

LRA's Loughton Life Newsletter

Townwide Spring Edition

*For all residents in IG10 and Buckhurst Hill East
Celebrating 43 years of our Loughton Life Newsletter*

*Loughton Residents Association is independent
and focuses on looking after Loughton
and Buckhurst Hill East.*

*We have Cllrs on the County & District Councils and
hold 21 out of the 22 Loughton Town Council seats.*

Fortnightly garden waste collection charges and new food caddies

The existing, green-lidded bin will be for garden waste only from 31st March, with a charge of £60 per year to pay for fortnightly collection. Once paid, a permit sticker for the green-lidded bin will be provided, which shows your address and a unique reference number. Garden waste bins without a corresponding permit will not be collected.

Also from 31st March, food waste will be collected separately, for free, in a new brown kerbside caddy, and residents will also be provided with a kitchen caddy for scraps indoors.

Don't start using your new brown kerbside caddy until the new waste changes come into place from 31st March. You should continue to use the green-lidded bin for food and garden waste until then.

You can also now order larger 240-litre blue-lidded recycling bins. There was an initial shortage of bins after last year's rollout.

LRA Membership

This edition has gone to every household in Loughton however some editions we produce are members-only, therefore receiving this copy doesn't necessarily mean you're a member of LRA. Around eight hundred Loughton households support LRA with a £5-a-year membership payment. This supports our work and means that members receive additional news about Loughton in our monthly members-only Loughton News emails, as well as extra member-only issues of Loughton Life.

Go to www.loughtonresidents.org.uk for details of how to join, and to read past issues of our news bulletins.

If you'd like to become a member but don't have access to the internet, please call 07968 174388 to speak to our membership secretary Laura Blake.

We never share our membership information.



May local elections

The government has confirmed that the elections scheduled for 7th May will go ahead as planned.

Eighteen District Council seats held by Cllrs who came third in the all-out, three-member ward elections in

May 2024 will be up for election. These include four LRA Cllrs in the District Council's Loughton wards. The elections for the County Council will include two seats that were created to cover Loughton after boundary changes were made by the Electoral Commission.

LRA will continue to stand candidates in Loughton wards, and we hope you will support us at the ballot box.

Please ensure you are registered to vote. If you know of anyone who is not registered, please encourage them to do so. Have you considered Postal Voting? It is safe, secure and the most convenient method where you vote at home. Ballot papers are posted to you around 10 days before election day. You mark your choices and simply post the ballot papers back in the prepaid envelope.



Local Government Reorganisation

Four different proposals have now gone forward to the Government for consideration, with a preferred option to be announced by the Government in March:

- Southend-on-Sea City Council, along with nine district, borough and city councils, has put forward a plan for five unitary councils.
- Thurrock Council's proposals focus on dividing Greater Essex into four new unitary councils.
- Rochford Council has put forward a different proposal for a four unitary councils model.
- Essex County Council, along Epping Forest District Council and one other district council, is proposing a configuration of three new unitary councils.

If reorganisation of local government in Essex proceeds, in May 2028 there will be elections for a Mayor heading a new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). The MCCA would be responsible for such areas as transport and local infrastructure, skills and employment support, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, environment and climate change, health, wellbeing and public service reform, and public safety.

The MCCA would also become the fire authority for Greater Essex, and the Mayor of Greater Essex would become the police and crime commissioner for Essex Police.

Our thanks to all the residents who support LRA

Police update

During December 2025 the police in our district:

- Helped to find 40 people who were reported missing and helped them to get the support they needed.
- Investigated 73 reports of antisocial behaviour, having listened to local communities about their concerns.
- Attended 62 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- Investigated 189 reports of domestic violence incidents, and made sure victims were given help, support, and advice, and put them in contact with relevant organisations where appropriate.
- Solved 115 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- Submitted 465 pieces of intelligence, which assists them in targeting criminal activity in our community.

Additional patrols on The Broadway

The Broadway has experienced a resurgence of Anti-Social Behaviour, so additional patrols will be carried out in the area. CCTV has identified individuals believed to be students from nearby educational institutions. Officers are working jointly with police, support services, and local colleges to address the issue.

Safer Streets at Oakwood Hill

A year-long initiative to improve safety, wellbeing, and the environment on the Oakwood Hill estate has officially concluded. The project was launched in July 2024 and was shaped by consultation with residents, Cllrs, third-sector organisations, and statutory bodies. Residents were engaged to identify key concerns, including drug dealing, aggressive dogs, poor lighting, lack of CCTV, and dog fouling. The key achievements were enhanced security, improved lighting, environmental enhancements, improved waste management, and youth engagement and education.

Helping people and their pets through frailty and illness

In the past year, more than 156,000 owners and 158,000 beloved companions across the UK have been supported by The Cinnamon Trust; the only national charity helping older people and the terminally ill care for their pets.



Source: The Cinnamon Trust

With the help of over 20,000 compassionate volunteers across the country, including in Loughton, they support owners with tasks such as dog walking, cat brushing, cleaning litter trays, and offering short-term foster care during an owner's hospital stay.

Besides the practical support, the charity also offers a Pet Profiling service, allowing all pet owners a chance to plan ahead for their pet's forever care for when they can no longer be there. They welcome all pets, from dogs and cats, to sheep, tortoises, ducks and alpacas. They never use kennels or catteries, and all pets are cared for in either one of their two sanctuaries or in a carefully chosen forever foster home.

To find out more, please visit www.cinnamon.org.uk, speak to a friendly team member by calling 01736 757 900, or email hello@cinnamon.org.uk

Counterfeit banknotes reported

The police have had reports of counterfeit Scottish bank notes circulating in the district.

You can check the authenticity of bank notes using the Bank of England or Bank of Scotland websites. If you are given fake bank notes, report it to police by calling 101 or reporting it online.

Contacting LRA

Councillors key: D = District T = Town		Membership: membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk Laura Blake, 9 Woodbury Hill, Loughton IG10 1JB 07968 174388	
		Enquiries: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or call 020 8508 2361	
Loughton Fairmead District Area LRA Cllrs Louise Mead (D) Goldings Road 07746 875952 Arash Ardakani (D) Shelley Grove 020 8257 0230 Will Kauffman (D) The Greens Close 07799 148740 Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens 07817 230372 Neil MacKinnon (T) Barncroft Close 07872 324028 Ceejay Ubah (T) Barrington Road 07983 535992 Ruth Sylvan (T) Englands Lane 07958 813014 Sebastian Fontenelle (T) Etheridge Rd 07898906371		County: Loughton (Central) Chris Pond Staples Road 020 8508 2361 Loughton St John's District Area LRA Cllrs Chris Pond (D&T) Staples Road 020 8508 2361 Howard Kauffman (D) Church Lane 020 8508 1098 Graham Wiskin (D) Traps Hill 020 8925 2003 Stephen Harriman (T) High Road 07740 409374 Michael Owen (T) Baldwins Hill 07467 430145 Ian Allgood (T) Joyce Obaseki (T) Whitehills Road 020 3004 7286	
Loughton Forest District Area LRA Cllrs Ian Allgood (D) Michael Owen (D) Baldwins Hill 07467 430145 Roger Baldwin (D) Burney Drive 020 8281 5488 Jon Riley (T) Albion Park 020 8508 6604 Kin-Wan Lee (T) Meadow Road 07940 807483 Stella Murphy (T) High View Close 020 8508 2794 Raj Minhas (T) Alderton Hall Lane 07889 121518 Wendy Dodd (T) Deepdene Road 07871 964682		Loughton Roding District Area LRA Cllrs Chidi Nweke (D) Hillcroft 07403 489455 Sheree Rackham (D) Hillcroft 07722 511107 Katie Valentine (T) Habgood Road 07477 012213 Les House (T) Avondale Drive 020 8508 3369 Alan Fricker (T) Stonards Hill 07508 332342 Mick Stubbings (T) Greenfields 07766 480522	
Loughton Whitebridge & Buckhurst Hil East Area LRA Cllrs Barbara Cohen (D) Church Lane 020 8502 3242 Rose Brookes (D&T) Lower Park Rd 07391 879412 David Wixley (T) The Meadway 020 8418 9284		Committee Anne Harriman 020 8502 1779 John Walker 07779 338868 Judith Walker 07855 265835 Mark Dalton 07719 736901 Martine Groman-Marks Philip Abraham 020 8502 2925 Steve Eaton 020 8923 0065 Tessa Cochrane 020 3643 7492	
Secretary: Vacancy - Please apply 020 8508 4457 Treasurer: Miriam Murphy 07966 177961		Loughton Life Editor: Eva Blasco 020 8923 0065 Minutes Secretary: Susan Creevy	

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 LRAPG, how to get more information using the application and reference 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.

New Oak Lodge, Englands Lane

This application proposes the erection of a new house and associated works to provide access, parking, and landscaping. This also includes the refurbishment and repair of Grade II listed gates and piers.

This is the old Debden Hall site which has been the subject of many applications, including an application in 2024 where LRAPG raised several concerns and which was subsequently refused permission by the District Council.

LRAPG has welcomed the reduction in height and bulk of the revised scheme in the latest application which will significantly limit its visibility. LRAPG have also asked for a condition removing permitted development rights for further extensions.

Reference EPF/2116/25. The consultation ended 27th February

Land at Whitakers Way to the rear of 47-49 Baldwins Hill

This application proposes the erection of a 2-storey, three-bedroom, self-build detached dwelling.

This planning application has attracted significant objections from nearby residents. LPRPG has also objected on the grounds the new dwelling will be extremely detrimental to the visual amenity of this part of the Baldwins Hill Conservation Area. Shoehorning in a three-bedroom dwelling into this woodland space, which acts as a green relief between the houses on Baldwins Hill and those on Whitakers Way, will significantly harm this part of the Conservation Area. The setting of Monkwood Cottage, which is identified as a key building of townscape merit in the council's conservation audit, will also be heavily compromised.

Whitakers Way is narrow and heavily congested, particularly with traffic generated by Woodcroft School and the Loughton Potato Ground. Any proposal that leads to more cars is unacceptable in this location. LRAPG also objects to the impact of the new building on the properties in Baldwins Hill. Overall, this is inappropriate backland garden grabbing, and planning permission should be refused.

Reference EPF/0086/26

Roding Valley Recreational Ground changing rooms

The changing rooms have been derelict for some time, and the Town Council had been exploring options for the building. A basic refurbishing had an estimated cost of £435,000, which was a substantial amount and would have been difficult to raise.

The Town Council has now agreed to move forward with demolishing the changing rooms.

Parking on Borders Lane

A recent site meeting was prompted by complaints from residents about cars parking indiscriminately on the grass verges from 26 to 54 Borders Lane, causing damage to the grass and footpaths. Witnessing the extent of the damage first-hand was eye-opening, as it is unsightly and impacts the safe use of footpaths, particularly due to the recent wet weather.

During the productive discussion, several key points were raised regarding the parking situation and possible parking restrictions. LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke agreed with the District Council that the green space needs to be protected. Chidi, however, advocated for disabled residents, as any parking restriction in this area would have an impact on them, and suggested that the following two steps must be taken before any parking restrictions can be implemented in this location:

- Council Officers engage with residents living at 6 to 54 Borders Lane to identify how many Blue Badge holders or residents need to park close to their properties due to health reasons reside in this area.
- Consider the possibility of providing designated parking spaces near these properties, similar to the disabled parking space recently established in Deepdene Road.

As a result, Officers have now written to all households that may be affected by these changes, asking residents with accessibility needs to contact the Council. It is crucial for residents to take this opportunity to voice their needs to avoid any negative impacts from proposed parking restrictions. More information on parking concerns in this local area can be found on our website.



Essex waste no longer sent to landfills

General rubbish collected from Essex households is now being treated at Rivenhall, an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant near Braintree. This is a major milestone in delivering the Waste Strategy for Essex. One of the key targets was to stop using landfills by 2030, so the target has been met five years early.

Sending rubbish to landfill is the worst thing for waste, as it breaks down slowly and emits gases which are harmful to the environment.

Council Tax paperless billing

If you pay Council Tax and the District Council has your email address, you will soon be switched to receive bills by email. The Council will be sending emails to such residents confirming the switch.

You can continue to receive Council Tax bills in the post as normal, but you will need to opt out by using the 'Unsubscribe from these emails' button in the email before the deadline date given, otherwise the Council will assume that you have given permission to send future Council Tax bills by email.

Find us at www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

Fly-tip in the Forest

One of the largest fly-tips in the Forest was found in January at Long Running, a site which is very near to a scheduled ancient monument and is protected with both a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation.

The cost of clearing the fly-tip has run into thousands of pounds. Staff worked swiftly to clear the site within 24 hours, removing the waste from this much-loved area of historic ancient heathland and woodland, helping to protect wildlife and public access. The Enforcement team will continue to investigate this incident and always pursues prosecution wherever possible.

Deepdene Road fly-tipping

Recently, while LRA Chidi Nweke was out and about engaging with residents in his ward, he came across a concerning sight; a large amount of waste dumped on Deepdene Road, spilling onto the footpath beside 96 Deepdene Road. This mess included both bagged waste and loose items.

Upon closer inspection, he found an address label suggesting that the waste had been carelessly discarded by a local business. Recognising the seriousness of fly-tipping, an action that harms our environment and affects our community's quality of life, he acted quickly and reported it to the District Council to ensure the waste would be removed promptly. He also took photos of the address labels and contacted the Council's environmental team to request a thorough investigation into how this waste ended up in our area.

Chidi has now been told that the Waste and Environmental Team at the District Council is currently handling this case and will keep him updated on its progress.

It's important for businesses to be aware of their responsibilities regarding waste disposal. Every business needs to arrange for their waste to be collected by a registered waste carrier. Unlike household waste, business waste collection is not covered by business rates, so separate arrangements must be made. Fly-tipping is a serious offence, and the District Council is committed to investigating and taking action against any business that breaks the law in this regard.

Fly-tipping creates significant problems for our community. It not only makes our neighbourhood look unsightly but also poses health risks and can lead to higher costs for local authorities, diverting funds away from essential services. We all have a role to play in keeping our surroundings clean and safe, so report fly-tipping. Together, we can keep our community beautiful and thriving.



Delivering for our community

LRA is all about action, not words.

Here's a reminder of just some of our councillors' successes.

- ✓ Jessel Drive rough road patch reported and temporarily repaired whilst awaiting permanent repair.
- ✓ Eight cars causing obstruction reported and removed from Greensted Road by Council's Environmental Enforcement team.
- ✓ Fly-tipping and potholes in Buckhurst Hill East reported.
- ✓ Pavement repairs in The Drive, Marjorams Avenue and the High Road reported and carried out.
- ✓ Weeds reported in Rous Road, Buckhurst Hill, and cleared by Biffa.
- ✓ Broken jockey rails around the green space in Alderton Hall Lane reported and repaired.
- ✓ Noise reported, and peace and quiet restored for a family in Oakwood Hill Estate after nearly three years of disrupted peace.
- ✓ Fallen bollards on Connaught Avenue reported and returned to upright position.
- ✓ Overflowing communal bins reported and cleared, and cross-contamination removed.
- ✓ Overhanging tree branches on Whitebridge Primary School land reported and pruned.
- ✓ Wayward trolley reported and removed from Loughton Brook.
- ✓ Weeds and dirt reported and removed in Lower Queens Road.
- ✓ Replacement Heritage lamp column reported and cut down to correct height in alignment with others.
- ✓ Estate agent boards reported and removed from public land on Oakwood Hill.
- ✓ Streetlights reported, and light restored on Great Eastern Path after 3 weeks in the dark.

We can only do these things because of residents like you that vote us in. Your vote means that we can continue working for you and our community.

Loughton Residents Association

Making Loughton an even better place to live and work

- ✓ First LRA County Councillor elected 1981
 - ✓ First LRA District Councillor elected 1982
 - ✓ First LRA Town Councillor elected 1996
 - ✓ Majority held on Town Council since 2004
- Vote for the party of choice for residents**



We want what you want

