



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

AGM & Annual talk: *Loughton 100 years ago.*

Please come along on Monday April 8th to see Chris Pond's pictures of Loughton as it used to be, and ask your questions.

7.45 for 8pm. All are welcome.

Talk followed by refreshments and our brief AGM.

Loughton Cricket Clubhouse, The Uplands.
(entrance in The Uplands, off Church Hill).



LRA NEWS

Heritage Lamp-post Replacement. LRA Councillor Chris Pond is following up the Hills Amenity Society's report that a modern LED unit has replaced the original black metal lantern in Stony Path, which had been vandalised.

Roding Road zebra crossing.

The crossing is on the way to Loughton Station and Roding Valley High School. Residents, and LRA Cllr Chris Pond, have been chasing up County Highways for many months about out-of-action beacons and nearby street-lights.

We're told that beacons and lights are on again at last, and that the road surface has been repainted.

Highways muddle on Alderton Hill.

A week ago, to our surprise a notice appeared on <http://www.roadworks.org/> saying that Alderton Hill would be closed for several days at half term near the Roding Road junction for preparatory works for the bridge repairs due to be carried out this summer.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond quickly contacted TfL to make sure they were aware of the bus diversions which would be needed. They hadn't heard of the closure either; after a flurry of emails the closure notice was rescinded in favour of temporary traffic lights.



More roadworks. The proposed closure at the **junction of Hillyfields, Pyrles Lane and Chester Road**, and associated bus diversions, did go ahead so that the speed table could be replaced and new road signs put up, though buses were diverted further away than had originally been agreed with TfL, for safety reasons.

Marlescroft Way Green (Oakwood Hill estate).

Save the Green Meeting on the Green on Saturday March 2 from mid-day. Residents and LRA Cllr will be coming together to show their support. Everyone welcome – coffee, tea and cake provided.

Why the Green is threatened – events so far

Residents, together with LRA Cllr Chris Roberts and his LRA



colleagues, are now fighting to prevent the District Council grabbing their only bit of green space – highly valued as a children’s play-space and for events. The Council want to use it for a car-park for staff at their new Council depot on the other side of Oakwood Hill.

At a recent local planning meeting, local Cllrs listened carefully to the arguments on both sides and threw out the Council’s planning application to take over the Green.

It then went to the next committee up, where there’s a mixture of local Cllrs and Cllrs from elsewhere in the District, where it was thrown out again. However, 4 Conservative Cllrs used the Council’s procedures to demand that it go to a Full meeting of the whole Council for final decision.

[LRA comment: in planning and developing their new depot, we think that the Council has shown a lack of proper planning and foresight and a total disregard for local residents.

We don’t think that the car-park is needed or justified- there’s enough parking available at the roadside. Cllrs are meant to make decisions on planning applications just on the basis of the planning rules and the papers they’re given at the planning meeting, and not on party political grounds.

We think it’s very odd that last year the Tories changed the way planning applications made by the Council itself are decided by the Council.

If your local planning committee turns down a Council application, it goes to the next Council Committee up (with a majority of Conservative Cllrs) and if it’s turned down there it can go to Full Council (where there’s an even bigger majority of Conservative Cllrs). In simple terms, for anyone else making an application, if it’s turned down it goes to an *independent* Inspector.]

**STOP PRESS: Join supporters on the Green today (Friday 22nd Feb) at 1pm.
The Mail on Sunday is coming to take pictures
for its Save Our Parks campaign – a national crusade.**



Langston Road Retail Park. In mid-January the District Council has acknowledged that there are also concerns about the build-up of traffic standing across the junction from Oakwood Hill waiting to enter the Shopping Park. They have asked Essex Highways to look at a scheme to improve the traffic-flow.



LRA Membership

By now, LRA members should have received our latest [Loughton Life](#) newsletter. It’s a great help to our volunteers if members renew now by post, by bank transfer, by sending us a [Standing order form](#) or by coming along to the LRA stall at our Farmers’ Markets in the High Road (next one March 10th).

If you’re not a member (£5 pa per household,) you’ll find membership details [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>

Recycle your plastic waste! Marks & Spencer (High Road) is taking action to prevent plastic waste from going to landfill by launching a new initiative, which will enable customers to bring back non-recyclable plastic packaging.

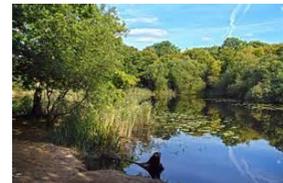
Customers can drop a variety of plastic packaging (e.g. black ready meal trays, crisp packets, sauce sachets) which aren't currently recycled by local councils and end up in landfill. The retailer has pledged to convert collected plastic into store fittings, furniture and playground equipment for schools. [More](#).



Epping Forest Consultative Committee 13th January

Among the items discussed were

- **The City of London asked the public to report any concerns to them** such as rough sleepers, cables/pipes being laid, fly tipping, Oak Processionary Moth nests (mainly likely to affect oaks in open, sunny locations).
- **new rota for forest keepers** will start on 4th March with the aim of forest carparks being open at 8am and closing later.
- **Cutting the verges.** Nesting birds are carefully considered. Early in the season there are only low level grass near roads (where it's unlikely birds will be nesting) to enable good sight lines etc



NHS

- **Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow [Board report](#)**
 - how they're performing, what are the plans, how you can ask a question.
- **[Patients Group minutes](#) for Loughton Health Centre, The Drive**
 - the latest minutes cover the improvements since the last CQC report, and more. Patients are welcome to the next Group meeting at 7pm on April 17th, at the Centre.



Government help for small shops. .

In the Government's Autumn Budget of 2018 it was announced that all eligible retailers with a rateable value below £51,000 are eligible to receive a one-third discount on their business rates bill. Central Government (and not the District Council) will be paying for this relief.

It will apply to 34 Independent traders in The Broadway, where trade has been badly-hit because of the Council's new retail park nearby. It would also apply to similar-sized traders in the High Road and elsewhere in the Town.



Be careful who you give your rubbish to!

If you give some-one your waste to dispose of, and it's fly-tipped, you could get a Fixed Penalty Notice (default level: £200 for most first time offenders) if you can't demonstrate that whoever you gave your waste to was authorised. [More](#).

POLICE AND CRIME

Find out what's happening locally by following local police team on Twitter or Facebook

- we particularly enjoyed the successes in [this recent bulletin](#)

More recent good news stories

- **Essex Police** report that two drug dealers who were arrested for dealing class A in Loughton on 6th Jan 2019 received custodial prison sentences for 4 years and 2 years 3 months. [Details](#).
- **Any resident who has information about drug or gang related crime** in our community is invited to contact Essex Police by ringing 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.
- **Conviction.** A man from Waltham Abbey has admitted two counts of outraging public decency following an “upskirting” investigation.
- **Charges.** 17 year olds were charged with robbery at knifepoint following the incident at Buckhurst Hill on 28th January 2019.
- **A recently-stolen vehicle** was recovered in Epping

Drug-dealing: explanation of “County Lines” [here](#)

Failed 101 call.

We recently noticed on social media a report of a resident who couldn’t get through on 101. We passed it on to our local Divisional Commander, who is following it up, and will also try to publicise how to get in touch. For non-emergency reports, you may find it easier to use www.essex.police.uk

Loughton Police station.

Just a reminder that, although the front desk now longer operates, Loughton Police station is the very busy base for our local police teams.

OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

[Be My Eyes](#) is a free App that connects blind and low-vision people with sighted volunteers and company representatives for visual assistance through a live video call.

CCTV – already installed it or thinking of doing so?

See the current rules on using CCTV at home [here](#).



EVENTS

Defibrillator training February 28th, 5.30 – 7.30pm Murray Hall.

Open to all. Contact [Loughton Town Council](#). There are defibrillators now in The Broadway, at Loughton Club (Station Road) and at Morrisons store (High Road). There’s also a portable defibrillator at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground for use at events. What is it and how do you use it? See [here](#)

[British Heart Foundation]



Thursday 7th March

(moved from Tuesday
March 12th).

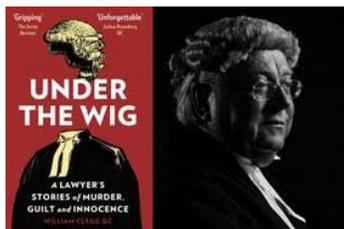
**Talk: *Under the Wig: A
Lawyer's Stories of
Murder, Guilt and
Innocence* - William Clegg**

QC revisits his most
notorious and intriguing
trials, from the murder of
Jill Dando to Britain's first
Nazi war criminal. He lays
bare the secrets of his
profession, from the rivalry
among barristers to the
nervous moments before a
verdict - and argues how our
right to a fair trial is now in
great peril.

7 - 8-30pm. Loughton
Library, Traps Hill. £7 / £5
(27 yrs and under).

Box office: Mercury
Theatre (01206) 573948,

[Essex Book Festival](#)



Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday March 13th

Find out what your Town Council has achieved and
its plans for the future,
and raise your concerns during the public question
time.

Local organisations' displays. Voluntary sector
speakers.

Light refreshments after the meeting provide the
ideal opportunity to speak to your local councillor.

Murray Hall, Borders Lane from 8pm

**Our Police District
Commander
Question and
Answer session
Wednesday March
13th (not March 5th)**



as previously advertised).

Buckhurst Hill Library. 6.30pm.
If you have specific questions please [email](#) so he can include the answer in his presentation.

Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March.

“Pygmalion” by Bernard Shaw.
Tickets (£10) are on sale from the Box Office:07552 736110, from the website: www.lads.org.uk or by sending an email to lad.boxoffice@gmail.com



Friday 29 March. Epping Forest Citizens Advice Bureau annual fundraising Quiz is to be held on at Theydon Bois Village Hall. More details are to follow. This is a really worthwhile cause.

Tuesday 5th March. Our Police District Commander’s Question and Answer session at Buckhurst Hill Library starting at 6.30pm.

If you have specific questions please [email](#) so he can include the answer in his presentation.



GENERAL

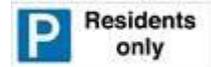
Arriva Buses are accepting contactless payment. See [here](#) [Epping Forest Guardian]

If your school could do with reducing the number of cars around the gates, but doesn't know how to, or need a helping hand, why don't you suggest it joins *Clean Air Heroes*? It's a new activity ONLY available to Essex schools, funded by the County Council and sponsored by Colchester Zoo. Free- NOT a fundraising exercise
Clean Air Heroes' main aim is to increase the number of pupils walking, scooting and/or cycling to school by offering a novel incentive: the chance to help protect the African Rhino.

If the school hits one of the three targets, Colchester Zoo will donate a corresponding amount to the Save the Rhino project. Many schools from across Essex have already joined. [More](#)

Offensive Graffiti have appeared on several Loughton Buildings, including the Conservative office (Meadow Road) and Thorntonrones (311 High Road, on the corner of Traps Hill). Thorntonrones have had great difficulty in removing it because the paint has sunk into the render (this attack is particularly unfortunate as the firm rescued this building from its previous very dilapidated state and now look after it very well.)

Parking schemes. There are quite a few schemes in Loughton for residents' parking and/or parking restrictions either underway or in the pipeline (such as the ones for the Broadway area and for Nursery Road). We'll let you know if we have any news of particular schemes, here and more immediately on our Twitter feed.



**KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS
BETWEEN OUR EMAIL BULLETINS
on Twitter at @LoughtonRA
Not on Twitter? You can still follow our tweets at
www.loughtonresidents.org.uk**

NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Saturday March 16th.
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**

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