



LRA's Loughton News

19 December 2025



In this issue, read how [LRA has helped clear waste off the street](#) and [supported a local resident in need](#).

[Light up a life was held on Kings Green](#) in late November, the [Loughton Wombles have been out and about](#) helping keep our town tidy, and [collections for food and garden waste will change](#) from late March.

With the festive break coming up, remember that [public transport](#) may have changes to normal schedules and [dates for collection of waste and recycling](#) may be different.

And, following tradition, [here's LRA's Christmas Quiz for 2025](#) for everyone to enjoy.

From all of us at LRA, thank you again for your support this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

News Sections

[LRA News](#)

[Planning and Licensing](#)

[Roads, Parking and Travel](#)

[Police, Fire and Crime](#)

[Council News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Epping Forest](#)

[And More](#)

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LRA News

Community action: addressing waste on our streets

Recently, while out in our neighbourhoods, LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke came across a rather unusual sight: a cabinet containing white goods that had been left on the footpath without any sign of a collection being arranged. This not only posed an obstruction on the pavement but also detracted from the aesthetics of our community.

Recognizing the need for prompt action, Chidi immediately reported this waste to the District Council for them to remove.

Chidi says *“Our commitment to keeping our streets clean and ensuring safe passage for all pedestrians is paramount. It’s vital that we maintain a tidy environment for everyone, and addressing unwanted items is an important part of that effort.”*

Thanks to the swift response from the Council's waste management team, the cabinet was scheduled for removal in a timely manner. The result reinforces how important it is for the community to report such incidents to enable swift intervention. [Report such incidents here.](#)



Championing change: LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke supports local resident in need

LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke has recently supported a resident of the Oakwood Hill Estate facing dire living conditions. After receiving an email from the resident detailing several troubling issues with her Council flat, Chidi took immediate action to advocate on her behalf.

Having recently moved into the flat, the resident quickly discovered serious problems including severe damp and mould issues that posed significant health risks. Despite reporting these critical matters to the District Council, she found herself getting nowhere and sought help.

Understanding the urgency, Chidi, alongside LRA Cllr Michael Stubbings, visited the property to assess the conditions firsthand. What they found was shocking.

The state of the flat was not just unsuitable but it was potentially dangerous for any family, particularly for the resident, a young single parent with a two-year-old daughter. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Chidi committed to representing her case. Engaging with various housing officers and escalating the matter to senior staff, he aimed to ensure the flat received the immediate and proper attention it desperately needed. Among the pressing issues was the necessity to fix or even replace the front door, which had raised additional concerns regarding safety and security.

Despite facing challenges, including a rejected priority move application, Chidi tirelessly advocated for the resident, providing further evidence to strengthen her case. His dedication paid off; she was ultimately successful in her application and relocated to temporary accommodation while awaiting a better and more suitable property.



Chidi stated, *“No family should have to live in conditions that jeopardize their health and safety. The severe damp and mould in this case presented a serious risk. I will continue to advocate for residents in our community to ensure they receive the*

support and living conditions they deserve.”

This story underscores the importance of community support and advocacy. When we work together, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Local government reorganisation

The Government has announced that the Greater Essex Mayoral election, originally planned for May 2026, will now take place in May 2028.

The delay is intended to allow more time for councils to establish new Mayoral Strategic Authorities and work together before the first mayoral elections. This announcement does not impact local elections, and further clarification is expected in due course.

The consultation for residents remains open on the different proposals submitted by councils for the reorganisation of local government in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. [The proposals are here](#).

You can [respond online](#) or via email or letter ([details here](#)). The consultation closes on 11 January.

A preferred option is likely to be announced by Government in the spring of 2026.



LRA's Christmas Quiz

Following tradition, [here's LRA's Christmas quiz for 2025](#) for everyone to enjoy. The theme this year is Christmas itself. The answers are all sorts of things you might associate with the festive season to do, see, eat, drink, etc.

Please send answers by 6 January to lesandsueharris@aol.com or to 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ.

A £20 book token or bottle of champagne will go to the first correct entry out of the hat.

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](#).

Garage Site, Ladyfields

The application proposes the demolition of the existing garages and the construction of 16 affordable homes targeting Passivhaus standards, with associated landscaping and works.

LRAPG has objected to this long running application. Whilst the latest plans are an improvement on the original submission, the townscape of this part of Loughton is

characterised by two storey homes. The proposed building remains at three storeys with a saw tooth roof capable of hosting another 4th storey room later on. This means that this should be treated as a four storey development in an area of two storey homes.



LRAPG have asked the sawtooth roof is omitted to lower the bulk and the applicant to consider respecting the design for the estate, which is modest two storey dwellings with brick or render.

Reference [EPF/2020/20](#). The consultation ended 11 December but you can still comment to the Council. This is a revision to previous application [EPF/1758/16](#).

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned road closures

- Clifton Road and access to carparks - resurfacing of Clifton Road will start on 5 January. Due to the narrow width of the road, the work is challenging. The road will be fully closed between 8am and 5pm from 5 January to the end of the month. There will be no access to the car parks behind the High Road between 8am and 5pm from 9 to 27 January. [More](#) and [more](#).

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



Public Transport over Christmas and New Year

There will be changes to public transport services over the Christmas and New Year period.

Transport for London

- **On Christmas Eve**, services will finish earlier than normal on London Underground, London Overground, Elizabeth line, DLR and London Trams
- **On Christmas Day**, there will be no service on the bus, Tube and rail networks. The only transport running will be taxi and private hire services, Santander Cycles, e-scooters, coaches and Dial-a-Ride (for registered members only)
- **On Boxing Day**, there will be no Night Tube or Night Overground service, and no service on the Elizabeth line or most of the London Overground network, except for the Mildmay and Windrush lines
- **On New Year's Eve**, most services will continue to run all night on all lines except the Waterloo & City line, which will run until 02:40. Normal TfL fares will apply on New Year's Eve.

[More](#)

Vectare

[Bus Routes 16, 17/17A and 18](#). (Scroll down)

Arriva

[Bus Route 66](#) (Click on Essex)

Mainline Rail Services

[National Rail](#) and [TravelWatch](#) information

[Major engineering work](#) is taking place at Liverpool Street mainline station between Christmas and the New Year. Network Rail advise that Liverpool Street mainline station will be closed to all services during this period. No trains will run to or from Liverpool Street mainline station from Saturday 27 December to Thursday 1 January. The exceptions are the Central and Elizabeth lines which have separate platforms at the station. [More](#)



Free off-street parking in December at the weekends

Weekend parking is free in District Council-run [off-street car parks](#) at the weekends until the end of December. [More](#) There is no need to get a ticket.

When using **on-street** parking bays 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

Police meeting young people

The police have been visiting numerous educational establishments recently to talk to students about a variety of things, including personal safety, careers and how to take fingerprints. Loughton Beavers invited the police to give a talk to their group about the role of the police and keeping safe. The children had a chance to dress up in police uniform, had a look around the police car and created their own fingerprint keyrings.

The Children and Young Person Officers also attended the Epping Forest Youth Employment Strategy Conference to talk to students about career options. The event sees young people from year 10 and 11 learn vital skills to help them with career pathways and gaining employment.

The police were also invited to New City College to talk to students about personal safety, how to report crime and signposting to partner agencies who provide support and guidance to students who have been victims of crime.

Arrests after High Road robbery

Two males were arrested following reports of a robbery on the High Road on 10 December. The victim was threatened with a knife and had their phone taken. The suspects made off on a stolen moped and were detained by police within 10 minutes of the offence.

Vision Zero

The police were recently out on the roads checking vehicles across Goldings Hill, Piercing Hill, Ongar Road and surrounding areas. Officers recorded 95 offences, 14 including drivers using mobile phones, 13 failing to wear seatbelts, and four reports of careless driving. Alongside enforcement, they spoke with over 220 residents, parents, and businesses about Vision Zero and the shared goal of ending deaths and serious injuries on our roads. [More about Vision Zero](#)

Police patrolling

The police recently carried out proactive patrols in both plain clothes and uniform locally, particularly in hotspot areas, around train stations and poorly lit alleys and pathways.

During the five-hour initiative, officers:

- Conducted 18 stop-and-searches of individuals and vehicles
- Issued 3 community resolutions
- Gathered 7 pieces of actionable intelligence.

Operation Dial patrols on The Broadway have been reinstated and will continue into early 2026.

Protect your car

Car thieves are fast, often opportunistic, and always on the lookout for an easy target. But they're also risk-averse.

If your vehicle looks difficult to steal, they're more likely to move on. The longer it takes, the greater the chance someone will notice and the greater the risk they'll get caught.

Every extra barrier, from steering locks to alarms, trackers, and parking in secure well lit areas, increases the time and effort needed to steal your vehicle. And that's exactly what criminals want to avoid.



Action Fraud now Report Fraud

[Report Fraud](#) is a new service that has replaced Action Fraud as the national platform for reporting cyber crime and fraud. This service helps you report fraud to the police, learn about how to prevent it, and get the support you need.

More from the police

- [Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to October 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 with the police locally. Just drop in, no booking required. [All future events are listed here.](#)

Council News



Light up a life

Town Mayor, LRA Cllr David Wixley welcomed residents and visitors to the 23rd annual Light up a Life event for St Clare Hospice on 29 November. The candlelight procession from Loughton Methodist Church gathered on Kings Green for carols, and a small service of reflection.

[More](#)

Image: Town Council

Loughton Wombles wombling

Thirteen Loughton Wombles were out in early December helping to make our town a little tidier and to mark their fourth anniversary. One group focused on the Mannock Drive and Burney Drive area. The other group litter picked the length of Chigwell Lane between Borders Lane and the railway bridge, Borders Lane running up to Lucton's Path, the surrounding area of the New City College Wellness Centre and Ladyfields Close



There are three dates organised for the early next year: 17 January, 14 February and 21 March. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact the Town Council by email at contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk or call 020 8508 4200.

If you know of a road that needs a good litter-pick, let the Town Council know so they can programme it for the Wombles to clear.

Image: Town Council

Cemetery tree of grief

The dead tree at the entrance to the Town Council cemetery has now been pollarded and an interpretation board will be installed soon.

Image: Town Council



Crossing along Rectory Lane

As we've reported previously, a group of residents had been asking for a safe crossing on Rectory Lane by Newmans Lane. This is something LRA County Cllr Chris Pond has been advocating on behalf of constituents for some years, but the scheme has never been funded by the County Council.

The Council are only pursuing current projects which have already been funded and, with pending local government reorganisation, there is no realistic opportunity for this project to be taken forward in the short to medium term.

Waste and Recycling over the festive season

Your collection day may be different over the festive season, as there are no collections on 25-26 December and 1 January. [Check your revised collection day here.](#)

Recycling centres will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve from 1pm, and closed all day on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Here are [tips to reduce food waste](#) and advice on [what can be recycled](#) for Christmas.

Artificial Christmas trees are made out of plastic and cannot be recycled. Real Christmas trees can be chopped up and put in the garden waste bin.

The [Just Helping Christmas tree collection](#) will recycle real Christmas trees while raising funds for the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity and local community causes. [Request a collection by 4 January](#) for collection between 7 and 12 January.

Food and garden waste collections will change next year

Food and garden waste will be collected separately from 31 March.

Households will receive new brown kerbside and kitchen caddies for food waste, which will be collected weekly. This service will be free.

The existing green-lidded wheelie bin will be used for garden waste only and collected fortnightly from those who sign up to a subscription service, which will start from 31 March. Residents who want to subscribe will be able to apply from 1 February. [More](#)

Terra Verde Services

Terra Verde Services (TVS) was set up as a wholly owned company by the District Council to provide recycling and waste collection, and street cleansing services in 2024, taking over from Biffa. TVS has published [their business plan](#) (PDF) for the next two years. They outline their responsibilities (p8) and the extent of their operations including:



- Street cleansing crews walk between 5 and 7 miles per day carrying out tasks such as litter picking and weed removal.
- On average, 70 to 90 fly-tips are cleared per week.
- Approximately 95 special collections are completed each week.
- Mechanical sweepers cover approximately 40 to 50 miles per day per vehicle.
- A recycling and waste crew member walks 13 miles a day on average.
- In total, the crews make on average 470,000 individual collections a month, collecting almost 51,000 tonnes of waste from 58,000 properties a year, of which 53% is sent for reuse, recycling, or composting.

[More](#)



Warm places

Warm places help people minimise the impacts of cold homes and social isolation during winter months. These community-led spaces 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. [More](#)

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:

- Every Saturday - board games event - drop in and play with family or make new friends. No booking required. [More](#)



- 20 December - Christmas tree decoration. No booking required. [More](#)
- 27 December - New Year's Headband Craft. No booking required. [More](#)



Winter Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Challenge 2026 is a way to keep children engaged and learning during the winter month. Running from 10 January to 22 February, this challenge is aimed at and encourages children aged 0-12 to enjoy books, get creative, and have fun.

Pick up a Challenge Sheet at Loughton or Debden library from 10 January.

Rewards are a Certificate of Completion for finishing six challenges, and the opportunity to enter into the Big Prize Draw for exciting prizes. [More](#)

Protecting Playing Fields - Have Your Say

The Government is consulting on changes to the planning system that could remove Sport England as a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields.

This matters as:

- without Sport England's statutory role, there is no guaranteed protection for playing fields.
- local clubs could lose access to vital facilities, and poor design decisions may go unchecked.
- community sport could suffer long-term: Without expert oversight, schools and councils may lock gates or repurpose fields, leaving grassroots clubs with fewer affordable spaces to train and play.

[More and have your say here.](#) The consultation closes 13 January.

Health and Wellbeing

Managing your medicines

Around one in every ten medicines handed out are not needed or used. Approximately £7.5 million is wasted in our wider NHS area of west Essex and Hertfordshire. This includes inhalers, pain medication and creams.

The NHS is asking that patients order only what is needed. As all prescriptions have an expiry date, unused and out of date medicines might not work as intended, and stockpiling medicines can contribute to serious drug shortages. [More](#).

Worried about an older friend or family member?

During the holiday season, you may be spending more time with friends and family. If you notice an older friend or family member seems more withdrawn, anxious, or less confident, it could be a sign they are in an unhealthy relationship. [Find out more](#) on how to get confidential advice for the older person you care about.

Screening for cancer

Cancer screening is for people without symptoms. National cancer screening programmes are run by the NHS and in most cases eligible people are invited automatically. Cancer screening aims to spot cancer at an early stage, when treatment is more likely to be successful. Some types of screening can also prevent cancer from developing in the first place.

You can use [StandUpToCancer's screening checker](#) to see if you're eligible to take part, or if you want to take part but are worried or have questions.

Epping Forest



Wildlife in December

December is a great time to spot fallow deer in Epping Forest. The males, known as bucks, have distinctive palmate antlers that are renewed each year, setting them apart from the antler-free females. Woodpeckers remain active throughout the colder months, particularly the great spotted and green woodpecker. At ground level, small mammals such as bank voles, wood mice and

shrews may still be out foraging on milder days, gleaning among the fallen leaves. Grey squirrels are also still active, storing nuts and searching for food to last through the colder months. [Read more in Forest Focus](#).

Conservation volunteering - tree planting

Young tree whips will be planted at Copped Hall to create a native mixed-species hedgerow. This new habitat will provide food and shelter for local wildlife, helping boost biodiversity in the area. No experience is needed - just bring your enthusiasm and be ready to get hands-on with nature on [7 January](#), [17 January](#) or [21 January](#). Booking required.

Conservation volunteering - leaky dam construction

Build leaky dams which help improve the forest's waterways and support local wildlife. No experience needed - just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to get hands-on in nature. [More](#). Booking required.

Volunteer Information Session

Come along to the Epping Forest volunteer information session at the Visitor Centre at Chingford on 23 January and find out more about volunteering. Whether you're interested in a front of house role in our shop, an event support role, or touring

visitors around Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge there are opportunities for everyone. [More](#)

Murder mystery in the heart of the Forest

Last summer, among the ancient trees of Epping Forest, a crime was being solved, on camera, that is. The Forest provided the atmospheric backdrop for the Netflix movie *Wake Up Deadman*, the latest Knives Out mystery, starring Daniel Craig, Glenn Close and Mila Kunis.

The Holy Innocents Church, usually a peaceful haven and a summer destination for quintessentially British afternoon teas, was transformed for filming into a neo-gothic church in upstate New York. The movie is showing at selected cinemas and on Netflix. [News article](#)



The Natural World Exhibition

This new exhibition at the Visitor Centre in Chingford celebrates the beauty of Epping Forest through the eyes of talented local artists. Wander through an inspiring collection of prints that reflect the richness, rhythm and quiet drama of the natural world.

The exhibition is open open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm, and runs until 31 January.

Forest Focus - December 2025

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



And More

TV interference

With mobile phone networks being upgraded, such upgrades could cause interference with TV services received through an aerial, such as Freeview, BT, TalkTalk and YouView. (Cable and satellite services would not be affected.)

If you experience new TV interference such as poor sound, a blocky picture, or a 'no signal' message Restore TV could help via [their website](#) or calling 0808 13 13 800.

Restore TV is an independent programme created to ensure that all UK viewers continue to receive free to view TV or are offered a suitable alternative, if new mobile services cause TV interference.

*Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 16 January.
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

More from LRA at:

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www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

All our past issues of LRA's Loughton News emails, Loughton Life, and more

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