

## LRA NEWS

### District Council Local Plan.

- **Formal hearings start soon.** The role of the Inspector appointed to examine the draft Plan is to determine whether the Plan is legally compliant and sound as it stands – not to improve it, or make it “more” sound. Based on all the paperwork submitted, she has set out a series of topics and a set of searching questions on each one.



LRA have appointed a planning expert to advise us. We hope to be selected to attend several of the sessions the Inspector will hold between February and May this year, to discuss the Plan.

We expect to be accompanied by representatives of Loughton Town Council, SaveJesselGreen and the City of London (defending Epping Forest).

Our adviser is helping us prepare our written submissions to the Inspector, and on deciding how we handle the sessions in front of the Inspector.

The final version of the Plan will significantly affect how Loughton changes in the next 15 years.

As well as trying to persuade the Inspector that the Council are wrong to suggest building housing on Jessel Green, and indeed that they are proposing far too many new homes in Loughton, there are several other issues which we think need to be resolved before the Plan is approved.

- **Conservators of Epping Forest:** [latest response](#) (item 10)

### Broadway residents parking scheme phase 2.

There have been rumours that the scheme is about to come into force – but this isn't so.

LRA Cllrs have not yet been able to find out from NEPP when they will produce a report on their public consultation (they failed to involve LRA Cllrs in its preparation of the consultation, and in the event the consultation was a shambles).

The report will go to the District Council for a decision. LRA Cllrs will be urging the Cabinet member to limit immediate parking controls to those roads where residents are already suffering from commuter parking – other roads should only be included later on if appropriate, based on the experience of those roads once the degree of commuter displacement becomes apparent.

### 69 Church Hill.

The District Council Plans South committee has turned down an application to demolish the existing bungalow and replace it with a block of 10 flats. LRA Plans Group had objected to the proposal as out-of-character with its surroundings and as having wholly inadequate parking provision.

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## Rubbish on verges

- **Chigwell Lane.** A resident let us know that materials left over from the roadworks were still on the verge, and LRA Cllr Michael Owen is following this up with the District Council
- **Hillyfields.** There's a recurring problem with rubbish being dumped on the verges, possibly by tenants who haven't checked for the right collection days or who fail to contact the Council to arrange collections when they move out.

LRA Cllrs report problems when they see them – please help by reporting them too (in Hillyfields or elsewhere) to [erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)



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# LOCAL NEWS

**FOR LOCAL EVENTS SEE SEPARATE EMAIL**

**Check ahead for events in red, which need to be booked in advance!**

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

## Epping Forest College to sell off land.

The Estates Gazette reports that the College have instructed Knight Frank to sell off two sites in Borders Lane - the site of the former College buildings (to the west of the current College building) and Lucton's field (opposite the College). Knight Frank expects offers in excess of £20m. The District Council included the sites for housing in their draft Local Plan (around 630 homes). In 2016, the District Council's Conservative councillors voted to remove covenants which restricted uses to for education or healthcare, despite strong opposition from LRA Cllrs. [When last year the College was taken over by New City College Group, LRA feared for the future of the Loughton facilities, and was concerned that the takeover would lead to assets being sold off.

We note that, despite talk last year by the new owners of forming a community group, nothing more has been heard of this.

We also await EFC's proposals to satisfy their undertaking to provide sports facilities on Lucton's Field]



## All-night street-lighting.

The District Council have negotiated with the County Council to allow individual town or parish councils to opt to have street-lights on all night – but paid for by local Council taxpayers. As the County Council is responsible for street-lighting, some residents see this as a form of stealth tax. The lights stay on all night on main thoroughfares. For Loughton to have the lights on between 1am and 5am in residential areas would cost Council Taxpayers around £35,000 a year (around £3 a household) - in due course the Town Council will be considering the pros and cons of making the change, and will also need to gauge public opinion.

## Police & crime

- **District Council officers.** The Council is employing a Sergeant and two PCs for 3 years, at a cost of £555,000. They work alongside the Council's Community Safety team and other front-line Council workers – find out more [here](#)
- **Essex Police will get an extra £23m** from the Home Office – we wait to find out what effect this will have locally (but it's nothing like enough to replace the effects of recent years' cuts). [More.](#)
- **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Review of 2018** – see [here](#)

- **a resident recently asked whether LRA was aware of rising crime in the area**, and wanted to know how to obtain crime figures – this was our reply:

“You can find local crime figures at <https://www.police.uk/essex/130/>

We agree that more police are needed and have 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.

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](http://www.essex.police.uk) (much easier to make reports here than by calling 101).

If you don’t already follow Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch on Facebook or Twitter, you’ll find this a good way to find out what’s happening.”

- **Drink and drug driving results for 2018** from the Brentwood & Epping Forest Community Policing Team:

Essex Police processed 1,252 drivers for drink driving, 1,039 drivers for drug driving and 288 drivers who refused to provide samples either for breathalyser analysis, blood analysis or drug swipe at the road side or police station.



### Evening and Sunday local bus services – consultation on proposed changes

The County Council have launched a consultation to find out more about how important evening and Sunday local bus services are to the county’s residents. They’re asking for your views on some proposed changes to how those services are delivered. Have your say [here](#)



#### 20 bus route.

A new operator (CT Plus) will take over this route on 23 March, & will carry on the present level of service on the current route to/from Debden. They will be using a fleet of new hybrid electric buses and have a 7-year contract with TfL.



**Essex County Council’s children social care services have been given the highest possible ranking.** In 2014 the way the Council looked after vulnerable children was deemed 'good', with Ofsted inspectors raising some concerns about how well young people were safeguarded.

Four years later the services have been rated 'outstanding'. In their [report](#), Ofsted inspectors praised Essex social workers, noting: “Staff enjoy working in Essex; morale and motivation are high.

**Blue Heritage Plaque for Lionel ‘Len’ Murray**, who lived at 29 The Crescent from 1967 until his death in 2004. He was best-known for his trade union work and in particular for his service as General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (1973 – 1984). The Town Council’s Murray Hall in Borders Lane, which opened in 2006, was named in his honour.



## Epping Forest:

- **Superintendent's report for October to November 2018.**

Of particular note was a continuing reduction in fly-tipping; a new lichen record for the Forest; the completion of a new cattle-handling system at Great Gregories; a successful Team award for Innovation presented to the conservation grazing Team; approval by the District Council of the Interim Mitigation Strategy for the Epping Forest SAC; the successful completion of a 128 hectare grass-cutting season and a popular series of art installations and exhibition commemorating the centenary of the First World War. [More](#) (item 9)



- **Compensatory land for road schemes.** Some time ago the Conservators adopted a compensatory replacement ratio of 10:1, which has meant that Councils have dropped road schemes rather than comply – the Conservators are therefore considering returning to a 1:1 compensation ratio.

[More](#) (item 11)m

- **Proposed Construction of a Flood Alleviation Scheme at Hillyfields.**

[More](#) (item 11)




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## Council leaders' concern over London's homeless. [More.](#)

Just before Christmas, a letter signed by every Essex council leader highlighting concerns about families being re-housed from London into the county was been sent to senior politicians in the capital. Agreed by the Essex Leaders and Chief Executives Group, the letter raises 11 issues which have been highlighted by housing officers across the county. These included a lack of communication between London authorities and Essex councils informing them of people being moved into the area, families being placed in inadequate housing, and the impact on local services.

The letter also warns of cases where families have been moved far away from support networks such as friends, family and jobs, meaning their situation can actually worsen.

### Loughton Town Council Christmas Window competition winners.

Congratulations to the winners who received an engraved silver cup and a laminated certificate.

Class	Winning businesses	£100 donation made to nominated charity by the Town Council
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#### LOCAL/INDEPENDENT

Winner	Hazelwood Interiors, 4 Valley Hill	Little Princess Trust, Broadway House, 32-35 Broad Street, Hereford
Runners-up	Cafelicious, 57 The Broadway	
Runners-up	Classic Travel, 152 High Road	
Highly commended	Bababoom, 255 High Road	
Highly commended	Bizara, 3 Lower Road	
Highly commended	Molens, 209d High Road	
Highly commended	Zest, 194 High Road	

#### MULTIPLE/CHAIN STORE

Winner	Magnet, 215 High Road	National Autistic Society, 393 City Road, London.
Runner-up	Woodbury Homes, 244 High Road	
Highly commended	Strawberry Glow, 289 High Road	

#### CHARITY SHOPS

Winner	St Clare Hospice Debden 72 The Broadway	St Clare Hospice
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Runner-up	St Clare Hospice, 271 High Road	
Highly commended	Haven House, High Road	

**Loughton Town Council Christmas Card Competition**

The Council was delighted to receive over 300 entries this year to design their official Christmas card. The winners received a £25 gift token and a certificate, and the overall winner also received a hamper of craft items, kindly donated by Hobbycraft (Epping Forest Shopping Park, Langston Road)..

**INFANT SCHOOL CATEGORY**

Winner Taryn Da Silva  
 Runner-up Leandro Tapper

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CATEGORY**

Overall Winner Isabelle Frost  
 Runner-up Alistair Lanz

**JUNIOR SCHOOL CATEGORY**

Winner Sienna Martin  
 Runner-up Lilly Spong

**ADULT CATEGORY**

Winner Barbara Masser  
 Runner-up Janette Schofield



The winning design and award presentation - (back row left to right): Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Stella Murphy & Winner (overall and secondary category): Isabelle Frost. (Front row left to right): Winner: Barbara Masser (adult category), Town Mayor, Cllr Stephen Murray and Winner: Sienna Martin (junior category)

**OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE**

# ALLOTMENTS

NOW AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR 2019



Grow your own fruit & vegetables and keep fit and healthy. Visit our website [www.loughtonpotatoground.com](http://www.loughtonpotatoground.com) or email us [lpgallotment@gmail.com](mailto:lpgallotment@gmail.com)

## Get an allotment NOW.

The benefits of an allotment: [National Allotments Society](http://www.nationalallotmentsociety.org.uk).

- **Loughton Potato Ground:** plots available [www.loughtonpotatoground.com](http://www.loughtonpotatoground.com)
- **Roding Road Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association:** [www.rodinroadallotments.co.uk](http://www.rodinroadallotments.co.uk)
- **Willingale Road Allotments:**  
Loughton Town Council: 020 8508 4200
- **River Housing site** (borders of Loughton & Buckhurst Hill):  
Julie Willis on 07870347713

Or help at [GROW Community Garden](http://www.growcommunitygarden.org.uk), Pyrles Lane.

## HELP WANTED



*Improving the quality of life for people and communities*

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Call in to see us and find out more

### VOLUNTEER INFORMATION POINT:

Find out about volunteering in your area. We have hundreds of volunteer opportunities and charities and groups looking for your support.

#### Drop in to:

St John the Baptist, St Johns Road, Epping

Date: Sunday 20 January after service at 10:40

Or Monday 21 January at 10:30

#### To make an appointment for another time:

Telephone: 01992 284 761

Email: [volunteering@vaef.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vaef.org.uk)



Voluntary Action Epping Forest  
Unit 14C Woodside Industrial Estate, Thornwood, Essex CM16 6LJ  
01992 910 701



## GENERAL

**Recycling – how good are you?** The British Science Association has published some research — in honour of British Science Week — that showed not a single one of the 2,000 adults they quizzed about the dos and don'ts of recycling got full marks. Check out how you do on some of the common mistakes [here](#).



**Malicious calls, voicemails, text messages or emails to members of the public purporting to be from HMRC.** Action Fraud has experienced an increase in the reporting of these attempted scams. The fraudsters state that as a result of their non-payment of tax or other duty, the victim is liable to prosecution or other legal proceedings such as repossession of belongings to settle the balance but can avoid this by arranging for payment to be made immediately by method such as bank transfer or by iTunes gift cards. If you receive a call, text or email of this nature and have not lost money, report this as a phishing attempt to [Action Fraud](#).

## 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](http://www.loughtonresidents.org.uk)

**FACEBOOK:** *Like and Follow* our Facebook page by going to  
[www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents](http://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents)

## NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday February 1st.
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](mailto: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](http://www.loughtonresidents.co.uk)  
or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**

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