



# LRA's Loughton News

8 November 2024

In this issue we report on [a meeting between local Cllrs and Transport for London](#), [police patrols around Loughton Station after a robbery](#), and [a prolific shoplifter being jailed](#).

[Remembrance Sunday is this weekend](#), and [Light Up a Life is at the end of this month](#).

The Town Council is looking to celebrate those special individuals in our town who go the extra mile for their fellow citizens with [Citizenship Awards](#), and if you're tidying up around the house and have items to give away, [why not try Freegle?](#)

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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## LRA News

### The Broadway Refurbishment

The District Council has been informing commercial or residential leaseholders of the costs they will need to pay for the refurbishment.

LRA fears that some traders will not be able to pay, and will leave with shops closing as a result, and residents who own their own flats will struggle to pay.

[Background on our website](#)



### **Coffee with Cllrs**

If you are resident in Buckhurst Hill East and Whitebridge, come and meet your local LRA Cllrs Rose Brookes and Barbara Cohen.

- 11am-12pm on Friday 15 November and Saturday 23 November.
- IG9 Café, 4 Lower Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 6DL

Ask questions or share your concerns. No need to book or RSVP — just turn up.

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

### **Planned Road Closures**

*There are no road closures planned that we are aware of in the next 3 weeks.*

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



### **Cllrs Meet TfL**

District Cllrs met representatives from Transport for London (TfL) at an Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 29 October.

TfL responded to many issues that were raised, including on the Central Line Improvement Programme (CLIP), station premises, Anti-social behaviour and bus services. Of note, 55 Central Line trains are currently running out of a fleet of 85.

[More](#) and you can [watch the full meeting here](#).

### **Never Mind the Bollards**

In 2018 a resident reported to the Essex Highways that a bollard on Connaught Avenue near the junction with Ollards Grove had fallen, alongside one that had already fallen.



Last month, the resident received an email from Essex Highways to say that they “*have investigated, risk assessed and recorded this issue and [they] are in the process of scheduling works.*” Six years is a short time in the life of a bollard it seems.

Image: Essex Highways

### **Christmas and New Year Travel Updates**

Train operators are starting to publish details of closures and engineering works over the festive season. Updates are currently published by [Transport for London](#), [National Rail](#) and [London Travelwatch](#).

## **Police, Fire and Crime**

### **Police at Loughton Station**

After a robbery on Great Eastern Path near that station in late October, police have patrolled the area.

Police have stated that only one incident was reported and they are investigating that. There have been comments on social media that indicate other incidents occurred in the area, but no reports have been made to the police. [Watch this video report](#) from Everything Epping Forest on the patrols with comments from police officers.

If you know of any incidents, report them. You can call 101 or report online anything you think the police should know. Call 999 if a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed, or someone is in immediate danger or harm or property is in danger of being damaged.



### **Shoplifter Jailed**

A prolific shoplifter has been jailed for more than a year and-a-half for a string of offences across the district.

Billy Greenwood, 29, of no fixed address stole from shops and vehicles. He targeted Boots at the Epping Forest Retail Park in Langston Road on six occasions, stealing more than £10,000 of skin care goods and make-up items.

He also stole between £100 and £200 worth of meat from the BP in Chigwell Lane, as well as attempting to steal items from a car in Burney Drive, Loughton.

At Chelmsford Crown Court on 28 October he was jailed for a total of a year and eight months. [More](#)

### **Facebook Marketplace Scams**

[Which?](#) is warning of scams on Facebook Marketplace. [Here is a story of someone](#) who took care but was still scammed.

Here is what Which? recommend:

- Facebook Marketplace doesn't have an inbuilt payment system, meaning you will need to agree with the seller how you will pay for the item you are buying.
- Recovering your money if you've paid by bank transfer, cash or PayPal friends and family can be very difficult.
- Always inspect the item before you buy it and make sure you're happy with it before you part with your money, especially if it's a high-value item.
- If you have lost money in a bank transfer scam, here is a guide for information on [how to get your money back](#).

Which? also has a scam alert service. You can [sign up here for free](#).

### **Winter Fuel Payment Scams**

Scammers are using both text messages and emails to try and steal bank details by playing on older people's concerns about the Winter Fuel Payment. The messages ask you to apply for a 'winter heating subsidy' with a link to 'update your details'.

The link doesn't go to a UK Government website or have anything to do with Winter Fuel Payments. It just enables scammers to steal your personal information and use it for criminal purposes. [More](#)

### **Warning for Winter Nights**

The clocks going back at the end of October signaled the start of winter and darker evenings for all of us. The police acknowledge that criminals will try and take advantage of the longer nights. They know this and will be using a number of tactics to disrupt their activities. The three key things that the police remind us of are:

- Ensure your doors and windows are closed and properly locked and secured. Remember to double lock all external doors.
- Maintain fences and cut back hedges so that no one can hide behind or jump over.
- Consider the use of external lighting so there is nowhere for a burglar to hide, and also make your home occupied when you're out by using a timer switch on a lamp etc.

### **Funding for Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service - Have Your Say**

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) is asking residents for their views on investing in both Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service through the council tax precept. The precept is the amount paid as part of your council tax for local policing and fire and rescue services.

[More](#) and [have your say](#). The consultation closes 22 November.

### **More from the Police**

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



**10 NOVEMBER 2024**

*"We will remember them"*

### Remembrance Sunday

There will be a traditional remembrance service at the War Memorial on Kings Green on 10 November.

The uniformed parade will leave the Royal British Legion on Church Hill at 11:45am to march down to Kings Green with the service at 12:15pm. [More](#)

### Light Up a Life

The annual Light up a Life service takes place on Saturday 30 November. Meet at the Methodist Church on the High Road from 4:30pm for the torch lit procession to Kings Green followed by the switching on of the lights. [More](#)

The Town Council, in partnership with St Clare Hospice, invites local residents to come together with their friends and family to remember and celebrate the life of someone close and dedicate a symbolic light in their memory.

Everyone is welcome to attend, all faiths and none, whether you have experienced St Clare's care or not, and no matter how long ago your loss was.

### Citizenship Awards

The Town Council is looking to celebrate those special individuals in our town who go the extra mile for their fellow citizens. This may be through long service for a voluntary organisation or local charity, good neighbourliness, running a campaign to improve community facilities or cohesion, or by an act of courage or bravery.

Any Loughton resident or a Loughton employer, educational institution, group or society may submit a nomination but please do not let the nominee know at this stage.

Applications close 31 January 2025. [More](#) and [application form](#) (Word document).

### Christmas Window Competition

The Town Council invites all Loughton businesses to decorate their shop windows in a Christmas themed design for automatic entry to this special Christmas competition. The more festively dressed windows created, the more enchanting the atmosphere!



This will help tempt more residents to shop locally over the Christmas shopping period.

Window decorations must be completed for when the judging commences on 2 December. [More](#) (PDF)

### **Proposed Conservation Areas**

Conservation Areas are defined as an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Loughton currently has three areas - most of Baldwins Hill and Staples Road, and all of York Hill. [More](#)

The Town Council is now looking to protect The Uplands (and also Loughton Cricket Club), Ollards Grove and 313 High Road, and will instigate the formal application process.

### **Memorial Tree and Bench policy**

The Town Council has adopted a Memorial Tree and Bench Policy which sets out how memorial benches and trees will be approved, who is responsible for their upkeep, what is expected from the donor and the Council, and what happens to the memorial when the bench/tree reaches the end of its life. [More](#) (p11-14)

### **Closed Churchyard**

The Town Council will take over the maintenance of the churchyard of St John's Church on Church Lane as a Closed Churchyard. As a Closed Churchyard, and having given appropriate legal notice by the Church, the Town Council is now required by law to take over the maintenance.

A mutually agreeable Service Level Agreement between the Church and the Town Council will now be agreed.

### **Financial Assistance for Organisations**

The Town Council is accepting applications for financial assistance from local groups, organisations and charities for the period from April 2025 – March 2026.

In this current financial year, the Town Council has helped 25 applicants totalling over £35,400 to improve or maintain their services to the local community. This sum includes the continued support for the Loughton Branch of the Epping Forest District Citizens Advice, which gives valuable free help and advice to all that request it.

If you are part of a local organisation that is delivering excellent work for local people in Loughton and require some additional funds, then [an application form can be downloaded here](#).

Applications must be made by 31 December.

### **Christmas Workshops**

The District Council and [TiEGr](#), supported by [Multiply](#), [Skills for Life](#) and the County Council are running three Christmas workshops on measuring and making mocktails





and healthy drinks, veggie drinks and party canapes. The event is at the Oakwood Hill Community Centre on 27 November, and 4 and 11 December. [More](#). Entry is free but [you need to book here](#).

## Christmas Giving Campaign

The campaign aims to ensure that no child, living in the district, goes without receiving a Christmas present. Gifts will be provided for identified children living in care, temporary accommodation and in personal circumstances or conditions that might deny them the kindness that other children experience this time of year.



Last year generous contributions via funds and collected donations raised nearly £2000. The gifts were distributed to children aged between 2 and 17 who had been referred by local schools and frontline children and family service providers based in the district.

[More and how to donate.](#)

## It Can Cost More at the Door

Think twice if a tradesman knocks on the door offering a good rate for doing jobs around the house. Essex Trading Standards always advise against agreeing to have work done by someone who has called unexpectedly at the door. Statements like “I was working in the area” are rarely genuine, and there are instances where rogues have claimed to be undertaking work locally that has nothing to do with them.

If possible, only use a trader that is recommended to you by someone you know and trust. If this is not possible, you can use a [Buy With Confidence](#) trader as these have been vetted by Trading Standards.

## Live Facial Recognition (LFR) Technology

Whether we like it or not, LFR is increasingly being used by police forces in the UK. The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel – Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee is looking at how Essex Police is proposing to use LFR in our county. [More](#)

## What's in the Waste

The Waste Strategy for Essex commits to ambitious targets of recycling, reusing or composting 70% of waste by 2035 and to reduce general rubbish by half by 2042. Understanding what's in the general rubbish will help councils plan for the future with the right services and support that will help residents in Essex to reduce waste and recycle more.

The County Council has commissioned Alfred H Knight to carry out a study on the composition of general rubbish across Essex. For the study, waste samples will be collected from up to five streets in each district, borough and city area.

The sampling of general rubbish collected at kerbside will take place between 4 November and 13 December. No household will be individually identified as part of

this study and all waste will be disposed of safely and securely in the usual way by the County Council.

### Could You Welcome a Child Into Your Family?

In Essex, over 500 children came into care last year and the County Council need more foster carers to help vulnerable children feel safe and supported.

Essex County Council will carefully match children to you, offer 24/7 support, training and carers receive on average £537.12 per week, per child, tax free. You can foster from as little as one weekend per month. [More](#) or call 0800 801 530 to find out more and transform a child's life.

## Local News

### Local Library Events

[You can see upcoming events at Loughton and Debden libraries here.](#) These include Toddler Toy times, sensory stay and play for babies, and:

- 12 November - dementia information drop-in sessions to find out more about dementia in an informal setting. [More](#)
- 30 November and 7, 14 and 21 December - Christmas Crafts - Drop in to make some Christmas crafts. [More](#)



More about the libraries at [Loughton](#) and [Debden](#).

### Warm Welcomes at Loughton Library

Warm Welcome sessions at the library let you drop by (no booking needed), enjoy a tea or coffee and take advantage of all the library has to offer. These are every Saturday until 22 February. No booking needed. [More](#) and [session details at Loughton Library](#).



### Museum Winston Churchill exhibition

The Epping Forest District Museum marks 100 Years since Sir Winston Churchill's election as MP for Epping with a new display and series of talks. The new display titled 'Churchill and the District' will showcase a selection of photographs, many provided by the Churchill Archives Centre, showing Churchill canvassing, addressing crowds and celebrating election victories in Epping, Loughton, Chigwell and Waltham Abbey. The display opens on Saturday 16 November. [More](#)

### New rules for poultry and captive bird keepers



From 1 October if you are in charge of the day-to-day care of poultry or other captive birds of any number, you must register them with the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA). This includes any birds you keep as pets.

Once registered, the APHA will be able to contact you with updates and guidance if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area and you'll help to prevent the spread of disease and protect all kept birds, including back-yard flocks.

You do not need to register budgies, parrots, cockatiels and finches if they are both fully housed in a dwelling (your home or another indoor structure) and have no access to the open air. If your birds are taken outdoors at any time, for example to be exercised, trained, or taken to bird gatherings or shows, they must be registered.

[More](#)

## Health and Wellbeing



### RSV Vaccination Available

People aged 75-79 can get a free vaccination to protect themselves from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common lung infection that can lead to serious illnesses like pneumonia. Your GP surgery will contact you about getting vaccinated. [More](#)

## Epping Forest

### The Toll of Litter on Epping Forest

The most damaging form of littering is fly-tipping. Brazen, intentional and increasing, this practice has turned areas of British woodlands into dumping grounds, blanketed with everything from household waste to building rubble. Hoads Wood in Ashford is a SSSI just like Epping Forest and it has been so blighted by fly-tipping that it may cost £10m to put right.

Unfenced, criss-crossed by roads and on the doorstep of 8+ million Londoners, Epping Forest is in some ways especially vulnerable to fly-tipping. However, unlike Hoads Wood, overwhelmed by the deluge of tipping, Epping Forest is looked after by a Litter Team who work tirelessly clearing fly tips, usually before you even notice them. The Forest is also defended by an Investigation Team and Constables that are working to prevent and prosecute fly-tippers. These services comes at significant expense to the Epping Forest Charity and every hour spent tirelessly clearing is one hour less that can be spent on other important Forest services.

### Please Leave the Fungi Alone

Enjoy seeing the Forest's fungi over the autumn months but please be reminded that it is in breach of the [Epping Forest byelaws](#) to remove fruit or fungi from the Forest. Those caught may be prosecuted.

## Forest Focus - October 2024

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



## And More

### Toys and Games for Christmas

Have you got a cupboard full of old toys and games that are not used now? If so, please consider taking them to a local charity shop **as soon as possible**, so that families in need can give their children a better Christmas.



### Unwanted Items? Let Someone Else Have Them

If you have unwanted items and have tried to sell them in the usual places, or if they have little value, why not try giving them away?

[List them on Freecycle](#). It's free to post and sell items (they are funded by donations).

### Home Improvements Electrical Safety

If you are considering home improvements, don't forget there are standards covering electrical work including for bathrooms and for renovating sheds into offices.

Electrical Safety First (a charity dedicated to reducing deaths and injuries caused by electricity in UK homes) has warned that homeowners could risk committing a criminal offence if they cannot prove their work complies with strict standards. These standards are in place to protect people from danger as non-compliant electrical work could pose safety hazards for occupants, including electric shock and fire.

[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 29 November.*

**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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