road (Sainsbury's), Smarts Lane, Traps Hill and Vere Road.

- **Parking for 30 minutes for 30p has been removed.** All tariffs for more than 30 minutes do not change.
- **Parking for two hours for free on Sunday has been removed.** Monday to Saturday tariffs will apply on Sundays.
- Charging times and all tariffs for more than 30 minutes do not change.



Separately, Morrisons' car park now only allows free parking for 1.5 hrs, rather than the previous two hours.

Claiming for Pothole Damage

The County Council is responsible for keeping roads it well maintained, and you can claim against it for compensation if a pothole or defect damages your car. Which? provides [this guide](#) if you want to report a pothole and make a claim.

Before you make a claim you must [report the defect first](#), however be aware that [it is reported](#) that only 4% of claims have been paid out by the County Council since April 2019.

TfL Off-Peak Friday Fares Trial Ends

The trial which started in March, where Tube and rail fares on pay as you go with contactless and Oyster were off-peak all day on Fridays, has now ended. [More](#)

Travelling Sustainably

In the UK, transport is responsible for more carbon emissions than any other sector. It's also responsible for most of the air pollution that harms our health. Choosing to travel sustainably is one of the most effective things we can do to look after our environment. But changing the way we travel can be daunting. The Campaign for Better Transport has provided some tips for travelling more sustainably, especially if you are travelling over the summer. [More](#)

Private Parking Firms' New Code of Practice

Rules around grace periods, signage and appeals are set to change for private car parks, with a new code of practice with two trade bodies for private car park operators, announcing a new code for its members.

Which? has reported that some organisations, such as the RAC, have criticised the move after a number of private parking companies prevented the government from introducing its own code of practice announced in 2022. [More](#), which includes how to appeal a private parking fine.

Police, Fire and Crime

The Police in April

In February 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 23 mental-health related incidents and worked with local partners to help those concerned get the help and support they needed.
- investigated 66 reports of antisocial behaviour having listened to local communities about the things which were causing them concern.
- attended 55 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- investigated 201 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 89 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- have submitted 305 pieces of intelligence which assists us in targeting criminal activity in our community.



Clever Fraudsters Calling

You receive a phone call out of the blue from someone claiming to be, for example, a police sergeant or bank fraud prevention officer, or an officer in technical support from a company's customer services.

The pitch may then go like this: they're calling about a refund or problem with your payment card. To sort it, they ask you to confirm your payment and bank account details. You share these and the fraudsters then take payments from your account.

Or tech support impersonators claim they've detected a fault with your laptop or computer and need to access it remotely to fix the problem. They may also say you need to buy a piece of software straightaway to solve the problem. Fraudsters can take on any number of very convincing personas to try and hoodwink you, so be alert – the above are just some of the most recent to emerge.

Such a call out of the blue is unlikely to be legitimate, so ***if you're unsure of the person's credibility, hang up***. Go online and find the number for the department they're claiming to be from. If possible, call them from another phone so that you can

be confident you're speaking to a legitimate person from the company or organisation you have a relationship with. [More advice from the police.](#)

Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety - Have Your Say

Residents are invited to give views on community concerns in the annual Community Safety Survey.

The survey asks a range of questions to help focus multi-agency efforts in addressing crime and community safety across Essex.

[Have your say here.](#) The survey runs until 30 June



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 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

District Council-Managed Waste and Recycling Collections

As reported last year, the District Council decided to create a Council owned company that will collect household waste and recycling, and also provide street cleansing. This will replace the existing service provided by Biffa, and will start in November. ([Background on our website](#))



The future service will be operated by the District Council's new wholly owned company Terra Verde Services (TVS), with provision and maintenance of a new fleet of waste and recycling vehicles from Specialist Fleet Services Ltd (SFS). SFS will have responsibility for the maintenance of the fleet, which will take place at the Council's new environmental operations hub at North Weald Airfield. [More](#)

New Waste and Recycling Calendars

New collection calendars and recycling information leaflets have been (or will shortly be) delivered.

The leaflets contain bin collection dates for the year from May 2024 to April 2025 as well as revised collection dates over Christmas and Easter. If you haven't received it, or need another copy, [you can download one here.](#)

Support for Energy Efficiency Improvements

Low-income households and vulnerable residents can apply to have solar panels, heat pumps and more energy-efficient measures installed for little or no cost offered by the County Council through [Better Housing Better Health](#).

The offer is available to homeowners and tenants (with landlord permission), with a household income below £31,000 and Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D and G., and also to those with a qualifying benefit or health condition. No income limit is applied to those with a qualifying health condition. [More](#)

Eligible residents could save energy costs and improve their EPC rating with insulation, boiler replacements, low-energy lighting, air source heat pumps and solar panels.

Taking Action on Climate Change

Reducing our carbon footprint is a challenge for us all - and it can often feel overwhelming. The County Council have developed Climate Action Advice Packs (for [residents](#), [businesses](#), [schools](#) and [early_years_or_childcare](#) settings) offering a variety of cost-effective, achievable and advantageous solutions and ideas [More](#)

Essex Cycle Strategy

The County Council is consulting on [a new draft Essex Cycle Strategy](#). The strategy's vision is to see more people, of all abilities, ages and backgrounds, cycling in Essex more safely and more frequently.

It highlights six key cycling outcomes they want to achieve and sets out activities and actions for the coming years.

[More](#). [Have your say here](#). The consultation runs until 7 July.

Local News

Royal Mail Deliveries

Royal Mail now runs a Delivery to Specification system which allows them to hold second-class mail until the last day they are allowed to deliver, in the hope other items for the same address will arrive. Royal Mail says that this improves efficiency by reducing the number of visits made to each address. It insists that it has had no effect on service quality.

***LRA Comment:** despite Royal Mail's denial, the system must have had an effect on the service that residents receive, because it means that some second-class letters are delivered to them a day or two later than they would have been under the previous system. And of course Royal Mail has not actually been hitting its targets for second-class or first-class mail anyway.*



Celebrating 20 Years of Keeping People Active in their Retirement



The University of the Third Age (u3a) is a UK - wide organisation with over 1000 local groups that provide opportunities for retired people to come together, learn, laugh and have fun.

Roding Valley u3a (RVu3a) welcomes members from Loughton and surrounding areas. It has been going for 20 years and has over 400 active members. They have monthly presentations and over 30 interest groups, ranging from gardening, reading and keep fit, to family history, crosswords, and practical art. They also have regular theatre visits, outings, walks, curry evenings, afternoon teas and pub lunches. There's never a dull moment.

If you've always wanted to learn and share particular skills, interests or hobbies; socialise and make friends then the RV u3a could be for you. Come and meet them at monthly presentations or try some activities for free. The annual membership is £18 and all activities are low cost.

[More](#), or for email RVu3a@hotmail.com for more details.

Health and Wellbeing

Additional Pharmacy Services

Your local pharmacist can now supply medicines for seven conditions, if appropriate, without the need for a GP appointment or prescription, including:

- earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- shingles (aged 18 years and over)
- sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- sore throat (aged 5 years and over)
- urinary tract infections or UTIs (women aged 16 to 64 years)

If you go to a pharmacy with one of these conditions, the pharmacist will offer you advice, treatment or refer you to a GP or other healthcare professional if needed.

[More](#)

Epping Forest



Cycling in the Forest

The Forest has over 80 km (50 miles) of surfaced shared use trails and many more unsurfaced tracks, making it a great place to explore by bike, whether you're looking to relax, get fit, or just looking to avoid cars and roads on your way from A to B.

Enjoy your time in the Forest but please be aware of other users and be sure to familiarise yourself with the [Cycling Code of Conduct](#).

If you approach walkers and horse riders please let them know that you are there -

slow down and give them a wide berth. The Forest is home to many wild animals and temporary host to a few domestic ones too, so please do be aware that they may run out at the last minute and ensure your speed of travel allows you to stop in time if necessary. Be aware of other cyclists and Forest users around tight bends and narrow bridges.

Places you can't ride:

- Easy Access Paths at High Beach, Connaught Water, Knighton Wood and Jubilee Pond
- Ambresbury Banks
- Loughton Brook
- Loughton Camp

[More \(with a map\)](#)

New App for Forest Walks

The [Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) has launched the new GPS supported Epping Forest Walks App, which is now available to download for both [Android](#) and [Apple](#) phones. [More](#)

The walking app offers access to 20 unique trails, with details of how to get to them by public transport. You can find:

- 10 official waymarked trails by the City of London Corporation
- the entire 14 mile route of the Epping Forest Big Walk (Centenary Walk)
- 5 specially curated trails of various lengths, all accessible by public transport.

Forest Focus - May 2024

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



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 28 June.

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

1. If you find any links not working or anything else is wrong let us know at loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk. Links to other websites are beyond our control and may not work over time.
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.

To contact us, email contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

To update your membership details, email membership@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

© 2024 Loughton Residents Association

Promoted by & on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association, 28 Brook Road, Loughton IG10 1BP

This email was sent to <<First Name>> <<Last Name>> at <<Email Address>>. You are receiving this email as a member of Loughton Residents Association and have subscribed to receiving emails from us.
[Unsubscribe from emails from LRA](#)