



LRA's Loughton News

13 February 2026

In this issue, read about [changes to food and garden waste collections from 31 March](#).

The District Council is moving forward with [paperless billing of Council Tax](#), so if they have your email address watch out for an email on the subject.

In the Forest, read about [one of the largest fly-tips found](#), [gate numbers](#), and [building of leaky dams](#).

[With local elections now confirmed for May](#), it's time to think about applying for postal voting and making sure you (and anyone you know) are registered to vote. This year there are some changes to the names and boundaries of local wards, and LRA will continue to stand candidates in Loughton wards.

Thank you for being part of LRA. Can you please help us by [making sure your membership is paid](#) up for 2026 (and thank you if you have already paid).

You can contact us by emailing contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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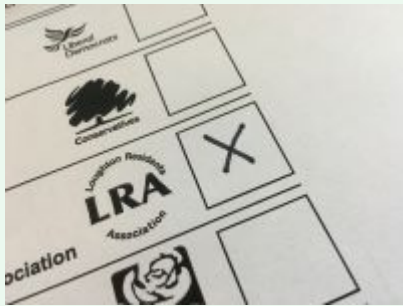
[Links not working? Read the online version](#)

LRA News

May local elections

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

18 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.

As an LRA member, we assume you will be registered to vote. However if you know of anyone who isn't, please encourage them to [register to vote here](#). In the meantime, consider registering for Postal Voting (if you have not already done so).

Postal Voting is safe, secure and the most convenient method where you vote at home. Ballot papers are posted to you about 10 days before election day. You mark your choices and simply post the ballot papers back in the prepaid envelope. [More](#)

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. However Chidi 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:

1. Council Officers to 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.
2. 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 background](#) on parking concerns in this local area on our website.

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 here](#). Together, we can keep our community beautiful and thriving.

Your LRA Membership for 2026

We would like to thank all our members who have already renewed their membership for 2026. This helps us continue our work to make Loughton a better place to live and work.

If you have not renewed, you can pay by bank transfer or cheque. Membership is only £5. [Here is how to renew](#).

Planning and Licensing

[Read more on our website](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information and how to comment to the Town Council and the District Council, and to the LRA Plans Group – please have your say.

You can [download the most recent week's applications here](#) or [search for planning applications here](#).

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](#) (PDF) by the District Council.



Previously Refused East Elevation



Now Proposed East Elevation

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

Reference [EPF/2116/25](#). The consultation ends 27 February.

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

This application proposed 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. LAPG 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](#). The consultation ended 10 February but you can still comment to the Council.

The Gardeners Arms pub, York Hill

Following discussions last year about a planning application made by the pub, the LRA Plans Group has [received this letter](#) (PDF) from the licensee.

The Group note the contents of the letter; however, the Group confirms that in past years it has requested a licence review a number of times, for example as per [this email to the Council](#) on 24 April 2025.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned road closures and notable road works

Dates and details can change so [check here for the latest updates](#), and for other planned roadworks including ones that involve only temporary traffic lights.

Remember closures and road works can still happen without prior notice.

- Valley Hill/Oakwood Hill/Roding Road - the traffic signals will be upgraded, with works due to start on 14 February and expected to take five weeks to complete.

These works will be carried out overnight between 7pm and 5am to limit the impact on local businesses and road users. Temporary multi-way traffic signals will be necessary for the duration and will incorporate temporary signalised pedestrian crossings. [More](#) and [more](#)



Roding Road will also be closed during the same dates from 5pm to 5am, from the junction of Valley Hill for 15m towards the Recreation Ground. [More](#)

- Albert Road - the road will be closed from the junction of Elm Close to the junction of Cedar Close on 19 February from 7pm to 11pm for sewer cover replacement works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Borders Lane service road - the road outside the parade of shops will be reconstructed by the County Council from 23 February for around one month. This will include repairing and rebuilding parts of the road and pavement, replacing damaged kerbs, installing new low timber fencing, and improving the grass verge areas. [More](#)

There will be an initial closure of the road where it meets the junction of Colson Road for about four days which will prevent vehicle access from Colson Road. The road will only be able to be accessed via Deepdene Road. After this initial closure, normal one-way flow will resume while works continue.

- [Spareleaze Hill](#) and [Tycehurst Hill](#) - permits have been granted to close a north east section of Spareleaze Hill, and a short section of Tycehurst Hill near the intersection with Spareleaze Hill from 9 March for three months for works by Thames Water. These seem very long closures; they could change. Check the links for the latest updates.
- [Queens Road](#), [Kings Hill](#), [Woodbury Hill](#), [Wallers Hoppet](#) - permits have been granted to close these roads for an extended period from March/April for works by Thames Water. These seem very long closures; they could change. Check the links for the latest updates.

Police, Fire and Crime

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 putting 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.



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 [online](#)

Additional patrols on The Broadway

The Broadway has experienced a resurgence of Anti-Social Behavior, 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.

Protect your property

Property fraud is when a person pretends to be you and uses your stolen identity details to mortgage or even sell your land, house or business premises. Properties most at risk are those that are rented out, empty or mortgage-free.

Thankfully, this kind of fraud is rare, but if you're a property owner it's worth taking the simple steps below to make sure it doesn't happen to you. Undoing the damage after you've been a victim can be time-consuming, costly and stressful. You should:

- register your land or property with the [Land Registry](#).
- keep your contact details up to date.
- sign up to receive alerts if someone applies to change the register of your property.
- put a restriction on your property so no activity will be allowed until a solicitor or conveyancer confirms it's been made by you.

More from the police

- More from the police for [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to December 2025.

- Some items we report on come from the Dispatch Newsletter from Essex Police. You can [subscribe here for free](#) (choose the Epping Forest edition).
- There are regular events in [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) with the police locally. Just drop in, no booking required. [All future events are listed here](#).



Council News



Charging for garden waste collections and new food caddies

The existing green-lidded bin will be for garden waste only from 31 March with a charge of £60 per year to pay for collection. Once paid, a permit sticker for the green-lidded bin will be provided that shows your address and a unique reference number. Garden waste bins without a corresponding permit will not be collected. [More and how to sign up](#).

Also from 31 March, food waste will be collected separately (for free) in a new brown kerbside caddy, and residents will also be provided a kitchen caddy for scraps indoors. [More](#)



Don't start using your new brown kerbside caddy until the new waste changes come into place from 31 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 here](#). There was an initial shortage of bins after last year's rollout.

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.

Roding Valley Cricket Club

Work continues on the new junior cricket pitch but disposal of waste earth being displaced near hedgerows on the perimeter of the Recreation Ground has been reported. The Town Clerk will reiterate to the club that this is unacceptable.

A concern has been raised by a local resident about the health and safety issues this pitch could cause to other users of Cricket Club regarding cricket balls, however the area is intended for all users including sports activities.

Play in the Park

There will be a continuation of Play in the Park this year, with eight sessions (two in the Easter holidays and six in the summer holidays) split between Jessel Green and Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

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. [More](#)

Local Bus Consultation outcome

The County Council has now published the outcome of the Local Bus Consultation 2025, which reviewed 41 supported local bus services across the County with contracts due to expire in July 2026. [More](#)

The only service in our area that has been affected is the bus 17/17A service that will have some early/late journeys removed due to the absence of high levels of usage ([More](#), p2, PDF)

Bus use survey - Have your say

Fewer people are using concessionary bus passes than in the past. These passes allow people aged 66 or over, and those with certain disabilities, to travel free on buses between 9am and midnight on weekdays, and all day at weekends. The County Council wants to understand what is stopping people from using the bus and what changes could help encourage more people to travel this way. If you are over 66, or living with a disability, please complete the survey.

[More](#). The consultation closes 2 March.

Economic development strategy - Have your say

The District Council is consulting on a new economic development strategy for 2026 to 2029, which sets out the vision with a robust and meaningful plan to invest time, resources and funding to take advantage of the opportunities that will arise through the establishment of a mayoral authority for Essex and local government reorganisation.

[More](#). The consultation closes 19 March.



Warm places

Warm places help people during winter months and provide a warm, safe and welcoming place for people to spend time in. Most host activities, offer free food and drinks, and some have free wi-fi. Local warm places are Debden Library, New City

College, Loughton Library and the Oakwood Hill Community Centre and Community Hub. [More details on these locations here.](#)

What's On in Epping Forest?

The District Council has published details of activities, events, exhibitions and workshops from November to April. [More](#) (PDF)



Local News

Local library events

[You can see upcoming events at Loughton and Debden libraries here.](#) More about the libraries at [Loughton](#) and [Debden](#). At Loughton Library there is:

- 18, 25 February, and 4 March - BookTrust Storytime sessions, where a new BookTrust book will be shared each week and encouraging parents/carers to vote for their favourite. No booking required. [More](#)
- 20, 27 February, and 6 March - Digital Support Sessions - Book a session with a Computer Support Volunteer for help with your own device such as laptop, tablet or phone, or log onto one of our library computers. [More](#)
- 20, 27 February, and 6 March - Community Tea and Chat - Enjoy a free tea, coffee and biscuits and chat with people in your local community, or simply relax in a friendly environment. No booking required. [More](#)
- 14 February - Valentine's Day Card Making - Come along to make a Valentine's Day Card. No booking required. [More](#)
- 17 February - Citizens Advice Signposting Drop-In - Visit for advice, information, and signposting to the appropriate Citizens Advice services to guide you in the right direction. No booking required. [More](#)
- 24 February - Specialist Employment Support - Come and chat to Employ-Ability, a specialist employment support charity working with people experiencing mental ill health. No booking required. [More](#)



Health and Wellbeing

Community mental health services - Have your say

If you have used, or have supported someone using, community mental health services in Essex then the NHS wants to hear from you. The feedback you share will help create a new service for the whole of Essex, that is informed by your lived experience.

[More](#). The survey closes 18 February.

Public meeting on hospital developments

The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (PAHT) is running a public meeting where senior leaders will share updates on the future of local healthcare and key service developments. The event will take place on Thursday 26 February, from 6pm at Epping Hall in St John's Road, Epping. Attendance is free. [More](#)

Epping Forest

A new home for EFHT?

The Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT) needs a new home, after being generously housed by the City of London Corporation in Warren Lodge for the last 48 years.

EFHT sees this change as an opportunity to help deliver its strategy and drive more engagement with the general public, ideally staying close to the Forest and being closer to public transport.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions about potential premises, let them know. [More](#)



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.

Calving of the cattle

There has been a bumper calving season for the Forest's herd of English Longhorn cattle, with an impressive 38 calves having been born. The calving has been expertly overseen by the Forest's Conservation Herd Manager, Graham Roberts, who has achieved a remarkable milestone; a 100% calving success rate. This is the first time the Forest has reached this achievement, with every pregnant cow that returned over winter to the farm for calving, delivering successfully and all calves surviving. [Read more in Forest Focus](#)

Gate numbers

Have you ever noticed the small numbers fixed to many of the larger gates in and around the Forest? They're easy to overlook, yet they quietly tell the story of a landscape that stretches far wider than most people realise.



There are currently 240 numbered gates, spanning the length and breadth of the Forest, from Gate 1 at Rye Hill, north-west of Epping abutting the Harlow boundary, all the way down to gates tucked into the Forest's southern reaches, where ancient wood-pasture forms a wedge of green, deep into east London. Each number is paired with a simple location name, creating a network of identifiable access points across miles of green space.

Far from being just an administrative detail, the gate numbers play an important role. They help staff, contractors and emergency services pinpoint exact locations quickly and accurately. For visitors, they can also offer quiet reassurance, a reminder that even when you're deep among the trees, the Forest is carefully looked after, mapped and understood. Next time you pass through a gate, take a moment to spot the number; it's a small detail with a big job.

Leaky dams and conservation volunteering dates

The Epping Forest Heritage Trust continues to run regular Thursday Green Team conservation volunteering sessions and will also be supporting the City of London Corporation to build more Leaky Dams, as part of their project to slow down water in the Forest.

Leaky Dams are made of natural woody materials, laid in streams and ditches, as a way of natural flood management to intercept, slow down and divert flood waters. They can help store water in the Forest and limit the effect of drought and heat stress on trees and vegetation, while also reducing the risk of wildfires. They can also increase resilience and biodiversity by protecting tree root systems from heavy rainfall and creating new microhabitats, such as temporary water pools and wet grassland.

[More about hands-on conservation volunteering days.](#)

Upcoming guided walks

Walks include Family friendly birdwatching walk, A Forest walk after dark and Wintry Wood - spring awakening. [More](#). Booking required.

Forest Focus - January

Some items here come from Forest Focus. The edition for [January](#) has lots more interesting articles. You can [subscribe here for free](#).



And More

TV Licence

The [cost of a TV licence will be going up again](#) from 1 April. However, you may be able to [get a free or discounted TV Licence](#) if you're 75 or over and get Pension Credit, or if you're blind or in residential care.

Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 6 March.
Regular news emails are issued every 3-4 weeks and special news emails occasionally.

To contact us, email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

To update your membership details, email membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

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