



# LRA's Loughton News

16 August 2024

In this issue we report on [road repairs](#) and [alleyway clearing](#) locally, and [an update on the dates on the road closures and restrictions](#) on Church Hill and surrounding streets due to gas mains replacement.

The [Loughton Horticultural Show](#) is on Saturday 7 September, followed by [Loughton Day](#) on 21 September.

Our town now has [one building on York Hill with four blue plaques](#) which may be a record.

The [Big Walk is coming](#) to the Forest, you can help with [conservation volunteering](#), and please [help keep the forest fire-free](#) this summer.

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

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## Local Road Repairs

Pavement repairs have been underway this week in The Drive, Marjorams Avenue and the High Road. This is part of the County Council's Members' Highways Initiative (MHI) that has enabled LRA Cllr Chris Pond to highlight these specific repairs.

The MHI is funded by £8 million of the £12 million announced for highways repairs in February across the County. The funding has been allocated across different areas of work, including additional highway crews for each borough, city and district to prioritise repairs raised by local Cllrs and residents.

## Demolition of Loughton Library

The County Council have not provided any update for Loughton Library, but they have announced plans for Colchester Library where they plan to close the library for one year for refurbishment, with nearby libraries opening for longer hours to compensate. [News article](#)

This might be a comparable situation to Loughton Library, so Debden and Buckhurst Hill libraries might open a couple of extra hours a week during the construction work.

### **Clearing Overgrown Alleyway Vegetation**

After being contacted by a resident LRA Cllr Rose Brookes arranged for lots of vegetation in the Kirby Close alleyway to be cut back and trimmed.



## ***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.

### **230 High Road (previously Boots)**

This application proposes demolishing the existing single story extension to the rear of the existing ground floor shop, and replacing it with a new extension on the same area.

The premises are planned to be used by a veterinary practice. Although the change of use does not need planning permission, the District Council can impose conditions on the new addition to the rear where dogs are going to be kept overnight. LRAPG has asked for the extension to be soundproofed to protect the amenity of adjoining neighbours.

Reference [EPF/1381/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 7 August but you can still comment to the Council.



### **Corner Garth, corner of Nursery Road and Highview Close**

There have been succession of planning applications to extend this dwelling including new boundary treatment. LRAPG has raised concerns with Essex Highways regarding the hoarding which has been haphazardly put over the pavement and does not look secure. Pedestrians are also pushed onto the road to avoid the structure. Hoardings placed on the highway need a licence and LRAPG

has asked whether this was ever awarded a licence and for it to be checked for safety.

### **Premises Licence Appeal - The Gardeners Arms, York Hill**

Notwithstanding a licence review in April 2022 where members of the Licensing committee tightened up the restrictions on the use of the pub's outdoor seating area (later relaxed by licensing officers), LRAPG has started to receive complaints about noise and antisocial behaviour. It is disappointing the premises is causing problems again, which started after the numbers of tables and chairs were increased along the forecourt. Under the circumstances LRAPG has asked for a new review of the licence and its conditions to ensure residents are not disturbed.

## ***Roads, Parking and Travel***

### **Planned Road Closures**

- Valley Hill - the road will be closed between 7pm and 6am until 17 August between Greenstead Road and Roding Road for road surface patching by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Church Hill - due to gas mains replacement works, the temporary traffic lights are planned to remain in place until 20 September. [More](#)
- The Uplands - the road will be closed until 23 August for gas mains replacement by Cadent. [More](#)
- Pump Hill - the road will be closed until 30 August for gas mains replacement by Cadent. [More](#)
- Church Lane - the road will be closed until 24 September for gas mains replacement by Cadent. [More](#)
- Oakwood Hill - the road will be closed between 7pm and 5am from 3 to 11 September for road repairs by Essex Highways. [More](#)



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

### **Parking Charges for Station Road**

Parking charges now apply on Station Road Monday to Saturday between 9:30am to 5pm. Disabled Blue Badge holders can park in the paid-for bays free and without time limit but may **not** stop on the red lines.

### **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



### Road Repairs

In June in our district, the County Council repaired 411 potholes and 66 pavements, cleared 2239 drains and fixed 187 streetlights.

## Police, Fire and Crime

### Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VUU) Community Grants

The [Violence and Vulnerability Unit \(VUU\) Partnership](#), funded by the Home Office, Essex Police and the County Council, are now accepting applications for the VUU Community Grant. Groups can apply for up to £20,000 to deliver support and interventions for children, young people, young adults and families (families must include children, young people or young adults aged 0-24 inclusive). Projects must demonstrate how they have a positive impact through protective factors on issues relating to serious violence.

[More and how to apply.](#)

### More from the Police

[Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to June 2024.

Some items we report on come from the Dispatch Newsletter from Essex Police. You can [subscribe here for free](#) (choose the Epping Forest edition)



## Council News

### Loughton Horticultural Show

## Loughton Horticultural Show



Saturday 7 September 2024

The 5th Loughton Horticultural Show will take place on Saturday 7 September.

Classes include vegetables, fruit, cut flowers and flower arrangements, jams, preserves, chutneys, and cakes. Children's classes include baking, decorating cup cakes, creating an upcycled bird feeder, decorate a plant pot and a piece of pebble art. Entries are welcome from anyone who lives,

works or goes to school or college in Loughton.

[Download the Entry Form here](#) (Word document). Forms can also be collected from the Town Council offices or Loughton Library, or call the Town Council on 020 8508 4200. There are also [rules and regulations](#) and a [beginners guide](#) (PDFs). Entries must be submitted by 12pm noon on 6 September.

The show is open 2-4:30pm at the Murray Hall on Borders Lane, with admission free and refreshments available. Awards will be presented at 4pm followed by the presentation of the Town Mayor's Best Allotment Awards 2024.

There will be an opportunity to purchase plants and planted arrangements from Matthews Plants. All proceeds will be donated to the Town Mayor's charity, Loughton Voluntary Care.

## Loughton Day - Coming Soon

This year's event is Saturday 21 September from 11am to 4pm, at the Loughton Cricket Club.

## Newmans Lane - New Children's Playground

The Town Council are aiming to upgrade the play area at the Newmans Lane playground, adjacent to Rectory Lane. Using the existing area, they are looking to dismantle the current play area and build a new inclusive playground (for ages 4 – 14 years).



Residents are welcome to participate in helping choose the new play area equipment, with a public consultation at Loughton Library until 20 August.

Image: Town Council



## One House, Four Blue Plaques

A new blue plaque has been unveiled at 19 York Hill in recognition of Mexicanist Diana Kennedy (née Southwood). She was born at 19 York Hill in 1923 and was known as the authority on all things Mexican especially cuisine. She received numerous awards for her work, including the Order of the Aztec Eagle from the Mexican government, and received an OBE. [More from the Town Council](#) (PDF).

There are now four blue plaques on the building with the others being for Arthur Bacot (Medical Entomologist), Christopher Cutchey (Loughton's first photographer) and Edward Cummings (Clerk of the Works at St Paul's Cathedral), the latter two which of were paid for by the home owners as the Town Council did not have

sufficient funds.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond, speaking at the unveiling commented "We think four blue plaques on a house is a bit of a record and I believe Joanne and Mike Burns (the owners) are going to contact the Guinness Book of Records to see if it is. We know there are 19 houses in the country with two blue plaques."

Image: Town Council

### What's On in Epping Forest?

The District Council has published details of all activities, events, exhibitions and workshops for May to October from the Community Development and Wellbeing team. There's something for everyone. [More](#) (PDF)



### Business Matters

The District Council publish an email newsletter with information and events for local businesses. The [July issue](#) includes information on supporting female residents from their first business idea to their first sale and the West Essex Tech Forum in

September. [Subscribe here](#).

### Essex Community Initiatives Fund

Voluntary organisations, community groups, residents' associations and Town and Parish Councils can now apply for grants from the Essex Community Initiatives Fund.

The £350,000 fund offers grants of up to £10,000. The money can be used to help strengthen local communities and aims to make Essex an even better place to live, work and visit.

[More](#). Applications need to be made by 18 October.

### Essex Transport Strategy - Have Your Say

The County Council has launched a public consultation on its Essex Transport Strategy, formally known as the Local Transport Plan. The strategy will provide an overarching plan for transport across Essex and outline the council's vision.

The consultation focuses on key themes and outcomes as an opportunity for the public to provide feedback, helping inform further development of the strategy.

[More](#). [Have your say here](#). The consultation runs until 22 September.

## Health and Wellbeing

### Taking Care in the Hot Weather

In hot weather, take care and look out for vulnerable family, friends and neighbours. [More advice here](#)

Also swimming in lakes and reservoirs can be dangerous even if they look inviting in

hot weather. This includes lakes in the Forest and Roding Valley Lake. The Fire Service has advice about [using barbecues safely](#), [caravan and camping safety](#) and [bonfires](#). Ensure coals or wood or anything used in a fire pit or barbecue are completely cool before you move or dispose of them.

And please don't smoke in the Forest or on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

### **Loughton Health Centre**

There have been recent social media posts that suggest that Loughton Health Centre is closing. This is **not** the case. There are no plans to close and they remain open as usual for their patients.

## **Local News**

### **Leisure Centre Boiler Replacement**

LRA Cllr Rose Brookes represents LRA on Loughton Leisure Centre's Partnership Board and reports that £300,000 has been awarded from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund to replace the Leisure Centre's boilers, which are now over twenty years old. The District Council had to bid for the money from the Fund, which also provided funding for 325 pools across the country. [More](#)



The new eco-friendly boiler system will reduce energy consumption and carbon output.

Places Leisure again offered free swimming during the summer holidays this year for children on free school meals, with letters were sent to all local primary schools to distribute to the relevant parents.

In Epping, work on the new Leisure Centre is on track and it is expected to open in late Autumn 2025.

### **Adopt a Toy Pet at the Library**

At Loughton Library, design and decorate your very own pet carrier for a toy pet to take home, with a certificate to say they're all yours.

This event is aimed at children aged 3+. Booking is required. [More](#)

### **Allotments Available**

The [Loughton Potato Ground](#) was established in 1813 and is the oldest in Essex. It is located between Baldwins Hill and Church Hill ([map](#)) and may be the only one in the country in continual existence for all that time.

They now have plots available. Would you like to try planting your own vegetables? [Visit the website](#) for more information and to [contact them](#).



## Epping Forest



### Summer Activities in the Forest

The latest [Forest Focus](#) has lots of good ideas for days out in the Forest, from short strolls and children's activities, to food and refreshments at Forest huts and High Beach Church. [More](#)

### Epping Forest Big Walk

This annual organised walk returns on 15 September and is now one of the biggest annual events celebrating Epping Forest and its heritage. Whether you are a first-timer or a returning walker, join 200 people from all walks of life to walk through the wonderful Epping Forest, get to know this rare surviving piece of ancient woodland, and celebrate its irreplaceable biodiversity, culture and heritage.

Guided by volunteer walk leaders, the walk is 14 miles from Manor Park in Newham to Bell Common in Epping, with talks about the Forest along the way, as well as three refreshment breaks. You don't need to be an experienced hiker to join the walk, although you will need to be reasonably fit.

Booking required. [More](#) including the timetable. Please only register if you are genuinely committed to take part as the walk is generally oversubscribed and has a maximum number of people that are able to be led on the walk.

### Woodbury Hill Habitat Restoration

If you have visited Woodbury Hill and admired the view across the Forest, you will have noticed that the ancient grassland there has an issue with scrub and sapling encroachment. Like so many of the Forest's grasslands and heathlands, the extent of Woodbury Hollow is much diminished. If left, this ancient grassland and the scarce species it supports would disappear.





Habitat restoration work will start on 19 August with removal of young trees and scrub to return the grassland closer to its historic size. This will improve the resilience of the wildlife populations it supports and encourage plants such as heather, devil's-bit scabious and cow-wheat. This is one of the first locations for the 2024 Habitat Restoration Programme visits.

To improve access to Woodbury Hollow a thin section of Staples Hill wood pasture will be restored by removing holly, invasive cherry laurel and young trees. The increase in light levels reaching the nearby veteran trees will help prolong their life. New pollards will also be created ready to become veterans of the future. This will allow the grassland maintenance team and the Forest's cows to visit more regularly, further improving the condition of this special grassland.

### **Hands-on Conservation Volunteering**

If you are interested in nature, love the outdoors, and want to improve your health and well-being, why not join in this wonderful ancient Forest and carry out hands-on work to help improve its biodiversity. There are four upcoming dates available. [More](#)

### **Artwork Inspired by the Forest**

An exhibition is at the Epping Forest Visitor Centre in Chingford presenting the best artwork inspired by the Forest.

This free exhibition is on until 8 September, and is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am - 5pm.

### **Epping Forest Consultative Group**

The Consultative Group represents a broad spectrum of users and interest groups associated with the Forest. Being a member of the Group provides an opportunity to engage and contribute to decision making for the management of the Forest.

If you would like to be considered as a future Group member, get in touch by email at [epping\\_forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:epping_forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### **Stop Fires in the Forest**

Please do not use barbecues or start fires anywhere in the Forest. Discarded litter and glass bottles can also cause fires. And please do not smoke in the forest - a discarded cigarette butt can cause a fire.

If you see smoke or fire out of control call 999. If you see people using a barbecue or have any concerns about fire in the Forest call 020 8532 1010, but please always call 999 if an emergency response is required.



### **Forest Focus - August 2024**

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

Thank you for supporting LRA.

These regular news emails are issued every 3-4 weeks, with some news special emails issued from time to time. The next news email is planned to be issued on Friday 6 September.

## Get more from LRA and keep up with what's happening between issues of Loughton News

**For all our Tweets, past issues of Loughton News and Loughton Life, and more**



**For the latest news and items of interest:**



*You don't need to be registered for either*

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