



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA NEWS



Weeds in the gutters. A resident complained about the weed growth this summer in The Broadway and Torrington Drive. LRA Cllr Chris Pond checked, and reported that the County Council have put their hands up to forgetting to ask the District Council to do the weed removal this year! The order has now been placed, but we don't know how long it'll be before they'll get round the town.

Rats in the garden. LRA Cllr Chris Roberts has been trying to help a resident with a rat problem. However, the District Council say that it's the resident's responsibility to pay to have it dealt with privately, unless they can show that it's the Council's problem (such as the rats being attracted by rubbish on a nearby Council property).



Alderton Hall Lane railway bridge. LRA Cllr Mick Stubbings was concerned that, after work had been carried out, the roadway under the bridge had not been restored so as to prevent vehicles using it as a short-cut (there's a school one side, and flats, some with elderly occupants, on the other). We took this up with Highways, and bollards have now been installed.

County Highways fail again! Last Sunday we received a warning (from <https://roadworks.org>) that Chester Road would be closed off this week, during the working day. LRA Cllr Chris Pond immediately checked with TfL who had not been told of this by County Highways, and so TfL had diversion plan for the 20 bus route, which among other things serves the Willingale Road schools. Two months ago, Highways didn't tell TfL about the planned closure of Alderton Hill either, and Chris had to take urgent action to make sure the 167 buses continued to reach Loughton station. This is obviously unacceptable and Chris has complained to the Conservative Highways Portfolio-holder at the County Council, asking for action to ensure that it doesn't happen again.



Personal problems. Occasionally a resident will approach one of our District Cllrs for help with a personal problem with the Council, often to do with Council housing. Our Cllrs can help by listening and sometimes by advising a way forward or by bringing parties together. LRA Cllr Chris Roberts recently received a grateful email from a resident he'd helped earlier this year, to say that things were now back on the rails.

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>

Parking

- **District Council car-park charges changes.** New Pay and Display parking charges - to encourage shoppers into local town centres - were recently approved by the Council's Cabinet, to come into force by March 1st 2019. Details [here](#) (item 13).
- **Forest Road etc residents' parking zone.** A resident trying to renew permits found that NEPP's online system wouldn't accept his third vehicle, and that an unlimited number of business permits appeared to be available, at £50pa (instead of £428pa). NEPP have apologised, and have corrected their system.



NHS: Community Healthcare in Essex. We're sorry that there was a faulty link in the last bulletin about how it works and what's being planned – [here](#) it is.

The Broadway – shops

- **Shops closing:** *Save the Children* was asked to fork out an extra £8,000 a year on its lease by Epping Forest District Council - something it could not afford, and has closed. [More](#). We understand that the card-shop, *Lovetag* is also closing
- **Shops opening - “Landmark” building,** The Broadway (former Winston Churchill PH). The District Council report that the letting to the Mediterranean restaurant has now completed and the lease to the pub is nearly ready to be completed. They say they're appointing new letting agents to conclude letting the remaining space [*this is odd, because Cllr Anne Grigg, the Conservative Portfolio-holder, has previously said that prospective tenants were queuing up for space here and on The Broadway, and appears unconcerned about the impact of the Council's steep rent increases on Broadway shop tenants*].

The Broadway - BTCP. At a recent meeting, The Broadway Town Centre Partnership* (BCTP) agreed:

- they'd like **1 hour free parking** on The Broadway, no return within 4 hours
- all **business permit holders** should have parking restricted to the Vere Road car-park
- they turned down
 - shopkeepers **refunding shoppers' parking fees** under a “more than £5 spend” scheme
 - changing **the parking along the frontage of the Broadway** from the current time of 1 hour free to 30 minutes free
- they were saddened that the District Council wouldn't give **30 minutes free parking** in both the Burton Road and Vere Road car parks
- they were encouraged by the Council's offer to **restrict commuter parking** in the Vere Road car park by imposing a £10 daily charge for over 5 hours' parking
- they agreed that the lighting in The Broadway area needs improvement and that signage should be completely looked at to encourage new visitors to the area and be more effective in controlling traffic into the parking areas.



*BTCP brings together traders, residents and Cllrs – thanks to LRA Cllr Chris Roberts for this report.

The inaugural Loughton Horticultural Show was held by the Town Council recently at the Murray Hall, Borders Lane, and was hailed a great success. Money from the entrance fees, plant sale, the raffle and donations enabled £200 to be given to the Loughton Town Mayor's chosen charity, the Epping Forest Food Bank. Entrants also donated their fresh fruit and vegetables to the Foodbank at the end of the show. The *Best Allotment* wards were then given out. [More](#).



Streetlights. A resident has set up a [petition](#) on the County Council's website, asking for all streetlights to be kept on in Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and the surrounding areas. The potential cost might be £30-35,000 a year for Loughton, on our Council tax rates. At present in Loughton lights on main routes stay on all night, but others go off between 1am and 5am (LRA Cllr Chris Pond succeeded in getting the original County proposal of midnight – 5am changed to more closely reflect our Tube travel times.) The police say that surveys show no evidence that crime goes up when streetlights are turned off (and of course there are no streetlights at all in Theydon Bois). Nevertheless, some residents feel that, because we're close to London, burglaries and car-thefts do increase, and some feel unsafe without the street-lighting. LRA feels that this is a matter which should be decided locally, and not in Chelmsford.

New premises licences.

- **Zara Bar & Grill**, 30 Barrington Green (Landmark Building)
 - **Palm Bay Caribbean**, 25 The Broadway (will replace The Broadway's Caribbean market stall)
 - **Wing Shack**, 240 High Road,
- Application [details](#) (16MB)

Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, Rangers Road. Scaffolding is going up for its traditional [#limewashing!](#) They aim to keep open to the public over 6 weeks of work. The Lodge will be 'encased' to keep the work dry; there's a 'window' planned for upper floor so you can still admire the view.



New plaque ceremony to commemorate the Oriole Fruitarian Hospital and its director, Josiah Oldfield, on a Staples Road property, will take place on the morning of Tuesday September 25th.

Loughton Cemetery.

Starting on 29 October, Loughton Town Council intends to carry out memorial safety testing in the Cemetery (Church Lane) to provide a safe environment for both visitors and staff. If you have a memorial in the cemetery and have any concerns about the safety of your memorial or require any further information about the safety testing procedure, please contact Pippa Bryce, Burial Clerk (contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk or 020 8508 4200).



Burton Road fire.

A resident raised various queries about the explanation given by the Council about the cause of the fire – they replied that these were matters for the Contractor, and not the Council, and that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) had been notified and would no doubt investigate if they felt the need. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the Council for (and is still waiting for) a report on the combustible material present on this site.

On our roads

- **Wellfields pothole repaired!**

I recently had an email from County Highways to say that a pothole I'd reported had been "made safe" and that a further assessment would be carried out to establish whether a permanent repair is required in the future – fine, except that I'd reported it in May 2014.....



- **Broadway drain unblocked** – and another recent Highways email confirmed that they'd now unblocked a drain I'd reported in January 2014!

- **Condition of Roding Road.** A resident contacted County Highways about a number of problems, and they have said that they will remove the loose kerbstones, place 3 temporary bollards by the damaged kerb and check on a road-sign which hasn't been cleaned for ages.

- **Condition of Roundmead Avenue.**

A resident recently contacted the head of County Highways about the condition of the road surface in Roundmead Avenue. Eventually he got a general answer (see next item) and confirmation that Highways' *SCANNER* data had identified Roundmead Avenue as potentially needing a capital maintenance treatment in the near future. The work required will be investigated and the job will then compete with others for priority. You can check the [resurfacing pages](#) of Highways' website early next year to see whether it has been included.

Meanwhile, Highways will carry out some pothole repairs and patching, but can't say when this will happen.....

County Highways' Resurfacing Programme. County say that this put together using road condition information collected throughout each summer. The information is collected by a nationally-required survey that all Highway Authorities undertake called *SCANNER*. It is a machine-based survey that measures certain characteristics of the road surface to provide a reflection of the overall condition, including skid-resistance. They use this information to choose which roads to repair, and which techniques to use, to get the biggest effect for the lowest cost. They don't target all the worst roads first, but prefer to use treatments such as surface dressing to try to stop other stretches deteriorating. They say that this approach is recognised nationally as good practice and a very cost-effective way to preserve the life of the overall road network. County need to be able to demonstrate a robust, objective approach to get funding from the Department for Transport.

The least hygienic restaurants in Essex, The local paper has researched the *scores on the doors* and published a [list](#) of those with the lowest food ratings - either no stars or one star – on the Food Standards Agency's website...there are two Loughton restaurants listed.

The list reflects inspections by local authorities, and the establishments named may already have taken action to put things right.



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Know someone who needs a bit of help getting online?

Basic coaching sessions are available for beginners.
Help with computers, tablets, mobile phones and laptops.
Contact [@loughtonlibrary](#) . [More](#).



Noise complaints made outside normal office hours.

The District Council provides a call out service: ring 01992 564000. [More](#).

- 1pm - midnight, all noise complaints will be passed to the duty noise officer

- midnight - 1pm: a restricted service is available for premises on an emergency call out list, request from the police and where three or more complaints are received.

Flu Clinics. It's time to book an appointment!

- If you are housebound, a home visit can usually be arranged
- If your job requests that you have it, your work-place must offer it to you through their own occupational health system
- Loughton Health Centre appointments: 020 8502 5000
- If you're registered elsewhere, please contact your practice.



Who is eligible?

Crime & parking – who does what.

[EFNW]

- **Essex Police** are responsible for anything to do with threat or with crime in general.
- **The District Council has a new mini-police force** that you can contact via Safer Communities (01992 564608 or safercommunities@eppingforestdc.gov.uk). Safer Communities work with the police, especially caring for vulnerable people, anti-social behaviour and vandalism; the Police Officers are regular Essex Police and they deal with all crime. Council tenants can also contact them via their Tenant Epping Forest Tenant Participation Officer.
- **on-street parking.** **NEPP** is responsible for parking. If parked vehicle causes an obstruction then it is still the role of the police, but neither NEPP nor the police will remove a vehicle, all they will do is issue a ticket unless the vehicle is dangerously parked and liable to cause a serious accident.



Follow Essex Trading Standards (ETS) on Social Media

If you want to keep up to date with all the latest news from the Trading Standards team, you can follow ETS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

You'll get to hear up to date information on product recalls, scams and rogue traders.

[Advice on car security](#) from Essex Police.

Trusted traders: don't take pot-luck!

- **Essex Trading Standards approved –**
[Buy with Confidence](#)
- **Which Trusted Traders:**
[scheme](#) run by Which? magazine.

[Please let us know of any other genuine schemes]



HELP WANTED

BEDFORD HOUSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

(was Buckhurst Hill Community Association)

Changes are underway to the organisation, the premises and the things they offer. Find out more [here](#).

They are looking for new trustees and volunteers to help with the next stage of their development.

If you would be interested in either of these roles then please email tony.oliva1@ntlworld.com for further information.



See something suspicious?

Please don't leave it to others to report.

Please put 0800 789 321 in your phone memory now.

GENERAL

Nitrous oxide capsules. A resident asked how these can be disposed of by people who public-spiritedly clear them up – the District Council says that they should be put in your residual rubbish bin and not, please, in the recycling bags.

Report phishing campaigns. “Phishing” emails try to extort money from you under false pretences, often using some of your personal details and/or well-known company names to trick you into thinking that they’re genuine.



ActionFraud is the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime.

- Where you’ve received a phishing email but you’ve NOT lost any money or exposed your personal details, please report it [here](#).
- If you have lost money, you should report [it as a crime](#).

Epping Forest

- **Explore the Forest** and all it has to offer! [Here](#) is a map to help. It shows Forest land with unlimited access for walking, City-owned Buffer Land with access on public or permissive rights of way and four easy access paths (for more information on Limited Mobility Access, please contact the [Visitor Centre](#)).
- **Why is the Forest protected?** Have you heard of Alfred Russel Wallace, and how he was connected with [#EppingForest](#)? Former Verderer of [#EppingForest](#), and local historian, Richard Morris, has written an illustrated booklet on Wallace. It’s available to buy now at The View in Chingford, price £4.50, or from bookshops.

ALFRED RUSSEL
WALLACE
AND EPPING FOREST



BY
RICHARD MORRIS
LOUGHTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Flying drones in Loughton. The Town Council will be reminding residents that [CAA’s rules](#) forbid flying drones on council-owned land such as Roding Valley Recreation Ground and Willingale Road Playing Field. Drones shouldn’t be flown within 150ft (50m) of people & properties or 500ft (150m) of crowds or built-up areas.

Don't help thieves help themselves! EFNW report that in recent two weeks they've heard of people losing wallets and credit cards out of their back pockets; keys being stolen after being left in a public place; items stolen from unlocked cars. Thieves are opportunist, if you leave your things around, they will take them.



Dangerous smoke alarms fail to sound in [Which? tests](#)

If in doubt, please check the make against Which?'s list

– and you can also see their *Best Buys*,

Got a new credit card? It's best to destroy the old one by cutting it up with scissors. If you're concerned about security, make sure you cut through the chip on the front (looks like a SIM card) and the magnetic strip on the back, and put the bits in two different waste sacks.



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 October 5th.
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**

