

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Newsletter

## Members' Edition December 2019

*Loughton Residents Association is independent and focuses on looking after Loughton. We have Cllrs on the County & District Councils, and hold 20 out of the 22 Loughton Town Council seats.*

### Local Plan

The District Council has provided a report on the current situation. There is still a lot to be done before the question marks over developments in Loughton near the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (EFSAC) can be resolved. Read more about the plan, with links to the report, on our website <https://tinyurl.com/LRAPlan>. The Town Council has submitted a statement suggesting that a mile from the SAC edge be designated a no-development zone.

### Lucton's Field

*Proposals to build on the former College sites, Lucton's Field and the Middle Site, Borders Lane*

LRA is very disappointed by the proposals for these sites.

Acting as an Association, LRA opposes all over-intensive development proposals in Loughton. LRA Cllrs must, however, act separately



from the Association in relation to planning proposals because at planning committee meetings they have to take planning decisions solely on the basis of the evidence presented. However, when these proposals become a formal planning application to the District Council, your Cllrs will ask searching questions, and the LRA Plans Group will ask residents for their views.

In the meantime, residents have launched a petition against the proposals, and a Facebook page.

Read more on our website <https://tinyurl.com/LRALucton>, with links to residents' petition and Facebook page, and details of the sites.



### Central Line service reduced from January 2020

Transport for London (TfL) has announced changes to the Central Line service, which for our town will mean fewer Loughton-Epping peak hour services - see [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/changes-to-central-line-timetable/](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/changes-to-central-line-timetable/)

TfL will take some trains out of service, a few at a time, to replace life-expired motors (meaning fewer future defective trains) and will make adaptations to provide more space for wheelchair users, as well as improving audio and visual passenger information. We understand that this work will take 'a number of years'.

Morning and evening peak services at Debden, Theydon Bois and Epping stations will be reduced (at Debden from 11 trains per hour to 9 and at Epping from 10 trains down to 8 per hour).

TfL did not do any prior consultations on these changes, which will affect many people. Peak time Loughton commuters may benefit from more trains starting at Loughton, but Debden commuters will have to choose between overcrowded journeys straight through, or changing trains at Loughton in the hope of getting seats.

Travelling on the Central Line can be frustrating and uncomfortable, and new trains are many years away. TfL presumably needs to do this work, but we question why these changes only impact our end of the line, and how TfL decided on this plan?

There will also be changes adversely affecting residents using the services between Woodford and Hainault, which LRA Cllr Chris Pond raised with senior Conservatives at Epping Forest District Council in spring 2019, when he first heard of some of them, but nothing was done.

### Recycling

LRA Cllrs Chris Pond and David Wixley recently had a trip round the plant at Angel Road Edmonton where all your kerbside dry recycling is taken. Read more on our visit at <https://tinyurl.com/LRARecycling>, and visit <https://tinyurl.com/EFDCRecycling> for the District Council's guidance on recycling.

**Our thanks to all the residents who support LRA**

## Our Farmers' Markets



Come along to LRA's Farmers' Market on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, on Centric Parade, High Road. The market is held 9am - 3pm, opposite The Last Post. There will be carols at the LRA stall. Residents have been delighted that this regular event gives them the opportunity to meet up.

## Report a problem

You can report Highways problems to the County Council online at <https://tinyurl.com/EssexHighwaysReportProblem> or you can call 0345 603 7631.

To find out more about the County Council's work on roads and pavements, or to see the local problems you can report, see LRA's leaflet "How to report a local problem" <https://tinyurl.com/LRAreportaproblem>

## Our trees saved!

People heard that a prominent chestnut tree at Loughton Club was about to be felled. LRA Cllrs were alerted and immediately contacted the District Council's tree officers to protest, and a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was issued, all within 24 hours. The tall deodar cedar on the rear boundary of The Drive, Staples Road and Shaftesbury has also had a TPO issued because of its amenity value.

## All night street-lights

Some years ago, the County Council decided to turn off many street lights at 1am, in order to save money and to reduce carbon emissions. Earlier this year, the County Council gave town and parish councils the chance to have street lights turned on through the night, if they were willing to pay for it.

For Loughton to have the lights on all night throughout would probably cost the town's Council Taxpayers around £35,000 a year (around £3 a household). Once they get firm costings, the Town Council will gauge public opinion, and will consider the pros and cons of making the change.



## Crime in Epping Forest

The latest figures show that all burglary is down by over 24% compared with the same period last year, and vehicle crime is down by over 3%.

This has been achieved through good professional policing of the district by Essex Police, and excellent partnership working with the District Council-funded police officers. The latter have been very busy carrying out proactive intelligence-led policing, concentrating on robbery, burglary and auto-crime offenders. They have become very skilled in interpreting the technical intelligence assets and CCTV in the area, which allows them to plan interception routes to stop active criminals travelling to the district.

## Roads and footpaths

Residents have been concerned over the state of the roads and footpaths in Roundmead Avenue, Hilltop and Hilltop Close, and what has been happening with the work recently undertaken. It is hoped the carriageways will be resurfaced soon, possibly during 2019.

Footpaths are not as high a priority and the Council assessed most as in good condition and so not warranting capital investment at this time.

## CONTACTING LRA

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**LRA councillors are Independent and non-political**



## Planning & licensing

The LRA Plans Group (LRAPG) looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town, and takes action where appropriate. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. It works entirely separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees.

**Planning applications:** details of all planning applications can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/EFDCPlanning>

**Licensing applications:** details of all licensing applications can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/LRALicensing>

The LRAPG has objected to the following late-night licensing applications because there are residents in flats above the licensed premises (for example, on the High Road, or The Broadway), or nearby. We think that 11pm is the latest closing time which should be permitted (many residents will be in bed by 11pm, and most by midnight).

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

McDonalds has applied to change the use of what was the Pak Choi restaurant from a restaurant to an "M to go" takeaway. They have finally confirmed the proposed hours of operation:

- Sunday to Thursday: 8am to 11pm
- Friday and Saturday: 8am to 11:30pm.

Overall, Loughton is already well served by takeaway uses; do we need any more fast food establishments? LRAPG hopes McDonalds will instead consider including a sit-down restaurant to mitigate the potential takeaway litter problems. (*Application Number EPF/2162/19*)

### *Green's Steakhouse, 3 Centric Parade, High Road*

An LRAPG representative attended the hearing at the District Council on this late-night application. During the hearing it became clear that the applicants would be very happy to agree to close at 11pm each night (with later opening at Christmas and New Year). The LRAPG objection was withdrawn, and the Council approved the revised hours. (*Reference WK/201931642, approved*)



### *The Hollybush, 140 High Road*

They have applied for a licence for live and recorded music until midnight on Sundays to Thursdays, and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays, plus the removal of the current condition requiring any music to stop an hour before the end-time for alcohol sales. (*Reference WK/201934362, comments closed*).



### *Loughton Club, 8 Station Road*

They have been granted a new music, dance and alcohol licence. LRAPG will contact nearby residents about potential problems. (*Reference WK/201924703, comments closed*)



### *Wo Fat Restaurant, 270-272 High Road*

They have applied for a license for opening hours with recorded music and alcohol on Sunday to Thursday until 11pm and Friday and Saturday until 11.30pm.

(*Reference WK/201935663, comments close 25/11/19*)



## Incident in Langston Road

Following a police chase on Saturday 28 September, there was traffic gridlock in the Langston Road/Rectory Lane area. The chase started in Enfield, and two men and two women were arrested in Langston Road on suspicion of motoring offences.



## LRA Christmas Quiz 2019

How much do you remember of your childhood rhymes? This year's quiz is for all the family; just name the nursery rhyme!

A bottle of fizz or a book token will be awarded for the first correct entry out of the hat. Please send answers by January 6th, please, to [lesandsueharris@aol.com](mailto:lesandsueharris@aol.com), or to 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ. Happy Christmas!

1. Young female terrified by arachnid
2. Cavalry in unsuccessful bid to reassemble ovoid
3. Rodent meets with (un)timely end
4. Collapse of capital landmark
5. Female involved in hot water activity
6. Military leader in large-scale manoeuvres
7. Floral dance ends in disarray
8. Questions asked over small heavenly body
9. Male offspring of musician caught in porcine theft
10. Minder of ovine mammals mislays her charges
11. Trio of visually-impaired rodents suffer vicious attack
12. Musical peal heralds whereabouts of feline
13. Elderly rural landowner counts his blessings
14. Female stalked by small, woolly creature
15. Elderly woman with severe overcrowding issue
16. Arachnid tries again to scale outside structure
17. Crockery and cutlery elope from riotous assembly
18. Medical man has mishap in West Country city
19. Musical peal has fruity beginnings
20. Young man meets pastry seller on his journey
21. Sleeping infant in possible danger of falling
22. Elderly monarch entertained by string trio
23. Small male child falls asleep whilst overseeing livestock
24. Awkward young woman quizzed over her horticulture
25. Quintet of porcine beasts do various activities
26. Royal female cooks; palace servant steals the results
27. Dark-coloured ovine gets questioned about its fleece
28. Overweight boy upsets young females
29. Mystery over death of feathered redbreast
30. Domestic feline tells of capital visit to royalty.

## District Council offices u-turn

As mentioned in a previous Loughton Life, the District Council had planned to move their back-office teams from Epping to a new office building at North Weald. The Conservative leadership had spent heavily on consultants and the proposals had dismayed many Council staff. LRA Cllrs thought the idea made little or no sense in organisational or transport terms.

The leadership has now discovered that it would be better and cheaper to re-jig the buildings and for staff to remain in Epping. With the alterations now planned, LRA Cllrs have expressed concern that staff will be crammed into unduly small working areas.

## Epping Forest shopping park

The District Council is investigating roof leaks at this relatively new Council-owned building.

The Council will also be looking at the traffic flows for the site, and investigating whether an additional entrance for the site is required (to their apparent surprise, problems have been caused by the nearby junction at the top of Langston Road). There will be additional traffic marshals on site to manage the traffic flow in the run-up to Christmas, as this was successful last year.

The Council will also lobby the County Council to provide a new bus route to give a better public transport link to and from the Shopping Park. LRA Cllrs criticised the lack of public transport as far back as 2013; the then District Council deputy Chief Executive said buses were totally unnecessary!

## Parking schemes in Debden

The District Council has decided not to construct any more off-street parking spaces for Debden residents as the income the Council would receive from them would not justify the capital expenditure involved. They say that recent off-street schemes offering residents paid places have had very low take-up. In future the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) will be asked to consider introducing parking schemes and parking restrictions, in the same way as for the rest of the town.

LRA Broadway Cllr Chris Pond says the problem isn't regulating parking, but creating extra spaces in roads where residents have grossly insufficient off-road parking space.

## Rectory Lane/ Broadway/ Borders Lane Junction

At a recent Town Council meeting, a Cllr reported that he'd spent considerable time monitoring traffic light phasing and the pedestrian crossing at this busy junction, and was very concerned about the safety of pedestrians.

This problem was not a new one, and it was agreed that the Town Council would send a further letter of concern to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure.

## Whipps Cross redevelopment

The Whipps Cross Hospital site is to be redeveloped by Barts Health Trust by demolishing most of the present buildings, and building a multi-storey hospital and a multi-storey car park for hospital visitors and staff. Some of the heritage buildings may be redeveloped for housing, and the rest of the site will be demolished and sold for housing development (but probably with no residents' parking, so vehicles owned by residents would be parked elsewhere). The new hospital would have additional capacity for outpatient care and care in the community services, but fewer beds than at present.

The population in the area served is expected to grow and LRA has concerns that, should facilities prove insufficient in future, there will not be space to expand them. If the whole site continued to be owned by the NHS, additional services could be offered which would provide many jobs, such as sheltered housing for rental by elderly and disabled people, a nursing home, a hospice, flats for rental to vital NHS staff, and most importantly to enable future expansion.

The changes, and the new residents, would increase pressure on the surrounding forest, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest; the use and preservation of heritage buildings on the site should also be considered.

You can find out more information about this at [www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/future-whipps](http://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/future-whipps).

You can email [FutureWhipps.BartsHealth@nhs.net](mailto:FutureWhipps.BartsHealth@nhs.net) with your comments. Read more at Twitter [#FutureWhipps](https://twitter.com/FutureWhipps) and [@WhippsCrossHosp](https://twitter.com/WhippsCrossHosp)

## Speed limit, Chigwell Road

Following a Road Safety Audit prompted by five personal injury collisions at this location since 2014 (including one resulting in a fatality), Essex Highways is proposing to extend the current 40mph limit further north east of Rolls Park corner to include the entrances to the commercial site, including the golf course and health club.

## Broadway Landmark building

Despite their repeated assertions about the number of businesses wanting to take over the ground-floor shops, Epping Forest District Council has so far failed to fill all the units. Three have been let to a restaurant, and a pub is due to open soon; this is a condition of the planning permission given to demolish the old Sir Winston Churchill pub.

The Council says that a fitness centre/gym will take on another unit, and that there is interest in another unit from a local boxing club and a gym operator. One unit remains apparently unlettable.

LRA continues to be worried about the serious effect these businesses will have on the quality of life of the around 100 residents in the flats above.