



LRA's Loughton News

24 April 2026

In this issue we let you know [LRA's candidates for the local elections](#) and [helpful information on voting](#) on 7 May.

There's also [the latest update](#) on timelines for introducing the new West Essex Council.

Around town, [the Wombles have been out and about clearing up litter](#), [how Anti-Social Behaviour is being deterred on The Broadway](#), we will soon have [a new Town Clerk](#), and [a reminder of the long term disruption to roads](#) due to Thames Water's upgrade work.

In the Forest, [there's a new Visitor Guide](#), [various events taking place](#) and [a new publication on an aerial investigation and mapping project](#).

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.

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](#)

Your LRA



[LRA Website](#)



[LRA on Facebook](#)



[LRA on X](#)

Contact LRA by email at
contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

[Links not working? Read the online version](#)

LRA News

Elections on 7 May

Local elections will take place on Thursday 7 May for 18 District Council seats held by Cllrs who came third in the all-out, three-member ward elections in May 2024 will be up for election. These include four LRA Cllrs in the District Council's Loughton wards. The elections for the County Council will include two seats that were created to cover Loughton after boundary changes were made by the Electoral Commission.

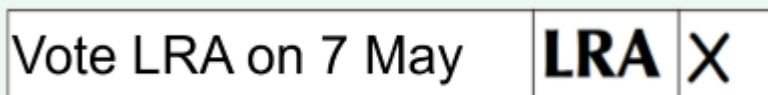
LRA's candidates are:

- District Council - David Wixley (for Loughton Fairmead), Richard Cohen (for Loughton Forest), Chidi Nweke (for Loughton Roding) and Graham Wiskin (for Loughton St John's).

- County Council - Chris Pond (for Loughton North) and Roger Baldwin (for Loughton South and Buckhurst Hill West).

On polling day, you will have one ballot paper for the District Council and one for the County Council. You can vote for one candidate on each ballot paper. Look for the LRA symbol on the ballot paper. If you registered for postal voting, your ballot papers should arrive shortly.

[Here is a summary of what LRA has done](#) and we hope that you will continue to support LRA with your vote.



Voter ID, proxy, postal and absent votes

[The District Council provides useful information](#) on voting at this year's local elections including:

- Remember your voter or photo ID.
- If you don't have any photo ID, you should apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) by 28 April.
- You can nominate someone else to vote on your behalf.



Helping a resident when it matters

Recently, during a ward walkabout, an elderly resident stopped to speak with LRA Cllrs about a problem she had been facing for some time. Following repair work carried out in her flat, her toilet stopped working. She reported the issue but received no response. Not wanting to complain, she simply got on with things – even though this meant flushing her toilet with a bucket.

Hearing that a 76-year-old woman was having to live like this was truly shocking. LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke took up the case and contacted the District Council to demand

urgent action.

Chidi is pleased to share that the repair was carried out the very next day. When he called back, the resident was happy to tell us that everything has now been properly resolved.

Your concerns, our priority

This incident is exactly why LRA makes a point of being out in the community and listening to residents. Sometimes a small intervention can make a huge difference to someone's daily life.

It is a real privilege to have people share their concerns with us, and we take that responsibility seriously. Common themes included local services such as bins and road maintenance, particularly potholes. Although potholes are the responsibility of the County Council, we will ensure these are formally reported and will continue to support residents in pushing for improvements.

Strong communities are built on listening and action. We remain committed to being visible, responsive and proactive representatives for everyone we serve. LRA Cllrs are always glad to hear from you and help wherever we can. Please never feel that a problem is too small.

Thank you to all who took the time to speak with us – your voices guide the work we do.

Local Government Reorganisation

More details have been released on what happens next as plans are made for introducing the five new councils covering Essex.

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 for the new councils will take place in May 2027. After the elections, a shadow council will be set up. A shadow council is a temporary body made up of the newly elected councillors. Its role is to:

- prepare for the official launch of the new councils
- agree budgets, policies, and governance arrangements
- ensure everything is ready for the transfer of services from 1 April 2028

Until 1 April 2028, all day-to-day services will continue to be run by Essex County Council and the 15 unitary, district, city and borough councils in Greater Essex. After that date, the new councils will begin to align services, systems and ways of working. This won't happen all at once. Instead, they will introduce changes gradually over time to make sure they are well planned, practical and easy for residents to adapt to.

[More](#)

The Government has already announced that the Greater Essex Mayoral election will take place in May 2028.

Death of County Councillor Mike Mackrory

LRA County Cllr Chris Pond says he has been much saddened by news of the death on Monday 20 April of County Cllr Mike Mackrory, the Liberal Democrat Cllr from

Springfield. He and Chris have alternated as leader of the opposition on the County Council, were both elected to the Council in 2005, and both originated in Chingford. Chris says that although he and Mike were not politically identical, he was a thoroughly likeable and sound politician.

Rest in peace Mike, and condolences to Pat and the family.

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](#).

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 [Queens Road](#), [Sparelease Hill](#), and [Woodbury Hill](#). [See our news item below for more details](#).
- Forest Road - the road will also be closed 5 to 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](#)

- Newmans Lane - the road will be closed on 30 April between its junction with Hatfields for a distance of approximately 105m in a south westerly direction for sewer cover replacement by the County Council. [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



Police appeal

Police are asking for information to help identify a man in connection with threats made to a victim around 1.30pm on 11 December 2025, when the suspect approached the victim, made verbal threats, and then left the area towards Longcroft Rise. They have released images of a man they want to speak to. (Click on the image on the left for a larger version.)

He is described as around 5ft 7in tall, slim build, and was wearing a black puffer jacket, blue jeans, white trainers and a white baseball cap. He had stubble resembling a goatee. The police believe the suspect may have connections to the

Oakwood Hill area.

[Report online](#), or by [Live Chat](#) (link to the bottom right), or call 101 using reference 42/182290/25.

Burglar arrested 15 minutes after prison recall notice issued

A sharp-eyed police officer arrested a man in Loughton wanted for a recall to prison just 15 minutes after the recall notice was issued.



The 33-year-old Harlow man was arrested in Sandford Avenue on 15 April by an

officer from the Raptor pro-active drugs team. He had been released from prison and failed to attend a probation appointment.

He was originally jailed last year, following an investigation by Epping Forest Neighbourhood Policing Team, for burgling the BP garage in The Broadway ten times and stealing meat valued at hundreds of pounds. [More](#)

It's ok to say no to work at the door

Garden and home improvement scammers often turn up unannounced and pressure you to agree to work there and then, saying it's urgent or offering a "today only" deal. This is a common warning sign.

You may end up paying for work you didn't ask for, work that's poor quality, or work that's never finished. Always take time to research the company, get written quotes, and shop around before agreeing to anything. A genuine trader won't rush you or mind you saying no and closing the door.

If something doesn't feel right, it's okay to say no, shut the door and take time to do your own research.

More from the police

- More from the police for [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to February.
- 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 in [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) with the police locally. Just drop in, no booking required. [All future events are listed here](#).



Council News

Waste collections have changed

Kitchen and kerbside caddy deliveries have been completed. If you live in a property with its own garden and your food waste caddy hasn't arrived yet, place your food waste in your black refuse bin for now and [report a missed delivery](#). (Select 'waste and recycling general enquiry'.) [More](#)



You can still [sign up for the fortnightly garden waste subscription service here](#).

Please try to not put your bin out for collection earlier than the evening before your collection day, and try to take it back in as soon as possible afterwards.

[The District Council have acknowledged](#) a few minor difficulties with new vehicles, new collection routes and new computer systems as well as delivery issues with some of the food waste caddies. They have apologised for these teething issues and extend their sincere thanks and appreciation for everyone's patience as the service settles in, and look forward to delivering continued improvements for our district. [More](#)

Deterring ASB on The Broadway

The District Council's antisocial behaviour (ASB) team recently spent two days engaging with residents, business owners and passers-by in The Broadway in Loughton.

During the visit, the team shared advice, offered support, and provided updates on local community safety measures.

The team spoke with around 80 people and handed out hate crime awareness leaflets. These included simple guidance on reporting antisocial behaviour, hate crime, and fly-tipping. Residents were informed that the 18 newly installed stairwell CCTV cameras are now fully operational, and officers explained how to report any concerns directly to the ASB Team. To further deter antisocial behaviour, additional Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) signs have been installed at the entrances of nearby residential blocks. [More](#)

Loughton Wombles

The Loughton Wombles were recently out for their fourth litter pick of 2026.

One group focused on the Watts Green area (where Smarts Lane meets Nursery Road) and up Smarts Lane towards Staples Road to the main school entrance. The other group went along the full length of Pyrles Lane, including the rear of the shops and finished by clearing the section of Englands Lane between Pyrles Lane and Cleland Path.

The next session is on 23 May. If you would like to join the Loughton Wombles, call the Town Council on 020 8508 4200 or email contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk



Image: Town Council

Heritage Lamp Post on School Green

A local resident contacted Town Council regarding the heritage lamp post on School Green where the integrity of the post is threatened by vehicles driving over the grass where it is installed. It is currently being shored up and protected around the base with branches and twigs. The land is part of Epping Forest and the responsibility of the City of London (CoL).

The Town Council is contacting the CoL to ask if the Council could install posts to prevent vehicles being able to drive over the grass by this lamp post and to enquire whether there maybe any underlying utility pipes which may cause a problem if such posts were installed.

New Town Clerk

The current Town Clerk Mark Squire will retire in June. The new Town Clerk will be Elizabeth Petyt-Start, the current Clerk of Buckhurst Hill Parish Council. She will join the Town Council on 1 June 2026.

Bigger fines for littering and fly-tipping

Penalties for fly-tipping have increased from £400 to £1,000, along with new Fixed Penalty Notice (FPNs) in a bid to stop the illegal dumping of rubbish in and around the district.

- Littering FPNs will be increased from £150 to £400.
- Household duty of care FPNs will be increased from £400 to £600.
- There will be a new early payment discount for littering and household duty of care FPNs, but not for the maximum fly tipping penalty of £1,000.

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and the increase in penalties reflects residents' concerns, the seriousness of the offence and the council's commitment to tackling fly-tipping and protecting local communities. [More](#)

The first £1,000 fine for fly-tipping was issued for a van that was captured on CCTV illegally dumping waste at the entrance to a field on private land on Bury Lane in Epping. Working with the landowner, officers were able to recover evidence from the waste, which included household items and drug paraphernalia. This evidence allowed officers to trace the offence back to the vehicle's registered owner, and information has been shared with Essex Police. [More](#)



Recycling Shells

A resident recently queried whether shellfish shells can be placed in the new food caddies. The District Council confirmed this can indeed be done with shellfish shells

(such as prawn, crab, lobster, oyster and mussel shells). [Check here what can go in each bin](#), although it doesn't list shells (yet).

Epping's Bell Hotel legal costs

A Freedom of Information request by the BBC ([news article](#)) has revealed that the estimated cost of legal action by the District Council related to the Bell Hotel in Epping reached £566,000 as of February. This cost will met by the Council's contingency funds.

Changes to rental laws

The District Council is urging landlords to prepare for the Renters' Rights Act, which takes effect on 1 May, marking the most significant reform to the sector in nearly 40 years.

Reforms to the private rented sector in England are bringing in new rights and responsibilities for landlords, letting agents and tenants. These changes will happen on 1 May and include:

- Section 21 no-fault evictions will be abolished
- Fixed-term assured tenancies will be banned
- Tenants will benefit from a 12-month protected period
- It will be illegal for landlords to discriminate against prospective renters who have children or receive benefits
- It will put an end to rental bidding wars
- Landlords will only be able to request 1 month's rent upfront
- Rent increases will be legally limited to once per year
- Tenants will have the right to request a pet
- Tenants will be able to challenge rent increases

Be asbestos aware

Asbestos is a material that can harm our health and the environment, so it must be disposed of carefully.

Although asbestos was banned in the UK over 25 years ago, it can still be found in common items such as floor and ceiling tiles, ironing boards, and guttering.



Asbestos is not accepted in your kerbside collections or at any County Council recycling centre. If you have asbestos that needs disposing of, the County Council offer a subsidised home collection service for households across the county. [More](#)

Local News

Extensive Thames Water roadworks over the next three years

As a reminder, Thames Water are closing various roads around town for extended periods over the next three years. The aim is to replace old water mains and reduce



the number of significant leaks that cause unpredictable disruption. The result should be fewer leaks and greater ability to control the flow of water when there are issues.

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:



- 28 April - 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](#)
- 6, 13 May - 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](#)
- 1, 8, 15 May - 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](#)
- 1 May - Community Tea and Chat - Enjoy a free tea, coffee and biscuits and chat with people in your local community or simply relax in a friendly environment. No booking required. [More](#)
- 8, 15 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](#)

Charges for Library reservations

From 22 April 2026, a £1.15 fee applies to all adult library cardholder reservations for physical library items. This includes reservations made online, through the app, or with support from staff.

Borrowing remains completely free when you pick up a book directly from library shelves. The charge only applies when you reserve an item, which is when you ask to hold an item for you or bring it over from another library. This charge applies only to adult library cardholders. All Children, Teen and Other Concessionary cardholders will still be able to reserve items for free. [More](#)

LRA Cllr Chris Pond recalls the last time a reservation charge was imposed was around 1966 with a fourpence charge. Chris opposes the suggested charge now of £1.15, which he thinks will seriously impair the range of services the libraries offer.

Call for Summer Reading Challenge volunteers

Are you aged 14 or over and looking for something rewarding to do this summer? Applications are now open to become a Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer in your local library. You'll help inspire children to enjoy reading, chat with them about books, and hand out rewards - all while gaining valuable experience, confidence and skills for your CV. [More](#)



Epping Forest Museum

The museum tells the story of the people and events that shaped the district, with collections including paintings, jewellery, costumes, a woolly mammoth tusk, "King Harold's battle axe" and the Waltham Abbey Bible. It is based in Waltham Abbey in a Grade II* listed Tudor building dating from 1485 to 1603 and is fully accessible and a lovely community space for all to use. [More](#)

The museum also hosts [exhibitions, activities and events](#). A current exhibition is *Town and Country: Life in Roman Duroplitum* which explores what it would have been like to live at the Duroplitum site (situated between what is now Chigwell and Abridge) almost 2000 years ago. Expect weird bathing practices, amazing Roman objects and the chance to dress up as a Roman God or Goddess.

Loughton Athletic Club help #LiftTheCurfew

Through the winter months Loughton Athletic Club offered a monthly free social run round Loughton. The initiative was part of a nationwide effort to enable women to feel safe while running in the dark evenings. Running clubs across the country took part in 'Lift the Curfew' runs to coincide with the clocks changing in October. As passionate advocates of 'running for fun' and supporters of female athletics and running in general, Loughton AC decided to continue highlighting the issue monthly throughout winter.

Loughton AC is a friendly welcoming athletics club for all ages and types of athletes. They are proud to cater for beginners, those running for general fitness, and those competing at a good standard. [More](#), including details of training and future fixtures.

Bluebells

A local resident tells us there's an excellent display at Apes Grove, Abridge, ten minute's stroll from the road. Here's how to get there:

- Drive through Abridge (towards Ongar).
- Turn right into New Farm Drive and park just before the road narrows.
- Take the public footpath on the left (nearly opposite Knights Walk) between a fence and trees, across a bridge and along a track across a field to a wood (Ape's Grove).
- Follow the path just inside the edge of the wood all the way back to where you came in, and return.
- The paths are clear but can be a bit uneven. Epping Forest Countrycare has installed wooden bridges over the boggy bits, but boots or stout shoes are advised. The area is not wheelchair accessible.



(The area to the east of Apes Grove was clear-felled 30+ years ago and replanted with native species.)

It is critical that these tender plants are left alone to grow and not be subjected to trampling. So, please do take care where you walk. Even when the woods are seemingly devoid of plant life, the bulbs and new growth can be compacted and damaged if trodden on. Bluebells are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Epping Forest byelaws, which prohibit removing the plants from the Forest. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

NHS Organisational Changes

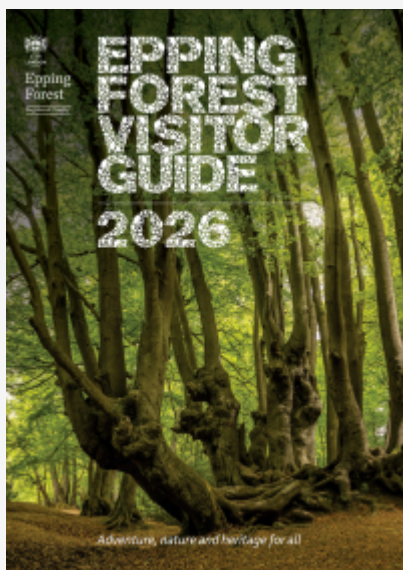
As of 1 April the Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB has been dissolved. A new organisation covering Essex called NHS Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) brings together NHS planning and commissioning across the whole of Essex. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Upcoming events in the Forest

Events include [Nature & Art in the neighbourhood](#), and [discover trees in Epping Forest](#), and [Tiny Trail forest walk for parents & caregivers with 0-5 year olds](#).

Most events are free, with some requiring booking.



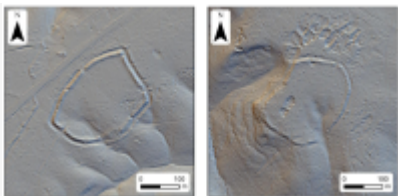
New Visitor Guide

The new guide includes visitor information, event details and four seasonal walks.

This inaugural guide for 2026 will help you explore the Forest's trails, discover its heritage and enjoy the events and experiences awaiting you this year. [More](#) (PDF)

Epping Forest Uncovered

In 2024 and 2025 the Historic England Aerial Survey team carried out an aerial investigation and mapping project of the Forest landscape. The project aim was to providing a new baseline archaeological dataset to the City of London Corporation to



aid in their management of heritage assets within the Forest.

The results of this survey contribute towards future outreach activities which are likely to include an ongoing programme of monument condition and monitoring recording. The project resulted in the creation of digital aerial mapping data and monument records for over 200 monuments within the boundaries of the forest, the vast majority of which were previously unrecorded. [The report is here](#) (PDF).

Forest Focus - February

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



And More

Lost track of a pension?

There's an estimated £20 billion in lost pensions. The Pension Tracing Service® is an impartial service to help locate your lost pensions and then offer advice so you understand what you can do with them. [More](#)

Jazz in Loughton

The National Jazz Archive is a collection of materials about jazz and blues kept at Loughton Library. The archive was founded in 1998 and contains visual and print materials from the 1920s to the present. It includes many unique items and draws researchers and enthusiasts from around the world.

The Archive is open to the public by appointment only ([more](#)) with [research material online](#).

The Archive also runs events featuring leading musicians and personalities from the British jazz scene. The next event is on 30 April at the Baptist Church at 92 High Road for UNESCO International Jazz Day hosting a celebration of global jazz. This will be led by Claude Deppa, one of the founding fathers of the Jazz Warriors, probably the most influential UK jazz collectives of the 20th Century, with a band of multi-national musicians from the Grand Union Orchestra to join the world's largest celebration of jazz with music that will move the feet and lift the heart. [More](#)

*Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 15 May.
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



1. If you find any links not working or anything else is wrong let us know at loughtonnews@loughtonresidents.co.uk. Links to other websites are beyond our control and may not work over time.
2. LRA gives no warranty about, and will take no responsibility for, items or services offered – purchasers/users should make their own enquiries, and will be acting at their own risk.

© 2026 Loughton Residents Association

Promoted by & on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association, 28 Brook Road, Loughton IG10 1BP

This email was sent to <<First Name>> <<Last Name>> at <<Email Address>>. You are receiving this email as a member of Loughton Residents Association and have subscribed to receiving emails from us.
[Unsubscribe from emails from LRA here](#)