



LRA's Loughton News

4 November 2022

In this issue is a reminder that you can still comment on two planning applications for large developments - the [demolition of Loughton Library](#) and a block of [flats replacing three houses on Alderton Hill](#). Have you commented? It's not hard and you can consider some of the points of concern we've included on our website - you can make a difference.

Also there have been changes for [live music in licensed premises](#) (which are a retrograde step) and for [street parties](#) (which we welcome).

As the weather turns cooler, the Fire Service offers some [tips to be fire-safe](#), and there's a reminder to have an [annual boiler service](#).

People can feel unsafe on the streets even if you feel safe (especially at night) so [here's how to help others feel safe](#), and there is now a [knife bin](#) outside the Police station on the High Road.

Around town, [Remembrance Sunday](#) is on November 13th. With Christmas approaching there are competitions to design this year's [official festive card](#) and for businesses to have a [Christmas themed designs in their windows](#)

Have you also noticed that 'Best Before' labels are disappearing and do you know [what to do?](#)

LRA is 100% run by volunteers locally. We are urgently looking for a volunteer who can use simple Excel to [help manage our lists](#) of *Loughton Life* deliverers. Perhaps you (or someone you know) could help? It's not a big job but is important to the successful delivery of Loughton Life, and probably more suited to someone who has retired or is otherwise not in full-time employment.

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

News Sections

[LRA News](#)

[Planning and Licensing](#)

[Roads, Parking and Travel](#)

[Police, Fire and Crime](#)

[Council News](#)

[Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Local News](#)

[Epping Forest](#)

Your LRA



[LRA Website](#)



[LRA on Twitter](#)



[LRA on Facebook](#)

[Contact LRA](#)

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

LRA News

Demolition of Loughton Library

As we reported [previously](#), the County Council 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](#) with [more on our website](#).



Although the consultation ended October 20th, you can still send your comments by post to the County Council ([details on our website](#)).

LRA Plans Group acquired the confidential pre-application "Statement of Community Involvement" document relating to the redevelopment of the Library through a Freedom of Information request. The summary demonstrates the majority of residents oppose the development. Over half of respondents opposed any additional housing and in particular the size and massing, loss of library space, against the principle of the demolition, parking and impact of the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation were all registered as areas of objection. Notwithstanding this, only minor changes were made to the scheme before the application was submitted.

It is disappointing a public authority is ignoring the views of the local community. LRA Plans Group will continue to oppose the development.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond is also seeking to find out how library services will be maintained during the demolition and building period. The County Council to date has only said they "will seek to mitigate the impact of works on users of the building and ensure a continued library offer to the residents of Loughton" without any detail and whether this just means redirecting users to other libraries.

13 – 15A Alderton Hill Another proposed block of flats

As we reported [previously](#) 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.



Although the consultation ended September 22nd, you can still send your comments by email or post to the District Council ([details on our website](#)).

New District Local Plan

The [consultation on changes](#) to the Main Modifications of the Local Plan has started and will run until December 9th.

The process has been long and tortuous. In summary, the Council produced a draft of the Local Plan in 2016, with a lot happening since then ([read more on our website](#)). The current state of play is that changes to the draft Local Plan (known as Main Modifications) thought necessary by the new inspector (Mr Bore) have been proposed and these are now open to review and comment from residents.



After this consultation period, further changes may be made to the Main Modifications, which will then be submitted to the Planning Inspector to determine whether the Local Plan is 'sound' and thus be considered to be agreed and final.

LRA Comment: At first sight, LRA are still doubtful whether the new Main Modification on protecting the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from air pollution from vehicles is strong enough to prevent further damage to the SAC from new housing and other developments nearby. We need to consider what changes are needed; if we think that it would help if residents also put in comments to the Council, we will let you know in a special email bulletin.

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

Traffic Calming Measures on Carroll Hill and The Uplands

LRA Cllr Chris Pond raised a request for traffic calming measures on these two roads. Speed surveys were done in September, and Essex Highways reported compliance was good, with only 5% exceeding the limit. The two sites will therefore not be considered for calming measures.

Watching for Traffic Offences

LRA Cllrs Rose Brookes and Chris Pond were told by County Cllr Lee Scott (Cabinet Member for highways) that the two parking partnerships in the County have acquired vans equipped with the latest technology that can detect and ticket moving traffic offences like zebra crossing fails to stop, jumping red lights or driving in bus lanes (including the one leading to Loughton station).

The first an offender knows is receiving a letter from the North Essex Parking Partnership. Unlike red lines, these offences attract points on your licence.

Could you help manage our rota of newsletter deliverers?

We produce five editions of Loughton Life each year. We need someone to maintain the lists of the volunteers who deliver them across the town (other people receive the copies, split them up into individual delivery rounds and distribute them).



To find out more, please contact David at david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk or 07958 984278 for a no-obligation chat.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town on The Broadway

This Christmas there will be a grotto with Santa on The Broadway for local children on December 2nd from 3pm to 5:30pm. This is organised by the Broadway Town Centre Partnership (BTCP), of whom LRA Cllr Rose Brookes is Interim Chair.

Funds are very limited but the aim is to provide a free new book to every child. 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. Book donations are needed by **November 21st**.

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

Citizens Advice AGM

LRA Cllrs Rose Brookes and David Wixley recently attended the AGM of [Epping Forest Citizens Advice](#). Citizens Advice have experienced a big increase in referrals recently. Most referrals are by phone or online (with face to face appointments made by arrangement) and they have been doing a drop in outreach programme at the District Council Community Hub and Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre which is having a good uptake.

Rose asked if there were any proposed plans for something similar in Loughton. At the moment no proposals are in the pipeline partly due to most clients finding it more convenient to access Citizens Advice services by phone or online.

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.

Ward Boundaries in Epping Forest

As we reported in [our previous news email](#), the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) for England has reviewing ward boundaries for the District and published their [draft recommendations which are here](#), along with how you can comment. You can [comment](#) on the recommendations until December 12th.



Broad Yellow Lines and Parking

A broad yellow line usually means a bus stop clearway, and is generally signed 'No stopping at any time', so any offending vehicle can be ticketed.

However a curious anomaly discovered by LRA Cllr Caroline Pond, following up a resident complaint about The Uplands bus stop in her ward, is that a vehicle parked on the pavement adjacent to the broad yellow line cannot presently be ticketed by enforcement officers.

This is due to a defect in the legislation, which the Department of Transport say they want to correct but are waiting a slot in the legislative timetable. Since the Government want to encourage bus use, you'd think they would want to correct this soon.

Image: Google

Meet your Alderton Ward LRA Cllrs

ALDERTON WARD MONTHLY SURGERY

Come and meet your ward councillors in person and have your questions answered



Cllr IAN ALWOOD
0181 8924274



Cllr CHRIS HARRIS
07793 712001



Cllr NICOLA EASTWOOD

2PM - 4PM EVERY 1ST SATURDAY

GUILLOTI CAFE
62 BORDERS LN
LOUGHTON
IG10 3QX

REGISTRATION:
FREE TO ATTEND



Cllr RICHARD STUBBINS



Cllr PHILIP ABRAHAM

Loughton Residents
LRA
Association

Alderton ward councillors will be holding their monthly drop in surgery tomorrow November 5th from 2pm-4pm at Guilloti Cafe on Borders Lane. Come by to discuss any ward issues.

No registration or booking is needed. [More](#)

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.

Debden Hall Site, Englands Lane

This is an application to build a new house with associated works to provide access, parking and landscaping, along with refurbishment and repair of Grade II listed gates and piers.

LRAPG have objected to a new application to erect a house where Debden Hall once stood. The site is marked by the sorry looking entrance pillars on Englands Lane. The council had disappointingly already granted planning permission for a dwelling on the site which is within the protected Green Belt. However the previous consent

was for a passable copy of an 1820 house, putting back what was there and maintaining the heritage value.

The current plans are for a larger dwelling that bears no resemblance to the historic past. The proposed design is too large and the top floor will be visible, particularly in the winter and evenings when the large glazed areas are illuminated.

Reference [EPF/2216/22](#). The formal consultation period ended November 3rd, but you can still comment to the Council.

Noise from live music in licensed premises

The Government has removed the conditions imposed in alcohol premises licences regarding the provision of live music between 8am and 11pm.

If a noise nuisance is being caused, residents will have to ask the District Council for a review of the premises' licence; the Council can then impose restrictions if thought appropriate. Other noise legislation, for example in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, will continue to apply (the Live Music Act does not allow licensed premises to cause a noise nuisance).

***LRA Comment:** this is a retrograde step. It means that if residents are disturbed by noise from licensed premises they will have to fight for a licence review, with the resulting delays in action, rather than asking the Council to take action immediately to apply existing restrictions. If you are disturbed by noise from licenced premises, the Council will need good evidence before it sets up a review. Please tell the District Council ([online](#) or call 01992 564608 during office hours or 01992 564000 at all other times) about the problems, keep a diary of the problems, and ask any neighbours who are also affected to do the same. We have no experience of the other anti-noise provisions, but we suspect they will be equally time-consuming and difficult to apply.*

Street parties

Following recent experience, the District Council has made the following changes to its requirements for street parties:

- there will no longer be a £194 fee for community/charitable events.
- organisers can now apply up to four weeks for approval before the event. Organisers are advised to apply earlier if possible as, if the Council receives any objections, four weeks may not allow sufficient time for the Council to make a decision and they may just have to refuse the application outright.
- the Council will consult Essex Highways. The applicant is responsible for notifying neighbours, businesses, the Town (or Parish) Council and anyone who will be affected by the road closure
- the Council won't ask for risk assessments for events for 500 people or less; it will be up to the organisers to consider the risks involved and document these.
- the Council won't require the organisers to take out public liability insurance (but organisers should consider doing so, for their own protection).

[More](#)

***LRA Comment:** these changes are pragmatic and very welcome.*

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Church Lane - the road will be closed between 8pm and 5am from November 7th to 12th for road repairs. [More](#)
- Forest Road - the road will be closed from November 9th to 11th to fix a road subsidence opposite the Police station. [More](#)
- Rangers Road - the road will be closed between 9pm and 5am on November 10th and 11th to clean the cattle grids. [More](#)
- Debden Road - the road will be closed from November 21st to December 2nd for works by Openreach. [More](#)
- Homecroft Gardens - the road will be closed from November 21st to December 23rd for gas main reinforcement works by Cadent. [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 418

The operator is changing on November 21st to Vectare of Loughborough (who run Chelmsford Park and Ride). The timetable is not yet available but the route is being extended to the Talbot pub at North Weald.

Elizabeth Line

From November 6th, the Elizabeth Line from Reading, Heathrow, and Shenfield will connect with the central tunnels of the Elizabeth Line opening up new direct journeys across London.

Of specific interest, you will be able to catch the Elizabeth Line at Stratford and travel west all the way to Paddington without changing at Liverpool Street. (Some services will continue to terminate at the Liverpool Street National Rail station so check the destination of your train.) [More](#)

In addition, Bond Street station on the Elizabeth Line is now open, easing journeys into the West End. Services from Shenfield to Heathrow without changing at Paddington are expected to happen by May next year.

Police, Fire and Crime

Staying Fire-Safe in the Winter

The Fire Service offer helpful advice for staying safe during the winter, including tips for cooking, use of candles, staying warm and winter driving. [More](#).

It's also that time of the year to have your boiler serviced and gas appliances checked by a GasSafe engineer to prevent gas leaks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

You can also contact your energy supplier and request a free annual gas safety check if you get a means-tested benefit and either:

- live with a child under five years old
- live alone or with others and have reached state pension age
- live alone or with others and are disabled or chronically ill
- live with others who have reached state pension age or are disabled, chronically ill or under 18 years old.

Help Others Feel Safe on the Streets

People can feel unsafe on the streets, especially at night, even if you feel safe. You can help other people feel safer when they're out in public, by keeping your distance, not staring, and being an active bystander. [More](#)

The Police are also running a pilot scheme where you can tell them anonymously about public places where you've felt unsafe. [More](#)



Helping Loughton be knife free

A knife bin has been placed outside the Police station on the High Road. The new knife bin joins the county's 14 other knife bins which are funded by Essex Police, the Vulnerable Victims Unit, and the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

[More](#)

Volunteer as a Police Cadet

Essex Police are looking for young people aged between 13 - 18 to join a volunteer police cadet scheme in the Epping Forest District. The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is a uniformed voluntary youth organisation, supported by Essex Police, offering a variety of opportunities to the young people involved. [More](#)



Domestic Abuse Helpline

[Compass](#) supports victims of domestic abuse and is provided by a consortium of established domestic abuse support agencies. You can call the Helpline on 0330 333 7444 (8am-8pm weekdays and 8am-1pm weekends) and also [ask for support online](#).

Have Your Say

You can [have your say](#) on funding for Policing and Fire and Rescue Services for 2023/24. The survey has 18 questions and should take no more than three minutes to complete. The survey closes November 27th.

More from the Police

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

You can also [Ask the Police](#) which is an official Police resource that provides answers to a wide variety of the general public's most frequently asked policing questions.

Council News



13 NOVEMBER 2022

"We will remember them"

Remembrance Sunday

There will be a traditional remembrance service at the War Memorial on Kings Green on November 13th.

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](#)

Community Warm Places

Warm Places provide a free, safe, warm and comfortable space for those who need it throughout winter. Many of the venues are offering refreshments (with some offering hot food), activities such as board games and Wi-fi.



Locations in Loughton include Debden and Loughton Libraries, St Mary's Church, St Michael's Church and Trinity Methodist Church. [Check the details and opening times here.](#) and please share with anyone you know who may struggle this winter to keep warm.

Christmas Window Competition

The Town Council invites all Loughton's businesses to decorate their shop windows in a Christmas themed design. All shops and businesses within the Town Council's boundaries are eligible and will be automatically entered in the competition.

There are four entry classes and each group winner will have the opportunity to nominate a charity to receive a £75 donation from the Town Council, and will be awarded an engraved cup to keep for eleven months along with a framed certificate.

Window decorations must be completed for when the judging commences on December 1st. [More](#)

Festive Card Competition

The Town Council's competition to design this year's official Festive Card is still open until Wednesday November 16th.

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.
[More](#)



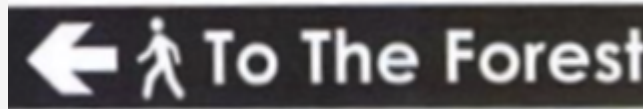
Willingale Road Allotments

Maintenance has been carried out at Willingale Road allotments with the East of England Probation Service working on cutting back overgrowth. This partnership appears to be beneficial to both parties.

Some plots have been split into half plots to reduce waiting times.

Signs to the Forest

The Town Council has been making progress in arranging for signage from Loughton's stations to the Forest and a large proportion of the required signage to the Forest is now in place.



York Hill Benches

For those taking the climb up York Hill to take in the vista from the top of the hill, you can rest again on the benches.

They have been replaced after mutual agreement by the Town Council, City of London and District Council Resilience Team. However, this is subject to a further periodic review of any further anti-social behaviour.



Kings Green War Memorial

The Memorial has undergone restoration recently with a comprehensive clean and repairs. The majority of work has been completed with the Town Council being impressed by the standard of work. There is still some finishing work to be carried out.

Claybury Hospital Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour is in memory of the personnel of Claybury Hospital who served and fell in World War One. It was rescued from a rubbish skip when the hospital buildings were demolished in the 1998/99 and sent to the Royal British Legion in

Loughton. It was subsequently transferred to the Town Council who have now handed it to the Redbridge Museum. [More](#)

District Council Cash Office on The Broadway to close

The office will close on November 29th, which includes the cash desk and the services for housing management.

The Council are offering an AllPay card which allows for cash payments at the Post Office and PayPoints for residents who prefer to pay in cash. Residents who use the Council's housing management services already have these cards, and Council Tax and business rates customers who have made a payment at the Debden office since it reopened in April 2021 will automatically receive a payment card by post before the office shuts. [More](#)

No to Cash for a Waste Collection

Residents in Forest Road were very annoyed to see that Biffa residual waste collectors had apparently agreed to take builders' waste from a building site for cash payments. Photos were taken by several residents, and the matter reported to LRA and the District Council. Officers who oversee the Biffa contract investigated and say appropriate action was taken; the crew are no longer working on the contract.

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.

The District Council have now decided go to market and run a full procurement process for the Waste/Street Cleansing contract which expires in November 2024.

Local News

Autumn and Winter Activity Programme

The District Council's [programme](#) includes exercise events and guided social walks for adults, events for children and a Festive programme. [More](#)



Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

The current Avian Influenza Prevention Zone for Norfolk and Suffolk and parts of Essex will be extended to the whole of England from November 7th. The housing measures legally require all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow stringent biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the disease, regardless of type or size.

[More](#) and [the latest updates](#) including what to do if you find a dead bird.

Cases have now been [reported in the Forest](#). If you find wild birds you suspect may have died from this call 020 8532 1010 to arrange collection. Do not touch any sick or dead birds. Keep your dog away from the infected bird.

Avian influenza (bird flu) mainly affects birds and poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat. [More](#)

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.

Local Infection Rates

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



Epping Forest



Exhibition: Drawn to the Forest

The Visitor Centre in Chingford has an original exhibition until Sunday November 6th by local artist, Mark Lewis, who has been drawing and photographing Epping Forest for over 35 years and this exhibition represents his continual fascination with light and shadow in the forest, expressed through dramatic contrasts. [More](#)

And More

'Best Before' labels

Almost every major supermarket has removed 'Best Before' labels from their products to help reduce food waste, so people need to decide for themselves if the food is still good to eat. For such foods, you can use sensory cues to work out if the food can be eaten. Look for visible mould on bread, taste to see if biscuits/crisps are stale, or sniff/smell some dairy products to see if they have soured.

'Use by' dates still remain on many products as that is about safety. Some foods deteriorate over time in a way that may present a food safety risk; for instance, some

meat or dairy products. After the 'Use by' date, don't eat, cook or freeze your food.

[More](#)

Help with gas and electricity bills

There are several government schemes available to help with the rising cost of your gas and electricity bills. [More on what is available](#), depending on your situation, including:

- Cost of living support with the rising cost of energy bills
- Money back on your council tax
- Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Cold Weather Payment
- Winter Fuel Payment
- Boiler Upgrade Scheme

What to do during a power cut

While the energy networks are more reliable than ever, power cuts can sometimes occur. If you still have internet connectivity, [check for power cuts in the area here](#) and report it, or call 105 (a free call) or 0800 316 3105.

What else should I do?

- Switch off all electrical appliances that shouldn't be left unattended, ready for when the power comes back on.
- Leave a light on so you know when the power cut has been fixed.
- Check to see if your neighbours are safe and if they have a power cut too. If they have power, your trip switch may have activated.
- If it's cold, wrap up warm and close internal doors to keep the heat in.
- Contact your network operator to report the power cut. Your network operator is different from your energy supplier.

[More](#)

Energy Grant Scams

Scammers are looking to entice people into sharing their personal details by sending phoney texts about government energy rebates.

Text messages have are being received containing links to supposedly apply for the government's £400 [Energy Bills Support Scheme](#). If you receive one of these texts, you can be sure it's a scam as all energy support payments will be sent automatically. [More](#)

Having a clear-out?

Charity shops will take a wide variety of items (for example, Oxfam will take books, CDs, vinyl, DVDs and lots more, including cars) – you can check online before you go. You may be able to help the charity even more by signing up online or at the shop to Gift Aid your items if you are a UK taxpayer – the charity will get an extra 25% if and when they're sold.

Please do:

- check online beforehand to find out what your chosen charity shop will take

- don't leave donations on the doorstep when the shop is closed – your items will may to be dumped, at the charity's expense.

If your favourite charity doesn't have a shop nearby, check online if they take items by post (again, for example, Oxfam does, postage free at your local Collect+ drop off point).

British Heart Foundation will take electrical items, which most other charities won't.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday November 25th 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

© 2022 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](#)