



LRA's Loughton News

21 November 2020

This issue has the latest update on [Lucton's Field and the covenants](#) that have provided protection in the past, along with [an update on the District Local Plan](#).

With the Coronavirus pandemic affecting our daily lives, [here is the situation in Essex](#), and [the impact on local Council services](#).

We can also report on [what properties on the High Road](#) the District Council bought last year.

Read also on [why drains flood, how road repairs are decided](#), and [how to track the gritters](#) over winter, and [what happens when fly tipping is reported](#)

We've also got [pictures from Remembrance Sunday](#), and [Lopping Hall is looking for more directors](#) on their board, so could you help them increase the activities available to the local community?

Lastly, has Epping Forest helped to get you through the lockdown this year? If so, could you take a moment of your time to give something back to this ancient woodland and [vote for Epping Forest](#) in the Green Flag People's Choice Award?

Thank you for supporting LRA. You can always contact us by email at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk to raise an issue, to give your views, or to offer help.

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LRA News

Lucton's Field, Borders Lane - Covenants

The field was originally covered by covenants restricting its use to educational or health usages. Five years ago, a motion to amend the covenant was "called in" by LRA Cllr Chris Pond and other Cllrs, because they thought it was ill advised. The covenants were amended so that they would cease to have effect once the College made a planning application for a sports centre on the Field.

Recently the Council put forward further amendments to the covenants, and these were again called in by Chris and other Cllrs. They wanted the new covenant to

include a provision of public access to the sports centre and for the land to revert to community control if the sports centre wasn't built. They also wanted the contract with the developer to include a community benefit such as a Wellness Centre. The Council agreed to take these points forward.

Chris's suggestions for new covenants have now been put to the college, who will doubtless reject them, as they would limit their freedom of action.

The Council has confirmed that the County Council don't see any need to use the land for educational needs, such as a new primary school (LRA finds this incredible, given the Council's determination to build another 1,000+ homes in Loughton).

[Background on our website](#)

New District Local Plan

We understand that the Council have submitted their last batch of documents to the Planning Inspector and expect that they will now produce a consolidated version for public comment. We'll keep you posted. [Background on our website](#)

District Council commercial property investments - Qualis

We reported last May that the Council had set up Qualis - a group of companies to buy and develop commercial properties. Qualis is intended to provide an income for the Council so that council tax can be kept down (the Council is one of many following this route). Its first and biggest development project will be in Epping. Qualis has also taken over the maintenance of Council-owned housing properties, and the Council has said that it will look to transfer other responsibilities to Qualis, including the Loughton High Road properties which the Council bought last year (see below).

LRA Comment: Earlier this year, LRA's Howard Kauffman was appointed to the interim Qualis board, to make good use of his 35 years of experience as advisor to The City of London Corporation and The London Borough of Hackney, for the good of Loughton and the wider District. He will continue to be involved as a member of the new permanent Board.



Properties in Loughton

At the last full District Council meeting, LRA Cllr David Wixley again raised the casual way the Council has been referring to the High Road properties they bought last year. The Council has been referring to "Centric Parade", but in fact they purchased much more than this: the 40-plus space car park behind Centric Parade (in Clifton Road), nine flats above the shops and 18 commercial retail units and office space covering 202-226 (even) High Road and 200 High Road, as well as Centric Parade Nos 1-6. David suggested that this could be briefly and accurately referred to as 200-226 High Road & associated flats, and the Clifton Road car park.

Oakwood Hill estate

LRA Cllrs Chris and Debbie Roberts inspected the estate last month with the District Council Officer who is now looking after the estate. Some progress has at last been made on all the maintenance items Chris had last raised during a site meeting back in August. Chris remains concerned about the many blocked grey water drains; the District Council has cleared those they're responsible for, but County Highways are dragging their feet. LRA Cllr Chris Pond reports that he has submitted the estate's

carriageway potholes for priority repair, but the recent wet weather is slowing things down.



Bus Route 87 (Langston Rd Shopping Park - Harlow)

The bus route is to be withdrawn on December 30th north of Loughton and will continue as the old route 542 (Debden - Loughton circular, Broadway - Oakwood - Roding Rd - Station - High Rd - Traps Hill - Alderton Hall Lane - Bushfields - Colson - Broadway) to be reinstated. There will not be a Loughton to Harlow service.

Therefore the Epping Forest Shopping Park will not be served by public transport. So the District Council, having declared a climate emergency, withdraw their subsidy and increase the number of people driving to the Shopping Park.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond and Conservative Cllr and cabinet member Alan Lion were behind Route 87 going into the Shopping Park. Now he has gone from the cabinet, so has the District Council subsidy.

Road Repairs

A number of carriageway defects in Loughton Central have been marked for repair under the long list submitted by LRA Cllr Chris Pond, and some have already been dealt with during drier periods, including huge potholes in Brooklyn Avenue, a mysterious subsidence in Staples Road, and numerous defects in Highwood Lane.



Chris inadvertently went over his quota (there were a lot on the list!) and has asked if he can have a few more done out of the Members' Locality Fund, which was agreed.

Alderton Hill

There have been many accidents at the top end of Alderton Hill. LRA Cllr Chris Pond booked an appointment with Essex Highways, which one of the people affected attended. A safety officer was due to attend the site with the Highways Liaison Officer this week. But action is likely to be slow, as funds for the Local Highway Panel are heavily committed.

LRA Cllr Rose Brookes

Rose spent a fortnight in Harlow Hospital with coronavirus, and is now recuperating with family. We wish her all the best for a complete recovery.



LRA's Christmas Quiz

Even in this strange and sad year, we're happy to bring you the usual [Christmas quiz](#). This year the theme is films – almost all of them well known, and certainly likely to have been on TV, as well as at the cinema. It's a bit longer than usual, but with lockdowns and restrictions in some form, we thought you may have a bit more time on your

hands.

There is a prize of a book token or fizz for the first correct answers out of the hat. Answers to lesandsueharris@aol.com by January 5th please. Have a good Christmas everyone, whatever form it takes.



LRA's Townwide Loughton Life newsletter

Our Autumn Townwide newsletter should have been delivered to you by now. Because of the continuing Coronavirus crisis, we're using a delivery firm instead of by our usual volunteer deliverers. If it hasn't arrived, please let us know at david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

You can also [read the Autumn Loughton Life on our website](#) (along with past issues).

Coronavirus/Covid-19



More on [this video](#) and [online](#)

The situation in Essex

- In the seven days to November 12th, there were 2098 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Essex. [More data](#)
- As of November 12th, the highest weekly case rates were in Brentwood and Epping Forest, with rates of 246.8 and 230.1, respectively (the number of cases recorded in the preceding seven days per 100,000 population). [More data](#)
- As at 17 November there were 244 beds occupied by confirmed COVID-19 patients in Essex hospital trusts. This equates to 8.9% of trust capacity and is 15% higher compared to bed occupancy one week previous (November 10th). [More data](#)
- Work has now started to consider how the County Council, together with partner organisations, can facilitate the roll-out of mass tests across the county

to protect our residents. You can [find out more about rapid testing](#) to be rolled out across England on GOV.UK.



[Watch Dr Mike Gogarty](#), the Director for Public Health for Essex, County Council, explain more.



Got symptoms – please get a test

West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group ask you to get a test if you've got coronavirus symptoms, but only then - this will help make sure people who need a test can get one. Get a test if you have a loss/change in sense of smell or taste, a high temperature or a new continuous cough. [More](#)

Face masks

You can wear any face covering, including a scarf. However, [Which? face mask tests](#) reveal huge differences in filtration. What should you look for in a [homemade mask](#)?

Going to work?

How to [stay safe at work](#).



COVID Fraud Hotline

The Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline is open 24/7, 365 days a year on 0800 587 5030 or fill in the [simple and secure anonymous form](#).

Funding from the Government's Coronavirus Community Support Fund

Among the grants made to organisations in the District are

- The Scout Association (£98,304)
- Voluntary Action Epping Forest (£28,920)
- Rotary Club of Loughton Trust Fund (£10,000)
- Support the Homeless (£10,000)
- Nzema Association of United Kingdom (£10,000)
- Restore Community (£10,000)

Council Services

Latest Updates are available from the [District Council](#) and [County Council](#) websites.

- All Essex **recycling centres** will remain open as per current operating times. [More](#)
- **Public transport** will continue to operate in line with government guidelines.

- **Essex Registration Service and Blue Badge Assessments** that take place from libraries will continue to operate. Ceremonies of marriage or civil partnership will be unable to take place. [More](#)
- **Essex Libraries** will be closed to the public in terms of book borrowing. However, some sites will continue to offer public computer use by appointment only. Where possible the Home Library Service will continue. A new click and collect service has been put in place and more details will be shared shortly. You just reserve your books online as usual. The e-library service is still fully accessible. [More](#).
LRA Cllr Chris Pond has requested collection of reserved books be arranged. The County Council have agreed in principle and details are awaited.
- **The Essex Record Office** will be closed, with certificate service available online. [More](#)
- **Loughton cemetery** has had to be closed but you can still go in to pay respects at a grave.
- **Loughton Town Council** - the office is not open to the public, and opens mainly to deal with post, issue cheques etc. The preferred way to contact the Council is by email at contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

District Council Support

The District Council has [further information and guidance here](#), plus support for [residents](#) and [businesses](#), and [help for getting you back on your feet](#).

Loughton Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group

This Loughton group connects neighbours to offer practical help during the pandemic, through Facebook and WhatsApp groups. [More](#)

Planning and Licensing

[Read more on our website](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information and how to comment to the Town Council and the District Council.

The District Council takes the decisions on planning applications. The application will be decided upon by a Council Officer or by Cllrs in a District Council Planning Committee, and residents' comments on the proposals will be taken into account but not necessarily agreed with. This is a quasi-legal process, and decisions have to be taken **on planning grounds only**, based on the national planning legislation and the District Local Plan, whatever the views and feelings of the individual Cllrs involved.

If you wish to comment, don't delay. The process is time critical with several stages along the way. If you wish to make comments please try to submit them before the deadline set by the Council. Although submissions can be made and have to be considered up to the time a decision is made, once the statutory deadline has passed, the application might be determined before your comments are received.

The Last Post, 227 High Road planning application refused

Earlier this year, The Last Post started using the area on the southern side of the pub for customers, as well as the pavement at the front of the pub. LRAPG received a significant number of complaints from residents in the High Road, Priory Road and

Clifton Road about customers' late-night noise and unruly behaviour. We contacted the District Council's Enforcement team, and they advised the pub that if they wanted to continue to use the side area they needed to apply for planning permission. They did so, residents and LRAPG opposed the application, and the Council has now turned it down.

When the old Post Office was converted to a pub, it was made an essential condition that the side area must be kept for staff parking and for deliveries (so the High Road wasn't blocked by large lorries). Since then, the owners have applied on several occasions to put tables and chairs in this area but, as there has been no change in circumstances to justify a different decision, the Council has turned down the applications.

LRAPG comment: We have great sympathy with the difficulties that The Last Post and many other many businesses are having in the current crisis, but the planning system is there to try to set an appropriate balance between the interests of different groups, and it has done so in this case.

1 Connaught Avenue

LRAPG has been told by a local resident that this property has been sold and will be converted into a nursery.

The Government made a radical change to planning controls that came into effect on September 1st this year. Under these changes you can change an office into a clinic, health centre, crèche, day nursery or day centre without the need for planning permission.

So whilst the use does not need the formal consent of the Council any external physical alterations might still need consent.

69 Church Hill

This application proposes to replace the existing building with a block of 8 flats. This is a resubmission of a proposal that has been turned down previously, with the planning inspector finding the development would *"have an overly dominant and discordant presence within its immediate setting, and, would sit uncomfortably in the streetscene, between Nos 73 and 67a Church Hill. Moreover, it would undermine the distinctively smaller scale and more traditional suburban character of the block of land on the south-eastern side of Church Hill"*.

LRAPG have objected again. Whilst the new application seems to have addressed the inspector's concerns over amenity space, the minor changes to the height and bulk do not overcome the inspector's refusal on these grounds. The proposed building remains too large and dominant, and out of character, on this part of Church Hill. In addition there will be an inevitable increase in traffic and negative impact on air quality.

[Application EPF/2369/20](#). The statutory deadline for comments is November 27th.

Davenant Foundation School, Chester Road

This application proposes to replace the existing temporary classrooms with a permanent standalone block.

LRAPG has objected. Notwithstanding the applicant's claim that this is a "high quality standalone teaching building" we consider it to be bland and to lack depth, and the flat roof will leak after a few years. The white render will also get marked and dirty too quickly. Good architecture can inspire our children. We need to do better than this.

[Application EPF/1465/20](#). The statutory deadline for comments is November 27th.

Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane

LRA was approached by residents who had seen a massive tarpaulin canopy erected at the Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane. The District Council Licensing Team visited. This is part of their licensed area, so can't be used during the November lockdown. LRAPG believes the canopy also needs planning permission, and will follow this up.

Roads, Parking and Travel

The Broadway central reservation

At the September meeting of the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel, LRA Cllr Chris Pond asked about progress on refurbishing this eyesore, and was told that the refurbishment scheme had gone back to the design team for detailed design work.

Brooklyn Avenue

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been told (after much prodding) that Essex Highways are looking to resurface Brooklyn Avenue, after the existing 50 year old surface had repeatedly degenerated. This should be confirmed by an inspection and computer survey later this month.

The job should be done in financial year 2021/22. Some holes and cracks have also received interim attention recently. But temporary fixes are of course liable to be washed out by frost and rain.

Willingale Road traffic management improvements

Earlier this year the Local Highways panel received a feasibility study on whether the build-outs can be improved or replaced with other traffic calming methods. Because of subsequent objections to the proposals, further work is being carried out – we'll let readers know when a new report is received.

Roadworks in September

In Epping Forest District, County Highways repaired 98 potholes, dealt with 28 pavement defects, cleared 1,947 drains and fixed 219 streetlights.

Why some drains will always flood in downpours

It all depends on how flat the area is, and where the water is heading once it's in the drain, and how much silt and other rubbish gets drawn in too. For example, many residents will be aware of the notorious drain at the foot of Alderton Hill, where its outlet into the nearby stream has regularly become increasingly restricted as debris builds up over the exit grille. Highways are gradually building up complete records of which drains tend to get blocked, with the aim of improving their clearance regime. Please still [report](#)



[blockages](#), but not in the middle of a downpour – please give it a couple of hours to see if the water will drain away naturally.

How to decide what road repairs are needed

Currently Highways road condition surveys are done using expensive purpose-built equipment which passes sensors over each road to assess its condition. They're now trialling a new system using special smart phones to film the road surface. Intelligent computer software then analyses the visual data to produce detailed condition and defect information for engineers to prioritise repairs. If this works it should produce better and cheaper information for repairs to be done quicker.



Track the Gritting

The County Highways gritting team are already on stand-by, and their vehicles have been out and about as drivers refresh their knowledge of the routes they grit (Highways England, not Essex Highways, grit the A12, A120, M11 and M25 in Essex).

[More](#), including gritting routes, Essex Highways [Twitter feed on where the gritters are](#) and [track the gritters on a map here](#).



Highway Rangers Service

The Highway Rangers carry out minor highway maintenance works around the District (this includes trimming vegetation at the side of the road, repairing and cleaning road signs). For example, LRA Cllr Chris Pond reported that a vehicle had demolished the Shaftesbury jockey rails. This would have taken at least 6 months to repair by Essex Highways. It was done in ten days by the new Rangers.

The Council's website now has updated information on the team and [a link to the new webform](#) you can use to make requests for work to be done.

Highways schemes approved

The following schemes have been approved by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), however we don't yet have any indication about when they'll be implemented.

- Fairmeads - Waiting restriction/s to address double parking and access issues.
- Shelley Grove - Waiting restriction/s to address commuter parking issues
- The Square/Leaden Close - Waiting restriction/s to address commuter parking issues



Free support for businesses and organisations employing drivers

About 30% of crashes on Essex roads involve drivers who are at work at the time in trucks, vans or cars (on their way to appointments). The Safer

Essex Roads Partnership is offering businesses and other organisations free support tailored to meet the organisation's needs in terms of policy review, strategic delivery

The local Guardian newspaper reports that in an operation last month, Epping Forest District Council officers and Essex Police stopped 20 vehicles suspected of various crimes. One was fined for driving with no insurance and their vehicle was seized, one was fined for driving with an expired driving licence, and one arrest was made for a positive drugs test. Six stopped vehicles, suspected of committing waste offences, will be issued notices to produce their authority to transport waste and waste transfer notes (failure to do so will result in fixed penalty notices or prosecution).



Keeping your vehicle safe

Essex Community Watch magazine has [an article](#) (page 4) about stopping the theft of valuable vehicles by fitting a device to your vehicle key which prevents relay attack or 'cloning' (it makes it easy to switch the fob OFF when not in use). This

kind of crime is described in [this news article](#).

Essex Police - Epping Forest

After a recent incident which closed the M25 for over 2½ hours, the police provided [a detailed account](#) of what had happened, and why it took this long for the road to be reopened. They hope this will help you to understand why they close key roads such as the M25 (which they never do lightly) and why it can seem they are closed longer than necessary.

Image: Essex Police



Council News

What happens when a fly-tip is reported

When fly-tipping is reported a District Council Officer will inspect the site within three working days to gather evidence. He or she will then inform the Waste Management Team, who will alert Biffa, providing it was on the public highway (fly-tips on private land are the responsibility of the owner). If the Council is responsible and the fly-tip is large, or hazardous waste has been dumped, the Council will have to get a quote to remove it, as specialist contractors will be required. [More](#).

In one recent case, the District and East Herts were subject to a number of fly tipping incidents over 18 months by an individual who lives in Harlow. Through dedicated collaborative work between the two local authorities, the perpetrator's vehicle was seized in Harlow in September for a number of offences, including the fly tipping. Hertfordshire Police were planning to arrest the suspect for these offences, but found that he had been arrested earlier that day by Essex Police, in conjunction with a murder investigation. The Council's Environmental Enforcement team and the East Herts team jointly interviewed him regarding the 10 waste offences after this (with possibly 30 charges forthcoming), and the vehicle may be crushed.

Social distancing and safer spaces in the District

The District Council set up their Safer Spaces Commonplace website so that residents could have their say on these topics. You can see their latest [report](#), and you can visit the [website](#) and have your say.

Rough sleepers

Following the launch of the Government's Everyone In initiative, the District Council responded by accommodating 15 rough sleepers into hotels or B&Bs. Pathway plans were devised with each customer incorporating their individual support needs and their longer-term aspirations.

Using suitable partnerships and a hands-on approach, these pathway plans have contributed to ensuring that none of them has had to return to the streets. 4 rough sleepers have been moved into privately rented accommodation, securing them 6-month assured shorthold tenancies, whilst the Council is committed to providing ongoing support to enable them to sustain their tenancies and prevent any sort of relapse.

The Council has now secured a share of £300k Government funding and have used part of this to procure a 6-bed "House in Multiple Occupation" (HMO) which will be used specifically for people rough sleeping, or at risk of doing so. They are also converting a 3-bedroom Council house to increase their provision for higher needs individuals, with ongoing support. [More](#) (item 5).



Sheltered Housing

The District Council looks after 12 sheltered housing schemes, and has significantly increased its care activities because of the coronavirus crisis. For those residents that want it, daily door knocks are made and there is ongoing support with food deliveries, medication etc. There are posters and signage around the schemes reminding residents to what they need to do. The feedback to the Council from residents is very positive; they feel safe. [More](#) from the Council about sheltered housing.



District Council Civic Awards 2021

The annual awards are a little different for next year as the Council is focussing on local heroes of the coronavirus pandemic.



If you know someone who has gone the extra mile to offer support, please nominate them for [Citizen of the Year](#) or [Volunteer Team of the Year](#) or [Young Citizen of the Year](#) by 27 November.

Details of the 2020 awards are [here](#).

CCTV in The Broadway

The District Council is planning to replace the ageing Debden Broadway systems, which are a key facility for discouraging and responding to Anti Social Behaviour, by March 2021.



Got an old laptop you want to dispose of safely and in a good cause?

This is building on the County Council's initiative during the lockdown, which saw laptops being provided to disadvantaged pupils to provide to families and young people who need them. [More](#). Loughton Library will accept your donation.

District Youth Council's #yoursay survey results

A survey in July by Epping Forest Youth Councillors of nearly 400 young people across the District showed that during lockdown mental health and the effects that missing school will have on their futures were the biggest concerns for the young people in the district. [More](#).

Blue plaque at Lidl, Church Hill

Unfortunately the plaque for the Bus Garage has been stolen. The Town Council and Lidl are discussing replacing it; any replacement will be sited so as to make it much harder to remove.

Loughton Library – charity Christmas cards

Loughton Library have told us that they're sorry but they won't be having their usual Christmas card sale this year.

Christmas Window competition

The Town Council had planned its usual annual [Christmas Window competition](#) for Loughton shops and businesses for Christmas-themed shop windows. However, it has put off going ahead with this until the Government say whether the current lockdown will continue beyond early December – if they can, they'll then re-launch the competition.

LRA comment: we appreciate how hard things are for local businesses, but we hope as many as can will decorate their windows anyway, and that residents will support local businesses wherever possible.

We also hope adult residents (and their children) will help to combat the present difficult situation by decorating their windows and frontages to bring some seasonal cheer to passers-by.

Local News

Remembrance Sunday

Because of the lockdown, most of the usual events had to be cancelled this year. Nevertheless, as usual, LRA Cllr David Wixley laid a wreath from LRA at the War Memorial on Kings Green. Three arches were also erected and bedecked with knitted poppies on Kings Green to honour the fallen and to celebrate VE Day and VJ Day; these were designed by the The Woodlands Branch Essex Handicrafts Association.



Loughton Town Council arranged a display of cascading poppies knitted, crocheted and donated by Loughton residents at the front entrance to Loughton Library, Traps Hill, surrounding Tommy, the *There but not There* soldier who forms part of this display. The Town Council were overwhelmed with the response. [More](#).

Poppy Image: Loughton Town Council



Landmark building, Debden

One of the units has been let to Wenzel's The Bakers, and the shop has recently opened. A planning application for extraction equipment is expected soon. Meanwhile a local business wants to open a tanning salon in one of the empty units.



Lopping Hall needs your help

The Hall (189 High Road) is looking to expand the number of (unpaid) Directors on its Board. Could you help them increase the activities available to the local community? Could they use your knowledge in building maintenance and design, to further modernise Lopping Hall? Could you help their Marketing team? Please contact the Hall Manager (020 8508 1660) or email loppinghallmanager@gmail.com who will arrange an informal chat with their Chairman.

Wildlife in the District

Epping Forest [Countrycare](#) say reptile recording mats have been put out at Home Mead Local Nature Reserve in Loughton for the first time this year; they have been a success, showing there to be a healthy population of breeding Slow worms. Other wildlife records of note include passage migrant birds, such as Pied Flycatcher and Stonechat, visiting some of our local sites.

Dog waste bins and rubbish bins

It's annoying and unsightly when bins overflow. Please report any overflowing bins to ContactUs@eppingforestdc.gov.uk *, and the District Council will arrange for them to be emptied (this includes the dog waste bins on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, which Loughton Town Council arranges to empty three times a week).

*Please give your name and address, the location of the bin, and any photos or evidence of the problem, if you have it.

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow

For a detailed report on how the hospital has been coping this year, see [here](#) (slides) and [here](#) (narrative).

Plans to redevelop Whipps Cross Hospital

A virtual public meeting for residents of Epping Forest District was held on 12 November. It is clear that the plans are not simply about buildings and the site at Whipps Cross, but about the way in which the new hospital will work in concert with other local services. [More](#).

Epping Forest

During the current lockdown

Public toilets

The public toilets at High Beach and Wanstead Park will remain open. The toilets at the Visitor Centre at Chingford will be open 10am-3pm Wednesday to Sunday.

Refreshments

The majority of the tenant café and takeaways operating on Forest land will remain open with a takeaway offer.

Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford

Although, as its [website](#) says, the Centre is closed, a '[Click, call and collect](#)' limited offer of local produce and Forest-related books, maps and gifts is available for collection there.

Epping Forest and the Buffer Lands

Epping Forest and its "Buffer Lands" stretch for over 19km (12 miles) from east London into south-west Essex. Visitors are encouraged to access the Forest and Buffer Lands on foot, cycle or horseback only, under the following conditions:

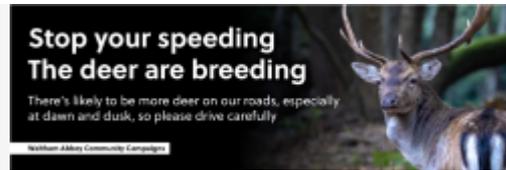
- a. Pedestrians: visitors on foot have the right to access all areas of Epping Forest at any time of the day. Buffer Land access is permitted along Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and on Permissive Open Access sites and permissive routes.
- b. Cycling: cycling is permitted throughout the Forest except for the Scheduled Ancient Monuments of Loughton Camp, Ambresbury Banks, Pole Hill, along the Loughton Brook Regionally Important Geological Site, around Connaught Water and on the Easy Access trails. Cycling is only allowed on the Buffer Lands along Public and permissive bridleways.
- c. Horse riding: horse riding is permitted throughout the Forest, except for out-of-bounds areas marked on the horse-riding booklet/guide on payment of an annual licence. In the winter months access is limited to the surfaced ride network only. On the Buffer Land riding is on designated public and permissive bridleways only.

Deer Vehicle Collisions

Epping Forest staff dealt with a total of 10 deer vehicle collisions (DVC) during August & September with 4 around the Wake Arms roundabout, Woodredon Hill and

A104 near the Shell garage.

Image: Waltham Abbey Community Campaigns



Fungi Fruiting

The fungi fruiting season has seen abundant fruiting bodies because of the warm wet late summer and autumn weather. Amongst the species noted was the Clustered Bracket Fungi (*Inonotus cuticularis*), a relatively uncommon fungi found on an ancient beech. A report also came to light that a rare and legally protected Oak Polypore (*Piptoporus quercinus*) was found and damaged near the Furze Ground (unfortunately, the perpetrators of the damage were not identified).

Protecting Fungi

Nine people have been fined over £1,800 for illegally picking large amounts of fungi at Epping Forest, which are protected under Epping Forest Byelaws. The City of London Corporation says foragers are damaging the Forest's ecology by stripping it of wild mushroom species, many of which are of national importance. Some are selling them to restaurants and markets, removing the fruiting bodies on which many rare insect species depend and depriving animals such as deer of a valuable food source, damaging the Forest's biodiversity and visitors' enjoyment of this autumn spectacle.

Fungi play a vital role in sustaining Epping Forest's wildlife habitats and are a major reason it is designated as a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' and a 'Special Area of Conservation'. Removing large amounts of fungi can also harm the Forest's ancient trees, some of which are up to 1,000 years old, as particular types of fungus help to protect their roots and provide water and vital minerals to the trees. 27 people have now been prosecuted since 2014 (among the prosecutions was one where 49kg of fungi had been picked) and Epping Forest Keepers also often issuing verbal warnings.

Bats

The Barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*) was recorded for the first time at Connaught Water, the third location for this species within the Forest. This is a rare species within the UK and is listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Has Epping Forest helped you get through this year?

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces. [More](#)

Could you take a moment of your time to give something back to this ancient woodland and vote for Epping Forest in the Green Flag People's Choice Award? You can give a sign of appreciation and vote for Epping Forest in the People's Choice Award [here](#). (Just click 'Vote for this site').

And More

Packaging symbols explained

In [this article from Which magazine](#), there's a handy table explaining packaging materials.

What you can recycle locally is on [the District Council website](#).



Royal Mail – did you know?

Buying postage - [here's how](#) to buy online, print then post.

Parcel Collect: they come to you - [here's how](#) to do it.

Latest recommended [posting dates](#) for Christmas.

[Royal Mail App](#): brings lots of functions together.

How to stop unwanted phone calls

BT

The free BT Call Protect service monitors nuisance calls and sends them straight to junk voicemail. BT says it blocks 99 per cent of pest calls

Sky

Free service Talk Shield stops fraudsters by insisting all callers provide a name

TalkTalk

CallSafe screens and blocks unwanted calls for free

Plusnet

Call Protect is free and blocks unwanted calls from a list that you can add to

EE

Landline customers can block up to ten numbers at a time using the free Choose to Refuse option, which bars the last call answered. Dial 14258 and press ** when asked to confirm

Virgin

You may be able to blacklist, silence or block calls, depending on your phone

Mobile phones

Download [a free app](#) to block dodgy calls and alert firms to possible scammers

How to complain

By making a complaint about a robocall, you can help to stop them. Experts recommend directing complaints to three bodies: the ICO, by calling 0303 123 1113, visiting www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint, or writing to ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF; the Telephone Preference Service, by calling 0345 070 0707 or visiting www.tpsonline.org.uk/complaint; or Ofcom, by calling 0300 123 3333 or visiting www.ofcom.org.uk/complaints

Thank you for being an LRA member. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Saturday December 19th although that date could change.

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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.

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