



# LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## LRA NEWS

### Leisure centres

- **Loughton Leisure Centre, Traps Hill,**
  - **new facilities:** the building work is complete (the company avoided complete closure of the premises).
  - **swim-only adult membership** has been introduced by Places for People (the contractors running the centres on behalf of the District Council) and has proved very popular
  - **free swimming** you can register your child for free swimming if they are under eight.
- **LRA Cllr Rose Brookes** is the LRA's representative on the Leisure Monitoring Contract Partnership and has dealt with a number of issues at Loughton Leisure Centre in addition to looking at District leisure provisions.
- **Possible new Sports Centre in Epping** on the site of the old Epping Junior School on St John's Road: Rose was consulted as part of the feasibility study - she stressed the need for some crèche provision and a soft play area for young children.

**Oakwood Hill estate footpaths.** After years of prevarication by the District and County Councils, the footpaths have finally been repaired (with funding LRA got allocated and has fought to retain for the job). LRA Cllr Chris Roberts will be checking on the work over the next few weeks.



**Lights in Foot Tunnel under Loughton station** (Great Eastern Path).

Following damage (possibly from heavy rain) the lights in the underpass have been out-of-action again. LRA Cllr Rose Brookes investigated to find TfL engineers installing a generator – we don't know how long proper repairs will take.

**Full Universal Credit roll-out** will take place in the Loughton Jobcentre Plus area on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

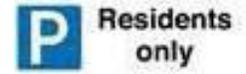
**Clays Lane fly-tip:** After LRA Cllr Caroline Pond had asked District Council Officers to investigate, we understand that it has been cleared by the owner, once the Council managed to track her down.

**Refuse collection timetables.** A resident queried why Biffa was leaving timetables laminated in plastic, which cannot be recycled by residents. LRA Cllr Caroline Pond has looked into this in the past, and reports that she believes they're made of laminated paper so they won't get wet and disintegrate. They should be put in with the residual waste (not the recycling) and they'll then be separated out with other similar materials at the Tovi eco-park at Basildon and will end up as RDF (refuse derived fuel).



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## Broadway area parking scheme (again)



There's still a lot of concern – and confusion – about NEPP's proposals, and we have had a large number of emails from residents. So here's our latest summary of the position:

### Broadway area: proposed NEPP residents' parking zone

A year ago, with few objections from residents, NEPP introduced residents' parking controls in the roads nearest to Debden station/town centre, because commuters (and others) were parking cars there and residents were unable to find anywhere to park at the kerbside near their homes.

As always happens, commuters' and others' cars were displaced into the surrounding roads.

From the start, NEPP had planned a second round of parking restrictions to deal with this – hence the present draft Parking Order.

In preparing the Order, NEPP and the District Council consulted LRA Cllrs (and others) about

- including those roads where there is already a commuter-parking problem, where many residents want parking controls so they can park near their homes
- also including nearby roads which don't currently have a commuter-parking problem but which could start having such problems when commuters are displaced into them – NEPP doesn't intend to introduce parking controls into these roads unless and until they have serious parking problems (then NEPP could act much faster than by starting afresh).

What LRA wasn't told, and so didn't know, was that NEPP would totally fail to explain this when they advertised the scheme for objections - understandably, some residents were very upset by this.

**LRA Cllrs will support removal of outer streets where there is a predominant view not to include them in the scheme.**

**Residents who are already suffering serious commuter-parking) will also be supported.**

We understand it's already been decided (again after consulting LRA Cllrs) to delete The Lindens and Hogarth Reach from the scheme.

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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>**

**The future of Debden Library** will be discussed at an Essex County Council Cabinet meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, with closure recommended as part of reducing the number of Essex libraries by a third, including closing those in Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell. LRA County Cllr Chris Pond will oppose the proposals; he comments that he believes the closures would mean the Council would be failing to meet its statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. He's concerned that even Loughton, as a hub library, might have its hours and quality of service reduced. He finds the idea of Buckhurst Hill, Debden, and Chigwell with no library is simply unimaginable.



If the Council goes ahead, there'll be a public consultation for a 12-week period from 29th November – see our next email bulletin. Details of the Count Council discussion [here](#). [More](#) (item 5).

Incidentally, LRA thinks that Debden Library is in the wrong place – hence the low usage - it should be on The Broadway. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the District Council, which owns the shops, about this, but the Council have turned down the proposal.

## Police & Crime: dealing with drugs

We've been getting reports of drug use in various parts of the town recently, including in and near Loughton cemetery and St Johns churchyard, and in Debden.

The police have a very active anti-drugs team which has obtained convictions of dealers, but they won't respond to individual calls as arrests rarely if ever result.

Instead, the police need to build up a body of evidence which can be used when dealers are taken to court, to help get convictions.

Indeed, acting on information from the community, Essex Police launched an investigation in May this year targeting so-called 'county line' drug dealing gangs in Debden & other parts of Loughton, and in Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Limes Farm and Hainault.

The gangs are believed to be involved in the supply of Class A drugs and thought to make roughly in the region of £3,000 per day from the sale of illegal substances.

Supported by Epping Forest District Council, Essex Police began investigating the gangs and building up a picture on key members. The six-month probe culminated this week with the execution of 19 warrants across the district.

In total 24 people were arrested on suspicion of offences ranging from possession of drugs to possession with intent to supply and being concerned in the supply of drugs.



If you have information about drug or gang-related crime, please report times and places (keep a diary if possible) and any vehicle numbers to Essex Police at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) or on 101, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



[Note: this article will also appear in the next members' edition of our *Loughton Life* newsletter.]

## Police & Crime: other matters

- **Missing person found:** one very dark and wet evening recently, a police helicopter helped in a time-critical search for a high-risk missing person in the Pyrles Lane area. After an extensive search the team managed to locate the missing person and directed ground units to the location (sometimes, it's about more than just catching criminals).
- **Attack in The Lindens.** At around 5.30pm on November 7<sup>th</sup> a group of three men (described as white, mid-20s, one with an Irish accent) broke into a house in The Lindens. They attacked the man inside with a crowbar, inflicting injuries which are not believed to be serious. They took a four-figure sum of cash, a Samsung A8 mobile phone and a Panasonic home phone headset. If you have relevant dash cam footage or CCTV, please call Loughton CID on 101 quoting the crime reference number 42/162777/18 or Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111. [More.](#) [EFNW].

Local residents are understandably concerned, but CI Lewis Basford has said that such incidents are very rare.

## Investment in District Council car-parks.

The Council has agreed changes to the parking tariff – they estimate that this could result in additional income of up to £300,000 per year. They're considering reinvesting some of it to improve and enhance car parks. The Council owns 20 car parks across the District with a total of 1,763 parking spaces.

- £100,000 for environmental enhancement and improvement works;
- £60,000 for installation electric charging points (subject to an ongoing feasibility study);
- £23,000 for installation of new CCTV systems;
- £100,000 allocation for new LED lighting.



[The Citizens' Advice Bureau](#) now operates at Loughton Library, Traps Hill.

- **Funding.** Recently LRA Cllr Rose Brookes spoke at a District Council meeting in support of the Council continuing to fund CAB's two debt advisors (in addition to the District Council's funding, Loughton Town Council regularly makes a grant to the Bureau).
- **The workload.** The number of residents seeking help with debt issues is increasing and further increases are expected when Universal Credit is fully rolled-out locally in December.

### **Pyrles Lane Nursery site**

The District Council has accepted an offer from Durkan Estates (subject to contract etc) at £3.55m on the basis of a development of 36 homes. 40% of the homes must comprise affordable housing (75% affordable rented and 25% shared ownership). Details of development [here](#) (reference: EPF/2254/15).

### **Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>: open day of activities to mark the opening of the new [Waltham Abbey leisure centre](#).**

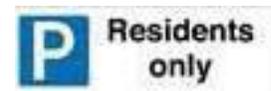
As well as free swimming and exercise classes such as aqua aerobics, yoga and body combat, little ones will be able to enjoy bouncy castle, face painting sessions and a meet and greet with Pooch, the Places Leisure cuddly mascot.

The new centre has a green roof, an 80-station state of the art gym, a six lane swimming pool with separate teaching pool, community room and cafe, amongst other fantastic facilities. [More.](#)



### **Parking schemes.**

At their October meeting, NEPP approved the following schemes ([no details are available at present](#) and we will publicise them when they appear)



- **Church Hill:** limited waiting bay/s to prevent all day parking from local residents which is affecting the trade of local businesses
- **Nursery Road/Connaught Avenue and Shaftesbury Road:** multiple restrictions to deter/control commuter parking, pay by phone bays & yellow lines on junctions
- **Sparelease Hill:** pay and display and waiting restriction/s to prevent commuter parking and provide parking where appropriate.

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## **OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE**

### **Loughton Festival 2019 charity musical evening (60's/70's**

Motown/JazzFunk/Glam/Disco) at Lopping Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> June – they're looking for any local musical talent who may wish to perform on the night. Any profits will be split between Neighbourhood Watch and Voluntary Action Epping Forest

Contact [loughtonfestival@aol.com](mailto:loughtonfestival@aol.com)



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## **HELP WANTED**

**Would you pay more for a better police force?** The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex @Hirst4EssexPFCC says "deploying more resources in the right places would mean we can really get out there and make a difference". [Background here.](#) [Survey here.](#)



**Fed up with poor driving?** Send in your dash-cam footage to the Safer Essex Roads team. [More.](#)



**Nominate Ada Cole Rescue Centre** (part of Redwings Horse Sanctuary) for a grant of £50,000! Until 30th November, @SEIB\_Insurance are asking the public to nominate good causes which could benefit - get involved here - <https://www.seib.co.uk/giving> (you'll need their charity number: 1068911).

**Petition: Save Our Parks.**

Thousands of Britain's parks and play areas are falling into disrepair or are under threat of being sold to developers.

This is despite the vital health and social benefits that our much-loved green spaces provide.

LRA support *The Mail on Sunday's* campaign to *Save Our Parks* from being lost forever

– please read about it, and sign the petition [here](#).

**Loughton Festival 2019 charity musical evening** (60's/70's

Motown/JazzFunk/Glam/Disco) at Lopping Hall on 22nd June – they're looking for volunteers to help out, mainly in the bar and on the door. Any profits will be split between Neighbourhood Watch and Voluntary Action Epping Forest Contact

[loughtonfestival@aol.com](mailto:loughtonfestival@aol.com)



Fly-tip. The Corporation of London are asking for some help in identifying this aircraft related fly tip that was dumped in The Lower Forest earlier this week. Please share and let us know if you have any information which may help their investigation. [epping.forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:epping.forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

020 8532 1010



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BETWEEN OUR EMAIL BULLETINS**



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**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 November 30<sup>th</sup>.
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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