



# LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## LRA NEWS

**The next email news and events bulletins will be sent out on June 29<sup>th</sup>, although we'll let you know of any urgent news that turns up before then.**

**Lower Road.** At an emergency public meeting, residents stressed the dangers of the approach from Goldings Hill to Lower Road, with no indication of who has right of way. Subsequently LRA Cllrs Bob Jennings and Chris Pond have obtained agreement from the Local Highways Panel for the road to be made one-way in the 2018/19 work programme, at a cost of about £6,000.

**Tom, Dick & Harry's** are opening a bar & restaurant in what was *Nu-Bar* (Crown House, High Road/ Old Station Road), with live or recorded music.

They have applied to the District Council to sell alcohol Monday – Saturday till midnight; Sunday till 11pm, with closing times ½ hour later.

They propose to use the triangular outdoor area alongside the Old Station Road pavement for meals (see picture). The LRA Plans Group have objected,



as this is a main pedestrian thoroughfare between the High Road and the Station.

However, the Plans Group will withdraw the objection if the Council imposes conditions

- requiring the closure of the outdoor area by 11pm (or earlier) each night, and preventing any extension by TENS (to prevent any public nuisance and to prevent any crime or disorder)
- requiring there to be no music (live or recorded) audible at any time in the outside area (to prevent a public nuisance on this thoroughfare).

**Lost & Found.** LRA Cllr Roger Baldwin found a set of keys left on a bench in the children's play area at the top of Jessel Green. With help from SaveJesselGreen they've been returned to the owner.

However, **if you find anything**, please report it at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) and hold onto it – and if you've lost something, please use the police website to report it (this is much more effective than reports on social media, as it can take weeks or months for items to turn up)

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**2 Connaught Avenue.** Work has finally started on extending the building and converting it into flats. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has followed up with County Highways a query from a resident about the two containers (one used as an office?) which have appeared in the road, taking up parking spaces.

Note: we are also checking whether the developers have up-to-date permission for their unsightly hoarding, which overlaps the pavement; their initial permission expired in 2014 but County Highways refused to take any action to compel renewal.



**Rubbish garden involves two Cllrs.** A resident contacted us about the poor condition of a nearby neighbour's garden which, as well as being very unsightly, was giving rise to a rat infestation. This was taken up by LRA Cllr Judy Jennings, but it transpired that LRA Cllr Chris Pond on behalf of another resident had already asked the District Council to carry out an inspection, which led to the Council taking enforcement action after a period of grace had ended.

**The Hollybush, High Road.** The District Conservation Officer and the LRA Plans Group had objected to the part of their recent planning application which proposed replacing the front of this locally-listed pub with plate glass. The applicant has now withdrawn this proposal. Other alterations for changes at the rear will now be considered by the Town and District councils.



**Pothole outside 79 Forest Road.** LRA Cllrs Howard Kauffman and Chris Pond took this up with County Highways, and it's now been repaired.

Note: Highways have strict criteria for repairs – please report potholes, and other Highway problems, [here](#). If you think that an unrepaired pothole constitutes a serious danger to life and limb, let us know at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) and we'll try to help.

**Grass-cutting.** We've recently had two enquiries from residents:

- **Kings Green and School Green.** LRA Cllr Chris Pond commented that the normal regime of close cutting begins in June, after the leaves of the thousands of bulbs near the memorial have died down naturally, thus storing their energy underground for next year
- **by the River Roding.** LRA Town Cllr David Wixley commented that a strip may be left unmown alongside the river because this is beneficial for ecological reasons, allowing wild flowers to flourish for the benefit of insects, with seed heads being produced thus providing a food source for birds. In addition, for safety reasons cutting close to the edge of the bank would require the use of a powered lawn mower guided by an operative rather than the large sit-on mowers used elsewhere, at considerable extra cost to Council-Tax-payers.



**Oakwood Hill estate footpaths.** LRA Cllr Chris Roberts has had an update on progress towards the surfacing work we've been fighting for over the last four years or more. The places needing repairs have been identified and marked, and the District Council is appointing a contractor. They say they are still on track for the works to be fully completed by late Summer 2018.

**Cars parked dangerously on Forest land.** LRA Cllr Trevor Downing has been trying to sort out who will take responsibility for preventing drivers parking cars near the junction of Nursery Road with Smarts Lane, just beyond the double yellow lines and the limit of the CPZ. NEPP and the police appear reluctant to take action.

Longer term, we believe that permanent measures are needed to stop parking along this stretch of Forest land.

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### York Hill cycle track blocked by Essex Highways!

LRA Cllr Chris Pond reacted quickly and forcefully when he found that Highways had surpassed themselves by erecting a double anti-cycle barrier across the no-vehicles part of York Hill. This is a signed cycle route, and also much used by horse riders. It is a normal highway subject only to controls against cars using it. Chris has proposed an easy and cheap solution – to remove the inner barrier so horses can pass and cyclists get through in single file without dismounting. He has also asked that the grey structure should be painted black to conform with Conservation Area norms. We await Highways' reply.



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## 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>**

### Gremlins.

We're grateful to the reader who spotted that three of the links in our last news bulletin didn't work! They were

- [Developments at Lopping Hall](#)
- [The plans for Tom, Dick and Harry's](#)
- [Judicial Review Press Release](#) re Theydon Bois developer challenging the Local Plan.

### District Council Local Plan Judicial review.

Last week, the High Court heard the JR request from a developer – we await the judge's decision.

### Epping Forest College merger with New City College.

To read the Borders Lane College's Merger Proposal [please click here](#).

The consultation period will end on Monday 4th June.

For any further comments, queries, questions or to send a response please email [consultation@efc.ac.uk](mailto:consultation@efc.ac.uk)

For the local paper's reaction, plus comments from Independent Loughton District and Town Cllr Stephen Murray, see [here](#).



### Policing Loughton.

- **Community policing.** Officers from the community police team will soon be allocated to their own beat areas. Reporting incidents and crime will remain unchanged and officers from the local police team will still attend and investigate; the community officer will have an over-view of the issues affecting the area and assist in joint working and partnership problem-solving. The officers will be making contact in the areas they have been assigned, and additional "pop up" meeting locations such as "coffee with cops" will be happening across the district. [EFNW]
- **The Broadway.** LRA Cllr Chris Roberts has been working closely with the Broadway Town Centre Partnership; as a result, local officers recently attended a Partnership meeting to talk to traders. They have promised to visit every shop in The Broadway to introduce themselves and give advice, and to engage with Epping Forest College about local ASB issues.
- **Loughton man tried.** A Loughton resident has appeared in court in Chelmsford, charged with a number of offences including possession of a knife, drugs and dangerous driving. [More](#).

**The Uplands** corner and entrance to Loughton Cricket Club. At the last Local Highways Panel meeting, concern was expressed about parking causing a hazard on the bend – could NEPP take action? NEPP replied that they could only do 6 schemes a year and that at present there were over 60 scheme on their list waiting to be done.

**New Loughton Mayor.** At the recent annual Town Council meeting, Cllr Stephen Murray (Independent) was elected unanimously as the Town Mayor for 2018/19. Stephen's deputy mayor will be LRA Cllr Stella Murphy.

The mayor's role is to preside over meetings of the council, as well as representing the council at civic and ceremonial functions, such as the Remembrance Sunday parade and the annual Civic Service. [More.](#)



**Oaklands School, Albion Hill.** Work is starting on a new car-park and drop-off / pick-up point, off Warren Hill. We hope that from September this will reduce the problems caused by inconsiderate parents in the roads surrounding the school.

### **The Broadway**

LRA Cllrs have joined traders in protesting about the District Council rent increases for shops in The Broadway, which have suffered poor footfall – and poor trading - because of the months of roadworks. The effect will be to drive some small shopkeepers out of business. At the same time, the Council has encouraged competing retailers onto the Langston Road retail park on generous terms.

**Cuthberts Alley, High Road** (by Wimpy) will be closed again from June 4<sup>th</sup> for up to 6 months for work to be carried out.

**Remote car keys.** Recently a car in a driveway in Eleven Acre Rise was opened during the night – luckily nothing was stolen but this is becoming increasingly common. [It's this easy!](#)

Our local Neighbourhood Watch have just put out this message:

“If you have a keyless car will you please go and buy yourself a security pouch and keep your car keys inside? Neighbourhood Watch will have some for sale when we next do our NHW stalls, but you can also buy them online very easily. When they arrive, pop your fob inside and walk up to the car to make sure it works”.

Security pouches are also available in at least one High Road shop.



### **Gone in 35 seconds!**

The moment thieves use hi-tech relay device to steal Mercedes on owner's driveway

**“Extra” vehicles in Residents Parking Zones (RPZs).** A resident complained to NEPP about the appearance of builders' and other vehicles in the Forest Road etc RPZ, with parking “dispensations”. NEPP replied that dispensations were issued at their discretion, depending on the circumstances. They are issued sparingly and considered in line with the area's specific situation at the time. NEPP always monitor the numbers and possible impact of issuing dispensations, to minimise unwanted disruption for residents. Dispensations cost £66 per working week.

Note: as a separate issue, NEPP are due to make a decision on the business dispensation trial that has been taking place in the Forest Road RPZ.

**Buckhurst Hill station** is now fully step-free from street to platform following the installation of a ramp at the station and the opening of additional entrances. Portable ramps that can be positioned by station staff are also available making it step-free from platform to train.



**Freedom of Epping Forest District** conferred on 56 Squadron RAF, at a special meeting of the District Council to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the RAF on 1 April 1918. For more about this, and the RAF's links with the District over the years, see [here](#).

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## OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

**Parking “nudge”.** We're often contacted by residents who have problems with drivers who inconsiderately park over some or all of their dropped kerbs. [NEPP](#) have now started offering to paint “H”-bar white lines on the roadway, at a cost to the resident of £75 - too steep for some, but it might just “nudge” thoughtless parkers into leaving the entrance clear.



### Stay safe online

- **Shortened email addresses.** Occasionally we, and others, provide a shortened URL instead of a long one, using services such as <https://tinyurl.com/>. Sometimes others do this to deceive! You can check the real site the short link will take you to by going to <http://www.checkshorturl.com/>
- **Google SafeSearch** is a feature of [Google Search](#) that acts as an automated filter of [pornography](#) and potentially offensive content
- **Windows SmartScreen** is a [cloud-based anti-phishing](#) and [anti-malware](#) component included in several Microsoft products, including [Windows 8](#) and later, [Internet Explorer](#), [Microsoft Edge](#) and [Outlook.com](#). It is designed to help protect users against attacks that utilize [social engineering](#) and [drive-by downloads](#) to infect a system by scanning [URLs](#) accessed by a user against a [blacklist](#) of websites containing known threats.

**Trading Standards business advice service.** Essex Trading Standards is helping businesses large and small negotiate red tape through a new advisory service. Starting or growing a business can be difficult; but they can help you through the compliance minefield by offering practical, tailored business advice through a team of expert regulators. If you would like to register for a quote it only takes a few minutes to complete the online [form](#).



**Are you involved in running a small organisation?** Is it data-compliant under the new GPDR rules? You may like to know that if your organisation opts for “Legitimate Interest” as the reason for holding member data, it does *not* need to get specific consents from current members (this is not immediately obvious from the Information Commissioner's website!)



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## HELP WANTED

**Join the Love Loughton Community Choir:** New this year! The ‘Love Loughton Community Choir’ is being formed to perform at *Love Loughton Fun Day* (Saturday, July 7, noon - 3pm at St Mary's Church, High Road). There will be 5 rehearsals prior to the event and then the performance. The rehearsals will be on Mondays starting 4 June, 8pm - 9:30pm at St Mary's. They will welcome anyone who loves to sing to come and join in this fun choir.

### Drink/ drugs drivers.

[EFNW]

Anyone with information about drivers who regularly get behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Always dial 999 if you know someone under the influence of drink or drugs is behind the wheel of a vehicle.

### Volunteers for new club for people with mental health issues to meet informally.

Volunteers wanted to be friendly face welcoming members to Open Door Friendship Group. You will be supported by a staff member at all times. The club offers a caring safe environment for vulnerable adults with mental ill health. Formed by carers and service users, the club aims to plug a gap in community mental health provision and to give vulnerable, isolated adults a safe place to meet each week. Starts June 1<sup>st</sup>. Meets once a week on a Friday 3.30 - 5.30pm. [More.](#)

**Loughton Festival 2019.** Sue Taylor is already starting to work on next year's programme, and is looking for volunteers willing to offer to help organise events either on their own, or as part of a small working group.



She also needs people with fundraising experience to help raise funds and / or businesses to offer to support the Festival either financially or in kind.

The Festival is made up of events that Sue and her team run, plus associated events that are organised by other people / groups / societies who take full responsibility for their event, but are included in the programme as long as they agree to raise some money for the Festival's chosen charity. The planning period runs from October to December and all events must be organised before Christmas.

If you or your group would like to be involved, please let Sue know at [info@loughtonfestival.org](mailto:info@loughtonfestival.org)

**Armed robbery; McColls; Pyrles Lane.** Police are appealing for witnesses after a robbery just before 6.30am on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, by two men. One was described as wearing a black jacket with blue jeans, and dark Adidas trainers. He carried a Sports Direct bag. The other man wore jeans and a dark blue jacket with two white logos on it, including one on the left shoulder. He also had a baseball cap on. Contact Loughton CID on 101 with reference 290 of 12/05. Alternatively, you can contact the Crimestoppers charity 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111 or use the anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](http://Crimestoppers-uk.org)



## GENERAL

**Local bus Service maps** (March 2018) [here.](#)

**TSB - phishing and smishing.** There has been a sharp rise in fraudsters sending out fake text messages (smishing) and phishing emails claiming to be from TSB. The increase in the number of reports corresponds with the timing of TSB's computer system update, which resulted in 1.9m users being locked out of their accounts. Opportunistic fraudsters are using TSB's system issue to target people with this type of fraud.



### False "Friend"!

Sue Taylor, who is a mainstay of EFNW, recently put out a message to show how easily even an experienced person can fall for a trickster. A friend sent her a Facebook *friend request* and, in the middle of other matters, she quickly accepted it. As you may have guessed, her friend's account – and now Sue's account - had been hacked! The friend reported the hack to Facebook, who took immediate action to close down the case, but Sue asks that you don't accept a friend request apparently from her without checking.

For what to do if you are hacked, including how to secure your Facebook account by clicking on the *quick help* button “?” on the top right hand corner of the page in the blue border.

**Policing then and now** after a burglary or car theft.

[EFNW]

EFNW point out that in the good old days a police officer would be sent to a home and spend an hour or more taking a statement and talking to the victim, when all of the information had already been given over the phone. This made the householder know they were being taken seriously, but it did not take the investigation any further. Today, with more limited police hours, the police will only call round if they think they can get any information to lead them to whoever committed the crime. It's not because



they cannot be bothered, as people often say on Facebook, it is because there is nothing further to be gained from a visit. If a car has been stolen, the thieves took the evidence with them, so if there is no CCTV, or witnesses or any other evidence, then there really is no point in the police visiting the victim.

However, every incident will have an officer allocated to the case who will look for similar incidents to see if there is a pattern emerging that will lead them to the criminal.

**Rogue traders.** If you think you've been taken in by a rogue trader, please let Essex Police know at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) or by calling 101. Please also contact Trading Standards - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>



## 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](http://www.loughtonresidents.org.uk)**

**FACEBOOK: Like and Follow our Facebook page by going to [www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents](http://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents)**

## NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
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](mailto: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](http://www.loughtonresidents.co.uk)  
or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**

