



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Draft Local Plan.

- **What happened on Thursday evening?** Despite strong opposition to various aspects from LRA Cllrs, and Cllrs from other parts of the District, at a Council meeting on December 14th the Conservative majority pushed through their current draft Local Plan.



Following pressure from LRA, Traps Hill car-park had been dropped from the list of developments, and Rochford Green had also been omitted. However, some of Jessel Green, Luctons Field and the car-parks at Loughton & Debden stations are still on the list, and the County Council wants to redevelop the Traps Hill Library building to provide housing and a library, which means the Library, Town Council, CAB and National Jazz Archive will need relocating while work is carried out.

LRA Cllrs put forward a motion to exclude all public urban open space from development under the Plan but this was defeated.

- **What next?** The next stage in the process restricts representations to the District Council on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan. More on this [here](#) and [here](#). LRA and Loughton Town Council will of course be responding, and this should mean that next Autumn both bodies will be invited to speak at the final stage of the process – a formal hearing on the Plan in front of a Planning Inspector.

The District Council aims to deliver the development of 11,400 new homes in the remaining 15 year plan period. The Inspector will want to see a rolling 5-year land supply capable of meeting the identified housing need. Furthermore, in order to meet the housing targets required by national policy, the Council will have to demonstrate that it can achieve a dramatic improvement in the number of new homes brought forward annually. The annualised average requirement for new housing in the district is approximately 518. However, over the past years only 150 – 220 dwellings per annum have been delivered, leaving the Council with a significant shortfall of

approximately 1,500 dwellings for the years 2011 – 2017. This shortfall must also be delivered in the Plan period.

We will keep members posted on progress.

Parking. A resident queried how residents in Priory Road and Churchfields could get parking restrictions to deal with the pressure from commuters parking there. LRA Cllr Chris Pond replied that if residents wanted a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), they would have to prepare a petition to NEPP, to be supported by about 70% of residents. Broadly, NEPP will look at the situation and may suggest a daytime “no parking” period where residents all have off-road parking available or, if not, a CPZ.

Alderton Hill drain. On November 9th we reported the notorious drain near the Brook Road junction was blocked again, a situation which has in the past taken months if not years for County Highways to sort out. This time, we are very pleased that they have not only acknowledged the past problems, but have promised to take action in late January (weather permitting) after the pre- & post- holiday period ban on non-emergency work involving traffic controls (needed for safety reasons).



Planning application:

- **Royal Oak** (Forest Road/ Smarts Lane). The applicants made minor changes to the plans (see [here](#), ref: EPF/2706/17) and the LRA Plans Group reiterated its objections to the development. The application will be considered at next Wednesday’s District Council planning meeting
- **60 Traps Hill and 13-15A Alderton Hill:** these applications aren’t on the agenda for next Wednesday’s District Council planning meeting, so they may appear at the following meeting on January 24th unless they have previously been turned down by a Council Officer.

Taxis on Sparelease Hill. Some time ago, half-a-dozen taxis were parked at the top of Sparelease Hill. LRA Cllr Judy Jennings checked that they were legally parked (road-taxed, insured & licenced as London taxis). Recently their passenger windows were broken – if this means they can be classed as dangerous we will try to get them removed.

Shaftesbury burst water main. Repair works by Thames Water meant the battered gate at the corner with Staples Road was opened to traffic. Highways are due to replace the gate anyway, under a planned programme, but LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been trying to get a temporary barrier, and to get Thames Water to repair the damage caused to the forest path between Staples Road and Forest Road.

Business parking on Forest Road, High Beech Road and Smarts Lane.

A new NEPP webpage on their trial of business “waivers” (6-months, about £250) can be accessed [here](#). To date NEPP have received 14 applications, some of which they’ve rejected, and 9 waivers may be offered. When NEPP surveyed initially they found that 28 spaces could be available (on top of residents’ needs). Their consultants will be carrying out monitoring of available space in the area, and LRA Cllrs will also be monitoring the effects.



Bus services

- **418.** Following pressure from LRA Cllr Chris Pond, the County Council and Galleon Travel agreed to provide a service January-March (extendable by mutual agreement).

In order to provide the service with just one bus, [the new weekday service](#) will be similar to the current Saturday service. This means some timing changes, and there'll be one fewer morning peak period journey from Loughton to Harlow (from two return journeys to one).

Evening journeys and Sunday journeys numbered 418B will be unchanged.

- **20.** This has been unreliable, with buses frequently being turned at Loughton station, and Chris has recently been in touch with TFL about this.



Bad weather – gritting. The County Council grits main roads (see [here](#) and [here](#)). The Town Council organises grit-bins, filled by the County Council, for the hilliest (and most dangerous) parts of Loughton, if it can find local volunteers to spread the grit when necessary (see [here](#)).

Other than that, there is no Government funding for gritting, but residents can clear the pavements and roads outside their homes (see Government advice [here](#))

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>

Royal Standard, High Road (was *LuXe*) will have a Jazz evening on Tuesday 19th December, until 11pm. Despite having told the District Council that there will be no dancing at the event, the gastropub has failed to correct their ad on [Eventbrite](#), which promotes dancing at the event. We have raised this with the police. Please report any problems to the District Council Licensing team licensing@eppingforestdc.gov.uk and to us (contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

Loughton Leisure Centre(run by Places for People (PfP) for the District Council)

- **“Changing Village”.** PfP plan to completely refurbish the pool Changing Village to benefit users, particularly users with disabilities, at a cost to the Council of £324,000. The work will be at the same time as the building of the new Health and Fitness centre, which will inevitably cause some disruptions to pool users (although no closures are planned)
- **Crèche facilities.** Because of the planned building work, the previous crèche has been closed. Instead, PfP plan to encourage participation for parents of young children and the children themselves, as part of planned new extensive under-5 activity sessions to be held during the quieter afternoon periods, and to allow parents with particularly young children in carrycots to be included, in a controlled manner, into certain exercise classes.



Essex Police & Fire Services:

- **What’s happening in the District?** See the [report](#) of the Presentation from Essex Police's District Commander and District Cllrs’ questions.
- **District Council to pay for two Police Officers**
Over the last 18 months, the Council has seen a significant increase in the number of youth nuisance incidents in the district and cases of general anti-social behaviour (ASB). In addition, the level of recorded crime and violence has increased, possibly because of the reduction in Essex Police resources from 2015/16 (the number of community police officers in the District has reduced by about 50%). The Council has therefore decided
 - to discuss with Essex Police the options and implications of the Council funding two police officers, to improve levels of policing in the District;

- as a short term measure, to appoint Parkguard security company to provide regular uniformed patrolling of the District, January – March 2018,
- **Commissioner’s Annual Report.**
Find out what’s been going on in these vital services [here](#) on matters such as Community Policing and Anti-Social Behaviour.
Two years ago, a ‘toxic culture’ and dysfunctionality was identified in the Essex Fire and Rescue Service. A change programme was implemented - progress has been made, but there’s still more work to do. [More](#) (item 7).
- **[Annual Report](#) of the Community Safety Partnership** - a mix of statutory and voluntary sector bodies which does vital work to protect the community.
- **Pay more for more police?** More than 5,000 people recently completed a [survey](#).
 - **investing in more policing** – 66% said that in general they would be prepared to invest more in policing to help improve the service provided.
 - **lifting the cap** on the policing element of the Council Tax – 65% said that if the Government agreed to it, they would be prepared to see the cap lifted so that more Council Tax could be raised and made available for policing in Essex.
 - **pay more:** 75% of those who gave a view said they were prepared to contribute an additional £10 or more a year to invest in policing. Another 16% were prepared to pay £5 a year more.



Whipps Cross Hospital – progress after the CQC adverse report:

Whipps Cross managers were questioned on progress at a recent District Council meeting – see [here](#) (item 31)

Forest Focus: the [winter edition](#) of the City of London’s magazine about Epping Forest – news, articles, events.

Broadway Town Centre Partnership – [report](#) of recent meeting (page 5).

District Council

- **Ageing Population Study Action Plan** [progress report](#) (item 33)
- **Fire Safety in Council-Owned Accommodation - [update](#).**
Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, as expected, the District Council has received a number of enquiries from members, and some residents, about the Council’s approach to fire safety.
- **Civic Offices could be granted 'listed building' status.**
The High Street building has been assessed as part of a wider study of 'post-modern buildings' and a decision is awaited from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
The District Council is opposing the move.
[EverythingEppingForest]

Our thanks to @savejesselgreen for this photo (December 10th)



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE



Switch and Save with Essex Energy Saver. Essex households can save over £250 on their gas and electricity bills by signing up to take part in the [Essex Energy Switch](#)

London Theatres: [New Year Sale](#) is now open for booking. You can #GetIntoLondonTheatre for less, with tickets just £10, £20, £30 or £40 for more than 45 of London's plays and musicals, for performances from 1 January until 9 February.

2018 Creativity Award. Applications are open for a single award of up to £1000, to every young person in the district, aged between 13 and 25 years. The award is open to individuals, and to groups with a minimum of 3 people, who are looking for support for their creative activity. A group can already be established (i.e. art clubs, theatre groups, choirs or orchestras) or have formed especially to apply for this funding. [More.](#)

Mind (the charity which provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem) have put together this [advice and information](#) about where you can get help and support if you, or someone you know, are finding things difficult over the festive period.



Do you or a relative need extra support during a power cut? UK Power Networks, it's their job to maintain a safe and reliable supply of electricity - free to customers who need it. (Unfortunately they're very slow to repair street-light connexions!)

[Click here](#) to find out more about this free support ((viewing on a **computer/laptop or iPad?**)

[Click here](#) to find out more about this free support (viewing on a **mobile phone?**)

Know some-one who's severely depressed?

Did you know that, as well as the Samaritans phone service, if you text 07725909090 when you're really depressed, a crisis counsellor will text with you? Some people would be more comfortable texting. This is a service set up by Samaritans.



Please copy and paste. You never know who may be needing it. #itsokaynottobeokay

HELP WANTED

What Should I Report? #ActionCountersTerrorism

Watch the video of what to do at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIADI_-8JZ0



Drink-driving & drug-driving.

[EFNW]

Nearly 650 people have been arrested on suspicion of drug driving in the last 12 months while almost 1,100 people were arrested on suspicion of drink driving.

12% of all collisions in Essex in the last year involved a driver who tested positive for drink driving. Essex Police say, if you know someone who drink or drug drives, do the right thing and report them:

- Dial 999 if you know someone is drunk or has taken drugs and you see them getting behind the wheel of a car
- Use www.essex.police.uk or call 101 to give information about someone who regularly chooses to drink and drive
- tell *Crimestoppers* anonymously about people who repeatedly drink and drive on 0800 555 111 or at www.crimestoppers-uk.org (you won't have to give your name, no personal details are recorded and you won't have to go to court.)

GENERAL



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.

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!
- **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.
- **Transport for London services** day by day – see [here](#)
- **bus operators' timetables.** In most circumstances bus services will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, although exceptions will apply.
- **Streetlights** throughout Essex will remain on all night, on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as part of a festive commitment by Essex County Council.



“Lethal Highs”: psychoactive substances - formerly known as so-called 'legal highs' – these substances are not safe and they are not legal. [More.](#)

Tripping out...
to your final destination?
So-called 'legal highs'
NOT Safe NOT Legal
Get wise about lethal highs
LETHAL HIGHS #lethalhighs #notsafenotlegal



Worried about local crime? Get into the know with the Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch group. You can find out more about them on their [website](#).

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 December 29th.
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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