



LRA's Loughton News

15 May 2026

In this issue we thank you for your support in the recent local elections with [a message to all LRA members](#), and let you know [what the results mean for our local councils](#).

There's [an update on all the road closures](#) for Thames Water's mains replacement project, the Town Council is asking for [businesses to support the upcoming Jessel Green Fun Day](#), and [the latest Think Loughton magazine is out](#).

We're still looking for help with delivery of Loughton Life. [Can you help?](#)

Thank you for being part of LRA. You can contact us by emailing contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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LRA News

A message from Cllr Chidi Nweke, Leader of LRA

Dear LRA Members,

I wanted to take a moment, following the recent elections, to thank every one of you for your support, hard work, encouragement and commitment to the Loughton Residents Association.

Thanks to the efforts of our candidates, volunteers, members and supporters, we were able to retain our District Council seats in **Loughton Forest, Loughton Roding and Loughton St John's wards**. This is something we should be proud of, especially in what was a very difficult and unpredictable election.

However, we must also be honest about the reality we now face. Sadly, we lost **Loughton Fairmead ward** at District Council level to Reform. We also did not win

the two County Council seats that represent Loughton at Essex County Council. ([Detailed results are here](#))

It is deeply disappointing to see hardworking, dedicated and well-known LRA members such as **Chris Pond** not returned to the County Council and **David Wixley** not getting elected to the District Council. Both have given so much to our community over many years, and their commitment to Loughton is beyond question. Chris remains both a District and Town Councillor and David a Town Cllr and we are grateful that they will continue to serve our community in those roles.

While these results are painful, they have strengthened our resolve. We must now come together, work harder, listen more closely, and rebuild support across all parts of Loughton. Our focus must be on reconnecting with residents, understanding their concerns, and showing clearly that the LRA remains the strongest local voice for our town.

I am truly grateful for all the support given so far, but we now need to double down. We must organise, campaign and communicate better than ever before if we are to regain the trust and support of residents and recover these seats at the next election in **May 2027**.

The rise of divisive politics and misinformation makes our role even more important. As a residents' association, we are not driven by national party politics. We are here for Loughton, for our residents, and for the issues that matter most to our community.

I would therefore encourage all members to become more active where possible. Whether through volunteering, delivering leaflets, attending meetings, speaking to neighbours, helping with communications, or encouraging others to join as paying members, every contribution matters.

This is a wake-up call, but it is also an opportunity. If we stay united, focused and rooted in our community, I am confident we can rebuild, recover and come back stronger.

Thank you once again for everything you do for the LRA and for Loughton.

What do the election results mean for our local Councils?

For the **County Council**, LRA no longer has representation. Also the Conservatives have lost their majority to Reform who now control the Council and have a majority as large as the previous conservative one. [More](#).

For the **District Council**, there were 18 seats up for election this year out of a total of 54. LRA stood for the four Loughton seats and held three. LRA now has 12 seats, the Conservatives 19 seats, Reform 12 seats, the Liberal Democrats 6 seats and others have five seats. No one party has a majority. Going forward separate parties will need to work together to get anything done, and the LRA District Cllr group has already considered this point and discussions have started.

However this situation is likely to be short-lived as the plan for [Local Government Reorganisation](#) means that the County Council and District Council will cease to be after 1 April 2028, and replaced by five new councils covering separate areas of Essex. For our area Epping Forest District Council will be absorbed into a new West Essex council which will also include the current local government areas of Harlow and Uttlesford. Elections to these new councils will take place in May 2027.

For the **Town Council**, there were no elections this year, so LRA retains its 21 (out of 22) Town Cllrs with the next elections in 2028.

Can you help deliver Loughton Life, please?

We are still looking for help to fill in the gaps where we no longer have permanent deliverers. They are:



- **Alderton ward** - Monksgrove, Highwood Lane, Longcroft Rise, Marlescroft Way, Bushfields.
- **Broadway ward** – Barrington Close, Barrington Green, Barrington Road, Doubleday Road; Etheridge Green, Etheridge Road, Westall Road, Sandford Avenue, Kingsley Road, Lytton Close, Torrington Drive, Torrington Gardens.
- **Fairmead ward** – Swanshope, Englands Lane, Pyrles Lane, Pyrles Green, Honey Tree Court, Appleton Road, Conyers Way, Etheridge Road, Prescott Green, Foxley Close, Westall Road.
- **St. Mary's ward** – Clifton Road, Forest Road, Hatfields, Newmans Close, Newmans Lane, Newpiece.
- **Roding ward** – Cranleigh Gardens, Drayton Avenue, Elmhurst Way, Malvern Gardens, Roydon Close, Roding Road, Valley Close, Valley Hill, Greensted Road, Sutton Close, Nevill Way.

Can you help with one or more of these roads? If you or someone you know can help in these areas, please email Mark Dalton at dalton.m.k@btinternet.com

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](#).



295-309 High Road (opposite the Methodist Church)

The application proposes a roof extension to provide an additional floor of residential accommodation comprising four flats, associated amenity space and a new extension of existing staircase and additional escape staircase. This is a resubmission of application [EPF/3294/21](#).

LRAPG has objected to this application on parking grounds. The building currently comprises 15 residential dwellings at the upper floors and, according to the application form, has no parking. Council policy requires eight additional parking spaces, but the applicant proposes no parking. The application claims it will be car free but this cannot be guaranteed without a legal agreement to prevent the occupiers from owning cars and even this is almost impossible to monitor and enforce.

LRAPG considers the suggestion by the County Council to ask for 6 one day travel vouchers is a joke. The parking restrictions won't stop residents from owning cars and parking them further away. The applicant should provide parking spaces to make the application acceptable.

[EPF/0651/26](#). The formal deadline for comments was 6 May, but you can still comment to the Council.

The Last Post, 227 High Road

LRAPG has been approached regarding works taking place at the Last Post without the benefit of planning permission. For the avoidance of doubt [the vacant pub was granted planning permission](#) last year by the council for a change of use from a pub with food to a shared space comprising health and wellbeing services, retail, a café on the ground floor and offices on the first floor, with partial removal of existing rear buildings and all services to be replaced with a new extension to the rear.



The Avenue Lawn Tennis Club

This application proposes the installation of lighting to Tennis Court No1 at 18 The Avenue. This is a revised application to [EPF/0659/24](#).

LRAPG are disappointed the Tennis Club has applied yet again to floodlight this court despite promising not to in the past. LRAPG consider the noise report is based on ambient noise levels and no readings have been taken from the affected windows. The fact is neighbours will be disturbed with no respite in the winter when court can only be used during daylight hours. Using the floodlights will be detrimental to the amenity of surrounding residents by reason of noise and general disturbance by the increased use of the courts and overlooking onto a floodlit area. When the tennis club received planning permission to replace lighting on the existing courts under planning application [EPF/1744/20](#) it stated [in writing](#) (PDF);

"Tennis Court No1 - In order to allay concerns from residents adjacent to Court No1 who raised concerns about lighting trespass onto their properties, the club has decided not to light Court No1 now or in the future."

LRAPG considers it is a shame the club **cannot** be trusted to carry out its own promises; it cannot be trusted in the future either to ensure the floodlighting will not spill into neighbouring windows due to lack of maintenance etc. LRAPG also considers the lights should be conditioned to restrict their use to be used only between dusk and 10pm and the Council insists on no paddle tennis.

[EPF/0831/26](#). The formal deadline for comments is 19 May.

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.

- Extensive works by Thames Water are affecting several roads for an extended period, including [Kings Hill](#), [Woodbury Hill](#), [Queens Road](#), [Forest Road](#) (until 26 May), [Sparelease Hill](#), and [Hillcroft](#). Further works are planned from 25 May for [Wellfields](#) and the side road alongside [Rectory Lane](#). [See our news item below for more details](#).

Forest Road - the road will also be until 26 May from a point approximately 230m south-east of its junction with Shaftesbury for a distance of approximately 30m in a south-easterly direction for sewer repair works by Thames Water. [More](#)

- Jessel Drive - the road will be closed 26 to 29 May between 9am and 3:30pm for road patching. [More](#)
- Valley Hill and Roding Road - the road will be closed 20 to 23 May between 8pm and 5am for road resurfacing. [More](#) and [More](#)
- Manor Road - the road will be closed 3 to 5 June between 8pm and 5am for works by Essex Highways. [More](#)



On Street Parking on Bank Holidays

Remember that NEPP wardens now work on Bank Holidays. Unless the sign says that charges don't apply, they do.

Tube strike next week

Planned strike action by RMT Tube drivers affecting all Tube services will take place between Tuesday 19 and Friday 22 May. A service is expected on most Tube lines. However, there will be disruption to journeys and service levels will vary throughout the week. [More](#)



Central Line part closure this weekend

Tonight (15 May) and overnight there is no Friday Night Tube service between Marble Arch and Woodford/Newbury Park (via Redbridge).

On Saturday and Sunday 16-17 May there is no service between Marble Arch and Leytonstone, including during the Saturday Night Tube.

You can [check all closures for six months ahead here](#) (PDF)

Police, Fire and Crime

Man charged after armed arrest

A man has been charged with a series of offences after being arrested by armed officers in Loughton. It comes as part of an ongoing investigation by our serious and organised crime unit into the supply of Class A drugs in Essex.



The arrest was carried out on 29 April as part of a strike co-ordinated by armed officers in Alderton Hill. Searches were then carried out in a vehicle in which the man was travelling and his home address. Among the items seized were a handgun, ammunition, four blades, significant quantities of Class A drugs, cash as well as a number of electronic devices.

The man has been charged with offences linked to firearms, weapons, drug supply and criminal property. He has appeared in court and is being kept in prison until his next hearing later this month. Three other people were also arrested as part of the operation and have since been released on bail while enquiries continue. [More](#)



Knife crime down in Essex

The police report that knife crime in Essex has fallen by more than 15% over the past year, with 858 serious violence incidents involving knives recorded compared with 1,021 the previous year.

This reduction reflects targeted patrols in high-risk locations, alongside work with partners to identify and support young people who may be at risk of carrying knives.

Superintendent Neal Miller said every offence prevented is “potentially a life saved,” adding that while the progress is encouraging, we remain determined to do more to keep Essex communities safe. [More](#)

Why do criminals use gift cards in scams?

Once they have the gift card number and PIN, the money can be spent instantly. There's no buyer protection, no refund and it's extremely difficult to trace. Protect yourself by:

- Only buying gift cards for people you genuinely know
- Never sharing gift card numbers or PINs with anyone
- If something feels off, stop, pause and double check

More from the police

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

- 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 events in [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) with the police locally. Just drop in, no booking required. [All future events are listed here](#).



Council News

Jessel Green Fun Day Sunday 28 June

The Town Council is grateful to local businesses who are already supporting the Jessel Green Fun Day. They are still welcoming support. If your business would like to get involved, they would love to hear from you by email at contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk or phone 020 8508 4200.

Think Loughton - Latest Edition

The latest edition from the Town Council is being distributed. You can [read it online here](#).



What's on in our district

The District Council have published their What's On in Epping Forest brochure, with activities, events and workshops for May to October. More ([PDF](#))

Local News

Thames Water upgrade works

Thames Water have updated [their list of roads that will be affected](#) by their project to replace 19km of water mains pipes across Loughton. The project will [run for three](#)



[years and cost £30 million.](#)

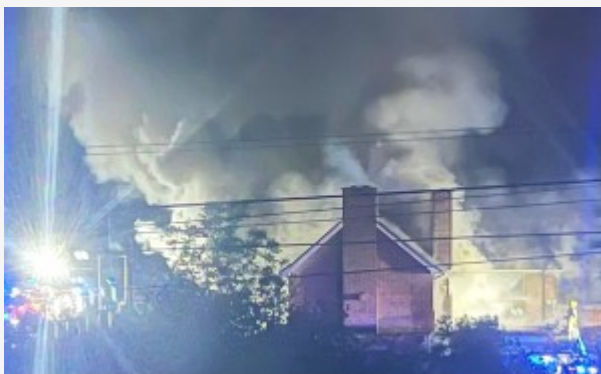
Works will generally take place Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, and on Saturdays 8am to 6pm if required. Access will be maintained for residents, businesses and emergency services throughout the works. [Thames Water provide more information on roads that will be affected and how traffic will be managed here.](#) If you have any questions, you can call Thames Water on 0800 316 9800 (select option 2 and quote BB01434794). Alternatively, you can speak to the manager on site.

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:



- 20, 27 May and 3 June - Citizens Advice - Visit for advice, information, and signposting to the appropriate Citizens Advice services to guide you in the right direction. No booking required. [More](#)
- 22, 29 May and 5 June - Seated Exercise - this exercise boosts strength, flexibility, and mobility, empowering our community to stay active, independent while having fun and making new friends while exercising. Booking advised as spaces are limited, but walk ins are welcomed. [More](#)
- 22 May - Digital Support Session - 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 the library computers. Booking required. [More](#)
- 19 May - Home Instead Epping Forest will be offering advice about dementia in an informal setting. No booking required. [More](#)
- 26 May - 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](#)
- 29 May - Half term crafts - Come along to Loughton Library and enjoy some crafts over half term. No booking required. [More](#)
- 29 May - Bookmark Making - Come along to Loughton Library for a fun bookmark-making activity. No booking required. [More](#)



Princess of Wales, Westall Road

The fire service extinguished a fire at the derelict pub on 7 May, having been called to the scene at 1:54am. Crews from Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Harlow (two) initially attended, with an aerial ladder platform from Grays and relief crews from Orsett and Brentwood also in attendance.

An investigation will be carried out to establish the cause. [More](#)

Last year the District Council granted planning permission for 15 homes on the site. LRAPG, the Town Council and LRA Cllrs had raised objections to the proposal.

However the application was approved by the Committee, which had a Conservative majority.

Health and Wellbeing

Checking your health

By having some routine health tests, you can spot any problems in the early stages when they're easier to treat. The NHS offers a series of health tests which include blood pressure, cholesterol, bowel cancer and breast screening. You are automatically invited to these, typically when you reach a certain age. [More](#)

The NHS also offer a Health Check of your overall health every five years between 40 and 74 years of age. It can tell you whether you're at higher risk of getting certain health problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and stroke. [More](#)

Even if you feel well, it's best to check and all these tests are free from the NHS. If you think you're eligible and have not been invited, contact your GP practice.

Help with mental health and wellbeing

Feeling low, stressed, or worried is common. Public Health Essex can help you find support that's right for you. This includes easy self-help tools, personal advice, or more structured services. You can find free, confidential support online or locally and take steps to feel better in your own time. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Upcoming events in the Forest

Events include guided walks for [A Trail in the Ancient Woodland](#) and [The Bufferlands of Epping Forest](#). Most events are free, with some requiring booking.

Works on Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge

Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge is undergoing some important works to ensure that the building is being taken care of. Access will not be available 15-19 June. The building remains open to visitors as usual at all other times, with scaffolding in place.

The Epping Forest Visitor Centre next door remains open throughout, 10am - 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

*Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 5 June.
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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