



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA NEWS

Shopping in The Broadway

The problems

Most of the shops in The Broadway are run by individuals rather than multiple chains, and their livelihoods are at risk if trade drops off. Many have carried on with decreased turnover through the considerable disruption caused by the roadworks on Chigwell Lane (part of the Langston Road Retail Park project – and which significantly over-ran the District Council’s estimates of how long they’d last). Since the roadworks ended and the Retail Park opened they have found their trade decreasing even further.

Impact study

Following pressure from The Broadway Town Centre Partnership (BTCP) and LRA Cllrs, the District Council’s Conservative administration had promised an “impact study” which we hoped would quantify the effect which the new Retail Park has had on the shops in The Broadway.

From LRA Cllrs’ own knowledge, and reading between the lines of the report, it’s clear that shoppers who used to come by car to shop in The Broadway no longer do so; we also know that employees on the Langston Road Industrial Estate, who used to come to The Broadway to lunch and shop, no longer do so either.

The Council consultant’s study was discussed at a Council meeting on January 17th.

The study’s findings appeared to be based on out-of-date and irrelevant data, and at the meeting LRA Cllrs comprehensively rubbish its conclusion that not much had changed

The Council could have analysed the data it holds on shops’ turnover (they are the landlord) and, while they couldn’t publish figures for individual shops, the change in the total would have been revealing.

The only ray of hope for the shopkeepers is that the Government has announced a business rates discount of one third off the overall tax liabilities for certain smaller retail properties. [More](#).

Documents [here](#) (item6)

Webcast of meeting [here](#)

Following LRA on social media.

Twitter used to allow us to automatically transfer our tweets to go out as posts on Facebook - however, they have stopped doing this. We are all volunteers who spend our free time on LRA work, and unfortunately it would take too long to transfer tweets manually to Facebook - we’re sorry about this. However, if you go to our [website](#) you’ll find our tweets on the right-hand side of the screen - just scroll down for earlier tweets.

Parking



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- **Nursery Road.** Residents have been asking whether anything is being done about parking between Connaught Avenue and Smarts Lane. NEPP have agreed to look at the problem (plus Shaftesbury) “early in 2019”, and we’ll let residents know when we hear something.
 - **Broadway area phase 2.** We’ve heard nothing from NEPP, who’re supposed to be producing their report and recommendations on how to proceed – this will then go to the District Council for a decision. We’ll let members know when we hear something.

Oakwood Hill estate.

- **Ball games field.** The District Council wants to concrete over a green area on the estate which is greatly valued by residents for recreation so that staff at the Council’s new Oakwood Hill depot can park there - this despite there being room elsewhere nearby for these staff to park. The Council’s planning application was thrown out by local Cllrs at a planning meeting. However, last year the Council twisted their rules so that “appeals” on any Council applications go not to an independent inspector but to a Council committee on which the ruling Conservative group are on the majority. Nevertheless, when this week the application went to this committee, it was thrown out again! The ruling group immediately decided to send it to the next Full Council meeting – we think this is an appalling way for them to carry on in the face of residents opposition and the decisions of Cllrs in two separate planning meetings.
- **Pavement surface repairs.** We’re hoping that repairs to last year’s poor workmanship will start this month. Five years ago, LRA obtained funding from the District Council to improve the estate. Work on the pavements was finally carried out last year, after years of prevarication by the Council, but to such a poor standard that repairs were needed.

Yellow lines in Roundmead Avenue.

A resident contacted us because the lines hadn’t been reinstated after pothole repairs. LRA Cllr Chris Pond investigated and has been assured by Highways that repainting will start in mid-March when there is a better chance of good weather and no salt on the roads (salt and moisture prevent road markings adhering to the road surface, which is why they haven’t been repainted yet).

Alderton Hill potholes.

After months of frustration while County Highways ignored requests for repairs to the two large potholes at the junction of Alderton Hill and Alderton Hall Lane, a plea from LRA Cllr Chris Pond seemed to finally spur them into action – the potholes have been (temporarily) repaired at last. Highways say that Alderton Hill is being considered for the 2019/20 Surfacing Dressing Programme - once the programme’s been confirmed information will be found on the [Highways Information Map](#)

Alderton Hill drain. In January the notorious drain south of the Brook Road junction started flooding again. Investigations by LRA Cllr Chris Pond revealed that when County Highways closed Alderton Hill last summer they not only failed to solve this long-running problem, but the work they carried out has made it more likely to block in future. A little wearily, we are following this up with County Highways.

In the meantime, if you’re walking along the pavement by the school and get drenched, please let us know at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk, with photos of the flooding if possible.



Policing in Loughton.

A concerned resident contacted us about crime in Loughton.

Local crime figures can be found at <https://www.police.uk/essex/130/>

We agreed that more police are needed – we’ve been pressing for this since the Government’s financial constraints forced Essex Police to cut police numbers. We encourage residents to report all crimes, as the number of reports is one major element in getting more police allocated to the area. Lack of resources mean that in general police now only visit crime victims if there is further information to be gained by doing so. However, information is recorded and used to identify criminals and build up evidence against them, and can be seen from the police project which ran from last May and which resulted in the identification and arrest of members of 5 drugs gangs (more below). Our local police teams are based at Loughton Police station. The station is not now open to the public, but in practice very few people actually went in to report things – most non-emergency contacts with the police are now on 101 or www.essex.police.uk (much easier to make reports here than by calling 101). We also suggest that residents who don’t already follow Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch on Facebook or Twitter will find this a good way to keep abreast of what’s happening.

LOCAL NEWS

FOR LOCAL LEISURE ORGANISATIONS SEE <http://tinyurl.com/pbel693>

All-night street lighting.

Loughton Town Council is interested in this idea, but will need to consider the matter thoroughly, and to consult residents (and if they go ahead, they’ll need to find the funds to do so). They have asked the County Council

- for a detailed breakdown of the costs;
- whether the lights could be on for Friday and Saturday nights only (days on which the Night Tube runs) at 2/7ths of the cost;
- if there could be flexibility to choose only some roads and/or only have alternate lights remaining on all night
- whether if local councils take this up it will delay the installation of LED street lighting in the District.



Landmark Building shops. The Co-Op and Costa Coffee have lost interest in taking units here, but both these units are apparently now under offer again. A Mediterranean restaurant is being fitted out in one of the other units, despite a similar one just having opened in what were the *Green Owl’s* premises.

The Council say that two other units (one newly created via proposed subdivision) are available for letting and that agents are reporting interest – however, this has been the story for months.



Debden Library closure consultation meeting.

Senior County Council staff will be at Debden Library on Tuesday 12th February 2 – 4pm. Otherwise that day only junior staff will be there to discuss the closure.

Council Tax increases

- **Essex County Council:** 2.99% increase in core council tax, plus 1% for social care, which is an increase of £48.88pa for a Band D household to £1270.44pa. [More.](#)
- **Essex Police & Fire Service:** an increase of 14.16%, equivalent to an increase of £23.94 a year from £169.02 to £192.96 for a Band D property, to be spent as listed [here](#)
- **District Council:** no change
- **Loughton Town Council** increase of £3.56pa to £57.15pa for a band D household.

Police & Crime

- **Essex Police Quarterly Performance Report** [here](#)
- **Drug-trafficking.** Essex Police Operation “Rose” in November resulted in twenty four warrants and nineteen arrested and charged for drug supply involving *county lines* in the District. Last month, the Met carried out phase two, which resulted in a further 24 addresses being hit and a further 60 arrests.



Gangs are deliberately targeting vulnerable children – those who are homeless, living in care homes or trapped in poverty.

These children are unsafe, unloved, or unable to cope, and the gangs take advantage of this.

The gangs groom, threaten or trick children into trafficking their drugs for them. An added risk is that since the inception of county lines there has been a marked increase in possession of offensive weapons, where the runner or seller habitually arms themselves for protection from other lines.

- **More police.** In a public survey carried out at the end of last year more than 71% of respondents said they would be prepared to invest more in policing to help improve the service provided. 73% of positive respondents said they would be prepared to pay at least £20 a year more. So Essex Police aim to recruit an additional 215 police officers over the next year focusing on visible, frontline policing. [More.](#)

Loughton Town Council

- **Annual charity Fun Run** provisional date is Sunday 12 May
- **Jessel Green Fun Day** provisional date is Sunday 30 June
- **Play in the Park.** In 2018 some 1,273 people took part in the District Council’s *Play in the Park* activity programme throughout the District with contribution from town and parish councils. The Town Council will continue to support the scheme in 2019 with 2 sessions at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground during the Easter holidays and 10 sessions (5 each at Jessel Green and the Roding Valley Recreation Ground) during the Summer holidays at a net cost of £1,020.

Development of the former St Thomas More church and presbytery (Willingale Road) for residential use. Developers held a public information session in December and we await a formal planning application.

The oak tree (corner of Collard Avenue and Willingale Road is diseased and will be removed, along with the smaller trees. However, the large Ash tree off Collard Avenue and the Norway Maple outside 106 Willingale Road will remain, and new trees will be planted as part of the development.

Licence review Wo Fat, 270-272 High Road. The application relates to the prevention of crime and disorder; Immigration Compliance and Enforcement officers of the Home Office discovered disqualified persons working illegally on the premises. Consultation ends on February 25th. More under Licensing on the District Council website..

OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE



Be safe in the snow and ice!

If you have to go out on slippery paths, then wearing slip-on “ice grips” can give you a much better grip and reduce the risk of a fall. Try Googling “ice grips UK” for suppliers, or Timpsons (High Road).

Clearing snow and ice: will you be sued? See [Government advice](#)

Join your local [Neighbourhood Watch group](#).

Find out what’s happening, and you can contribute too.

As well as the Facebook group, many roads have their own group under the District group’s umbrella. Members look after each other’s interests, and can make a real difference.



HELP WANTED

Graffiti attack – can you help? Do you have any information about recent graffiti attack on 311 High Road, please? (This is the house on the corner of High Road and Traps Hill occupied by ThorntonRones).

We understand that a local restaurant and Loughton Library were also attacked.

If you have any information please let [us](#), [ThorntonRones](#) or the [police](#) know.

ThorntonRones say that they are very saddened by the attack and are doing their best to get the graffiti removed (as it has permeated the render this isn’t a simple job).

[Members with long memories will remember that 311 was badly neglected at one time, until ThorntonRones took it over and made it into an attractive feature on this prominent corner.]



Local Bus Consultation. Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing the way it supports local bus services which operate on evenings and Sundays and is carrying out a public [consultation](#). The consultation also includes proposals regarding delivering ECC services differently and devolving ECC funded local bus services to communities.



Dark, starry skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. But light pollution means many of us can’t see the stars. CPRE want to reconnect people with the wonder of our glorious night skies. Find out about taking part in [Star Count 2019](#) to help map light pollution, and ensure more of us can experience this natural wonder.

EVENTS

Under the Wig: A Lawyer’s Stories of Murder, Guilt and Innocence William Clegg QC revisits his most notorious and intriguing trials, from the murder of Jill Dando to Britain’s first Nazi war criminal. He lays bare the secrets of his profession, from the rivalry among barristers to the nervous moments before a verdict - and argues how our right to a fair trial is now in great peril.

Loughton Library, Traps Hill. £7 / £5 (27 yrs and under).

Box office: Mercury Theatre (01206) 573948, [Essex Book Festival](#)

District Council activities, including ForeverActive daytrips [here](#)

GENERAL

Does your burglar alarm system work? Do you have it checked each year?

When we had ours checked recently the technician discovered that, although the alarm was working, a flat battery meant that it wouldn't ring the control centre if some-one broke in! (Battery now replaced).



Who can enter your home? Find out [here](#).

Don't kill ducks with kindness!

Information on the appropriate feeding of ducks may be found [here](#)



KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS BETWEEN OUR EMAIL BULLETINS



TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @LoughtonRA

Not on Twitter? See our tweets at www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

FACEBOOK: Like and Follow our Facebook page by going to www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday February 23rd.
2. In the process of drafting these items and sending them by email, some links to websites or email addresses can be broken; you can get round this by right-clicking on the link and then clicking "open" or, if this does not work, by cutting and pasting the address into an email or browser as appropriate.
3. If a web address doesn't work, or anything else is wrong, please let us know at david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk
4. 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.
5. To enlarge a picture, click on it and then drag one of the corners outwards
6. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch

David Linnell

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**For more about LRA & Loughton see www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk**

