

[View this email in your browser](#)



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA's Loughton News

15 February 2020

In this issue: have your say on the proposed College Middle Site development, the new Lidl store update, can you help support your LRA?, and more...

LRA News

Epping Forest College Middle Site, Borders Lane ([map](#))

Application Number EPF/2905/19

Fairview Homes wish to build three blocks of flats:

- 139 Flats - the draft Local Plan says 111
- 3 buildings - 3 to 5 storeys
- 250 Bedrooms in total
- 125 ground level parking spaces - under a roof with grass on top
- A One Bedroom Flat = 1-2 people and 1-2 cars?
- Half a car park space per bedroom



If permission is granted on this site, it may set a precedent for development on Lucton's Field opposite the College and future building densities around our town.

Objections are needed from 300-400 households in order to influence the District Council planning committee of 15 Cllrs - 12 of them representing other towns. This is the committee which granted permission for Landmark House. Although the District Council's first consultation's expiry date has passed, if you email soon your views will be considered. You can see how our Town Council objected [here](#), how LRA objected [here](#) and more background info [here](#).

To object, please e-mail appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk with your views expressed in 5 or 6 Bullet Points. Residents should use their own words, send only one e-mail per household, include their names and address. It helps if the email subject states "EPF/2905/19: Objection". and please copy your comments to us at applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk

[More background on our website.](#)



Central Line - Service Reductions north of Loughton

The new timetable started on 26th January, although there are reports of trains on the timetable not appearing.

TfL have not stated when the timetable will return to what we had before, but it has been [reported](#) that the upgrades that require this service reduction may not be completed until 2023.

Save Our Libraries Essex (SOLE)

Last month, hundreds of protesters across the county turned out for a day of action against County Council plans to run 25 libraries by volunteers. [More](#).

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been a constant critic of the Council's proposals, which would affect Debden Library and would also mean demolition and re-provision on a smaller scale of Loughton Library, Traps Hill.



Highways problems

A resident contacted LRA over a dangerous missing manhole cover in Langley Meadows. We advised him to report it to County Highways and to contact his County Cllr, Gagan Mohindra (who didn't reply). Just to make sure, we reported it to County Highways as well. We're pleased to report that Highways covered the hole (rather insecurely) and then repaired the cover.

Please [report Highways problems online](#) and if you think there's a serious danger phone 0345 603 7631 during working hours.

Your County Cllrs are:

- Chris Pond (LRA; his Division covers Loughton St John's, St Mary's, Fairmead, Alderton wards)
- Gagan Mohindra (Cons; his Division covers Loughton Broadway and Chigwell wards)
- Valerie Metcalfe (Cons; her Division covers Loughton Roding and Forest wards, and Buckhurst Hill).

If you are not sure who your County Cllr is, [look it up here](#).

New Lidl Store, 140 Church Hill

We hear on the grapevine that the now-closed Homebase store reopening as Lidl may open be a bit later than expected as apparently roof replacement, rather than stripping/patching, has been necessary. Lidl have been advertising for staff as "opening Feb 2020", but we gather a short delay may now be involved.

There are persistent rumours about McDonalds taking on the Homebase site. At present we have seen no evidence for this. However, we do know that Lidl is going ahead at the Homebase site. They have put in a planning application to increase the delivery hours they're allowed, and nearby residents are concerned. We await a decision from the District Council.

Baldwins Hill Pond ([map](#))

LRA Cllrs Judy Jennings, Roger Baldwin, Caroline Pond and Chris Pond attend the District Council liaison committee with the Epping Forest Conservators. At the February meeting, the City of London reported that extensive works will probably be needed to the pond to make it safe, as the dam is becoming unstable. This may involve making a temporary one way road between Baldwins Hill and the Epping New Road to allow access to machinery. This would be along the Clay Ride which starts at 2 Baldwins Hill. Consultants have been appointed to advise and a decision is expected later this year. LRA will be concerned to keep disturbance to residents to a minimum, and damage to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as low as possible.

Burton Road Carpark

In response to LRA Cllr Chris Pond passing on of requests from residents of Davis and Churchill Courts for season tickets in the car park, the District Council have refused. However, they say they will keep the application under review.

Oh deer!

LRA Cllr David Wixley reports that around 8.40pm one January evening, he spotted a Muntjac deer in Goldings Road walking along the far side pavement roughly opposite nos. 66/68 – he wonders if this is a first for Goldings Road?

Planning and Licensing

[Read more](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information with the Application and Reference Numbers below, and how to comment.

*If you wish to comment, **don't delay**. The process is time critical with several stages along the way.*

McDonald's, 202 High Road (was Pak Choi)

McDonalds are going ahead with their High Road store and have put in a planning application to change the use of the store from a restaurant to a takeaway. We await a decision from the District Council.

LRAPG continues to object given the focus on a takeaway service, a late closing time and the risk of additional litter in the surrounding area. In addition to the potential impact on the High Road, we are concerned about Jackson's Alley and Clifton Road which may be negatively impacted by delivery vehicles late at night and litter.

Application Number EPF/2162/19. The date for comments has passed.

273 High Road (was Daniel Footwear)

A planning application has been made to a change of use from the existing retail to a nail salon.

LRAPG has objected as this will be a loss of an A1 retail space. No marketing information has been submitted to demonstrate the unit can no longer be let for retail purposes.

Application Number EPF/0028/20. The date for comments has passed.

What is a Permitted Development?

A resident contacted the Town Council for advice and you can see their reply [here](#) (page 5).

Permitted Developments aren't notified to neighbours, and are approved by the District Council (or not) on the basis of whether they are lawful (or not).



LRA Matters for Members
...what's coming up and calls for help

May Elections - Please help LRA & our town

We need residents to:

- Deliver near your road
- Talk to your neighbours
- Fill a Cllr vacancy
- Assist volunteers
- Encourage all to vote

LRA works - because of tremendous public support. We are all volunteers, doing whatever we can for our town but we need more help. Please e-mail contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk or phone Chris Pond 020 8508 2361 or Michael Benbow 020 8508 4457 to find out more.

May Elections - Are you ready to vote?

Please make sure you are [registered to vote](#).

If you are unable to get to your polling station on an election day, consider voting by post or via a proxy. You must [apply to the District Council](#) to vote in this way. Applications must be received at least 11 working days before the election.

Loughton Life is a concise read & keeps us updated about our town...

Copies come through our front doors and this is achieved with 120 volunteers who deliver Loughton Life. For 10+ years this delivery has been smoothly organised by David Linnell. All residents get LRA's newsletter twice a year and members get 3 more editions.

We now need someone, comfortable with Excel, to take over David's spreadsheet so that distribution of Loughton Life continues. This important role will appeal to a people person who enjoys contact with and optimisation of this incredible network of LRA Volunteers.

Please call 020 8508 4457 or email contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk for more info.



New Town Mayor

Draft Local Plan
The Loughton Town Council Local Plan is now under scrutiny by the Planning Inspectorate in a series of hearings in Loughton. We have Cllrs on the Council of District Council, and hold 10 out of the 23 Loughton Town Council seats.

High-rise housing at Loughton & Debden stations?
Transport for London (TfL) is proposing developments on the site of the former Loughton and Debden stations. The plan also includes a housing 1000 home as part of the Local Plan.

Loughton Town Council has submitted the new Mayor for the 2020 term will be LRA Cllr Stella Whelan, and the Deputy Town Mayor will be Cllr Tracy Colburn. Loughton Town Council has submitted the new Mayor for the 2020 term will be LRA Cllr Stella Whelan, and the Deputy Town Mayor will be Cllr Tracy Colburn. Loughton Town Council has submitted the new Mayor for the 2020 term will be LRA Cllr Stella Whelan, and the Deputy Town Mayor will be Cllr Tracy Colburn.



Do you know anyone in Luna Park, please? ([streetview](#))

Early next month, LRA volunteers will be delivering our Townwide *Loughton Life* newsletter to every household in the town.

Unfortunately there's no way our deliverer can gain entry to this new block on Borders Lane (corner of Newmans Lane), so it'd be a great help to have a contact inside the block who'd be prepared to help – can you help please?

LRA Membership

By now, our latest [Loughton Life](#) newsletters are on their way to LRA members, with a letter about LRA subscriptions (£5 pa per household).

It's a great help to our volunteers if members renew now by post, by bank transfer, by sending us a [Standing Order form](#) or by coming along to the LRA stall at our Farmers' Markets in the High Road (next one is 8th March).

Setting up a Standing Order is easy and means £5 is charged to your bank account once a year in January. This means our LRA volunteers don't need to spend as much time managing renewals and asking members for payment.

Our thanks to those of you who've set up Standing Orders or have already renewed.

LRA's Short Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Monday 9th March

Doors open 7.45 PM for an 8.00 PM start

Loughton Cricket Clubhouse, The Uplands IG10 1NQ

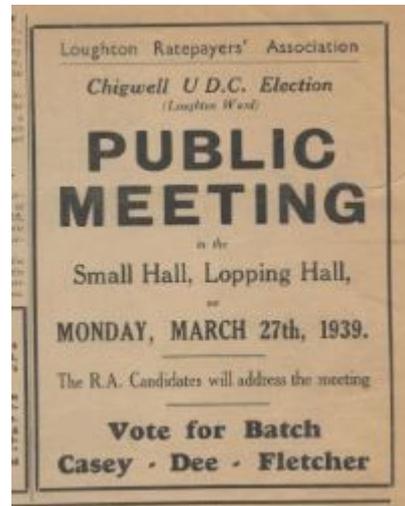
If the club car-park is full, please park considerately nearby.

LRA listens to members and residents constantly and provides information in many forms continuously. This AGM format is a trial to agree the few items of formal AGM business in a concise and modern way. Minutes of the 2019 AGM can be seen [here](#) and the accounts [here](#).

We envisage the AGM as 15 minutes and 15 minutes for questions. Our March Executive Committee meeting will be after the AGM so members can leave or are welcome to stay. Executive Committee meetings last about 1 hour.

Did you know...?

Many decades before the Loughton Residents Association, there was a Loughton Ratepayers Association. This leaflet (click to enlarge) was used for the 1939 election.



LRA's Farmers' Market Next Market: Sunday 8th March

The weather got the better of us in February and unfortunately the Farmers' Market had to be cancelled.

We're back next month (assuming another storm doesn't come through to blow us all away). Come along to LRA's Farmers' Market on Sunday 8th March, on Centric Parade, High Road. The market is held 9am - 3pm, opposite The Last Post. Residents have been delighted that this regular event gives them the opportunity to meet up.

There are two stalls available each month for local charities; if you're interested in booking, you can email ppiercejp@gmail.com to check availability.

Local News

For What's On and Local Organisations, [visit our website](#)

McColl's shops in Debden to close

McColl's shop in Pyrles Lane will close Friday, 17th April and The Broadway shop will close on Friday, 23rd October.

As a result the Post Office currently in the McColl's store in The Broadway will lose its premises. A petition to [save the Post Office](#) has been set up and has over 300 signatures. The Post Office will be looking for another shop in The Broadway to take on running the Post Office service.

Purchase of shops and flats in the High Road

The Council has clarified that the properties purchased are 202-226 (even) High Road and 200 High Road (Centric Parade No.1-6).

LRA Cllrs are concerned at the risk being taken by the Council. The purchase was justified by the Portfolio holder, who said that "it should be recognised that the Authority only gained around 0.8% from traditional investments but should get 6% gross from asset investments. The Authority should and needs to benefit from this increased level of return." However, after expenses the return comes down to 3% pa, and as usual in investments, a higher return will be accompanied by a higher level of risk of future losses.



Loughton Town Council - Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday March 11th
Murray Hall, Borders Lane from 7.30pm

Hear what your Town Council has achieved and its plans for the future. Raise your concerns during the public question time. Local organisations' displays. Voluntary sector speakers.

Chat to your Town Councillor over a cup of tea.

Council Tax for 2020-21

Changes to Council Tax for 2020-21 have been announced. From April, here's what will happen with the Council Tax you pay, for a Band D property.

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | Increase of: | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Essex County Council | £1,270.44 | £1,321.11 | 4% | 73% |
| Essex Police | £192.96 | £198.63 | 3% | 11% |
| Epping Forest District Council | £152.46 | £154.75 | 2% | 9% |
| Essex Fire and Rescue Service | £72.45 | £73.89 | 2% | 4% |
| Loughton Town Council | £57.15 | £59.47 | 4% | 3% |
| Total | £1,745.46 | £1,807.85 | | |

As a percentage of your total Council Tax

Traffic Light phasing at the junction of Rectory Lane with the Broadway and Borders Lane

Loughton Town Council had raised concerns about the problems experienced by drivers at this junction, and felt that these had not been fully addressed by the reply received from the County Council Highways Portfolio holder. They will raise the matter at the next meeting of the Local Highways Panel (which is responsible for making recommendations and setting priorities for highways schemes).



Oakwood Hill - Speeding

Special Constables recently carried out follow-up speed checks on Oakwood Hill. They stopped a number of vehicles, and the worst offender can expect a day in court after being detected at 49mph in this 30mph limit area. (Residents have been concerned for years about speeding on this long straight road, and we're pleased that action is now being taken.) [More](#)

Clifton Road

Some of the parking bays on Clifton Road are suspended due to utility works from 11-19th February. This will cause problems for the permit holders due to the pressure on the limited number of parking spaces on Clifton Road. In view of this any permit holders who cannot park on Clifton Road are able to park in the nearby L3 permit scheme (Smarts Lane, High Beech Road and Forest Road). This information was advised to permit holders via MiPermit and on the suspension notices.

Morrisons car park

Residents have reported on the "NextDoor" website that fines are being issued for stays of over two hours. We understand that you don't need to put money in the meter when you arrive - just leave in under 2 hours. There's a camera recording number plates.



The Drive - Sunday Parking

Several residents have asked LRA for single yellow lines to be converted to doubles to prevent the congestion that occurs by unrestricted Sunday parking.

LRA Cllrs asked for this at least five years ago, but NEPP replied that they need a petition well supported by residents in order to proceed.

We understand that a resident in The Drive has now been collecting signatures. This is just to ask those concerned to get on with the task, as without it, nothing will happen!

Local Police Good News

Much of what the police does never gets reported widely, so here is some news from around the town on how the police have done lately.

7 January: a stolen white Range Rover from Sussex, on false plates, was found and recovered for forensic examination.

7 January: The District Town Centre Teams arrested another drug driver.

10 January: PC Harrison reported: Busy one today! Three taser deployments in Epping

Forest District and Brentwood as he was the only Taser officer available in this area. He also spent a number of hours dealing with a vulnerable child, as well as numerous other incidents. He finished with burglary patrols in the Ongar area!

12 January: The Operational Support Group were assisting in the Epping Forest/Brentwood area: Another good stop last night linked to drugs; driver disqualified so the car was seized, as was their bundle of cash. .

12 January: In Buckhurst Hill. a police patrol located and arrested a prolific offender who was wanted on warrant.

16 January: In Debden, a police patrol located and arrested a well-known offender who was wanted on warrant.



Police report

On 20th January, Essex Police received information which indicated there might be a disturbance between two groups of people, They increased the number of police officers on patrol across parts of the town, and put in place a section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Authority, which allowed officers in uniform to stop and search anyone specifically to prevent carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons.



No disturbances were reported. Inspector Tom Mitchell, from the Brentwood and Epping Forest Community Policing Team commented that Loughton is a really safe area anyway, but the police wouldn't tolerate anyone coming here to commit crime or setting out to harm others and would use all the powers available to them to do that. [News article](#), and Essex Police [Facebook post](#).

Drug dealers convicted

The West Operation Raptor team have successfully locked up two drug dealers who took over a family home in Loughton to use as a base to sell Class A drugs, a practice known as "cuckooing". [More](#).

Pay more for policing?

Two-thirds of Essex council taxpayers who took part in a recent survey are willing to pay more for policing again this year. [More](#).

What's being done about crime?

The District Council is part of our local Community Safety Partnership, which is required to complete an annual Strategic Assessment which is used to direct and guide its activities under the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The assessment includes:

- an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse in the area.
- an analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous strategic assessment and why those changes have occurred.

More [here](#) and [here](#).

Please keep the police informed

Whilst all crimes and offences should be reported by the usual means (see below), if you have any general information regarding regular suspicious activity, crimes or criminals, you can also [email your local community policing team](#). (Please note that this email address is not monitored 24 hours a day nor 7 days a week. The office is generally staffed between 0700 and 1600 hours Monday to Friday and there is no cover at weekends or bank holidays. Your communication will be responded to as soon as possible once it is reviewed and if a response is necessary.)

- **For crimes and suspicious activity NOW - Call 999**
- **For other non-urgent contact** and reporting a crime that has already happened - Call 101
- **Alternatively** you can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes [online](#) and click on the appropriate button.

Action Fraud

They are the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber-crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

- If you **have** been defrauded i.e. lost money or phone 0300 123 2040 or [report online](#) as a fraud or cyber crime.
- If someone has tried to defraud you but you have **not** lost money, [report online](#) as a 'phishing' attempt.

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers: to give information anonymously phone 0800 555 111or [report it online](#).

The information you provide is very important to the police, so please make sure that they can use it effectively, by reporting it correctly through the proper channels. Thank you.

Need the police and can't speak?

The “Silent System” means you can ring 999, and if you’re scared to make a noise or speak, you can press 55 when prompted to let the police know it’s a genuine emergency. [More](#)

Make Yourself Heard

In danger, need the police, but can't speak?

- 1 Dial 999
- 2 Listen to the questions from the 999 operator
- 3 Respond by coughing or tapping the handset if you can
- 4 If prompted, **press 55**
This lets the 999 call operator know it's a genuine emergency and you'll be put through to the police.

Let by Supported by



Something Useful:
What does each Council do?

Each Council (Town, District and County) has different responsibilities. We know it may not be easy to work out who does what.

The Town Council [website lists responsibilities](#) of who does what.

Recent Care Quality Commission GP Practice Reports

- **Loughton Health Centre**, The Drive, was recently rated as “Good”, with areas still requiring improvement. This is a very significant improvement overall from the 2018

CQC report. [More](#).

- **Loughton Private Medical Clinic** (now a cardiac centre only) 115 High Road, was rated "Good" in August 2019. [More](#).

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow – how did they cope with December's pressures?

The winter is always a difficult time for A&E departments – see what happened in [December 2019](#).



What to do if you suspect a loved one has dementia

By 2025, more than a million people are expected to have dementia. The condition has a profound effect on everyday life, both for the individual and those close to them. [More](#).

Local Adult Social Care Services

Recently, District Councillors asked representatives from the [Local Adult Social Care Services](#) organisation questions on a wide range of issues relating to the provision, planning, management and performance of adult social care services across the district. Social care services in Epping Forest include blue badge issue, help to live at home, housing options and care schemes and health and wellbeing services. The organisation received 33,590 new requests for support in 2018/19. [Read the agenda](#). [Watch the discussion](#).

Loughton's latest Blue Heritage Plaque

Deputy Town Mayor, LRA Cllr Tessa Cochrane, recently hosted the dedication ceremony of the Town Council's latest blue heritage plaque, the 43rd in this scheme, at The Loughton Club. Rather aptly, it followed a talk given by LRA Cllr Chris Pond on 'Old Loughton' to the New Vistas Group, which regularly meets at this venue. The plaque was installed to commemorate the Reverend William Dawson, who gave The Loughton Club to the people of Loughton in 1901. [More](#).



Photo: Loughton Town Council

Council house-building

The District Council has agreed tenders from TSG Building Services PLC for the company to build 8 properties on Council sites in Chequers Road, Bushfields and Chester Road.

Holocaust memorial in Loughton

The District Council in October 2018 established an Epping Forest Holocaust Memorial Working Group and significant work has been undertaken to identify a suitable site for a holocaust memorial for the district.

Following careful analysis, a site in Traps Hill, Loughton was identified as the most appropriate. Its proximity to Loughton Library and the opportunity to establish a small

educational facility within the library over time, along with historical links to Holmehurst Hostel in Loughton where holocaust survivors were sent in 1945, were key contributing factors in the selection of the proposed site. An Epping Forest Holocaust Educational Trust is currently being established and the Trust will oversee the design and implementation of the memorial, subject to consultation and securing planning permission, as appropriate. The Trust will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the site and the memorial itself.

Bee Hotels

Loughton Town Council looks after a number of sites in the town. The Council will be installing six 'bee hotels' in locations that offer suitable bee and insect friendly habitats: Loughton Cemetery, Murray Hall, Roding Valley Recreation Ground, Willingale Road Playing Field and Willingale Road Allotments.

As Others See Loughton

For a description of how a visitor to Loughton on Bus Route 20 sees our town, read [this article](#) from the Blogger diamond geezer.

What's being done about "culture"?

The District Council seeks to enable all residents and visitors to the District to access and participate in quality arts, heritage, and leisure activities. [More](#).

General

Need to hire a room?

For rooms to hire in Loughton see Loughton Town Council's [list of venues](#), or there's Epping Forest District Museum, 39 – 41 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 1EL. [Email](#) or call 01992 716882.

Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF)

VAEF provides a Handyman service, Befriending service, Gardening service, Benefits Advice & Information service, Winter Warmth campaign, Ace activities for learning disabilities and a Time Bank project, all to help other Community Associations and vulnerable residents; last year, VAEF supported over 10,000 individuals in various ways, 700 organisations and provided some 150 activities. The District Council is one of its core funders, along with Essex County Council. Other bodies such as the Big Lottery Fund, Loughton Town Council and Harlow District Council also contribute to the costs incurred by VAEF in providing its services. VAEF is always looking to recruit volunteers to provide more resource, and for new partnerships with organisations. [More](#)

Stansted Airport expansion application rejected

Uttlesford District Council has turned down a planning application from the owners of Stansted Airport to expand throughput up to 43 million passengers a year, making Stansted almost as big as today's Gatwick (it could have meant an extra 200 flights a day). Last year, the airport handled 28 million passengers with 199,000 flights. [More](#).

Thank you for being an LRA member, Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Saturday 14 March 2020, although that date could change.

Get more from LRA and keep up with what's happening between issues of Loughton News



Visit LRA on Twitter
*Twitter is where we have all our latest news.
 You don't need to be signed up to Twitter to see this*



Visit LRA on Facebook
*Facebook is where we have selected news.
 You don't need to be signed up to Facebook to see this*



Visit LRA's Website
All our Tweets, past issues of Loughton News and Loughton Life, and more

1. If you find any links not working or anything else is wrong let us know at loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk Links 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

© 2020 Loughton Residents Association

Promoted by & on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association 28 Brook Road Loughton IG10 1BP

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)