



LRA's Loughton News

29 August 2025

In this issue, if you've noticed more weeds on the streets, [we let you know why that may be happening](#). Also [there's more information on the plans to reorganise local government](#). This is something to watch; although nothing will change in the short term, within a couple of years we are likely to see many changes to how councils operate.

Coming up in September are two key events - the [Loughton Horticultural Show](#) on 6 September and [Loughton Day](#) on 20 September. Both are free to attend and everyone is welcome.

Watch out in the post for a letter from the District Council to [confirm your details on the electoral register](#). It's important that your details are correct.

Thank you for supporting LRA which is 100% run by volunteers. 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

Weeds in the streets



In early August a resident complained to LRA Cllr Rose Brookes, about the excessive weeds and dirt in Lower Queens Road at Buckhurst Hill. She reported this to the District Council immediately.

The street cleansing team had been very involved in the roll out of blue bins all over the district so they didn't attempt any work until the week before the August Bank Holiday.

After the work was done, Rose inspected their efforts but felt it was disappointing and requested the waste management team manager ask for the team to revisit the road.



The County Council currently provide funding to the District Council to carry out weed spraying, and previously Biffa had the contract for dealing with weeds on the roadside (along with waste and recycling collections). Since Terra Verde Services (a 100% District Council owned company) took over these responsibilities, there has been no contract in place for weed spraying, and the District Council has said that the funding from the County Council is insufficient to cover the costs.

The District Council is in the process of drawing up a new contract for weed spraying to prove the costs do not meet the funding being provided. They will then ask if the County Council wishes to proceed with a new contract or take the function back into Essex Highways.

Rose has also been in touch with the land drainage team for advice about the weeds blocking the gullies and drains in Lower Queens Road. As this is a County Council responsibility she contacted the County Cllr Marshall Vance (the Cllr for this division) to request they were cleared.



Mess cleared

LRA Cllr Chris Pond was contacted by a resident reporting that Sparks Path was heavily littered and weed infested. Chris contacted the District Council and it was dealt with three days later.

Local Government Restructure

As planning for reorganising local government in Greater Essex goes forward, [a new website has been launched](#) to help residents, businesses and stakeholders stay informed and involved.

The new website offers:

- An overview of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Greater Essex



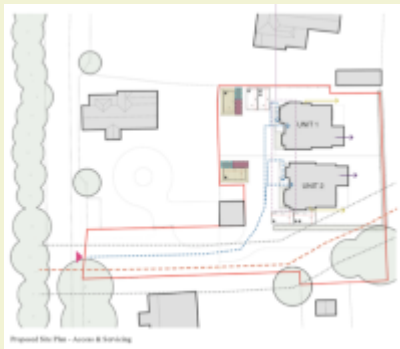
- A short explanatory video
- The government's aims for LGR
- Latest news and updates
- Frequently asked questions
- Councils are currently developing business cases that explore options for unitary arrangements as part of local government reorganisation (LGR). These will be made available in both full and summary formats as they are finalised.

If proposals are agreed there will be a public consultation. Elections to new shadow unitary councils could be expected in May 2027; new unitary councils could be fully live in April 2028. [More](#)

LRA Cllr Chris Pond reports that he understands there will be another iteration to the plan, which is to remove Wickford and Runwell from the South Essex Unitary and add it to the Central Essex Unitary (which would also cover Epping Forest).

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.



Beech Farm, High Road

This application proposes demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of two new dwellings, together with access from the High Road and associated development.

LRA has objected to this planning application. This is unacceptable backland development, which impacts on the openness of the Green Belt. The dwellings will overlook Beech Farm and 17 High Road to the detriment of their amenity.

LRAPG disagree with the conclusion in the submitted Planning Statement which states *“Following recent pre-application discussions, the proposal has been significantly reduced in size and scale following officer feedback moving from a 2-storey proposal to smaller chalet-style dwellings which officers have confirmed would be acceptable in this location.”* The designs shown are not *“smaller chalet-style dwellings”* but are substantial, bulky four-bedroom dwellings.

There may be scope for two single storey dwellings but no more.

Reference [EPF/1624/25](#). The formal consultation period ends 5 September.

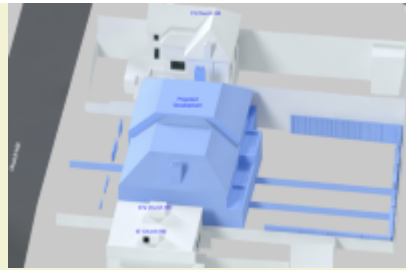
69 Church Hil

This application proposes demolition of the existing dwelling house and construction of four 4-bedroom houses, in a terrace configuration.

LRAPG has objected to this 12th submission for planning permission on this one site. (This is an amended application to [EPF/1014/24](#)). The rear of all the new

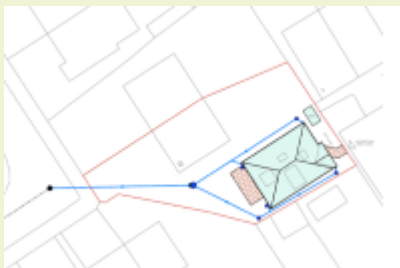
dwelling project too far into the garden. The rear bulk dominates the other adjacent homes and, if they were to consider proposing similar extensions, they would be refused. The monolithic side walls will dominate the neighbouring properties to the detriment of their amenity. There is absolutely no reason why the enormous master bedrooms to these dwellings cannot be reduced.

The [Daylight and Sunlight report](#) (PDF) is not based on the outline of the building that has been applied for. It should be redone or discarded.



LRAPG also noted the applicant has slipped this one into the council at a time of the year when people are away.

Reference [EPF/1646/25](#). The formal consultation period ends 5 September.



22 Crossfields

This proposes erection of a new dwelling.

LRAPG object to this application which is considered to be garden grabbing. The new dwelling also lacks amenity space and is right up against the front and side of the house in Jones Close.

Reference [EPF/1432/25](#). The formal consultation ends 29 August but you can still comment after this date.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned road closures

- Roding Road - the road will be closed under the Central Line bridge between 8pm and 5am for three nights from 8 September while bridge maintenance works are undertaken by Transport for London. [More](#)

Residents may tire of more disruption following on from when Roding Road was closed near the same place for an extended period in August due to works by Thames Water. Independent Cllr Stephen Murray helped keep residents informed during that disruption.



- Burton Road - the road will be closed 12 to 16 September for maintenance works by Essex Highways. [More](#)

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.

Central Connect bus timetable changes

There are some changes to the timetables from 1 September:

- Route 16-16C - amongst other changes Mondays to Saturdays, the service now will have an enhanced weekday evening peak timetable and Saturdays will run every 40 mins, down from 30mins. [More](#) (scroll down) and [the updated timetable](#)
- Route 18-18A-18C - amongst other changes from Mondays to Saturdays, most daytime journeys on Saturdays will operate approx 3-5 minutes later. [More](#) (scroll down) and [the updated timetable](#)

Police, Fire and Crime

Shoplifter banned

Jordan Carter from Epping has been jailed and banned from entering all BP and Shell garages in Essex for five years after a string of thefts across Debden, Epping, and Brentwood.

He was arrested in Brentwood shortly after stealing £1,500 worth of skincare products from Boots and later admitted to 11 shop thefts, totalling nearly £2,900. These included repeated thefts from a BP station and alcohol from a Shell garage.

He was sentenced to 12 months in prison at Southend Magistrates' Court and handed a Criminal Behaviour Order. If he enters any BP or Shell garage in Essex during the next five years, he could face further jail time. [More](#)

Charges brought after dog attack

Officers investigating an incident where a woman was bitten by a dog have secured charges against two people. A woman in her 30s reported being bitten in Highwood Lane 13 May and sustained an injury to her arm. Two people - a man and a woman – were arrested on 17 May and have now been charged.

Carolyn Allan, aged 59, and Paul Wafford, aged 61, both of Highwood Lane have been charged with being in charge of a dog dangerously out of control causing injury. They appeared Southend Magistrates' Court on 11 August and are next due to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday 8 September.

Appeal following assault

Police are investigating a serious assault which happened in Debden last weekend and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to come forward.

A teenage boy reported he was in The Broadway with a friend at around 10.30pm on Sunday 17 August when a white van pulled up and a man asked for his phone. Five or six men, all wearing balaclavas, got out of the van and chased the victim before assaulting him, causing injuries which will require surgery.

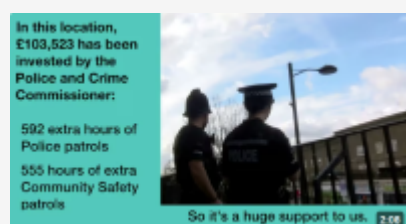
The suspects looked at his phone, but then threw it away before getting back into the van and driving off.

If you have any information, CCTV, dash cam or other footage in relation to this incident, then please [report it online](#) or call the police on 101 quoting the crime reference number 42/119168/25.

Charges brought after vehicle break-ins

Police were called to reports of two males trying to break into vehicles in Smart's Lane on 4 August. Officers arrived within seven minutes of the initial call and found and arrested two suspects hiding in the street.

A 50 year old man from Loughton was charged with three counts of vehicle interference, and a 43 year old man from Loughton was charged with one count of theft from a motor vehicle and three counts of vehicle interference. They were both initially remanded to Chelmsford Magistrates Court on the 5 August. They were released on conditional bail by the Courts to re-attend Chelmsford Magistrates Court on Monday 15 September.



Police on The Broadway

The police have invested £103,523 of Anti Social Behaviour Hotspot funding in extra community safety patrols and interventions on The Broadway. This funding, alongside funding from partners, has resulted in 592 extra hours of police patrols and 555 extra hours of community safety patrols in this hotspot zone. [More](#) and [Watch this video here](#).

Prison for drug dealers in Essex

The Serious Violence Unit (SVU) of the police have so far this year secured a combined 342 years in prison sentences for those involved in the serious violence and county lines activity. They have also seen:

- 309 people arrested and 236 charged.
- 93 drug lines dismantled.
- 130 drugs lines seized.
- More than 28kg of various drugs seized.
- 89 weapons seized.
- More than £302,000 in cash seized.

Through the SVU's work, 164 vulnerable or exploited people have been safeguarded this year. [More](#)

Selling items online?

The police are investigating reports of fraudsters buying an item you are selling online, on collection showing a banking app transferring the money to your account. In some cases, they even call their so called 'bank' to get them to confirm the transfer.

This is a fake banking app or phone number, and the payment will never make it to your account.

When selling items online check the buyer's review history and feedback from others. Be careful of accounts that may have been set up very recently with lots of favourable feedback that sounds the same.

More from the police

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

Loughton Horticultural Show Saturday 6 September 2025

The Show is on at the Murray Hall with free admission from 2pm, with refreshments being available. Awards will be presented at 4pm followed by the presentation of the Town Mayor's Best Allotment Competition Awards 2025.

There will be an opportunity to purchase plants and planted arrangements from Matthews Plants. All proceeds will be donated to the Town Mayor's charity, St Clare Hospice. [More](#)



Loughton Day Saturday 20 September

Come and see what Loughton community groups, charities and organisations have to offer.

Music, dance, food, drink and lots more.

This is a free event for all Loughton residents and visitors to enjoy in the grounds of the Loughton Cricket Club. [More](#)

Community infrastructure levy - Have your say

A community infrastructure levy (CIL) is a charge being introduced by the District Council on new development based on the size and type of new developments proposed.

The funds raised through CIL will provide infrastructure such as roads and other transport facilities, flood defence and flood management improvements, education facilities, medical facilities, sports and recreational facilities and open spaces.

[More and have your say here.](#) The consultation ends 9 September.

Businesses - Have your say

The District Council is asking businesses to complete a survey to let them know how we can help. The survey is for all businesses - multinational companies, small independent shops, a growing enterprise, or the self-employed.

[More](#) and [have your say here](#). The consultation ends 1 November.

Annual canvass of electors

The District Council carries out an annual canvass every year for all households in the Epping Forest district. This is to check the information on the electoral register is correct and up to date.

This year, if they have your email address on file they you may have received an email asking you to respond. For everyone else, letters have been sent. [More](#)

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 1-3pm - Children's Board Game Club. No booking required. [More](#)
- 16 September - Fraud Awareness - The police will be holding a drop-in session to discuss fraud awareness and advice. No booking required. [More](#)



At Debden Library there is:

- Every Saturday 10am to 11:30am - Games Morning - board games inside and ping pong outdoors (bring your own ping pong bat and balls) self-supervised. Join in fun board games or play a game of ping pong with your friends (weather permitting). No booking required. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing



Local health and wellbeing service

Frontline helps frontline workers and the public to find details on local health and wellbeing services and to contact services through call back and

referral options. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Epping Forest Big Walk 2025

The annual Epping Forest Big Walk will return this year on Sunday 14th September on a 14-mile route from Manor Park in east London to Bell Common in Epping in one day. There will be refreshment breaks along the way, as well as a variety of talks about the Forest. [More and register here.](#)

Dog walking in the Forest

Whatever the weather, come rain or shine, dog walkers are often the first ones out, following familiar paths and noticing when something is out of the ordinary.

Being a dog owner is a big responsibility. Many owners go to great lengths to understand their dogs' needs and ensure they live happy, healthy lives. Part of that commitment means being aware of the risks dogs may face.

Where and how you walk your dog matters too. Please be mindful of surroundings such as water, roads, wildlife, grazing cows and other people - not everyone may share your enthusiasm for your dogs!

A few reminders for a safe and respectful walk:

- Your dog must be under effective control. If your dog does not respond to recall you must keep it on a lead.
- Respect any seasonal site signage to keep your dog on the lead in certain areas, to protect rare species.
- Clean up after your dog and take the waste home.
- Do not allow your dog to disturb other visitors.
- Dogs must not disturb or chase any wildlife, cattle, deer or horses.
- Make yourself aware of potential hazards to your dog such as ticks and harmful algae.

Well-behaved dogs and their owners are always welcome in Epping Forest.

Butterflies on the wing

This is the best time of year to spot butterflies in their full glory. Look out for:

- Silver-washed fritillaries with their fast, gliding flight, particularly in sunny glades and clearings near Bury Wood and High Beach.
- Gatekeepers, meadow browns and small coppers flitting among bramble patches and grasslands.
- Purple hairstreaks are most likely spotted on warm, muggy evenings when they emerge from the canopy of mature oak trees to feed on honeydew.



Mid-morning on warm still days, offers the best chance to observe butterflies basking or feeding.

Forest Focus - August 2025

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

**And More****National test of UK Emergency Alerts system**

A UK-wide emergency alert test which will take place on Sunday 7 September at 3pm. All mobile phones will emit a loud siren and vibrate — even if they're on silent.

Regular testing ensures the system is functioning correctly, should it be needed in an emergency. [More](#)

The alert system is there for good reason, but you are able to disable alerts for safety reasons. [More](#)

Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 19 September. 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:

LRA's Website
www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

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

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