



LRA's Loughton News

26 September 2020

This issue features [Lucton's Field](#) and how the District Council's attempts for more homes in Loughton have taken no regard for a subsequent increase in school capacity - [more below](#) and on [our website](#).

Also we have an [update on changes to planning rules](#) from the Government. We are following these changes closely as the ability for local communities to understand and respond to proposed property developments may be reduced.

The Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect our daily lives, with the recent surge in cases prompting [a warning from the District Council](#). We are also providing links to [local data on case numbers](#).

On the roads, [potholes persist](#) but 100 of these nuisances in Loughton Central have now [been nominated by County Cllr Chris Pond](#) to be fixed.

If you need more information on what plastics can be recycled, there's a [handy table](#) you can print out.

Lastly, and for something different, if you've ever been luck to spot a bright green parakeet around town, [here's how they came to be here](#).

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

District Council challenged on Lucton's Field covenants

LRA Cllr Chris Pond and Independent Cllr Stephen Murray challenged the District Council's proposal to effectively remove the covenants on land in Lucton's Field (Borders Lane) owned by New City College (which was Epping Forest College) at a recent District Council meeting.

The original covenants limited use of the land to education or health purposes and were amended a few years ago, despite objections from LRA Cllrs. The report to the Cabinet said that "Removal of the covenants benefits the district by allowing the college to develop the Wellness Centre while also assisting the developer in

unlocking further housing provision in the district in accordance with the Local Plan." At the meeting, Cabinet member Cllr John Philip commented that Essex County Council had said (some time ago) that it did not want to put a primary school on the land which was subject to the covenant.

LRA comment

This is almost certainly the last remaining site in Loughton where we will be able to deal with the undoubted need of a new primary school. Cllr Philip is leading the District Council's attempts to force over a thousand new homes on Loughton, which would inevitably generate a need for more schools; it seems incredible that the District Council has seemingly not bothered to check the up-to-date position on a new school with the County Council.



Have you commented?

Make your views known on the [proposed development](#) of 285 flats. It's easy.

To object, you just need to email appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk with your views expressed in 5-6 bullet points using your own words. Use an email subject of "EPF/0379/20: Objection", include your name(s) and address, and send only one email per household. Please also copy

your comments to us at applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk. [More](#)



Rubbish on the High Road pavements

We are concerned that some of the High Road shops, along by and including 8 Rocks Cafe, now store their refuse bins on the pavement, blocking part of the footpath for pedestrians. (Previously these large trade waste bins were kept at the back of their premises, but this space appears to have been turned into a parking area). We have also seen a pile of black refuse bags, spewing rubbish onto the pavement and road and creating a potential health hazard. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has raised

this with the District Council and Environmental officers have warned the businesses nearby. If you see this happening, please report it by email to contactus@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

The Broadway Post Office

LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up with the Post Office on the impending closure, which is now scheduled for October 13th. The Post Office had been looking for another shop in The Broadway to take on running the service; however it now appears that this effort has been unsuccessful.

The nearest alternative branches will be at [Goldings Hill](#) and the [High Road](#).

Potholes

This pothole by the High Road bus stop opposite Morrisons has been reported to County Highways and, in view of the danger to pedestrians, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has followed it up.

You can report potholes and other highways problems [here](#). County Highways make repairs under a [strict set of priority rules](#) but, if you think a highways problem is creating a dangerous situation, please [contact your County Cllr](#).



Our Potholes Nominated

LRA Cllr Chris Pond had the chance, along with all Essex County Cllrs, to nominate 100 defects for prompt remediation. He actually found, with the assistance of LRA Town and District Cllrs, 135 in the Loughton Central division.

Of these 35 were disallowed and will have to take their turn, but the remainder will be fixed permanently as soon as possible using extra investment provided by the County Council. [More](#)

Obstruction on Woodbury Hill

LRA Cllr Bob Jennings has been following up residents' concerns about a tree obstructing the footpath at the side of 1 Woodbury Hill, which is the responsibility of the property owner. As a result, the owner has been contacted by the County Council and the District Council, and has been asked to clear the obstruction.

Changes to the planning rules

“Permitted Development Rights” (PDRs)

In recent years, the Government has extended PDRs to allow developers to convert buildings from other uses (such as offices or light industrial uses) into residential use. This reduces the powers of local planning authorities (LPAs) such as Epping Forest District Council to refuse such applications. The LPA cannot consider the principle of the conversion, nor can they consider any issues relating to the proposed design (such as external appearance, the mix of units, the layout of units or their space standards). Usually they're also prevented from asking for a contribution towards providing local infrastructure. There has been increasing concern about the impacts of these extended PDRs, particularly on office-to-residential conversions, and about the poor quality of the resulting residential accommodation.

A recent [study of such conversions](#) found that there to be noticeable differences between some such schemes and conversions where a full planning application had had to be submitted to the LPA.

LRA comment

Planning approvals need to strike a delicate balance between the needs of applicants and the effect of developments on neighbouring residents. LRA believes that, for all its faults, this is best done by applications going through the full planning approval process so that the Council Officers, Cllrs and residents can clearly see what's being proposed, and that unsatisfactory applications can be rejected by the Council.

Adding extra storeys allowed

The Government is now allowing the construction of two additional storeys on the topmost storey of buildings of two storeys or more, or one additional storey on a

detached house of one storey, above ground level. But not in conservation areas, areas of sites of special scientific interest, listed buildings or properties built before 1 July 1948 or after 28 October 2018 (these will still be subject to the usual planning permissions and consultations). Applicants will need prior approval from the Council after notifying adjoining owners or occupiers, which will consider certain matters relating to the proposed construction of additional storeys. These include:

- consideration of the impact on the amenity of neighbouring premises, including overlooking;
- privacy and overshadowing;
- the design, including the architectural features of the principal elevation of the house, and of any side elevation which fronts a highway.

LRA comment

The same comments apply here as for the item on PDRs above. In particular, this may over-ride the provisions in the draft Local Plan which enable the Council to resist applications to convert bungalows (the provision is there because bungalows support the needs of people with accessibility needs, including older people).

More changes planned

The Government has produced a “White Paper” on the Future of Planning. They want to allow developers to be able to avoid detailed scrutiny of individual planning applications, except in special places such as Conservation Areas, with only limited powers for LPAs to reject applications. This would mean significantly reducing the involvement of local residents in the consideration of individual planning applications. In theory, residents will be able to have their say at an earlier stage, when the criteria for allowing developments are discussed and laid down in the Local Plan.

The proposals require further consultation documents, leading to primary and secondary legislation and this is expected to take 18 months to two years.

LRA comment

The White Paper is poorly written and vague in many important areas. More importantly, we know from long experience of the drafting of Local Plans that in practice most residents will only become involved in the planning process at the later stage when individual developments are planned near where they live. We are responding to the White Paper to say that we think that the Government’s plans are misguided, and heavily weighted in favour of developers; they will make it much harder for local communities to ensure that new housing is built to suitable standards, and in keeping with its surroundings.



LRA's Farmers' Markets

We're very sorry that the continuing Coronavirus crisis and organisational problems mean that we won't be holding our Loughton High Road markets this side of Christmas 2020. We look forward to seeing everyone in the spring of 2021.

Coronavirus/Covid-19



Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

Latest Advice from the [Government](#) and [NHS](#)



Warning of high levels of Covid-19 in the Epping Forest District

Epping Forest district is consistently showing the highest levels of Covid-19 in Essex. Young people between 17 and 30 are the most common spreaders. Well-publicised instances have shown the

breakdown in social distancing and other precautions. Older relatives of young people are being put at particular risk by careless or selfish behaviour. The District Council has issued a stark warning: “*Change your behaviour or the virus will return*”. [More](#)

[Current data for each district in Essex is here](#). On the drop down menu at the top, you can select 'Epping Forest' for local data. The Office for National Statistics also provide [local data by postcode](#) however this only includes data to June 30th.

What residents have said

The District Council have set up an online service for residents to give their views on social distancing and safer spaces in the District. Residents have done so, and have commented on many other subjects too; find out more [here](#). To give your views, see [here](#).



NHS Covid-19 app launches across England and Wales

The NHS has announced that the new NHS Covid-19 app is now available to [download for free](#) in England and Wales, and is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. [More](#)

The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in.

The NHS describes how the app uses random IDs that cannot be used by the NHS or the government to identify who you are, or who you've spent time with. [More on data privacy](#).

You can download the app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) phones.

District Council Support

The District Council has [further information and guidance here](#) plus support for [residents](#) and [businesses](#)

Loughton Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group

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



Can you help Loughton - could you be a Councillor?

You can have a say on what happens locally on behalf of Loughton residents.

Next May, there may be - we're not yet certain if Covid-19 will intervene - important elections in Loughton. LRA will be looking for some new candidates, as a few existing town and district councillors have moved or need to retire/stand down.

Could YOU, as an LRA member, help fill the gaps?

If you think you could help Loughton by serving and taking the decisions that will shape our future, call Chris Pond (on 020 8508 2361) or Michael Benbow (on 020 8508 4457) for an informal discussion, or email us at

contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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.

52 The Broadway

The District Council has [approved an application](#) (item 15) for a new premises licence for an eSports gaming café to include the sale of alcohol on the premises. The applicants had applied for a licence from Monday to Friday 6pm to 10pm, Saturday 6pm to 11:30pm and Sunday 6pm to 8pm.

As there are residential flats above the property, the Town Council and LRAPG objected to opening after 11pm on Saturdays, and the applicant accepted this change.

Reference Number WK/202020583.

The Last Post, 227 High Road

An application has been made to use the delivery yard to the right of the building for outdoor seating.

The pub has been using this delivery yard for tables and chairs since the relaxation of the lockdown. Several local residents have complained about noise and antisocial behaviour.

The original planning permission reserved this area for loading and unloading. The owners have applied to for tables and chairs in this location in the past, the most recent being in 2007 when it was refused on the grounds that deliveries on the High Road will disrupt traffic on the road and the amenity of local residents. A similar application was refused on appeal in 2000 for highways safety and disturbance to neighbours.

LRAPG has objected to this application given the likely disturbance to nearby residents from the outdoor activity of patrons, and increased on-street parking and congestion in the area given the loss of the delivery area.

Application EPF/1707/20. The statutory deadline for comments is September 26th.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Consultation on Pavement Parking

The Government wants your views on introducing legislation on [pavement parking](#). The consultation is open until November 22nd.



Quicker and easier Blue Badge renewal process launched

The County Council has launched a new, quicker process for residents to renew Blue Badges that are due to expire. The new online system will take residents less than 15 minutes to complete, compared to nearer 60 minutes previously.

Applicants can use the online renewal process if their previous badge was awarded based on one of the automatic eligibility entitlements which still applies, or if when it was awarded it was decided no further assessment would be required. [More](#)

Police and Crime

Police Live Facebook Q&A session – ask your questions

- Debden Thursday October 1st 3pm
- Rest of Loughton Friday October 9th midday.

Essex Police are hosting some Q+A sessions live, [on Facebook](#), with local beat officers and the District Commander. As well as answering questions on Facebook during the hour, our police welcome questions in advance via the dedicated community policing team mailboxes. [EF Neighbourhood Watch](#) will post answers to these on Facebook during the session.

Crime rates for year-to-date in Epping Forest District and Essex

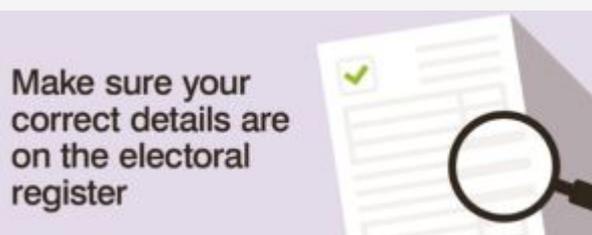
Offence Type	District	Force
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-25.4%	-22.2%
Burglary	-25.7%	-23.1%
Business Robbery	-30.8%	-40.0%
Personal Robbery	-19.0%	-21.1%
Anti-social behaviour	+17.1%	+7.4%
Shoplifting	-21.6%	-22.1%

Source: [Bi-Annual Report](#) on the work of the Epping Forest District Council-funded Police Officers

Have your say on roads policing

People who live, work and travel in Essex are being urged to have their say on the future of roads policing. If you have concerns about speeding or are worried about road safety in your area, you can make your views known by taking part in a short online survey. [Take the Survey](#).

Council News



Don't miss your chance to vote.

The District Council has sent out reminders to the 3,300 households who haven't yet replied to the annual canvass of electors.

If you're on their list, please look out for a letter from the Council addressed to 'The

Residents' and follow the instructions. You will not be able to vote if your name is not on the register. You may also find it difficult getting credit for things like a mortgage, bank loan or even a mobile phone contract. As the May 2020 elections were cancelled, registering now means you'll be able to vote in May 2021. [More](#).

District Council update on effect of Coronavirus

[This report](#) sets out the effect on the Council, and what it has been doing to support residents and businesses.

The Council has incurred substantial additional costs in combatting the pandemic and all the Council's main sources of income have been adversely affected. Broad estimates in July put the potential financial pressure for 2020/21 in a range of between £4.6m and £7.6m.

The Bell Hotel, Epping

There has been a lot of attention in the press recently in relation to a video that had been circulated via YouTube, which gave some misleading information. [District Council minutes](#) (item 19(b)) record that the Bell Hotel was procured by the Home Office to house asylum seekers for a temporary period during the Coronavirus pandemic. There has been no increase in crime during this period, local food charities have not been giving food to these people (the Home Office are providing their food) and they are not illegal immigrants (they are asylum seekers).

[More from the District Council](#) busting the misinformation on this subject.

Council-house building

The next [batches of developments](#) (item 6) in Loughton will be:

Etheridge Road (3 units) - handover September - October 2020

Kirby Close (4 units) - handover September - October 2020

Chequers Road (A) (3 x 3 bed units) - handover July 2020 - August 2021

Bushfields (2 x 2 bed units) - handover July 2020 - August 2021

Chester Road (3 x 2 bed units) - handover September 2020 - September 2021

Total 15 units

In the pipeline (but may be held up by the need to get planning consent and the uncertainty about the outcome of the discussions on the draft Local Plan):

Chequers Road (B) (8 units)

Ladyfields (16 units)

Lower Alderton Hall Lane (2 units)

Thatchers Close (1 unit)

Total 27 units

Green Homes Grants

Homeowners and landlords in England can apply for a voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient and low-carbon heating improvements to homes, which could help save up to £600 a year on energy bills.

The government will provide a voucher that covers up to two thirds of the cost of qualifying improvements to your home. [More](#)

Local Authorities will also be making support available for low income households in their local area through the Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery. More information on participating Local Authorities will be made available on gov.uk in due course.

Report an abandoned vehicle

It is a criminal offence to abandon a vehicle, with a maximum fine of up to £2,500 and or 3 months imprisonment.

You can report an abandoned car or other vehicle to the District Council if:

- It has been abandoned on the road or on council land
- It hasn't moved for 2 weeks or more

Telephone 01992 564608 during office hours or 01992 564000 at all other times. [More](#). If the vehicle is on the road in a dangerous position or condition, or blocking exit from your property, contact [Essex Police](#).

You can report an [untaxed vehicle online at GOV.UK](#)

Highway Rangers come under local control

The Highway Rangers Service does the sort of jobs on public highways that can be done by two people and a van, with a small selection of hand tools. The Service is being transferred from the County Council (which will continue to fund it; the District Council will also provide funds). It will report to the [Local Highways Panel](#). [More](#)

LRA comment

We hope that this will make it easier to get small highways repair jobs done promptly.



Recycling plastics

You may like to keep a copy of this chart. The District Council have confirmed that kerbside collections for recycling includes 1,2,5 & 6 as per guide (for 6 please check the recycling guidance on the packaging).

You can check [their website](#) for further details on what can and can't be recycled. For 3 & 4 you can check [the County Council website](#) to see what can be recycled at County Council Civic Amenity Sites.

Knitted poppy appeal

The Town Council are looking to mark Remembrance Day in November with an exhibition of knitted poppies to be displayed in a prominent location in Loughton.

If you can knit or crochet, and would like to submit a poppy, please bring it to the collection box in the foyer of Loughton Library (during opening hours) or post to Loughton Town Council, Loughton Library, Traps Hill IG10 1HD.

Christmas Competition

Put your artistic talents to the test to design the Town Council's official Christmas card. Closing date 11 November. More [here](#) and the application form is [here](#).

'Countdown to Christmas' event cancelled

The Town Council has not taken this decision lightly. Given the latest Government restrictions (with no sign that there will be any easing on large group gatherings), and that it takes at least 3 months to organise such events, this is the only sensible option. The Council hope some normality will return next year.

Local News

Lidl, Church Hill

The supermarket chain Lidl has announced that its new Loughton store will open at 8am on Thursday, October 1. The Church Hill store has created about 40 jobs. [More](#)

There will be a ceremony on the opening day to replace the missing Town Council blue plaque.

A resident has expressed concern to the District Council and to LRA about the noise coming from the ventilation system at the rear of the store. If you are affected by this, or any other noise nuisance, see [here](#).

New Boxing Academy in Debden

The "Dennis & Dyer Boxing Academy" will open at The Landmark at the corner of Chigwell Lane and The Broadway in October. [More](#)



Community hub opening

The 3food4u initiative provides services in Waltham Abbey and North Weald. It is opening a community hub at The Loughton Club, 8 Station Road, with the support of the Town Council which is grant funding the Rotary Club service.

The first session takes place on Tuesday September 29th (11.30am - 1.30pm) and each week. [More](#)

Does our water taste different?

One of the symptoms of Covid 19 is supposed to be a change to smell or taste. Fortunately, that hasn't happened to LRA Cllr Chris Pond. But is he alone in thinking the taste of Loughton's tapwater has changed? To his mind, during lockdown it has become harsh and metallic tasting, and he doesn't like it!

He has always found the habits of the French, buying bottled water at great cost and greater effort incredible; a French person once observing to me *l'eau de robinet est*

toujours de mauvais goût (tapwater always tastes bad). But he has always stuck up for the stuff sent down our pipes by Thames Water, especially when chilled.

That is what seems may have changed, and it must be something in the treatment and purification of the water.

Has anyone else noticed this? Email us at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Footpath through the Royal Oak, Quercus site

The road through the site between Smarts Lane and Forest Road has been signposted "Private Road No Parking" with no reference to this being a Public Footpath. The Town Council planning committee has asked that this be referred to the District Council as the Local Planning Authority.

Luxborough Lane temporary bridge

A temporary footbridge has been installed over the River Roding between Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell. Essex Highways have said that design work for a new replacement bridge is continuing. [Full report.](#)



Image: Essex Highways



Barbara Harmer – First Female Supersonic Pilot

Since 1999, the Town Council has installed a series of blue heritage plaques around the town to commemorate eminent people, historic events and/or significant buildings.

The latest plaque to be installed (in Staples Road) is in honour of Barbara Harmer, the first female supersonic pilot. [More.](#)



National Jazz Archive, Loughton Library, Traps Hill

The Archive is open but visits are by appointment only – call 020 8502 4701 or email david.nathan@essex.gov.uk

You can support the Archive by donations or by buying books – see [here](#) – or by donating records and CDs to the Archive for sale - more [here](#) or email sctnicol@gmail.com

Local Government Review (LGR)

The Government is planning changes to the organisation of local government. The Government sees the current two-tier system of county and district councils as flawed, and considers that unitary authorities, which are responsible for all council services in a defined area, are a better option for delivering services. It also wants to see more directly elected mayors, alongside more Combined Authorities (much like those in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands) who would be responsible for driving economic growth alongside other powers. Combined Authorities, as the name

implies, cover a larger geography (for example, Greater Essex) than a single unitary council area. They don't just get extra powers from government; they can secure more investment for local residents.

No decisions have yet been taken, but for Essex this might look like two to four unitary councils, and a Greater Essex Combined Authority and Mayor. Alternative proposals may also arise. The Government intends to bring forward a White Paper in the autumn outlining its proposals and inviting councils to submit proposals for reform.

LRA comment

The likely result would be that there would be some sort of regional organisation. Under that will be unitary authorities; one of these would be made up of Epping Forest District and several neighbouring districts. Loughton Town Council would remain, and we would hope to see its powers and funding extended so that local residents have more control over local matters. LRA and in particular LRA Cllr Chris Pond will be taking a close interest in the proposals as they develop.

Health and Wellbeing

Impact of Covid-19 on The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

At the peak, in April, the hospital's ventilated capacity for known Covid-19 patients was at almost 650% of their normal ventilated capacity, and at one point they had over 150 positive Covid-19 patients being cared for in the organisation. Over recent weeks they have been treating between 0 and 3 known positive patients at any one time, which has enabled them to focus for the last few months on recovery and restoration of services that were reduced or stopped providing at the height of the pandemic. [More](#)

New bereavement support helpline

St Clare Hospice has launched a helpline (01279 967670) offering support to local bereaved people. It is run by trained staff and volunteers, 9am -5pm, Monday – Friday. The hospice also offers an online “bereavement café” on Facebook offering bereaved people an opportunity to continue meeting and connecting with others who understand. [More](#).

Epping Forest

Epping Forest [Superintendent's report](#) for July 2020

Of particular interest were:

- attempts to stage 65 Spontaneous Social Gatherings and Unlicensed Music Events on Forest Land as the Covid-19 measures continued to be eased;
- survey work identifying some 169 low-level Oak Processionary Moth caterpillar nests in Epping Forest;
- the use of green-hay techniques to re-establish wood pasture sward in Bury Wood;
- commencement of a trial of GPS-managed cattle collars to direct where cattle can roam;
- a 64.6% increase in rounds played at Chingford Golf Course accompanied by 651% rise on online bookings.

Visitor numbers shoot up!

A visitor survey undertaken by the City of London in June and July to map the impact of 'lockdown' showed an astonishing increase in visitor numbers of 350%. Cycling in the Forest has increased by an average of a massive 800% during this period.

Cycling and Dog-Walkers' Codes of Conduct

There are codes of conduct for [cycling](#) and [dog-walking](#) in the Forest.

Picking mushrooms and other fungi

Fungi-picking in Epping Forest is not allowed under [the Forest byelaws](#). (Unfortunately the Conservators had to ban the practice after a spate of commercial fungi-picking a few years ago.) 10 people have recently been caught picking fungi and now face prosecution under the Forest Byelaws. Please contact 020 8532 1010 if you see fungi picking going on.

Forest Focus

You can [read the latest Forest Focus](#) email newsletter and [sign up to receive the emails here](#).

And More

"It's given me a goal, it's given me a purpose to get up in the morning."

Volunteer at **Citizens Advice**

Citizens Advice Epping Forest

Did you know you can volunteer for Citizens Advice from home? As a remote volunteer you'll help people over the phone, email and chat. Find out [more](#).

Insurers promise to extend Covid-19 customer pledges

Pledges made by Association of British Insurers (ABI) members to support customers during the Covid-19 crisis are being extended to the end of October. More [here](#) and [here](#).

Join the search for Wally

Families will be able to join the search for Wally at Epping Forest District Museum as part of the Where's Wally? Spooky Museum Search from October 9th, perfectly timed for Halloween. [More](#)

Parakeets

The Rose-ringed or Ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) is amongst London's most controversial birds, simultaneously sparking awe and apathy. Although ubiquitous today, the bird has a chequered and uneven history of inhabiting the city. Parakeets bred in Epping Forest, north of Forest Gate as early as the 1930s. Whilst this is well documented, what is not very well known is that these birds became free-ranging because of deliberate releases following what was a global psittacosis outbreak.



The Epping Forest birds soon died out, and the current London population dates back to 1969-1971, when breeding was reported from Croydon and a flock of about ten birds, that had escaped from a pet shop, began roosting in Runnymede. In 1983, the British Ornithologists' Union officially designated the birds to be 'feral' – i.e. their free-ranging populations were self-sustaining. When the first census of parakeets was conducted in 1986, the British population was purported to have grown to about a thousand birds. In thirty years, their numbers have increased seventeen-fold: there are approximately 8,600 breeding pairs in Britain, making the Rose-ring one of the most successful non-native birds on the island.

Image: [Martin Sepion](#)

Thank you for being an LRA member. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Saturday October 24th, although that date could change.

Get more from LRA and keep up with what's happening between issues of Loughton News



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You don't need to be signed up to Twitter to see this*



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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.

We can be contacted at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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