



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA'S EMAIL LOUGHTON EVENTS BULLETINS

Unless I can find some-one to take over the preparation of these bulletins,
they will end at the end of this year.

I'm very grateful to the member who has helping this year, but I need to be able to delegate their preparation fully next year, or discontinue them.

The job involves pulling together the event details into a relatively standard format (in WORD) – I can continue to organise sending them out in Mailchimp.

To find out more please email david.linnell@phonecoop.coop

or ring me on 020 8508 2932

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Holly Blue butterfly has two generations during the year; it lays its eggs on Holly in the spring; the caterpillar feeds on flower buds, flowers and young berries. The summer generation lays its eggs on Ivy.



(Buglife <http://www.buglife.org.uk/>)

LRA NEWS

County Council “consultation” on Essex Libraries.

Essex County Council has announced a [review of library services](#), including various library closures (including Debden Library) and cutting back the hours at Loughton Library.

At a recent Full Council meeting, to bring home the potential effects of the proposals, LRA Cllr Chris Pond and others moved a vote of No Confidence in the Conservative administration.

Chris did not expect the motion to succeed, but it did enable him to make the point that the provision of a comprehensive and efficient library service is a statutory responsibility of local government under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act – Chris said that this responsibility could not be fulfilled under the Council’s plans.

He emphasised that the Act says quite clearly that the service must be comprehensive. For all the time that he has been an Essex County Council Councillor, there have been 74 libraries and the service has been comprehensive. But by lopping off a third of the libraries, and leaving sizeable towns without a library (for example Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill), the Council would simply be putting itself on the wrong side of the law - the terms of the Act would not be met.

In addition, he commented that the consultation process is a mockery because the decisions have already been taken – it says so in the consultation document.

Nevertheless, please give your views to the County Council [here](#).

Red faces at the District Council. The Conservative administration has admitted serious errors in designing the “Landmark” building at the end of The Broadway which have led to extra payments (out of residents’ council taxes) of £84,000 in construction fees and £56,000 in specialist legal costs.

The Council gave a 153 year lease to Higgins Homes plc to provide 64 homes and retail units at the old Sir Winston Churchill Public House – the Council kept the freehold of the site and gets the income from the commercial units which, many months after the flats above have been let, are still not usable by tenants.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond comments that “There was a headlong rush into this development, which has scarred the Broadway and the Loughton skyline permanently. The administration at Epping did not properly consider the need of shops, pub and restaurants, for instance, to have proper cooking odour dispersal and ventilation equipment.

It was a rash and unconsidered decision to build it, and it's not surprising they are now having to raid the public purse to try to put it right and to allow the commercial units to coexist with people who have paid through the nose to buy the flats above.”

In a report a Council officer said: "In hindsight, the Council should have been more specific in the original development agreement in 2013 to avoid these issues This is a key consideration in future negotiations of this type."

District Council plans office move.

As part of modernising the way it runs the Council, the Conservative administration has announced plans to move most of its Epping staff to new offices in North Weald, letting some space in Epping to other organisations and opening a public café, and selling off land at the rear of the Epping site for housing. More [here](#) and [here](#).

LRA welcomes the Council’s attempts to improve the way in which it deals with residents. However, our experience of past Council relocations mean we are concerned about the Council’s proposed move to North Weald Airfield.



Thirty years ago, LRA opposed the move from Loughton to Epping, and the eventual conversion of the Town Hall on Old Station Road into a supermarket, so that homes could be built on the site. The Council's lack of foresight left it open for a developer to step in to sell the site on (at a vast profit) for Sainsbury's to build their supermarket, and the 'much needed' homes on the site never materialised.



Proposed

Readers with long memories will remember that the original cost of £6m had ballooned to £18m by the time the building was completed (and the item above on the Landmark building is not reassuring about the current administration's level of competence in building matters!).

30 years ago, those in favour of the move to Epping suggested all sorts of savings would result from having the staff under a single roof. Now the current administration are proposing the exact opposite on the grounds that most of the Epping site would be better as 'much needed' housing.

We also think that it makes no sense from the point of view of staff or of avoiding climate change to move to a car-dependent rural location three miles away from the main concentrations of population in Epping Forest - it isn't on a railway line and is served by very unreliable bus routes.

Loughton Station/Sainsbury's car-park.

Following the item on the safety cross-hatching on the entrance road, a resident contacted me to ask for better signage for the 20-minute drop-off area, as the main sign is too far round into the area itself.

I had a look and noticed that the ground-cover plants in front of the sign were now obscuring it from drivers' view. I contacted NCP, who have said they'll look at moving the sign, and in the meantime they've cut back the greenery.



(taken from higher up than a car-driver's view would be)

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>

Police, Fire & Crime

- [Policing questions answered](#) (item 38) by Divisional Commander Lewis Basford at a District Council meeting about
 - Police dealing with mental health problems
 - Recruitment & retention
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - 101 & 999 response times
 - Current crime clear-up statistics
 - Drugs operation & Youth Council work
 - Parking
 - Rogue builders
 - Modern slavery
 - Community payback
- **Crime in Loughton.** DI Lewis Basford has responded to concerns about a burglary in the Deepdene Road area by successfully applying for funds to mount specific burglary and robbery patrols in this area (both overt and covert). He has also contacted the British Transport Police to see if they can come down to the outer Central Line stops as well.

Note: this is a relatively low-crime area, and overall burglary figures for Loughton are down on last year, but that's of no consolation if you're house is burgled!

Burglary attempts – in the daytime as well as overnight – increase in the run-up to Christmas, so please

- support your neighbours
 - keep your doors and windows locked (even when you're "just popping out")
 - report all crimes to the police (999 for emergencies, otherwise www.essex.police.uk)
 - join Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch.
- **reducing the effects of road accidents:** [report](#) (page 4) to a Town Council meeting about reducing the number of killed & seriously injured people on Essex roads
 - **Essex County Fire and Rescue Service End of Year Performance Report 2017/18** shows fewer fires but more false alarms. Summary [here](#). Full report [here](#).

Lack of care costs resident £1,780 in fines and costs

A Loughton resident has been fined for transferring household waste to an unauthorised person, who then dumped it in a trade refuse bin at a shop in The Broadway. [More](#).

To protect yourself from rogue traders who fly-tip for profit, see [Crime Not to Care](#).

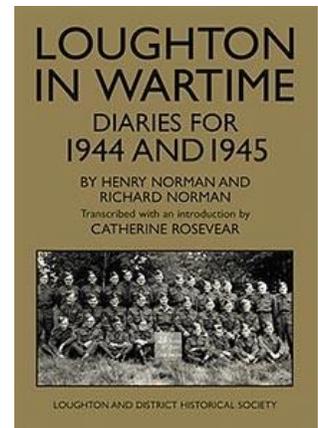


County Council counter-fraud activity. This is an often-overlooked aspect of all councils' work. To see what the County Council has been doing, click [here](#) (page 5 onwards).

LOUGHTON IN WARTIME: DIARIES FOR 1944 AND 1945.

In 2016 children's writer Catherine Rosevear bought an anonymous wartime diary, written by a member of the Loughton Home Guard. With help from the Loughton and District Historical Society, the diarist was identified as a local resident called Henry Norman. Further work showed that Henry's brother, Richard – another member of the Home Guard – had also kept a diary. Bringing both diaries together provides a compelling account of Loughton life in the last two years of World War II. The brothers describe the Little Blitz, the V1 and V2 missile attacks, VE and VJ day, and, finally, a return to a normality that many people had almost forgotten.

The 90-page illustrated book can be bought for £6.50 from the Book Shop, 150 High Road, or direct from the LDHS (0208-508 2361 or email [here](#)).



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Protection for motorcyclists – airbag vest or jacket.

Unfortunately, some accidents are unavoidable. Motorcycle airbag vests and jackets act as a body splint to keep the spine and neck immobile during a fall, which can significantly reduce the risk of spinal cord injury.

Find out more online at sites such as <https://watchyourselves.com/best-motorcycle-airbag-vest-jacket-reviews/>





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.

Post lost items on [Epping Forest NHW Notices \(UK\)](#) please so that anyone who finds them can let you know.



Local organisation? Need some cash?

Loughton’s local groups, organisations and charities are invited to [apply to Loughton Town Council](#) for financial assistance for the period from April 2019 – March 2020.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Wednesday 2 January 2019.

In this current financial year, the Council have helped 24 groups totalling over £32,000 to improve or maintain their services to the local community. This sum includes the continued support for the Loughton Branch of the Epping Forest District Citizens Advice Bureau based in the Loughton Library which gives valuable free help and advice to all that request it.

Let your teenagers know about this!

This is circulating right across Facebook, and for once it isn't a scam or hoax.

Make sure your teens and young people know about this, just in case something happens when they are out and about.

The campaign began in Lincolnshire and it is now being circulated by other police forces.

[EFNW]



HELP WANTED

Help keep Loughton safe!

For years, Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch have struggled to buy resources, such as window stickers, lamp post signs or booklets, for local Neighbourhood Watch groups. Earlier this year they applied to the District Council for a grant – they're very grateful to the councillors who've now approved it! BUT to get the grant they need to raise match-funding, so if you know any businesses or individuals who'd be prepared to contribute, please contact epppingforestnhw@outlook.com – it all helps.



Fire and rescue services in Essex - vision and priorities?

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex is developing a Fire and Rescue Plan, to run from 2019 to 2024 and will be the basis on which he holds Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to account for its performance. The document mirrors the Police and Crime Plan which sets the priorities for policing in Essex.

What do you think – please complete this [survey](#)

Post any items you find on [Epping Forest NHW Notices \(UK\)](#) please in the hope that the owners can be reconnected with them.



This Christmas

are you expecting a sack load of presents?

Why not donate your unwanted toys to help others in Essex?

Monday 3 December 2018 – Monday 14 January 2019

Toys in good condition can be donated at Epping, Loughton and Waltham Abbey Libraries.

Epping Forest ReUse will redistribute the toys to the Loughton Food Bank and Homeless Persons' Hostel (Norway House).

loveessex.org



HAVE YOUR SAY...
ESSEX FIRE & RESCUE PLAN
2019-2024



GENERAL

Christmas & New Year Holidays.

- **Parking.** Remember that NEPP wardens now work on Bank Holidays.
- **Unless the sign says that charges don't apply, they do!**
But they have confirmed that they won't be working on December 25th and 26th and January 1st.
- **if you're unwell** over the bank holidays, NHS 111 is available 24/7 to offer medical advice and help when it isn't an emergency.



TfL fares.

- **Pay as you go single fares** on bus, Tube, tram and DLR, plus Santander Cycles charges have been frozen for a third year in a row. They will remain frozen until 2020.
For more information, please visit [TfL's web page on the fares freeze](#).
- **The Hopper fare** lets you make unlimited pay as you go bus and tram journeys within one hour of first touching in for £1.50. To find out more, visit [TfL's web page about Hopper](#).
- **It's cheaper to travel off-peak** on Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail when you can. Off-peak fares apply on weekdays before 06:30, between 09:30 and 15:59, and after 19:00, plus all day at weekends and bank holidays. To check your fare, visit [TfL's single fare finder](#).

Driving into central London?

An Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be in place in central London from 8 April 2019 to help improve air quality. Most vehicles including cars and vans will need to meet new, tighter exhaust emission standards (ULEZ standards) or pay a daily charge to travel within the area of the ULEZ.



From 25 October 2021, the ULEZ area will be expanded to include the inner London area bounded by the North and South Circular Roads.

More, and to check your vehicle and what areas are covered, click [here](#).

How to steal a car – don't let it happen to you, please

Watch [here](#) for how easy it is.....

[EFNW]

You may not be as lucky as the vehicle owner whose vehicle was recently stolen by means of keyless theft but then was recovered by keen-nosed local police officers.

Following a tracker activation they tracked and recovered it from a well-hidden and secluded location (criminals will often leave expensive vehicles in a location for several days to see if there is a hidden tracker fitted. If the vehicle has not been recovered after two days they come back for it).

A Faraday bag would have prevented this crime.

[Essex Police]



Do you know a driver with poor eyesight?

It's estimated that 5 million UK drivers would fail the eyesight requirement for drivers!

(The law states that all drivers of motor cars must be able to read a standard number plate, in good daylight, from a distance of twenty metres – with spectacles or corrective lenses if required.)

Some Police Forces are now testing the eyesight of all drivers stopped.

Officers can request an urgent revocation of a licence through the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) if they believe the safety of other road users will be put at risk if a driver remains on the road.

This power to revoke licences was introduced in 2013 under Cassie's Law, named after 16-year-old Cassie McCord, who died when an 87-year-old man lost control of his vehicle in Colchester, Essex.

[Epping Forest NHW Notices (UK)]

How close are your door-keys to your door?

The back and side of your house is particularly vulnerable as some local burglary victims found recently when their patio / conservatory doors were smashed and their home was entered.

Many people have a uPVC door with a panel and one unlucky resident recently found the panel kicked in by a thief.

It really isn't a good idea to leave keys anywhere near your door - thieves can smash glass, kick in door panels or even use a cat flap to get hold of the keys and let themselves in that way [EFNW]



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

Note: Twitter no longer automatically feeds our tweets to Facebook, so you'll get much more news on our Twitter site

NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday January 11th.
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**

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