



# LRA's Loughton News

14 October 2022

In this issue is a reminder of two planning applications for large developments - the [demolition of Loughton Library](#) and a block of [flats replacing three houses on Alderton Hill](#). LRA Plans Group have objected to both proposals and we encourage residents to make their views known - you can make a difference.

Unfortunately the inaugural Loughton Day had to be cancelled this year, but the Town Council are now [planning for this to take place in 2023](#).

Waste collections continue to be disrupted so [here's a reminder what to do](#) if you have a missed collection. Also, [do you know if light bulbs are recyclable?](#)

With winter approaching, [is your chimney swept?](#) And if you're not using it, [have you draught-proofed it?](#)

In the Forest, rutting season is starting and [there is a greater risk of deer on the roads](#) so take extra care when driving through the Forest. Also, could you help out the Forest by being [a Trustee for Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) or a [Warden](#)

LRA is 100% run by volunteers locally and supported by your £5 annual membership. Have you paid your £5 this year? [Here's how to check and pay.](#)

You can always contact us by email at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) to raise an issue, to give your views, or to offer help.

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## LRA News

### Demolition of Loughton Library

As reported in [our recent news special](#), the County Council have now applied for planning permission to demolish Loughton Library on Traps Hill and replace it with a 5-storey block, now with a garage floor. [You can read LRAPG's letter of objection here.](#)



The consultation period closes October 20th. It is now time to make your views known to the Council. [More on our website and how to comment.](#)

### **13 – 15A Alderton Hill Another proposed block of flats**

As reported in [our recent news special](#), there is a new planning application for demolition of

houses at 13, 15 and 15a Alderton Hill, which will be replaced by linked blocks of 89 elderly person's apartments.



The consultation period closed September 22nd. You can still comment to the Council. [More details on our website.](#)

### **New District Local Plan**

We had expected a consultation on changes to the Main Modifications to the Local Plan to have started by now. However, it was announced at District Council Full Council meeting last Tuesday that it would start on October 31st.

There is no indication on what is causing the delay.

### **Progress with Potholes by Cllr Pond**

As a result of LRA Chris Pond nominating potholes to repair, the following potholes are among those scheduled for repair (and may have already been fixed):

- Castell Road - 7 patches
- Shelley Grove - outside No. 15
- Forest Road - outside No. 53 and No. 184
- High Road - outside the Methodist Church
- Oakwood Hill - outside No. 45 and No. 50, and near the entre to the Industrial Estate
- Sparelease Hill - multiple ones (6)
- Traps Hill - outside the Leisure Centre, opposite the Library and near Eleven Acre Rise
- Tycehurst Hill - outside No. 14, No. 68, No. 88 and No. 97

Chris can report only potholes in Loughton Central county division.

### **Santa Claus is Coming to Town on The Broadway**

The first Christmas event for many years on The Broadway will be a grotto for Santa in one of the offices where local children will be able to pay a visit. Funds are very limited but the aim is to provide a free new book to every child.

This will be on Friday December 2nd from 3pm to 5:30pm, and is organised by the Broadway Town Centre Partnership (BTCP), of whom LRA Cllr Rose Brookes is Interim Chair.

The BTCP are seeking donations of books now - can you help? You can support our local independent bookshop [The Bookshop](#) on the High Road who will be very happy to give suggestions for pre-school children, Key Stage 1 (5-7 years) or Key Stage 2 (7-11 years). These can be left, anonymously if you prefer, at the shop where Rose will be collecting regularly.

Could you also be an elf at a wrapping party before the event? If you could help please [email Rose](#).

### **Ward Boundaries in Epping Forest**

As we reported in [our previous news email](#), the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) for England was reviewing ward boundaries for the District. They have now published their [draft recommendations which are here](#), along with how you can comment.

Broadly, all new District Council wards will elect 3 councillors each, with elections every year (with one year in 4 to be for County Council - the next one due in 2025).

- St John's, Fairmead and Forest wards are greatly enlarged
- Alderton, Broadway and St Mary's wards are abolished
- Roding ward is enlarged but the old Roding ward south of Roding Rd to be detached and joined into a new Buckhurst Hill East and Whitebridge ward (mostly in Buckhurst Hill)

The proposals for Town Council wards are not yet clear.

**LRA Comment:** *LRA is studying the proposed changes to determine the effect of how Loughton would be represented at the Town and District Councils and will be making formal comments to the LGBC.*

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

### **Short General Meeting**

Wednesday, November 9th, 7.30pm

The Studio, Loughton Methodist Church, High Road IG10 1RB

We envisage the General Meeting will take 5 minutes followed by our Executive Committee meeting. Members can leave or are welcome to stay. Executive Committee meetings last around 1 hour

### **Have you paid your 2022 subscription?**

Thank you to the vast majority of members who have paid their £5 LRA 2022 membership subscription.

If you've not paid for 2022 yet, [here's how](#).

Not sure if you've paid? Just [email our Membership Secretary](#) to check.

### **How to pay your 2023 subscription**

An annual Standing Order paid on January 2nd each year is best. It helps lessen our costs and overheads and you don't need to remember to pay each year. [Here's the form](#). (You can cancel at any time.)

*You can set the Standing Order up now, so that it is ready to start next 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.

### **7a Forest Road**

This is an application for two storeys of office accommodation over this terrace of single storey commercial units.

LRAPG have objected to this overpowering development on the grounds the height, bulk and massing will stick out on this part of Forest Road to the visual detriment of Forest Road and this part of Loughton. In townscape terms the building forms part of a bigger unit with the adjacent shop; it would look ridiculous to extend only half of the site.

LRAPG is also concerned about the poor standard of drawings that are being accepted by the District Council. The plans submitted with this application are wholly inadequate to assess the quality of the design.

Reference [EPF/1661/22](#). The formal consultation period ended August 30th, but you can still comment to the Council.

### **16 Station Road**

It was very disappointing to see the original Rex Foster house demolished on Station Road, which we considered to be a local building of merit. Being situated outside a conservation area the District Council could not prevent this from happening. However, the loss of this asset should not mean the applicant should get away with the significantly larger dwelling which is now proposed.

LRAPG have objected to the excessive bulk of the proposed replacement dwelling which will sit uncomfortably on its plot and be out of character with this part of Station Road.

Reference [EPF/1478/22](#). The formal consultation period ended October 7th, but you can still comment to the Council.

### **Tom Dick and Harry, 153 High Road**

The restaurant has applied for provision of live and recorded music and non-standard timings for opening. The application was treated on its own merits and the following permissions were granted.

- Opening times are 8am-12:30am Monday to Wednesday, 8am-1am Thursday to Saturday and from 8am-11:30pm on Sunday.
- The sale of alcohol, which includes on and off sales, is 10am-midnight Monday to Wednesday, 10am-12:30am Thursday to Saturday and 10am-11pm Sunday.
- The provision of live music has been granted for both indoors and outdoors. Indoors from 10am-11pm Sunday to Wednesday and 10am-12:30am Thursday to Saturday. Outdoors, all live music must end when the outdoor seating area is to be cleared of customers which is 10pm Sunday to Wednesday and 11pm Thursday to Saturday.
- Provision of pre-recorded music for both indoor and outdoor areas is granted for 10am-midnight Monday to Wednesday, 10am-12:30am Thursday to Saturday and 10am-11pm Sunday.
- Provision of late night refreshments has been granted for both indoor and outdoors. Indoor hours are 11pm-midnight Monday to Wednesday and 11pm-12:30am Thursday to Saturday.
- Outdoor late night refreshment must end when the outdoor seating area is to be cleared of customers which is 10pm Sunday to Wednesday and 11pm Thursday to Saturday.
- For all of the above, non-standard timings for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, Bank Holidays have been agreed.

Reference [WK/202225737](#).

## Roads, Parking and Travel

### Planned Road Closures

- Junction of the High Road and The Drive - the area will have temporary traffic lights until October 15th to enable renewal of the traffic lights. Work is scheduled from 7pm to 5am with no noisy works after 11pm. [More](#)
- Brooklyn Parade - the road will be closed until October 28th for safety during work on the High Road by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- High Road (south to Buckhurst hill) - the road will be closed between 8pm and 5am from October 17th to October 22nd while CCTV and drainage repair works are undertaken 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.

### Baldwins Hill

New parking restrictions on Baldwins Hill (pared down from the original proposal because of objections) will start on November 28th. These include:

- A Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) from The Foresters Arms to No. 27
- Double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) from Golding's Hill to No. 58, and around the junctions of The Summit and Golding's Hill.

### Roadworks in July

In Epping Forest District, County Highways made 57 repairs to roads, fixed 30 pavement defects, fixed 146 streetlights and cleared 2045 drains.



### Tubes and Trains - Industrial Action

You can see the latest updates on Industrial action on the tube network at [TfL website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and on the rail network at the [National Rail website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## Police, Fire and Crime



### Marking Your Property

Ownership over property can sometimes be difficult to determine. By marking or registering your valuables, should the worst happen, and your items are stolen, when they are recovered there can be no dispute over who owns them.

You can mark property with Ultraviolet (UV) pens, Engraving, Semi-permanent labels, or SmartWater and SelectaDNA. [More](#)

### **Hidden keys aren't so hidden**

Leaving keys outside for you or your family to get in isn't secure. Most burglars are opportunists and could use this as a way to break in and it could invalidate your insurance if the worst happens.

For more tips, tricks and insider knowledge to stay safe from crime and protect your home, property, shops and community, the Police have more [crime prevention advice](#).

Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF) can also [fit a key safe for homeowners](#). (Council tenants can access a free service by calling Qualis on 0333 2300464.)

### **Beware of Ofgem scam emails**

Emails are being sent that claim that you are due a discount on your energy bill and ask you to follow a link to a website. You will then be asked to fill in personal information. If in doubt never click on any links and contact the organisation directly.

[More](#)

## **Council News**

### **Loughton Day**

The Town Council postponed Loughton Day during the official period of national mourning and tried to reschedule for October, but unfortunately this did not work out. They are extremely disappointed, as so much preparation work has gone into the organising of this inaugural 'Loughton Day'. They are now planning to relaunch the event next year.



### **Festive Card Competition**

Can **you** design the Town Council's official Festive card this year?

This popular annual competition is open to anyone who lives, works or is a student at a school or college in Loughton – whatever your age! Each category winner will be presented with a £25 gift card and a laminated certificate. The closing date is Wednesday November 16th.

[More](#)

### **District Council Budget**

In [a report to the District Council Cabinet](#) (p25) there is a prediction of a £1 million overspend in the current financial year, due to reductions in income and higher cost pressures.

In [a separate report](#) (p3), for the next financial year the Council is projecting a £4 million deficit. With forecasted expenditure of £19 million and funding of £15 million, this is a significant gap. The Council have [been reported](#) as saying that 'services

which the council has a statutory requirement to provide would be prioritised, although they would be reviewed to try to make them more cost-efficient'.

The budget situation for all three councils (Town, District and County) is going to be very difficult this year.

### **County Council Support for Residents**

A new raft of measures and money to help families battle against increasing cost of living pressures has been announced by the County Council.

The plans include £17 million of government cash to help households pay for insulation and other energy saving improvements at home, a community led 'winter warmth and welcome' campaign to provide local places for winter warmth over the coming months, including a grant scheme to help groups fund activities, and additional funding to help vulnerable people with essential costs.

A number of support initiatives are already underway with others due to launch in mid-October onwards. The [current support available is here](#) for energy bills, childcare costs, and household costs.

## **Local News**

### **Sale of the Last Post pub**

Wetherspoons have announced they have put [the pub up for sale](#). This is one of 32 in the country they are trying to dispose of and are trying to lease it to another pub operator. Wetherspoons are well known for pruning pubs they consider not to be performing well for them. They currently have a lease until July 2023.



### **Rubbish and Recycling Waste Collections**

As we have [reported previously](#), there has been much disruption to bin and recycling collections due to contractor staff shortages and vehicle breakdowns.

If your collection is missed, [check here first](#) to see if the District Council already knows, in which case leave your bins out to be collected. [More on what to do](#) if this does not happen.



### **Are all light bulbs recyclable?**

Old-style incandescent light bulbs can't be recycled and should be put safely in your general waste bin. [Here's a guide](#) to other light bulb types and what can and cannot be recycled.



## Ideas to Reduce Household Waste?

Love Essex is asking for applications for projects that create or inspire a reduction in household waste. Projects must promote reuse and repair and can be small with micro-grants of up to £500. This could include clothes swap events, children's toys redistribution and electronics or furniture repair.

[Apply here](#). Applications close October 24th.

## Chigwell Recycling Centre Hours

With the change of seasons all recycling centres across Essex will soon change their operating times, including the closest one to Loughton at Chigwell which will close at 4pm from Monday October 14th. [More](#)

## Is your Chimney Ready for Winter?

The Fire Service often see a spike in house fires as winter approaches. Cleaning your chimney by a suitable tradesperson can help protect you. Having your chimney swept regularly can prevent a build-up of soot which can become a fire hazard. [More](#)

*If you are not* using your fireplace, an open chimney will allow warm air to escape and add to your energy costs. [More](#) about draught-proofing your chimney

## Citizens Advice and British Gas Energy Trust

[Citizens Advice Essex](#) has entered into a new partnership with the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) for new funding, initially over the next 18 months, in anticipation of increased demand from local people amid the cost-of-living crisis. The funding will enable Citizens Advice to expand their team of specialist energy advisers. [More from Citizens Advice](#) on your energy supply.

## Save Food, Save Money

With our greater awareness of the cost of living, having less food waste can save money. Planning meals better, making food last longer and getting portion sizes right can all help. [More](#)

## Hosepipe Ban Still in Place

Even with the cooler weather and some rain, there is still a ban on using hosepipes. The [latest report](#) is that rainfall is 34% below average and reservoirs at down 16% in the London area against typical long term levels. [More](#)

## Autumn and Winter Activity Programme

The District Council's programme includes Halloween half term activities, festive workshops for adults including wreath making and bath bombs and a new series of talks inspired by Animal Mummies: Uncovered at Epping Forest District Museum. [More](#) and how to book.







### Help with Digital

[Voluntary Action Epping Forest](#) (VAEF) and [MIND in West Essex](#) are running sessions to help people improve their digital skills so they can access online banking, email friends and family, make health appointments and much more. [More](#)

The sessions take place every Thursday between 9.30am and 12.30pm at the Community Hub at the District Council Civic Offices in Epping.

### Moving at the Museum

The District Council is running sessions primarily aimed at adults aged 55 and over to help them get back to activity, maintain flexibility and make new friends through dance and artistry. Sessions are at the District Council museum in Waltham Abbey on Fridays between 10.30am and 12 noon. [More](#) and how to book a place.

### Regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone Declared

A Regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone has been declared by the Government for districts within Essex which include Chelmsford, Rochford, Tendring, Colchester, Maldon, Braintree, Basildon, Castle Point and the unitary authority area of Southend-on-Sea. The zone also covers the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk.

The law now requires bird-keepers in these areas to keep poultry and pet birds indoors.

Epping Forest District is not currently included. [More](#) and [the latest updates](#).

### 2023 RideLondon-Essex Ballot

RideLondon-Essex was held for the first time in May 2022 and will return for a second year on Sunday May 28th 2023. This is a 100-mile course on traffic-free roads that will start and finish in central London and feature a loop of picturesque Essex countryside.

Public engagement events ([more](#)) are taking place including at:

- 5-8pm Thursday November 3rd at Epping Town Hall, St John's Road, Epping, CM16 5JU
- 5-8pm Friday November 4th at Roding Valley Hall, Station Way, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 6LN

The ballot to get your place in RideLondon-Essex 2023 on May 28th is now open. The first 10,000 places that were available on a first-come, first-served basis have now sold out. If you want a chance of taking part in the 100-mile challenge, enter the free ballot now via the [RideLondon website](#).

## Health and Wellbeing

### Covid Vaccine

[Read more](#) on getting a vaccine. It's never too late to come forward and you can use [a walk in centre](#) or [book an appointment](#), or call 119 for more help.

In the autumn, [a further booster is available](#) to all adults aged 50 years and over, and at-risk groups. [Book online](#) or call 119.

### **Walk In Vaccinations**

The NHS is offering vaccinations without an appointment every Thursday in October from 10:30am to 5:30pm for 1st and 2nd doses for those aged 12+ and boosters for those aged 18+ that are eligible. [More](#)



### **Local Infection Rates**

The [local data for Epping Forest is here](#).

### **Flu Vaccine**

The flu vaccine is given free on the NHS to adults who:

- are 50 and over (including those who will be 50 by 31 March 2023)
- have certain health conditions
- are pregnant
- are in long-stay residential care
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- live with someone who is more likely to get a severe infection due to a weakened immune system, such as someone living with HIV, someone who has had a transplant, or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis
- are frontline health workers
- are social care workers who cannot get the vaccine through an occupational health scheme at work

[More](#) and where to get a vaccine.

## **Epping Forest**

### **Watch out – deer about!**

With the autumn rut starting now, male fallow deer are becoming bolder and more noticeable with some beginning to establish their rutting stands by scraping the ground and urinating in their chosen spot. During the rutting season the deer may be more active and distracted than usual and therefore pose an increased hazard on the roads which run through the Forest woodland. Please take great care and keep to the 40mph speed limit.

If you hit a deer, Stop.

Call 999 if the deer is in the middle of the road. Deer may lash out and injure themselves you if you attempt move it. [Here is more advice](#).

For help:

- Epping Forest Keepers: Call 0208 532 1010
- [Harold Hill Deer Aid](#): Call 07939 016367
- [South Essex Wildlife Hospital](#): 01375 893893 (they can be very busy but may be able to help)
- [RSPCA](#): 0300 123 4999

### **New Golden Hill Trail**

A new waymarked trail in the Forest at Goldings Hill has been installed. The 1.6 mile circular route wends its way through woodland, passing many ancient pollards along

the way. It offers a detour to Baldwins Hill Pond as well as passing charming Golding's Hill Pond and the Lost Pond.

The Trail may be started and finished at any point along its length, with perhaps Goldings Hill Pond and Baldwins Hill being the most easily accessible.

Local business, Haslers Chartered Accountants, contributed to this and conservation work in and around Golding's Hill Pond.

### **Epping Forest Big Walk**

The annual Epping Forest Big Walk returned this year on Sunday September 25th with over 200 people participating. Walkers were also able to properly relax on the route, without the need to look at a map or worry about directions, as they were led and supported by a group of volunteer walk leaders and marshals. Volunteers also provided refreshments at 3 stops along the route. [More, with pictures.](#)

### **Could You be a Warden?**

Volunteer wardens will carry out a host of diverse tasks in the Forest throughout the year, all aimed at supporting our management of the Forest. This could include patrolling the Forest to assist the public, carrying out survey work, leading conservation tasks or helping out with some of our events. [More](#)

### **Could You Be a Trustee of Epping Forest Heritage Trust?**

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is a charity and membership organisation that inspires and educates people about Epping Forest, undertakes hands-on conservation work and protects the Forest through advocacy and research.



They are now recruiting between three and five new Trustees with the passion, skills, and experiences to steer delivery of a new strategy, committed to making the Forest accessible to all as they protect and preserve Epping Forest now, and for generations to come. [More](#)



### **Forest Focus - October 2022**

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

## ***And More***

### **Care with Fireworks**

With November 5th approaching, fireworks can be great fun for families. but many people get injured and many animals find fireworks scary.

Here are some [helpful tips for humans](#), and [helpful tips for animals](#). Going to an organised event will be safer for both humans and animals.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday November 4th 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](mailto:loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk). Links to on other websites are beyond our control and may not work over time.
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We can be contacted at [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

To update your membership details, email [membership@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:membership@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

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