

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Newsletter

## Townwide Autumn Edition

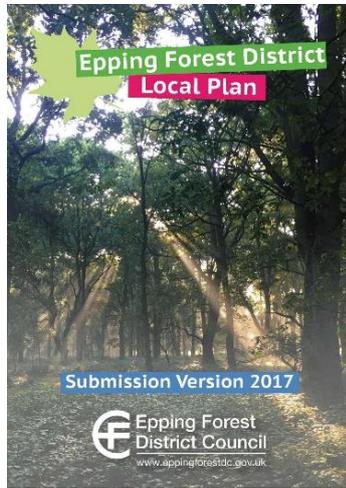
**For all residents in IG10: Autumn 2020**

*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.*

## Swamping us with a thousand new houses

LRA is concerned that the District Council is still looking for a way to foist a ridiculous level of new housing on the town as part of their new Local Plan. So far, planning applications for any extra housing remain held up in the planning system considering if the extra air pollution from new residents' vehicles might harm the woodland of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), much of which is in Loughton.



When the draft Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector last year, she asked the Council to submit further work to her, particularly on the Council's strategy for handling air pollution. The Council has now sent the Inspector the final tranche of its proposed key changes (called Main Modifications - MMs) and should shortly be consulting residents on them. Please keep an eye on our website ([www.loughtonresidents.org.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.org.uk)) for this. We'll also keep LRA members updated through our monthly local *Loughton News* email.

So far, Cllrs have been kept in the dark about the proposed MMs, although in July the Council's Cabinet did consider a draft document on its proposed approach. At the time, LRA Cllr Chris Pond commented that the strategy seemed more of an aspiration in progress and that the Council should be working towards mitigation, not just to get the Plan approved, but for better human health and biodiversity.

Chris also suggested that the Council needed to shift development away from the SAC and the most popular parts of the District. In his view, development should be shifted to somewhere in the north west of the district, a long way from the SAC, and this should be used to encourage tourism to the Forest.



## Lughton's Field, Borders Lane

At a recent meeting, the District Council Cabinet forced through the removal of the last vestiges of the covenants on the land now owned by New City College (which was Epping Forest College).

The original covenants limited use of the land to education or health purposes and were seriously weakened a few years ago, despite objections from LRA Cllrs. The report to the Cabinet said that "Removal of the covenants... will also assist the developer in unlocking further housing provision in the district in accordance with the Local Plan".

This is almost certainly the last remaining non green belt site in Loughton available to house a new primary school, and so building on it would be wholly inconsistent with the educational price of the District Council's plans to force lots of new homes on Loughton. Therefore LRA and independent members have called the decision in, meaning further discussion will be needed.

### *Have you commented?*

Make your views known on the proposed development of 285 flats on Lughton's Field. It's easy; you can see more at <https://tinyurl.com/LRALughtons>

To object, email [appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) with your views expressed in 5 to 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](mailto:applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## Keep up with the Loughton news

Our next Townwide newsletter won't be with you until next spring. Keep up with the Loughton news through our monthly *Loughton News* emails.

See <https://tinyurl.com/ya2m5pgr> for past issues and how to join LRA now for £5 per household until end-2021!

**For more information, please email  
[contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**

Please ring 020 8508 2932 if you'd like to join LRA but aren't online.

*We don't share our membership information.*

*Also inside this issue: Covid-19 information, recycling, planning & licensing, potholes and more.*



## Our thanks to all the residents who support LRA

## LRA 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.

## Our road defects nominated

LRA Cllr Chris Pond had the chance, along with all Essex County Cllrs, to nominate a number of carriageway defects for prompt remediation in his division. He actually found, with the assistance of LRA Town and District Cllrs, 35% over his limit in the Loughton Central division.

These over-quota defects will have to take their turn, but the remainder will be fixed permanently as soon as practicable (look for the red markings). He's now seeking funding for the deferred ones.

## Knitted poppy appeal

The Town Council is looking to mark Remembrance Day in November with an exhibition of knitted poppies to be displayed at Loughton Library.

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 it to Loughton Town Council, Loughton Library, Traps Hill IG10 1HD.

## Team of the Year

Cllr David Wixley recently nominated the South London Cricket Club (SLCC) U/12 team (now U/13) for the District Council's Civic Awards "Team of the Year" and we're delighted to say that the nomination, officially supported by Independent Cllr Stephen Murray, was successful.



Photo source: Andrew Shields SLCC

A presentation, made by the former Chairman of the District Council, Cllr Richard Bassett, took place on Sunday 20th September at the SLCC ground before the team played in the final of the Len Stentiford Trophy, which is the Metropolitan Essex District Cricket Board competition for that age group, in which they were again successful. Cllrs Wixley and Murray also attended.

## LRA's Loughton Life newsletters

Because of the continuing coronavirus crisis, we are taking the exceptional step of paying to have this Townwide newsletter delivered by a delivery firm instead of our usual volunteer deliverers.

This is a one-off, and we hope that next year we will be back to normal deliveries and that we'll be able to resume our members-only *Loughton Life* newsletters.

## A 'grate' response

One day in October, Cllr Chris Pond noticed a missing/broken road gully grating in Church Hill, and at 8:00am reported it as a real hazard to Highways. He received an email at 10:45am to say the gang was on site and was replacing it!

## Sinkhole

This sinkhole 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.



## CONTACTING LRA

<b>D=District</b>	<b>Enquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk">contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk</a>	<b>8508 2361</b>
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Adam Omer (T) 07904 919701	David Wixley (D) Goldings Road 8418 9284	Howard Kauffman (D) Church Lane 8508 1098
Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Road 8279 0053	Kevin Latchford (T) 07505 377886	Judy Jennings (D&T) York Hill 8508 1861
Mick Stubbings (T) Greenfields 07766 480522	Louise Mead (D) 07746 875952	<b>COUNTY: Loughton (Central)</b>
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Michael Owen (D) Baldwins Hill 07467 430145	Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane 8508 8877	Judith Walker 07855 265835
Stella Murphy (T) High View Close 8508 2794	<b>RODING WARD</b>	Juliet Pollard 8502 0552
<b>ST JOHN'S WARD</b>	David Wixley (T) Goldings Road 8418 9284	Lance Leonard 8502 0771
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Chris Pond (T) Staples Road 8508 2361	<b>LOUGHTON LIFE EDITOR</b> Eva Blasco 8923 0065	Steve Eaton 8923 0065
<b>SECRETARY</b> Jill Angold-Stephens 8281 0674	<b>MINUTES SECRETARY</b> Susan Creevy	<i>*Dial 020 before numbers beginning with 8</i>
<b>TREASURER</b> Miriam Murphy 01992 815525		

**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.

Read more about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information using the application and licensing numbers provided, and how you can comment at <https://tinyurl.com/LRAPPlanning> Where there are residents in flats above licensed premises, for example on the High Road, The Broadway or nearby, the LRAPG objects to late-night licensing applications.

### 52 The Broadway

The District Council has approved an application 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 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.

*Reference Number Application EPF/1707/20*

## The Broadway Post Office

LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up with the Post Office on the impending closure, scheduled for October 13th. The Post Office had been looking – seemingly unsuccessfully – for another shop in The Broadway to take on running the service. Cllrs have asked for a mobile office.

The nearest alternative branches will be at Goldings Hill and the High Road.

## 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.

## 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.

We don't know what the Covid-19 situation will be at that time, however you can register for a postal vote to ensure your voice is heard. Download an application form at <https://tinyurl.com/postalvote2021>. Once completed and signed, it can be sent by email or post, and must be received at least 11 working days before the election. See <https://tinyurl.com/postalvoteinstructions> for instructions.

## Quicker and easier Blue Badge renewal process

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.

## Rubbish on the High Road pavements

We are concerned that some of the High Road shops by The Drive 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 Cllrs have raised this with the District Council, and Environmental officers have warned the businesses nearby.



## Recycling dilemma

Confused or unsure about what can be recycled? You're not alone. Get a handy, printable chart showing what plastics can be recycled at <https://tinyurl.com/RecyclingPlastics>.

The District Council has confirmed that kerbside collections for recycling include categories 1, 2, 5 & 6 as per guide (for category 6, please check the recycling guidance on the packaging). You can check the District Council website for further details on what can and can't be recycled. For categories 3 & 4, you can check the County Council website to see what can be recycled at County Council Civic Amenity Sites.



**Email LRA at [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)**

## Government cutting you out of planning decisions

Both central and local government want to foist more and more housing on Loughton, with scant regard for local democracy, the way the town will look or even the comfort of the new residents. Planning approvals need to strike a delicate balance between the needs of applicants and the effect of developments on neighbouring residents. LRA believes that this is best done by applications going through the full planning approval process, so that residents, Cllrs and Council Officers can clearly see what's being proposed, and so that the Council has the power to turn down unsatisfactory applications.

### **Permitted Development Rights (PDRs)**

In recent years, the government has extended PDRs to allow developers to convert buildings, such as offices or light industrial buildings, into homes. This reduces the powers of local planning authorities (LPAs) such as Epping Forest District Council to refuse such applications. Nationally, there has been increasing concern about the impacts of these extended PDRs and about the poor quality of the resulting residential accommodation. At the same time as the government wants us to 'build beautiful', it's promoting rule changes that more or less ensure uncoordinated ugliness.

### **Adding extra storeys allowed**

With little or no proper debate, the government has pushed through changes which will allow two additional storeys to be put on top of houses and other buildings of two storeys or more, or one additional storey on a detached house of one storey, with minimal input from residents and LPAs (there are some exclusions, such as Conservation Areas).

### **Even worse changes planned**

The government has produced a poorly-written and vague "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, giving LPAs only limited powers to reject such applications.

This would significantly reduce the involvement of local residents (and the LRA Plans Group and Loughton Town Council) in looking at, and commenting on, individual planning applications. In theory, residents would be able to have their say at an earlier stage, when a new Local Plan is debated. However, 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.

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

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and at [www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents](http://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents)**

## LRA Supporters! Can you help us?

### Could you be a councillor?

*You could have a say on what happens locally on behalf of Loughton residents*

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 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 alternatively email us at [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

## Warning of high levels of Covid-19 in the 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*". Current data for each district in Essex can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ECCDDistrictCovid19>. On the drop-down menu at the top, select 'Epping Forest' for local data.



**NHS Covid-19 app:** the new Covid-19 app is now available to download from <https://tinyurl.com/NHSAppCovid19> for free in England and Wales and is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in.

**Loughton Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group:** this Loughton group connects neighbours to offer practical help during the pandemic through Facebook and WhatsApp groups and can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/LoughtonCovid19MutualAid>

**District Council Support:** information and guidance at <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus> plus support for residents at <https://tinyurl.com/EFDCCovid19Residents> and at <https://tinyurl.com/EFDCCovid19Businesses> for businesses.

**Check the latest Covid-19 online advice regularly.**