



LRA's Loughton News

17 July 2026

In this issue, with the structure of local government changing from next year [we are asking for expressions of interest from LRA members](#) who may be interested being potential candidates to stand as Cllrs for the new Unitary Council. LRA is preparing early, and seeking strong, committed and community-minded candidates ready to stand up for Loughton and the wider area.

With summer well and truly with us, [here's a reminder about wildfires](#), [watch out for fires in the Forest](#) and [tips from the NHS on how to handle the heat](#).

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

Call for Expressions of Interest

Potential LRA Candidates for Shadow Unitary Council Elections

Following LRA's Management Committee meeting held on Monday 18 May at the Cricket Ground, we have begun early planning and coordination for the possibility of shadow Unitary Council elections taking place next May. ([Background on Local Government Reorganisation is here](#)).

The Committee agreed that early preparation is essential to ensure the LRA is in the strongest possible position should these elections go ahead as expected.

As a first step, our current District Cllrs were invited to indicate whether they may wish to be considered for future candidacy. We are now opening this opportunity to all LRA members who may be interested in putting themselves forward to be

considered as potential candidates.

This is an important moment for LRA and for the future of local representation. The move towards a new Unitary Council could bring significant changes to how local decisions are made, how communities are represented, and how residents' voices are heard. It is therefore vital that we begin preparing early, with strong, committed and community-minded candidates ready to stand up for Loughton and the wider area.

At this stage, we are only seeking initial expressions of interest. This does not guarantee selection, nor does it commit you formally to standing. It is simply to help the Selection Committee understand who may wish to be considered as part of the planning process.

If you would like to express an interest in being considered as a potential LRA candidate, please email Carol Davies at Carol carolchristmas@yahoo.com, copying LRA Leader, Chidi Nweke at nweke73@gmail.com and our Nomination Officer, Michael Owen at michael.x.owen@googlemail.com **by 15 August**.

Please include a short note confirming your interest and any relevant information you feel the Selection Committee should be aware of.

Further details about the process and next steps will be shared in due course. The process will be carried out in accordance with the LRA Constitution, particularly Section 12.1 — Candidate Selection Process.

We strongly encourage members who are passionate about Loughton, committed to residents, and willing to work hard for our communities to consider putting themselves forward.

Many thanks for your continued support, commitment and service to LRA.

Fly-tipping and graffiti

LRA Cllr Sheree Rackham is following up with the District Council officers about fly-tipping and graffiti. They have investigated and are now looking to put in further measures across the town to stop this antisocial behaviour.



LRA visits Terra Verde Services (TVS) operations hub

LRA Cllrs were recently invited to the new TVS operations hub at North Weald Airfield.

TVS is the company wholly owned by the District Council who provide recycling, waste, and street cleansing services, and took over from Biffa in 2024. They employ 135 staff, look after 58,000 households and handle almost 50,000 tons of waste per year.

Their vehicle fleet consists of:

- 29 rubbish collection vehicles
- Seven electric street cleaners for 600 litter bins and 185 dog waste bins
- Four 7.5 ton tippers for fly tipping and sofa clearance
- Four sweepers for roads and gutters
- Two mini sweepers for pathways and carparks
- Six waste vehicles for kitchen food waste.

Unlike the previous working environment staff benefit from an area with tables and chairs, toilets and showers for males and females, along with office staff using Whitespace waste management software making sure it is a smooth operation.

When crews go out collecting at 6am, four supervisors monitor 30 drivers. They are given a full orange uniform including a bag with an iPad and work phone, first aid kits, gloves, and hats for summer or winter. The vehicles are fitted with 360-degree cameras and monitored by a control system in Manchester who watch the vehicles and the staff to ensure that everyone is doing the job exactly how they were trained to do. Anything that is amiss gets reported to the operations hub at North Weald. The film footage is kept for 30 days.

The average operative walks 13 miles each day for four days per week and walks 30,000 steps.

Fly tipping is a very large part of the operation and, in areas this has occurred, 'wanted posters' for people to report incidents are placed.

[More about TVS](#), [how to contact them](#), and [here is an overview of the operations of Terra Verde Services](#) (TVS) with details and data on the services they provide to our district.

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](#).



26 Station Road

We last reported this ongoing problem in March where several trees, protected by Tree Preservation Notices, were felled without consent and replaced by enormous sheds. Since then neighbours have written to the District Council several times complaining that the replacement trees were not planted in the same location as the felled trees. Neighbours also complained a certificate issued by planners confirming the sheds were lawful was based on misleading information

and therefore the sheds remain unlawfully erected. It also transpired the sheds are in breach of Building Control.

LRAPG wrote in support of the neighbours and reminded Council officers that Section 206 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty of the owner of the land to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as they reasonably can. Officers seem to have allowed the owners to plant the replacement trees elsewhere merely because they have erected some sheds in the location of the original trees. It is no justification for planting the trees elsewhere, particularly up against the fence of other neighbour's properties. LRAPG requested officers enforce the statutory duty to plant the trees in the original location and,

should they disagree, for the matter be reported to the planning committee where elected members can have the final say.

It is very disappointing that officers seem to be ignoring all the letters sent in by the affected neighbours. LRAPG wrote in 26 April and chased for a response on 23 May, 21 June, 5 July and 12 July. If officers have made errors they should be made accountable and not think they can get away with it by ignoring correspondence.

The leader of the Council, Chris Whitbread, has now been copied in for a response.



New data centre for Langston Road

[We reported in March](#) about the proposed new data centre to be built on the Alandale Scaffolding site on Langston Road, and our concerns that although [an application that was granted \(with conditions\) outline planning permission](#) (PDF) in 2024, updated planning applications were

presented for a significantly larger scheme mainly to accommodate cooling equipment.

The revisions result in a considerably uglier and larger monolithic building which would be readily visible across Green Belt land from Abridge Road. Due to the size and unsympathetic design, which means it stands out amongst a green background, harm is caused to the countryside.

LRAPG is disappointed that the District Council has now approved the scheme, with the decision nodded through by officers.

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 extended periods including [Church Lane](#) (to 27 July), [Woodbury Hill](#) (to 31 July), [Hillcroft](#) (until 3 August), [Debden Lane](#) (to 17 August), [Sparelease Hill](#) (to 30 September), the side road alongside [Rectory Lane](#) (until 1 November). Other roads may be subject to temporary traffic lights.



Central Line new timetable

A new timetable is being introduced from 20 July. We do not have the full details but understand there will be increased trains at peak hours. If you rely on a specific train from Debden or Loughton in the morning peak, be aware there could be changes.

Police, Fire and Crime

Patrols at High Beech

Our officers will be continuing patrols in the High Beech area of Epping Forest this summer. Sergeant Neil Ross, of Epping Forest Neighbourhood Policing Team, says it's in response to reports of anti-social behaviour, such as nuisance driving, drug use and noise disturbance in the area. [More](#)

Tackling ASB involving e-bikes

The police are working alongside council partners following complaints linking the use of e-bikes to anti-social behaviour and information that they may be linked to drug dealing. High-powered electric bikes are designed for off-road use and can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner. They are not permitted on roads, pavements, footpaths, public open spaces or other areas accessible to the public. [More](#)

Unlike electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPCs), high-powered e-bikes do not have pedals and can reach much higher speeds, making them dangerous.

Watch out for investment scams

Investment and pension scams can be very convincing, especially if you're new to investing. Fraudsters often contact people out of the blue, claiming to offer high returns on things like rare metals, land, wine or new energy projects. These "opportunities" are often worthless or don't exist at all.

They may sound legitimate and even know personal details about your finances, but this is part of how they build trust over time. Be cautious of anyone who pressures you to invest quickly or keeps contacting you to build a relationship. Always [check a company is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority](#) and get independent financial advice before investing.

If you've already lost money, be wary of anyone offering to recover it for a fee, as this could be another scam.

More from the police

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

This year's event was held on 28 June, with the weather accommodating and turnout incredible. The Town Council sends out thanks to everyone who attended to all the amazing people and organisations who helped bring it together including Universal Waste, Loughton Self Drive, The Cottage Loaf and the Loughton Wombles.

Beware of wildfires

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) was called to six large field fires in 48 hours. Wildfires are very dangerous, spreading fast, changing direction, and threatening wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, the environment, property, and people.

Most wildfires are started by humans, only 10 to 15% of wildfires happen on their own in nature, so please follow this advice so that everyone can enjoy our beautiful open spaces and help protect our beautiful countryside:

- Avoid having bonfires and barbecues in the countryside – cook your food at home and have a picnic instead
- Dispose of your cigarettes properly, make sure they are out – never throw cigarette ends on the ground or out of car windows
- Take your litter home – sunlight magnified by glass bottles can spark a fire
- Use the free what3words app to help identify your exact location
- Report irresponsible behaviour – if you see or suspect someone of acting suspiciously, recklessly, or irresponsibly in the countryside contact the Police on 101 or pass information anonymously to FireStoppers on 0800 169 5558
- Talk to your children about the dangers of playing with fire and matches – keep matches and lighters stored well away from children and teenagers
- **Report fires immediately by calling 999**

[More](#)

Can Jessel Green be protected forever? You can help

The Town Council and Protect Jessel Green wish to permanently save the open green space of Jessel Green for current and future generations of Loughton residents. To achieve this, they need to obtain 'Fields in Trust' status.

[Fields in Trust](#) is the charity that has been protecting the future of our parks, playgrounds, playing fields and green spaces for 100 years. Fields in Trust are the only charity in the UK working to protect parks and green spaces for good, as once lost, they're lost. In practice 'Fields in Trust' status means they can never be sold off for development and will be retained as a public park, playing field or recreation ground forever.

The Town Council and Protect Jessel Green would like to recommend to the District Council, who own Jessel Green that it be granted 'Fields in Trust' status. The Town Council is looking for support from residents to take this forward. [Please complete the survey here](#) - it's only five questions. [More](#)



Fly-tippers fined

Fines after flytip in Debden

Dumped rubbish at the car park behind The Broadway led to two residents being fined.

In one case, several sacks of household waste were found behind a shop in The Broadway, with some dumped in a business's bin. When the company went to use its bin, it was already full, preventing them disposing of the waste they pay to have collected.

Officers examined the contents and found letters and other materials containing addresses, which led them to the resident responsible, who was given a £500 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

The environmental enforcement team applied the same process to the second case finding similar evidence leading to a resident's home address. They were invited to a formal interview, giving them the opportunity to explain their actions but failed to attend. Further officer time was spent on additional checks. As a result, a £500 FPN was issued. [More](#)

Summer activities for children

There's a two-day musical camp where budding performers learn Annie and perform it for the grown-ups, to a teddy bears picnic with bug hunting, crafts and nature trails. There are free [Play in the Park sessions](#) which will take place at the Recreation Ground and Jessel Green on several dates over the summer.



[More activities are in the District Council's What's On brochure](#) (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:

- 17,24, 31 July and 7 August - Barclays Bank - help with frauds and scams, online banking, as well as managing and opening accounts, account queries, reviewing transactions and registering for new products on your phone, tablet or computer. [More](#)



- 17,24, 31 July and 7 August - 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](#)
- 17 July - 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](#)
- 22, 29 July and 5 August - 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](#)
- 24 July - Make Your Own Tambourine - Summer Reading Challenge themed craft. No booking required. [More](#)
- 31 July - Make Your Own Shaker - Summer Reading Challenge themed craft. No booking required. [More](#)
- 4 August - To celebrate this year's Summer Reading Challenge, 'Read to the Beat', Harlow Rock School will be running a drum workshop. Booking required. [More](#)
- 7 August - Make Your Own Guitar - Summer Reading Challenge themed craft. No booking required. [More](#)

On the buses

- Route 17-17A - the provider is changing from Central Connect to Stephenson's of Essex, with a revised timetable from 27 July.
- Route 18-18C - there will be an enhanced timetable on Monday to Fridays and Saturdays, and the 18A variant withdrawn, from 27 July.
- Route 66 - there is a revised route and timetable, with an extension beyond Waltham Cross to Brookfield Farm and Hammond Street. The service now ends at Waltham Cross Bus Station at 20:19 Monday to Friday, and 20:10 Saturdays.

Loughton actor and writer in first play

Nicole Abraham, a former student at Davenant Foundation School, is preparing to appear in her debut play 'Punch Me Then' in August. She wrote the play and will also be on stage at the John Lyon's Theatre in Covent Garden as part of Camden Fringe. The play explores misogyny, masculinity and the role education can play in challenging harmful attitudes.

The first draft was placed in the top 0.9 per cent in the Producer Read stage of the BBC Writers Room Open Call, of which there more than 5,700 submissions. [News article](#)

Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge will inspire children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

The challenge runs from 18 July to 5 September in all Essex libraries and mobile libraries.

There are six stickers for children to collect over the summer. After collecting six stickers, they earn their certificate and medal. A ribbon to show off their medal can be bought from the library (while stocks last) for 50p each. Children can read any library

book of their choice; fiction, non-fiction, picture books or books they share with parents and carers – they all count. Children under four are not forgotten, with a special version of Read to the Beat just for them. [More](#)

To support the Challenge, Harlow Rock School will be running a drum workshop at Loughton Library on 4 August (booking required). Children will take part in using small hand drums to tell the story of a chosen book. [More](#)



Fire station open day

On Saturday 25 July, Loughton Fire Station on Station Road is hosting a fire station open day. Meet the team, explore the fire station and find out more about how the fire service work to keep Loughton safe. Come along from 10am until 4pm. There will be plenty of activities for all ages. [More](#) (scroll down)

Health and Wellbeing

Handling the heat

Summer health advice is especially important during periods of hot weather, as high temperatures can affect your health and wellbeing. The NHS has some simple steps you can take to protect yourself and your family on staying cool and avoiding overheating, keeping your home cool, staying hydrated, and protecting your skin from the sun. [More](#)

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you or someone you care for experiences symptoms such as dizziness, confusion, severe thirst, headache, nausea or unusually high body temperature. Call 999 in an emergency.

Epping Forest

Care in the Forest

Throughout the warmer summer months, visitors are reminded to take extra care while enjoying the Forest.

Disposable barbecues, campfires and open flames can quickly get out of control and cause serious damage to wildlife and habitats. Fires and barbecues are never permitted anywhere in Epping Forest.

If you see a fire or barbecue in Epping Forest, please report it urgently. Any situation requiring an emergency response should be reported immediately to 999. You can also report incidents via the 24/7 phone line on 020 8532 1010.

Please do not smoke in our Forest and open grasslands.

*Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 7 August.
Regular news emails are issued every 3-4 weeks and special news emails occasionally.*

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

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