



LRA's Loughton News

10 February 2023

In this issue there's a further [update on the disruption to Waste and Recycling collections](#), a reminder of the [proposed housing development at the former Pyrlles Lane nursery](#), and how LRA helped out residents with recent residents' [boiler problems](#) and [property issues](#).

We've also got advice about being careful when [answering the door](#), and [protecting yourself when out and about](#).

The Town Council are planning for the Jessel Green Fund Day, The Horticultural Show and Loughton Day. [Note down the dates](#).

And, although Christmas seems so long ago, [here are the answers](#) to LRA's Christmas quiz.

Thank you for being part of LRA. Can you please help us by making sure [your membership](#) is paid up for 2023 (and thank you if you already have paid).

You can always [contact us by email](#) at to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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LRA News

Your LRA Membership for 2023

The latest issue of the members edition of Loughton Life is currently being delivered, along with a letter either confirming that you've already paid for 2023 or asking you to renew your membership (only £5 a year).

If you've already paid, thank you!

If not, can you please arrange a payment either by a bank transfer or posting a cheque ([how to do this](#)).

We have a new Membership Secretary this year. If you are paying by post, the new address to use is LRA Membership Secretary, 9 Woodbury Hill, Loughton IG10 1JB.

Disruption to Waste and Recycling Collections

The District Council has provided [an update](#) on the ongoing issues with domestic waste and recycling collections. Most of the excessive number of full bins and piles of recycling that were on the streets in January have now been taken away.

There are now only small number of streets where collections have been missed. If your collection is missed, [check here first](#) to see if Council already knows, in which case leave your bins out to be collected. [More on what to do](#) if this does not happen.



As reported previously the Council has now decided to go to market and run a full procurement process for the Waste/Street Cleansing contract. The Council is also reported to be looking at options at North Weald Airfield for parking and maintaining refuse vehicles when they are not on the road, plus washing and parking facilities for the crews. No waste will be processed there. The aerodrome is the only place they have to do this, though of course it is a long way from most of the population in the District. They say that this will put the Council in a better position when procuring the new waste and recycling contract when the current one expires in November 2024, and potentially brings down costs for more companies to bid, knowing that there is a central council-owned place to park trucks to keep, clean, and maintain all the refuse fleet when not on their rounds. One of the reasons Biffa won the contract is that they could do this. In reality, there are not many firms who are in a position to bid anyway.

The Council are also making budget provision to buy new refuse vehicles to replace the current ageing fleet.

LRA Comment: The District Council should not have been so quick to sell off its Langston Road depot 8-9 years ago, which was much more central to the population. They used it for the Epping Forest Shopping Park, and in doing so created a traffic bottleneck.

Redevelopment of the former Pyrles Lane Nursery

As reported in [our recent news special](#), the District Council has now applied for planning permission for redevelopment of the former Pyrles Lane Nursery site to provide 30 flats and 18 houses, along with a vehicle access point off Pyrles Lane, car parking, open space, landscaping, and associated infrastructure.



A consultation is underway until 13 February. You can make your views known now. The LRA Plans Group (LRAPG) opposes the application. [More on our website and how to comment](#).

Elderly Couple With No Heating or Hot Water

Recently LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke dealt with an urgent problem concerning an elderly couple living in his ward, whose boiler had stopped working. The problem was reported to Qualis, but they were informed that the earliest someone could come around to fix the boiler was in five days' time.

As they relied on the boiler for heating and hot water, they were left in the cold so the matter was urgent.

Chidi took up the matter and contacted a manager to push for the response time to be made shorter, as due to the age of the residents they should be seen as priority. As a result, an engineer was sent to the residents' property the next day and the boiler was fixed, restoring heating and hot water.

Property Problems Ignored

LRA Alderton Ward Cllrs were recently contacted by residents who had told their landlord of problems with their property, but were then informed nothing was wrong. These problems included the security door being broken and being wedged open, the communal area light being broken and an exposed and leaking sewage pipe in the communal area wall.

They had reported these problems several times, and were told on each occasion that their maintenance team have inspected the property and in their opinion there was nothing wrong.

LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke visited the couple's property to see the problems for himself

and how the couple were coping. He found the property to be in a state of disrepair. Although the property in question was not a District Council one, he contacted the management of the Housing Association who own and manage the property.

As a result the Housing Association instructed its maintenance team to review the situation and fix the problems. This was done within a week and the residents were very happy with the outcome.

A few days later, Chidi received another complaint from a different resident at the same block about a leak going on in her flat. The leak was so bad that she was using a bucket to catch the water dripping. He raised this matter with the Housing Association and the matter is being investigated and will be resolved.



Can you help deliver Loughton Life?

We need someone to deliver 21 copies to Wellfields, Whitehall Road and some adjoining streets.

To find out more, please contact David [by email](#) or call 07958 984278 for a no-obligation chat.



Oakwood Hill Community Hall Drop In

The District Council housing management team is at the Oakwood Hill Community Hall on Longcroft Rise IG10 3NB every Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Also attending will be the Qualis Management team and Peabody Trust, with the Restore Community Warm Place providing refreshments, activities and staff on hand for a friendly chat. [More](#). LRA Cllr Ian Allgood will also be there if you want to speak to someone from LRA.

LRA's 2022 Christmas Quiz

Thank you to all of you who sent in your entry for the Christmas quiz – and to the many other families who had a go (and didn't hesitate to tell us which questions caused problems!). The winner is Mary Marshall, who receives a £15 book token. [The answers are here](#).



If this email has been forwarded to you, get it sent directly to your inbox by [supporting LRA for only £5 a year](#).

Meet your Alderton Ward LRA Cllrs

Alderton ward councillors hold their monthly drop-in surgery every 1st Saturday of the month from 2pm-4pm at Gullotti Cafe on Borders Lane IG10 3QX. The next one is on Saturday March 4th. Come by to discuss any ward issues. No registration or booking is needed. [More](#)

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 Broadway

This application proposes various works including replacement of the existing defective roof with a new waterproofing system including a 15 year guarantee.

Whilst LRAPG support the upgrading of the flats along The Broadway, they object to the loss of the distinctive green copper roof. This is an important feature for these buildings and it should be retained. The guaranteed lifespan of the new roof at 15 years is much too short and a more durable and longer lasting solution should be found. The works are going to have a significant impact on the shops below, and LRAPG have asked for a condition seeking details of a construction management plan to ensure the impact on the retailers is kept to a minimum. They should also be consulted with respect to these details.



Reference [EPF/2922/22](#) and [EPF/2923/22](#). The formal consultation periods ended 6 February but you can still comment to the Council.

Image: Google

Marshall Volkswagen, Langston Road

Marshall Volkswagen have applied for a large billboard by the entrance of their Langston Road premises. LRAPG objects to the hoarding. It is uncomfortably placed by the entrance, blocks the views for drivers leaving the centre and adds to the visual clutter of the area. A few bee friendly plants are proposed at the base of the hoarding but, not only can the council not take this into account, it is no justification for the advertisement.



Reference [EPF/0158/23](#). The formal consultation periods ends 21 February.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Smarts Lane - the road will be closed 27 March to 11 April between 8am and 5pm for speed humps, new signs and post to be installed [More](#)
- St John's Road - the road will be closed 27 February to 12 March, from its junction with Church Hill to its junction with Grasmere Close, while mains installation works are undertaken by Thames Water. [More](#)
- St Nicholas Place - the road will be closed on 4 April for works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Westall Road - the road will be closed on 15 February between 9:30am to 3:30pm while sewer cover replacement works are undertaken by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Earl's Path - the road will be closed from 27 February to 3 March between the junction of Shaftesbury to the Robin Hood roundabout between 8am and 4pm for carriageway patching works by the County Council. [More](#)



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

Roadworks in November and December

In Epping Forest District, County Highways made 114 repairs to roads, fixed 28 pavement defects, fixed 278 streetlights and didn't clear any drains.

District Council Car Parks Enforcement

The District Council has published an updated draft version of their Civil Parking Enforcement Policy. The last version was published in 2016. Changes from the previous version include:

- Parking in an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging bay with a non-electric car will be liable to a Penalty Charge Notice. EV parking is subject to existing car park tariffs and hours of operation within the public car parks and must be charging while in a bay.
- Car park permits and season tickets are applied for online. The District Council does not issue paper permits. Having a permit does not guarantee a parking space. All permits/season tickets are valid only in the specified car park as determined by the District Council.
- A Parking Attendant or Warden is now called a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO), who must be in uniform with the name of the District Council, a personal identity number, high visibility outer garments and a bodycam.

Ultra Low Emission Zone Expansion

The [Ultra Low Emission Zone](#) (ULEZ) be expanded across all London boroughs from 29 August. [Here's a map](#) showing where it is being expanded to.

[Check if your vehicle complies](#) with the scheme, and [here are details of the scrappage scheme for older vehicles](#). You will need to live within one of the 32 London boroughs or the City of London (Greater London Area) and receive certain benefits to be eligible for the ULEZ car and motorcycle scrappage scheme, so those caught by ULEZ expansion living in Loughton who are unable to afford a new vehicle won't qualify.

Elizabeth Line Full Through-Running Coming Soon

Transport for London has revealed the final stage of the opening of the Elizabeth line is due to happen on Sunday 21 May, allowing direct journeys between Shenfield in the east and Heathrow and Reading in the west.

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

Police, Fire and Crime

Working to Keep Women and Girls Safe

Officers were on patrol at Loughton's tube station and the High Road to provide a visible, reassuring presence and to find out where women and girls feel unsafe. This is part of Operation Charlotte that has been running at tube and train stations across the district, and what began as an anti-robbery initiative is now focussed on making sure women and girls are safe as they return from work or head for a night out. [More](#)



Officers Seize More Than £530,000 of Drugs in Loughton

In March last year, police seized 165 cannabis plants in Loughton, which had a street value of up to £530,000, together with associated growing equipment and drugs

paraphernalia. A man was later jailed for six months after admitting to being concerned in the production of cannabis. [More](#) on drug seizures in the wider area.

Take Care When Answering the Door

There have been recent reports of people going door-to-door purportedly raising money for a deaf charity. However upon being challenged to show their charity licence, they cover up part of the licence.

Challenge anyone suspicious for the full charity name and number, then ask to see their licence. You do not need to feel uncomfortable doing so; if they are legitimate they will do so without hesitation. Charities must not fundraise before 9am Monday to Saturday, before 10am on Sundays and public holidays or after 9pm on any day or date ([here are the rules](#)). They also cannot approach a property in groups of more than two at a time.

[Nottingham Knockers](#) have also been seen in the area. It might be worthwhile to [report such encounters to the police online](#). It takes just 5 minutes to do so and the police do acknowledge your report.

Protect Yourself From Street Robbery

Here is some advice from the police on keeping you and your property safe on the street.

Look confident

You are less likely to be targeted if you look confident. Move with purpose and try to be aware of your surroundings.

Know where you're going

Plan your route and think about what to take with you, especially if you're going somewhere you haven't been before. Keep to busy, well-lit streets, walkways and paths which are more likely to be covered by CCTV. Only take licensed taxis or minicabs booked by phone or a mobile phone app.

Hide it

Keep your mobile phone and valuables out of sight. If you're using your phone it's more likely to be snatched from your hand as you're not paying attention to your surroundings, so look around you.

And never leave a mobile, any other device, wallet or purse on the table of an outdoor café, pub or restaurant. The same goes for any jewellery you might be wearing – keep it covered when walking down the street.

Finally – and this is so important to remember – if you're threatened with violence, don't risk your personal safety. Property can be replaced, you can't.

More crime prevention advice is [here](#).

New Online Home Safety Check Service

By answering some simple questions about charging phones, working smoke alarms, cooking, fire escape plans and much more, this new service makes it easier for to spot fire risks in their homes and gives advice on how to help stay safe at home.

Answers will then be calculated with the level of risk. Some people who score highly may be offered a free home safety visit by a member of the fire service. [More](#)

More from the Police

[Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics.

Council News

Support with the Cost of Living

Cost OF Living SUPPORT



[Find out what support](#) is available to help with the cost of living. This includes income and disability benefits, bills and allowances, childcare, housing, travel and support for small businesses.

Community Warm Places

Warm Places provide a free, safe, warm and comfortable space for those who need it throughout winter. Locations in Loughton include Debden and Loughton Libraries, New City College, Oakwood Hill Community Centre, St Mary's Church, St Michael's Church and Trinity Methodist Church. [Check the details and opening times here.](#)



Town Council Events in 2023

Jessel Green Fun Day

The Fun Day is being planned for Saturday 25 June. To minimise costs to the Town Council, sponsorship will be sought.

Loughton Horticultural Show

After [last year's successful show](#), the Town Council is planning this year to run the Horticultural Show again with the Best Allotment awards included. The planned date is Saturday 2 September.

Loughton Day

After being cancelled in 2022, Loughton Day is being planned for Saturday 16 September. To make the event more cost effective, the Council will be looking for local business sponsorship.

Safekeeping of Paintings

Following a request by a local resident, the Town Council will hold for safekeeping three paintings by a renowned local artist [John Stevens](#), and display these in the lobby of the Town Council's offices.

Roding Valley Recreation Ground Playgrounds

A local resident has recently highlighted the risk to children with allergies when using playground equipment, as allergens can be passed through touch and can remain on surfaces. Signs about the risk have now been installed. The resident requesting them has expressed her gratitude that this has been done.

The King's Coronation Street Parties

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May. On Sunday 7 May Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches.

Organising a street party just for residents and neighbours typically does not need a licence. You will not need to apply for Temporary Event Notice (TEN) unless amplified music is one of the main purposes of the event or alcohol is to be sold.

Residents wishing to close their road may still need to apply for a temporary road closure, and applications should be submitted at least 6 weeks ahead of the event using [this road closure for special events form](#) and [emailed to the District Council](#). The Council has decided to waive the fees normally associated with such applications and to simplify the application process. [More](#)

More about organising a street party from the [District Council](#) and the [Government](#).

District Council Buys the Former Prince of Wales Pub

The District Council has bought the lease of the former Princess of Wales pub (and earlier known as The Clydesdale) at the corner of Westall and Etheridge Roads at a cost of £687,500, for the purposes of housing development.

Image: Google



Solar Panels for Your Roof

Residents can register for [Solar Together Essex](#), the group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. The scheme is also open to small and medium businesses and small community buildings.

Residents who have already invested in solar panels can also take part by registering for battery storage. Storage saves unused energy generated by the solar panels to be used whenever it is needed rather than during the day.

It is free to register for a personal recommendation and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation. [More](#)

Air Quality Action Plan Consultation

The District Council has drafted an Air Quality Action Plan to reduce pollution in Epping Forest District for 2023-2028. Part of that plan included a detailed review of the whole area by experts on air quality. The detailed review found that in general, air quality across the area is generally good. One exception though is near the junction of the B1393 and Theydon Road junction near Bell Common where the quality is poorer and exceeds limits. The council has a statutory duty to put a plan in place with a list of measures aimed at addressing the problem.

Although still within statutory limits, air quality in the areas alongside the M11 and M25 is, unsurprisingly, higher.

Air pollution is recognised as a contributing factor in heart disease and cancer and particularly affects the most vulnerable like children, older people, and those with pre-existing health conditions. [Have your say on plan here](#) before 17 February.

Housing Stock Condition Survey

The District Council is undertaking a housing stock condition survey of a large proportion of their properties. Letters have been sent to the homes involved explaining what their contractor Ridge is doing, but due to postal strikes some residents haven't received the letter before surveyors turn up. If you have any concerns at all check the validity of the caller with the District Council by calling 01992 564000 or call Ridge direct on 0800 086 2743. [More](#)

New Litter Bin at Spring Grove

Following a local resident's request the District Council has installed a new litter bin at Spring Grove.

Advance Booking Required to Use Recycling Centres

From 13 March, you will need to book in advance to use a County Council recycling centre. There is no charge to book, but a booking will be needed for each visit and the latest you can book is the day before. This covers all County Council recycling centres including the one at Luxborough Lane in Chigwell.



The system will be available to take bookings from 27 February. [More](#)

If you are a Blue Badge holder, you do not need to book a slot to visit a recycling centre. Please remember to take proof of your Blue Badge with you when visiting

these sites.

You can also [read the Council's evaluation of the previous pilot](#) of the booking system at the Rayleigh Recycling Centre from June last year.



Find Out What's On For You Locally

The District Council has published in one publication their forthcoming activities, programmes, events and community initiatives for all ages in the [What's on in Epping Forest](#) booklet.



Half Term Holiday Programme for Kids

Booking is open for the District Council's February half term activity programme for local children and young people. [More](#)

Local News

Helping Out this Winter

Times are hard for many people. Why not:

- donate to [a food bank](#)
- donate to [a shelter](#)
- volunteer to be a [Warm Welcomer at your local library](#)
- volunteer at [Voluntary Action Epping Forest](#) or [Volunteer Essex](#).

Health and Wellbeing

Covid and Flu Vaccines

[Read more](#) on getting a Covid and Flu vaccine. If you have never had a Covid vaccination, it's not too late to catch up. You can use [a walk in centre](#) or [book an appointment](#), or call 119 for more help.

Memory Cafe at The Loughton Club

A Memory Cafe provides an informal, social venue to go for advice and support if you or someone you know is suffering the challenges of memory loss, or is newly diagnosed with some sort of dementia. The Memory Café aims to provide a social space for people in this situation, and takes place every first Friday of the month at The Loughton Club, 8 Station Road. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Avian Flu

As Avian flu has been detected in the Forest, [here are precautions](#) you can take with wild, sick or dead birds.

You can [report a dead wild bird here](#), or call 03459 33 55 77. You can report sick or injured wild birds to the [RSPCA](#) by calling 0300 1234 999.

If you have bird feeders in your garden, the [RSPB advises](#) good hygiene is key. [Clean bird feeders and feeding stations weekly](#) and change bird drinking and

bathing water regularly. It is normal this time of year to see fewer birds in your garden and this is not linked to avian flu.

And More

Worship the Mud!

Imagine life without mud. No mud means no worms, no birds, no badgers. Empty, lonely woods. [Read more](#) from this news article by Hannah, aged 10.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 3 March although that date could change.

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 on 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.

We can be contacted at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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

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