



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Could you be an LRA Cllr?

LRA Cllrs look after our town & aim to improve it.

As well as their involvement in local councils, our Cllrs also get involved in helping individual residents.

If you care about your town, please think about joining our teams on the Town or District Councils.

To find out what's involved, please call Chris on 020 8508 2361 or Michael on 020 8508 4457 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk now.

LRA NEWS

Planning cases

- **20 Ollards Grove.** A Planning Inspector has turned down an appeal against the District Council's refusal to allow an application to change this house to a residential institution for offenders or defendants. There is a new application for a change of use to a hostel for people on bail; LPG will continue to object to such applications
- **Pyrles Lane Nursery.** The revised application for the site is due to be considered by the District Development Management Committee on February 24th. It shows an increased access road width of 4.1 - 4.3 metres plus kerbstones, which now meets the Building Regulations.
- **Land behind 94 Lawton Road.** Despite objections from nearby residents, Loughton Town Council and the LRA Plans Group, a Planning Inspector has approved a block of 7 flats here, with inadequate parking.
- **Garages to the rear of 66 - 72 Church Lane.** Following objections from nearby residents, Loughton Town Council and the LRA Plans Group, the District Council planning committee turned down an application for houses, because of concerns about the effect on the nearby Special School and on local residents
- **Garages in Chequers Road.** Applications to develop these two sites were approved by the District Council planning committee, [There was a difficult balance to be struck here between the effect on nearby residents and the need for more local housing. LRA Cllr Chris Roberts also mentioned the problems he has dealt with on these sites, including ASB, drugs and flytipping]



Have you noticed footway replacements happening in various parts of the town? The Conservative-led County Council had done virtually none since the turn of the century. LRA Cllr Chris Pond and his resident association colleague from Saffron Walden put down a motion on this at the Council last year – which is what has led to this change of tack (in Loughton and throughout the county!)

Buses

- **Buses 20 & 167:** LRA Cllr Chris Pond tells us that there will no changes in 2016 (but TfL will be reviewing all its cross-border routes in 2017, and we will be watching closely)



-
- **Buses 541 & 542.** We understand that the County Council didn't get any valid tenders to run these routes after March 31st. The routes are NOT in danger, but the Council are having to make ad-hoc arrangements. LRA Cllr Chris Pond is trying to find out what will be happening.

Parking at The Alderton Junior School, Alderton Hall Lane (or the lack of it). At a recent Full County Council Meeting, local resident Mick Stubbings very ably raised the problems caused for local residents. Cabinet Cllr Ray Gooding replied that this was a matter for local discussions – LRA Cllr Chris Pond will ensure these take place, but a more positive input from the Council would have been welcome. (Separately there is a proposal to extend the “No Stopping on School Keep Clear Markings” on the SW side of Alderton Hall Lane to cover 25m (27yds) NW from nos. 46/48.)

Pothole repairs. County Highways have just proudly let me know that they have repaired a pothole in the busy pavement outside 8 Forest Road – which we reported in January 2014 !

DELIVERING OUR *LOUGHTON LIFE* NEWSLETTERS

We need a few more deliverers to spend about an hour at the end of this month popping copies of our *Townwide* newsletter through letter-boxes – good exercise.

We're very grateful to all our deliverers.

We also need some-one to take the newsletters for one of the seven wards, to split them between the deliverers and to drop them off to the deliverers.

If you can help, please email me at david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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>

Friends of Epping Forest – a possible merger with the Epping Forest Centenary Trust will be discussed at a Special General Meeting on Monday March 14th at Bancroft Preparatory School hall (access off Whitehall Rd, just west of Woodford High Road). 7.30pm followed by refreshments. Queries to Mike Smith secretary@friendsofeppingforest.org.uk or 020 8530 2564.

Loughton Town Council.

- **Find out more about your Town Council!** Annual Town Meeting. Wednesday March 16th. 8pm. Murray Hall, Borders Lane. Speaker: Brian Page, Acting Principal, Epping Forest College.
- **Who does the Council support?** Details of grants made to voluntary organisations: www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/lrgsa.pdf page 8 and after page 23.

Essex Police

- **Muggings in alleyway by Loughton Station:** if you have seen (or see) anything suspicious in this area, please let the police know asap (999 for emergencies, else 101)
- **Essex Police** were rated as “Good” in a [review](#) by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, but were also criticised for not protecting vulnerable people, and need to improve in several areas, including the tackling of anti-social behaviour – read the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) [response](#)
- **[specialist support](#) to adult and child victims of rape and sexual abuse:** the PCC has awarded contracts totalling £1.3m a year to a consortium of local rape crisis centres



- **Essex Victims Gateway:** where you can find information and advice on what to do and how to get help if you have been a victim of crime - www.essexvictimsgateway.org
- **Police & Fire Services: future collaboration** - read the PCC's views at <http://ow.ly/Yq9lP>

Licensing applications (to be heard at the District Council on Tuesday March 1st)

- **Morrison's** (246-250 High Road): application for an alcohol licence 6am –midnight, 7 days a week. Their current licence is for 8am-11pm (except Sundays), but their current opening hours are 8am-9pm on weekdays, 7am-9pm on Saturdays and 11am-5pm on Sundays. (We know from experience that, when applying for licences, supermarkets often ask for licensed hours longer than their actual opening hours, but nearby residents are understandably concerned.)
- **Molens** (209D High Road): application to extend their alcohol licence to their enlarged premises, 7am-11pm, 7 days a week. Originally they wanted to include “an outbuilding built at the rear of the property to provide storage, cold rooms and customers smoking area” – after police objections they have withdrawn this, but it is clear that they want to use the garden as a smoking area (our understanding is that this would be outside the terms of their current planning permission – nearby residents are very concerned about the potential use of the garden).

Live in Forest Road, Smarts Lane or High Beech Road?

We are supporting a group of residents who want you to be able to park near your homes by providing a residents parking zone (RPZ).

Please sign the [petition](#).



The proposal was discussed at Loughton Town Council's meeting on February 17th – see <http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/1coua.pdf> (page 29 onwards) -this is at a very early stage and a lot more discussion and consultation would be needed before any decisions are taken.

Sir Winston Churchill:

new blue plaque outside Epping M&S.



Temporary closure of St. John's Road March 2nd for 9 hours while the tower crane near the Church Hill junction is removed. <http://roadworks.org/?tm53499>

Essex County Council (ECC) budget 2016/17. Central Government has cut ECC's 26/17 funding by £57m (or 33% less than that provided for 2015/16). The Council has frozen council tax for the last 5 years, by savings in the back office and transforming the way the Council delivers services; it aims to deliver a further £76m of savings next year. The Council will increase council tax by 1.99%, plus 2% towards the increasing cost of social care, an increase of under 84p per household per week. [The LRA-led Town Council will hold its part of council tax for the 7th consecutive year.]

Loughton Festival – raising money for charities

- see the [program](#) and put the dates in your diary now!
- **Study Day about Hitler's private life. Booking now open. June 4th.** <http://www.loughtonfestival.org/STUDY-DAY.html>



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Stall-holders wanted

- **Loughton Festival** is offering lots of stall spaces for May 14th, 1 - 5pm in Loughton, if you want one, please email <http://www.loughtonfestival.org/Contact-Us.html> - no food, sorry.
- **Businesses large & small.** Loughton Cricket Club, The Uplands (off High Road). Sunday June 12th. 10.30am - 4pm. All businesses large and small are welcome to attend. If you would like to be a part of a great Community family day and show case your services to your residents and neighbours then please email keepitlocalgb@live.co.uk



Going back to work? Contact Essex County Council for advice on childcare providers and help with the cost of paying for childcare. <http://ow.ly/XNeG9>

Help for small businesses

- **free digital workshops.** Essex County Council's at <http://www.superfastessex.org/digitaltoolkit>
- **free business support workshops**
- **"Do It Digital"** – advice on becoming more digitally engaged, from a basic web presence to online selling. Free helpline: 03300 103300 Monday-Friday, 8.30am - 5pm or email DoItDigital@happus.eu

Loughton 1st for businesses, non - profit groups & Charities email jmservices@uwclub.net

- **free promotion** and more
- **free entry into Use Local Directory**
- **weekly emailed newsletter** - short relevant with news tips, deals, what's on, jokes



Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is now open at Loughton Library, Traps Hill for free, impartial confidential advice.



Off on holiday abroad this year? Seek travel health advice from your GP/practice nurse six to eight weeks before you go. West Essex CCG. <http://ow.ly/YnYzV>

Coffee and Connect with Mind in West Essex. Monday March 7th. Find out how *Mind*' services could help you improve your mental health and wellbeing - see *EVENTS* email.



EPPING FOREST DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
LOUGHTON CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
OPENING TIMES AT LOUGHTON LIBRARY

FROM
8 FEBRUARY 2016

MONDAY	9.30 am – 1.00 pm DROP IN
TUESDAY	9.30 am – 1.00 pm DROP IN
WEDNESDAY	9.30 am – 1.00 pm DROP IN
THURSDAY	CLOSED Except for pre-booked appointments
FRIDAY	9.30 am – 1.00 pm DROP IN

Personal trainers – free taster sessions (30 minutes) at Loughton Leisure Centre, Traps Hill, Monday February 29th. <http://qoo.ly/7tiht>

E-books are free to borrow at Essex Libraries. Curl up with one on your tablet this winter. A reader reported a problem with the abbreviated link in the last bulletin so here's the full version: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Libraries-Archives/libraries/reading/Pages/E-books-and-E-audio.aspx>

HELP WANTED

Loughton Foodbank: can you spare a couple of hours a week? <http://fb.me/371KU03si>
They're looking for fun-loving, date-checking, donation-sorting volunteers...



Give your views:

- **Health Services: share your experiences** of poor care – or good care - for yourself or others, with the Care Quality Commission, anonymously if you wish.
<http://www.cqc.org.uk/share-your-experience-finder>
- **Are you, or someone in your household, in work and receiving child tax credits and/or working tax credits?** If so Citizens Advice nationally would like you to complete their short online anonymous and confidential survey on the potential effect of welfare reform on working families. www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G9DSRTB
- **Sure Start Children's Centres in 2017.** Prebirth-19. Essex County Council consultation:
<http://ow.ly/Yoix0>
- **new Lower Thames Crossing:** <http://www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk/>



Volunteer to help with the Summer Reading Challenge and enjoy your summer holidays even more. Essex Libraries. <http://ow.ly/YfqaR>

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) now recruiting:
<http://www.lads.org.uk/>



GENERAL



Could they find your house fast If you had to call an ambulance or First Responder after dark? Wasted minutes can be vital, so don't take chances (and, if you do have to call for help, turn on the lights and have some-one outside with a torch). [EFNW]

Looking for a venue in Loughton? Lopping Hall has rooms for hire to suit most requirements; for more information visit <http://www.loppinghall.org.uk>



Have you got drainage ditches on your land – please keep them clear to help reduce local flooding problems. <http://ow.ly/Y5pxi>

Loughton brook: please don't dump garden rubbish over your back garden wall – it can cause flooding!

A new company is running North Weald Market - every Saturday.
http://www.saundersmarkets.co.uk/North_Weald_Market.html



Travel in Essex

- **Revised Essex Bus & Train map**
- **Bus cuts nationwide.** Essex has seen a “7% cut in bus funding since 2010 – Essex County Council is pursuing an innovative and encouraging 'bus growth' strategy rather than a cuts agenda.” [Campaign for Better Transport]

Three quarters of fires started in the kitchen in Essex in 2015.
Essex Fire Service. More at <http://goo.gl/rMdMc9>



Scam warnings:

- **don't reset your i-phone** to Jan 1st 1970 or you'll break it.
- **Blue Badge website:** don't use www.bluebadgeonline.org/ (more at <http://1drv.ms/1XBn2Kc>)

Beware door-to-door salesmen: www.safelocaltrades.com/consumers/advice/nottingham-knockers



TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @Loughton RA



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 March 4th.
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. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch

David Linnell

© 2016 Loughton Residents Association

For more about LRA & Loughton see
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Promoted by & on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association of 20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN