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LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA's Loughton News 30 August 2019

In this issue: threats to Loughton Library, updates on planning and licensing, and can you help your town and LRA as a Councillor?

LRA NEWS



Loughton Library

As mentioned in a previous LRA Loughton News, Loughton Library is under threat of demolition and replacement by a smaller library under a block of flats.

The District Council plans to spend almost £800,000 to demolish the library and replace it with 27 new apartments for either sale or rent,

along with a new library.

As [reported in the Epping Forest Guardian](#), LRA Cllr Chris Pond said that the development, just a short walk from the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC), will add extra pressure on the wildlife that exists there.

He added a European Court of Justice judgement protecting special areas of conservation against development needed to be taken into account, and that replacing the library with homes would harm Epping Forest wildlife.

LRA Cllr Pond called in the plan at a recent District Council Committee Meeting ([read the details - item 7](#)), however this was rejected on party lines by the Conservative controlled council. Much will now depend on the inspector's report on the Local Plan on safeguarding the SAC ([read the latest here](#)), as this would be 27 extra dwellings, each with people, dogs and cycles etc within a four minute walk of the SAC.

Separately, the Town Council Planning & Licensing Committee agreed to register Loughton Library and Town Hall as an 'Asset of Community Value' with the District Council, and will let Essex County Council know they're doing so.

Alderton Hill Closure

The road is due to reopen by Monday 2 September as planned. If this changes we will let you know [on Twitter](#).

See [more on where the closure](#) is and [read detailed information from the County Council](#).

Goldings Hill Car Accident 24 August

There was terrible grief in a number of Loughton and district households as a result of this accident as occupants of the car were local and had been educated here. LRA and Loughton Town Council will want to give them our sympathy and express our solidarity with them.

Planning and Licensing

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town, and takes action where appropriate.

Among recent applications, the Group has objected to the opening hours proposed in a planning application for 52 The Broadway and the opening hours proposed in licensing applications for *The Hub* (3 The Broadway, Landmark House) and *Efezade* (12-14 The Broadway, was the Post Office) because they extend after midnight. There are flats above the Landmark House businesses and above the businesses each side of the parade, and it is unreasonable that residents should be disturbed after midnight by departing customers.

Breach of Planning Rules?

If you're concerned about something, [report it to the District Council online](#) or call them on 01992 564000.

Planning Applications

'The Hub', 1 Landmark House, The Broadway

They've applied for planning permission for the frontage. You can see [a mock-up photo](#).

You can [email comments](#) to the District Council using Application Number EPF/1963/19.

McDonald's, 202 High Road (was Pak Choi)

The District Council have approved a new shopfront and other changes at 202 High Road (was the Pak Choi restaurant – now the proposed McDonalds) but have told the applicants that they need to apply for planning permission to turn it into a takeaway.

If McDonalds comply, this would give residents a chance to give their views on the change, for or against, but the Council will have to decide on the change on the basis of the national planning laws. We'll keep residents informed.

Corner of York Hill and Potters Close

The planning application to build an additional house at the corner of York Hill and Potters Close in the centre of the York Hill Conservation area has been refused. We have not yet seen the reasons.

The Standard, High Road

The Standard are allowing customers onto their roof terrace on some weekends. The terrace is not covered by their alcohol licence, but they can get permission to use it by applying to the District Council for a Temporary Events Notices ("TEN"). We have had no complaints from residents, and don't think that any problems will be caused, but anyone with any concerns can [email the Council](#), and please [copy us in](#).



No waiting on corners

For safety reasons, NEPP is introducing no parking restrictions on a number of junction corners in Loughton. There are too many to list here but you can [see them online](#) (look for Epping Forest District Amendment No. 27).



Noisy Manhole Cover

An LRA member called LRA Cllr Chris Pond about a clanking manhole cover. She has reported it online but nothing had happened

Chris was able to speak to the county cabinet member in a spare moment at the end of a meeting...and the job was done!

If you have noisy ironmongery, [report it online](#). If nothing happens, let us know.



LRA's Farmers' Market Next Market: Sunday 8 September

You will find a wide range of stalls in Loughton High Road, selling a range of foods direct from the producers. The market is held 9am - 3pm, opposite The Last Post. Residents have been delighted that this regular space gives them the opportunity to meet each other.

Can you help deliver Loughton Life - just an hour of your time?

We're very grateful to the volunteers who deliver our Loughton Life newsletters across the town (2 "Townwides" and 3 "Members" editions each year).

We now need three volunteers to each spend an hour or so towards the end of September delivering our next Townwide newsletter to residents in:

1. Rochford Avenue, Rochford Green, Rookwood Gardens, Rookwood Avenue (just beyond The Broadway; 119 copies)
2. Part of Great Woodcote Park (between Loughton and Buckhurst Hill; 65 copies)
3. Burton Road (parallel to The Broadway; 51 copies)

Please [email David Linnell](#) if you can help, or would like to know more.



Draft Local Plan

The Epping Forest District Council Local Plan is now under scrutiny by the Planning Inspectorate in a series of hearings in Epping. LRA are continuing the fight against planned over-development in Loughton and Odford and for the preservation of local trees.

The District Council dismissed local and national objections, submissions by regional bodies and consultation responses that many of you completed. Our town, local services, nature and green areas will all be under pressure from over-development and increased pollution of the area for 1000+ new dwellings on sites in the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation to be built.

Seventeen sites of the Examination in Public ended on 11th June with a majority in favour in which Loughton sites were considered as local.

Because District Officers and LRA Cllr Chris Pond agreed for the Town Council against high-rise on the station car parks, and for the retention in full of local trees on the Great Woodcote and planning controlled (i.e. Alexander for LRA, and Michael Road) sites above the proposed high-rise complex in Odford Hill. Several other Loughton sites were also identified. The local authorities going into April at a hearing specifically for Loughton. Most of the Loughton participants thought the local authorities were not, and green were not seen to be in the way.

The hearing was held on Epping Forest District Council's website at Epping Forest Council Hearing (June).

All in view in the hands of the Inspector, Louise Phillips, who is expected to report during the summer. If further arguments is necessary, Loughton Town Council and LRA will be prepared to follow it through.

High-rise housing at Loughton & Odford stations?

Transport for London (TfL) is proposing developments on its car parks, using 11 sites in Loughton and 11 sites in Odford. This has also been included in Tuesday 11th June as part of the Local Plan.



New Town Mayor

Loughton Town Council has announced the new Mayor for the 2019/20 term will be LRA Cllr Tracy Morgan, and the Deputy Town Mayor will be Cllr Tracy Collins. Morgan has election, fully qualified members for election for and experienced her partner, Loughton Cllr Tracy Morgan, who would be a hard act to follow. She and 11 are now due to start the hearing forward to a final after attending over 100 events during the past year. Loughton's Town Mayor is elected annually in May by the Town Council. The Mayor's role is to provide over meetings of the council, as well as representing the council at civic and ceremonial functions, such as the Remembrance Sunday parade.



LRA Cllr Chris Pond has had confirmation from LRA that they intend to restore the new sites, which will replace the Rookwood sites in 2020, from June to April. They would need to submit a planning application to replace several sites here. They should be able to apply for the Town Council, but that's their original intention and cannot over-ride the consent from the Loughton sites. Chris has also asked them to ensure their delivery partners from the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation.

MORE LRA NEWS

Essex Bus Services

In Essex, around 85 per cent of the bus network by passenger miles travelled, is provided commercially. On these services, commercial operators set their own bus routes, set their own fares, maintain their own buses and run their services as commercial interests dictate. The remaining 15 per cent of the bus network is supported by Essex County Council.

The Essex local bus network currently supports over 3 million passenger journeys a year.

In 2018/19 the bus network supported by the County Council accounts for over 200 services at a cost of £8.1m net per annum. Where commercial operators do not provide a service, the County Council's role is to decide whether it is appropriate to provide a service.

The County Council have agreed new policies for supported evening and Sunday bus services. The new policy would mean that generally the County Council would not support journeys leaving after 2200 Monday to Friday, 2300 on Saturday and 1900 on Sunday, subject to exceptions for journeys which regularly carry six or more passengers on average. The Sunday policy would additionally mean that the services that the County Council did support on Sundays would run at a minimum two-hourly frequency.

In particular, the contract for supported evening and Sunday local bus services for the 418B Loughton to Harlow which is due to expire in March 2020, will only be renewed by the County Council if the tender price is less than £5 per passenger journey. [More](#) (item 5).

Bus Route 20

There will be a new timetable for Bus Route 20 from 31 August to iron out operating problems. There is no change to the frequency or the range of operating hours from around 5am to 1am.



Can you help your town and LRA as a Councillor?

Next May, there are 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?

Town councillors (perhaps a meeting every 3-4 weeks) are unpaid, but receive an honorarium of £120 a year.

District councillors (perhaps a meeting every ten days) receive an allowance of just over £4000 pa).

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 8508 4457) for an informal discussion, or [email us](#).

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL LEISURE ORGANISATIONS ARE [HERE](#)



Roding Valley High School debating team are national champions

A debate team of young students from Roding Valley High School have been crowned national champions at the Up for Debate Competition 2019, organised by Partners in Excellence (PiXL). The day-long event included a series of rounds covering different debate topics, in which students from across the country battled it out to be named best in the UK.

[Read more at the Epping Forest Guardian](#)

Shaftesbury

The road will be resurfaced 24-25 October, so delays are likely. [More](#)

High Road Shops

From press ads we understand that the owners of the land that shops are built on the west side of the High Road, from Centric Parade and north, are trying to sell on their interest.

The Greens Close, Marjorams Avenue, Roundmead Avenue, Roundmead Close, Hill Top Close, Hill Top, Loughton - Roadworks, delays likely.

These roads are planned to be resurfaced from 2nd October 2019 for 7 days. [More](#)



More police in Loughton.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Roger Hirst, has announced more police for Loughton.

"Loughton is getting one of the new Town Centre Teams, which will focus on community concerns, including drug dealing and antisocial behaviour. Under the guidance of their sergeants, they will work closely with local businesses and support groups to get to the root of ongoing issues and tensions and investigate appropriately. Businesses experiencing issues with the night time economy, like bars and clubs, will also be supported in the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour."

Chief Constable BJ Harrington said: "My priorities for the force are clear: we will be visible to deter crime in the community, we will provide better and consistent support to victims and to the vulnerable and we will act against anyone who is intent on inflicting violence in our county."

"With the introduction of the Town Centre Teams, we can be at the centre of these conversations. The public know their local area the best, and so do local officers who can put their boots on the ground and their faces in the village hall. If people have got an issue, or suspect criminal acts are taking place in their community, I need them to feel comfortable reporting it to us. If we work together we can keep the tide turning and put a stop to antisocial behaviour, drug dealing, and other insidious crimes that cause irreparable harm to families, friends and whole communities." [More](#)

GENERAL

Friends of Epping Forest

Last year, the Friends joined the Epping Forest Centenary Trust to become the [Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) (EFHT). The EFHT continues to support the preservation of the Forest and to further an understanding, appreciation, enjoyment and use of the Forest.

In the handover, contact has been lost with some of the Friends. If you're one of these and would like to join the EFHT, [email](#) or telephone them on 020 8508 906.

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow

The Care Quality Commission has issued a [new inspection report](#).

The Roding Valley University of the Third Age (U3A)

[The Roding Valley U3A](#) was inaugurated in May 2004 and now has a membership of over 580. They are situated in West Essex, close to the towns of Loughton, Chigwell, Theydon Bois and Epping - they are also near Epping Forest.

The University of the Third Age, U3A, is a world-wide organisation of people who are either retired or no longer in full-time employment but who want to continue to learn and socialise in the company of others. No formal qualifications are required, nor are any awarded. All that is needed is a willingness to share one's knowledge and to learn from others.

Interest/study Groups are organised by members. They vary in size and meet by kind permission in members' homes, or outside venues, often Theydon Bois Village Hall. These groups form the basis of any U3A.

On the **3rd Monday of each month** there is a **meeting at Theydon Bois Village Hall at 10.00am** with an invited Speaker - this lasts for about an hour and is open to all members. The talks are varied, often illustrated, and are chosen to reflect different tastes and interests. Invariably there is something for everyone. The average attendance is just under 200, which is fortunate as the hall has a maximum capacity of 210. *Details of upcoming Monday meetings can be found [on the website](#).*

Refreshments are available before the meeting. This is an opportunity to chat, sign up to new groups, and book social events and outings. A **monthly newsletter** keeps members up to date with outings, theatre visits, social events and group news.

All members receive a copy of the national magazine "**U3A NEWS**" through the post. Roding Valley members are also able to participate in any of the events put on by National and details of them can be found on their website - information about some of these [events are also on the website](#).

Membership fees are £14 for a single person and £26 for a couple. The Membership Year ends on 31st May. [More](#) and [how to get in touch](#).

WEA (Workers' Educational Association)

The WEA is the major voluntary adult education organisation, and is recognised and supported by central and local government.

The WEA is committed to equality of opportunity and inclusive learning. If you need help choosing the right course, or may need financial help or learning support, please [contact them](#).

Courses are normally free to people who receive a means-tested benefit or Jobseekers Allowance, and to their unwaged dependants. They do their best to ensure that classes are

open and accessible to all but if you have a problem, such as mobility, hearing or transport, please let us know.

You can [read more about the WEA here](#), plus read the courses available at [Loughton/Epping](#), and [Gants Hill/Redbridge](#) branches.

OFFERS AND HELP AVAILABLE



Frontline help when you need it

Most of us have periods in our lives when times are tough, maybe when we have a young family, need support in caring for an elderly relative, have money worries or are just finding it hard to cope.

[Epping Forest Frontline](#) is a District Council community project to help residents and frontline workers quickly find advice on subjects such as:

- Family
- Older people
- Mental health
- Transport
- Disability and sensory impairment
- Addiction
- Wellbeing

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



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Twitter is where we have all our latest news.

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



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Visit LRA's Website

All our Tweets, past issues of Loughton News and Loughton Life, and more

NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Saturday 21 September, although this could change.

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 loughtonnews@loughtonresidents.co.uk
4. LRA gives no warranty about, and will take no responsibility for, items or services offered – purchasers/users should make their own enquiries, and will be acting at their own risk.
5. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch

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**For more about LRA & Loughton see www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
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