



## ***LRA's Loughton News***

17 April 2025

In this issue, we report on [residents' parking concerns](#) in the Borders Lane area near the new housing developments.

With the warmer and drier weather recently, there is [a risk of fires in the Forest and local nature reserves](#), so please be careful and report fires you see. The drier weather also allows road resurfacing to take place, so [be aware of upcoming road closures around town](#).

In May there is the 80th anniversary of VE Day with [the Town Council's lighting of the Beacon at the top of Hillyfields](#) and all are welcome. At our local museum [there is an exhibition telling stories of the Second World War](#).

LRA is run 100% by volunteers, and [we are looking for a new membership secretary](#). Could you help?

Thank you for supporting 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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## ***LRA News***

### **Parking concerns: a call for understanding and solutions**

There have been ongoing concerns by residents over parking problems resulting from the new housing and over 400 new residents in the Lucton Close development on Borders Lane. These concerns have led to frustration and tension in the community, which have been heard by LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke and Independent Cllr Stephen Murray.

New residents of Lucton Close are currently facing challenges with limited parking availability in their new neighbourhood, often resorting to parking in nearby streets. We empathise with these residents, many of whom may not have been aware of the parking situation prior to moving in. We are sympathetic to this.

We also recognise the concerns of residents on Colson Road and Ladyfields, who are feeling the additional pressure on parking in their areas. However there have been reports of tension, including instances of harassment directed towards Lucton Close residents. Disturbingly, we have received reports of criminal damage to vehicles belonging to Lucton Close residents, including slashed tyres and keyed paintwork. Such actions are unacceptable and counterproductive to our shared goal of fostering a harmonious community.

There are better ways to address parking pressures, rather than taking the law into one's hand. For instance, the implementation of a Scheme which, if approved, could restrict parking on certain streets to residents only during designated times. We are aware that some residents are actively pursuing this option to enhance parking restrictions. Those with long memories may remember that residents rejected such a scheme 10 years ago. Perhaps time for residents to get together and propose it again?

We urge all residents to report any incidents of criminal damage or harassment to the police immediately by calling 101 or [report it online](#).

***LRA Comment:*** *LRA opposed this development from the outset owing to anticipated parking complications, among other concerns ([background on our website](#)). The District Council's failure to make a decision on development enabled the developer, Fairview Homes, to take the application to a Planning Inspector, which ultimately approved the project despite local concerns.*

*While the outcome cannot be changed, we encourage everyone to respond with patience and understanding, avoiding any actions that may be perceived as threatening to fellow residents. Chidi and Stephen are committed to collaborating with residents of Lucton Close to explore alternative parking solutions that may help mitigate the parking pressures on Colson Road, Ladyfields and surrounding streets. However, it is important to understand that while we are working towards a solution, we cannot guarantee immediate results.*

*We appreciate the cooperation of all community members and encourage a spirit of restraint as we work together to address these challenges. It is essential to report any incidents to the police rather than taking matters into our own hands.*

### **Tackling fly-tipping in our community**

LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke recently encountered a significant issue while on his normal walkabout in Roding ward. He found a sizable fly-tip on Colson Road, right next to the junction with Chigwell Lane. This unsightly dumping detracted from the beauty of the neighbourhood. Acting swiftly, he reported the incident to the District Council. He is happy to share that the waste was cleared the very next day.



Chidi said *"Fly-tipping does more than just ruin the aesthetics of our streets; it can also attract pests and pose health hazards to our community. As a reminder, if you are planning home renovations or any projects that may generate rubbish, please ensure that your builders are disposing of waste legally and responsibly. The debris I encountered appeared to be from a house renovation, highlighting the need for careful management of such activities."*

### Local government restructure

An initial plan setting out how Greater Essex councils could best respond to the challenge from government and achieve more for residents and businesses, has been shared with the Government. The 15 Essex councils and the office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, developed the joint, interim plan for local government reorganisation in Greater Essex. [Read the plan here](#) (PDF)

Although the plan does not include final recommendations for the future structure of local government in the area, some councils have expressed an in-principle preference to work toward five new unitary authorities for Greater Essex.

Work will now continue up to September to inform a final business case. This will be submitted to the Government in line with its 26 September deadline.

The Government will decide what the final structure will be for Greater Essex councils.

### Can you help?

We are looking for a new membership secretary.

This involves managing a (not complicated) Excel spreadsheet to ensure there is an up to date record of current members. Most of effort is in February and March when membership renewals are received. There is a small amount of updating during the year processing new members, updating member records and deleting members who have moved.



The updating can be done at your convenience; it is not onerous and is rewarding - members frequently acknowledge the work of LRA.

For more details or if you are interested, please contact Laura by emailing [membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk) or calling 07968 174 388.

## 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.



### The Lodge, Goldings Hill

This application proposes extensions to the existing lodge and erection of two new detached houses fronting Goldings Road

LRAPG has objected to this application. The Lodge is a late 19th century building of great heritage merit on a very prominent corner across from the Special Area of Conservation. It makes a very positive contribution to this part of Loughton. The proposed dwellings will cause serious harm to the setting of The Lodge which needs to have green space around the building for it be enjoyed. The design of the proposed two houses, by reason of their height, bulk and bland town house appearance are totally unsympathetic to The Lodge and its setting. They would be a very unwelcome distraction to The Lodge. It would appear significant excavation of the garden will be required and there are no details of how this will impact on the adjacent house in Goldings Road.

This is garden grabbing at its worst, that will turn a free-standing heritage asset into a terrace when viewed from Goldings Road. As such the District Council should refuse planning permission.

Reference [EPF/0323/25](#). The formal consultation period ended 31 March, but you can still comment to the Council.

## Roads, Parking and Travel

### Planned road closures

- [Church Lane](#) and [St Johns Road](#) - the roads will be closed until 7 May for works by Cadent.
- Brady Avenue - the road will be closed 9:30am to 3 pm from 9 to 13 May for maintenance work by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Alderton Hall Lane - the road will be closed 9:30am to 3:30pm from 12 May to 29 May for joint sealing by Essex Highways. [More](#).
- Newmans Lane and part of Whitehills Road will be closed 16 to 21 May for road resurfacing by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Pyrles Lane - the road will be closed 10am to 3pm (weekdays) and 8am to 6pm (weekends) from 16 to 23 May for road resurfacing by Essex Highways. [More](#)



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

### e-Bikes banned

Non-folding e-bikes are now not allowed on most TfL services, including the Tube, Overground, Elizabeth line and DLR, after a small number of incidents where non-foldable e-bikes have caught fire on the transport system.

This includes standard cycles that have been converted to e-bikes using a conversion kit. Mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs, including powered attachments to wheelchairs, will still be allowed. [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.

## Police, Fire and Crime

### The police in March

Here is a snapshot showing some of the things your Epping Forest District Officers have dealt with in March. They have:

- helped to find 32 people who were reported missing.
- investigated 72 reports of antisocial behaviour.
- attended 50 road traffic collisions.
- investigated 178 reports of domestic violence incident.
- solved 116 crimes.
- submitted 326 pieces of intelligence.



### Talk with the police

The police will be a Let's Talk event at the BP Garage on The Broadway on 24 April from 10:30am to 11:30am. All are welcome.

There is also an open day at Loughton police station on Wednesday May 28 from 11am until 3pm. [More](#)

### Shoplifters Pursued

On 31 March the police were called to Boots at the Epping Forest Shopping Park after shoplifters stole over £2,000 worth of products. The thieves then made off in a vehicle which then subsequently failed to stop for the police. The vehicle was found dumped a short while later and the suspects had fled. The stolen goods were

recovered and the vehicle, which was using false plates, was seized by Police for forensic examination. Enquiries are ongoing to identify the suspects.

### **Motorcycle rider jailed following fatal collision**

Christopher Allen, a motorcycle rider from Waltham Abbey, has been jailed for 14 years following a fatal collision in Loughton. The incident occurred in April 2023 when Allen, who had consumed alcohol, was speeding along Epping New Road and struck Adeline Stuart-Watt as she crossed the road. Despite paramedics' efforts, she sadly died at the scene.

Allen was found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving after a five-day trial at Chelmsford Crown Court. In addition to his prison sentence, he has been disqualified from driving for 19 years. [More](#)

### **Watch for cable thieves**

Keep an eye on electricity substations near you as thieves are now stealing cables from the sites throughout the country, with reports of this happening in Loughton and Buckhurst Hill.

Substations are often just a small brick building with electricity danger warning signs. These are a vital part of the energy system. Cable theft can cause serious problems and is a risk to staff that maintain the site.

If you observe cable thefts in progress call the police on 999.

Those committing these thefts could be wearing hi-vis vests in an attempt to blend-in to what would be expected on the site.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour update**

The Safer Streets project at the Oakwood Hill estate is over half-way through the project. A community safety day was held on 8 March with proactive patrols, police speed checks and environmental waste vehicle checks. The funding is due to be spent by July 2025.

Patrols are continuing on The Broadway with three each week from District Council staff, plus three Saturdays across March to enable more of a presence and to tackle issues over the weekend.

### **Holiday booking fraud**

If you are booking a holiday soon, take precautions to make sure the holiday you are booking is genuine. Scammers may want you to pay them by direct bank transfer, not through the website. They entice you to do this by offering discounts for bank transfer payments. Don't be tempted.

A scammer will often use photos of accommodation copied from other sites. Use Google images to check where else an image has been used.

The scammer's advert may claim that they belong to a legitimate trade body or consumer protection scheme, such as the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). You can contact the body or scheme to check the person's credentials. [More advice from ABTA on fraud.](#)



There is additional protection offered by banks and lenders when paying by credit card (rather than debit card), although [be aware of the rules](#) if you consider making a claim.



### More from the police

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

## Council News



### VE Day

Thursday 8 May marks 80 years since VE (Victory in Europe) Day when the Second World War came to an end in Europe.

The Town Council invite all residents to come along to the lighting of the Beacon at the top of Hillyfields Open Space to mark the historic 80th anniversary, with the peoples, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe that so many millions paid the ultimate sacrificed to achieve it. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

The evening will include a welcome from Loughton's Town Mayor, the Tribute will be read by the 41st Epping Forest Scout Group, Churches Together in Loughton will lead the Remembrance prayer, and Loughton Young Citizen Award winner Frankie Gilbey will light the Beacon. [More](#)

Bring a chair, wave your flags, enjoy the music and celebrate this historic occasion.

### Blue-lidded recycling bins coming soon

New blue-lidded recycling bins will be replacing both the clear recycling sacks and blue box currently used for recycling items including paper, plastic containers, tins and cans, and glass bottles and jars. The rollout of the new bin begins in June and residents can start using the new bin as soon as they receive it. Bins will be delivered in stages during June and July to limit disruption to collections. Blocks of flats will not

get the new bins as they use communal bins for their recycling.

All eligible households will get a 240-litre bin which is bigger than the black-lidded household waste bins. Larger (340 litre) and smaller (180 litre) bins will be available on request. [More](#)

LRA Cllr Chris Pond was told in a reply to a question by him at a full Council meeting that the blue-lidded bins will need to contain **all** recycling. Side waste will not be collected. This means that cardboard boxes, for instance, will have to be collapsed and put in the bin. They will not be collected if left by the side.

### Anti-fly-tipping operation

Rural engagement officers from the police have carried out one of their regular operations to tackle fly-tipping and the illegal transport of waste, along with Council environmental and waste teams. They stopped and checked vehicles carrying waste to ensure that they had the correct insurance and licences in place.



In our district they set up a static stop and pulled over 54 lorries and vans to check their loads and documentation. The District Council is now initiating proceedings against nine people found to be carrying waste without a waste carrier's licence. [More](#)

Fly tipping has increased from last year by 36% (November to February). Historically Council officers have always found it difficult to get names and address from food delivery firms where food waste/containers have been dumped however recently a well known food delivery company has agreed to supply information if the Council can provide details on the receipt or delivery label. This is helpful as they find a good amount of food delivery waste within fly tips.

Fly-tipping is a crime. If you see it happening anywhere, call 999. If you have information about fly-tipping in the Forest, call 020 8532 1010.

### Smoke Control Area enlarging?

The District Council is considering options for smoke control areas within the district as part of the Government's Air Quality Strategy. Currently there is a small smoke control area in Loughton that covers part of the town centre plus part of the Forest.

The Council is looking at four options:

- Do nothing (leave the current smoke control area in place)
- Remove the current control area altogether
- Make the whole of Loughton a smoke control area, or;
- Expand the current control area (the preferred option).

The Council will conduct a public consultation. They will also implement a fixed penalty system soon for the existing control area of a warning notice for a first offence, a £175 fine for a second offence, and £225 fines for each subsequent offences. [More](#) (from p136)



## Library Summer Reading Challenge volunteers needed

If you are aged 14 or over and looking for something to do during the summer holidays, Essex Libraries are looking for volunteers to support the Summer Reading Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national programme that runs during the school summer holiday. Children of all ages are encouraged to read six library books. All children taking part receive a certificate and a medal when they complete the challenge. You will be working with children and their parents or carers, encouraging them to join the challenge and talking to them about the books they have been reading. [More](#)



## New exhibition telling stories of the Second World War

Using objects, stories and oral histories from the museum's collection, as well as a selection donated from local history society, community groups and other district heritage sites, this exhibition tells the stories of individuals whose lives

were transformed after war broke out in September 1939.

Epping Forest District Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 4pm and Saturday 10am – 4pm. Museum entry is free, but donations are welcome.

[More](#)

## Education and early years careers

The Essex Careers magazine provides offers information on careers in education and early year, and provides insights from local employers, training providers, and colleges. [More](#)

## Upcoming changes to accessing early years and childcare places

From September 2025, eligible working parents will be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare per week in term time or up to 1,140 hours if it is accessed all year round. Funding can be accessed from the term after your child turns 9-months-old up to school age. If you are already accessing 15 hours of Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) and are planning to increase to 30 hours, please talk to your childcare provider. [More](#)

## Local Plan and Housing Supply

As part of the Government's planning reform agenda, they have required all Local Planning Authorities to publish an up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS). The District Council subsequently [published their LDS](#) (PDF)

The Council has also published the latest Five-Year Land Supply evidence and the [Annual Monitoring Report \(AMR\)](#). This has identified that the Council can currently demonstrate a 6.57 year supply of housing. In terms of housing delivery, in late 2024 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published their housing delivery test results for the period 2020 – 2023. Based on that information, the Council only provided 66% delivery against its target, and as such was designated as a housing presumption authority. (This designation would mean that planning

permissions should be granted, unless the site is protected under the NPPF or the adverse impacts demonstrably outweigh the benefits.)

However, District Council officers have been undertaking further assessment on the delivery of housing and based on updated figures the evidence actually shows that the Council has delivered over 75% of the housing target, meaning that they can take the view that the Council could no longer be considered a presumption authority.

## 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:

- 19 April - Make an Easter card. [More](#)
- 23 April - Essex Fire and Rescue. Come along for information and advice on fire safety. [More](#)
- 4, 11 and 25 April, and 2, 9 and 16 May - Seated Exercise. [More](#)
- 6 May - Dementia Information Drop-In Session. [More](#)



### Fire risk

The recent spring weather has been drier and warmer than usual, with many wildfires around the country. 2025 is already the second worst year on record by area burned and number of fires ([news article](#)). Rain forecast over Easter and coming days will help but the risk remains.

Locally, there was a small fire at the Willingale Road nature reserve recently, and local residents called the Fire Service who attended.

Please keep an eye out for any fires, especially in the Forest. Call 999 if you see a fire.



marketing?

### Could you help Lopping Hall?

Lopping Hall is looking for people to become Directors. Do you have spare time and could you use your skills and interests to help in areas such as building, maintenance, DIY, finance, legal, HR, theatre events management or

Help make your own mark on our historic locally listed building. To find out more, contact the chairman at [alan@intlveneer.co.uk](mailto:alan@intlveneer.co.uk) or the secretary at [loppinghallloughton@gmail.com](mailto:loppinghallloughton@gmail.com)

[More on Lopping Hall](#)

### Fire and Rescue Service plan

The Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) has launched its new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025–2030, setting out how it will continue making Essex safer together over the next five years.

The plan outlines how ECFRS will work with communities and partners to prevent emergencies, protect people and places and respond effectively when incidents happen. Built on detailed risk analysis, community feedback and collaboration, the CRMP makes sure the Service is ready to meet the challenges of a changing county - from climate-related emergencies and growing populations, to emerging risks such as lithium-ion battery fires and new building technologies. [More](#)

## Health and Wellbeing

### Covid vaccine booking

You can now book your spring Covid vaccine [online](#) or by calling 119. Appointments are available at local pharmacies and most GP practices. You're eligible if aged 75 or over or if you have a weakened immune system: [More](#)

## Epping Forest

### Conservation volunteering: upcoming dates

If you are interested in nature, love the outdoors, and want to improve your health and well-being, why not join the [EFHT](#) for a day in this wonderful ancient Forest and carry out hands-on work to help improve its biodiversity and resilience to climate change. The sessions will be led by a Conservation Officers with full approval and support from the City of London Corporation. Tools and training will be provided on the day.



There are many dates available in April and May, including several for women only. [More](#)

[You can join EFHT's monthly email list by subscribing here](#) (scroll down the page).

### Big Give Green Match Fund

[Epping Forest Heritage Trust](#) (EFHT) is part of the [Big Give Green Match Fund](#) this year, where public donations during 22-29 April up to £4000 are matched by the Fund. Big Give runs match funding campaigns for charities and special causes at key moments across the year. By connecting charities to funders (like philanthropists, foundations or corporates) and the public, they help double their donations.

[More and how to donate](#) (from 22-29 April).

### Hear about the Forest

BBC Radio 4 has a broadcast on how the ancient Epping Forest was fought for, and saved.

In the late 19th century, Epping Forest was threatened with enclosures. As elsewhere in Britain, local landowners were selling off common land for farming or building developments. But local people fought back. Beginning with a Loughton man, Thomas Willingale, who continued to assert his commoner rights to lop trees for firewood, the groundswell of protest later became thousands of working class Eastenders gathering on Wanstead Flats.

The broadcast is on 24 April at 3pm (and available on demand afterwards). [More](#)



### Forest Focus - March 2025

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



## And More

### The journey of recycling and waste in Essex

Have you ever wondered where your recycling and waste goes once it's been collected? [LoveEssex](#) has created a [playlist of videos](#) to show you where your recycling or waste is sent and explains what happens to it next. So far, you can watch the journey of [food waste](#), [garden waste](#), and [small electrical waste](#). [More](#)

### Got unwanted items to get rid of?

You can donate things we no longer need or want to charity, give things away, use the recycling centre, or book your council's large item collection service. But what if they can't take it?

[LoveEssex](#) has partnered with [LoveJunk](#), an online marketplace that connects you with licensed waste collectors. It's a great option for things that your local council can't collect. The best part is that 98% of collections are reused or recycled. [More](#)

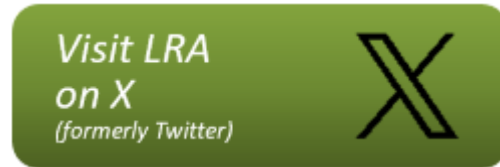
*Thank you for supporting LRA.*

*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 16 May.*

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



*All our past issues of Loughton News emails, Loughton Life, and more*



*The latest news and items of interest. You don't need to be registered for either*

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