



LRA's Loughton News

6 June 2025

In this issue, we report on [the new Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor](#), [community teamwork](#) to help the College and [tributes for Caroline Pond from the Town and District Councils](#).

Shortly, the District Council will be delivering [new blue-lidded recycling bins](#), and the countdown has begun to the [Jessel Green Fun Day](#) in a month's time.

In the Forest, read about [rewilding at Copped Hall](#), [watching out for beetles](#), [surveying reptiles](#), and [have you considered helping out with conversation work?](#)

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.

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LRA News

New Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor



LRA Cllr David Wixley is the new Town Mayor for 2025/26, with LRA Cllr Stephen Harriman his deputy.

David has lived in Loughton since 1951 and has been a member of the Town Council since 2004. He currently represents Whitebridge Ward and has served as Chairman of the Recreation Committee and the Planning and Licensing Committee in the past. For those of you that know David, you will be aware that he is a very community minded and diligent individual. There is a long list of groups and associations that David is either currently a member of or has been a member in the past.

Stephen represents St John's Ward and is a relatively new councillor having been elected as a member of the Town Council in 2024.

Members also paid tribute to the work of the outgoing mayor, LRA Cllr Katie Valentine, commenting that taking on the role of Town Mayor was no small undertaking and that she had carried out her duties extremely well. In response, Katie described how much she enjoyed her term as Mayor and meeting so many excellent community groups within Loughton. She added that Loughton is a wonderful community and has so much to offer its residents. [More](#)

Image: Town Council

Community teamwork tackles concerns on The Broadway

When a local resident raised concerns about young people's safety on the Broadway, LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke sprang into action – with the results showing what can be achieved working together.

The resident had reported that a shop on The Broadway was allegedly selling dangerous vapes and alcohol to underage students, mainly from New City College. This was creating problems for the college as they worked hard to keep their students safe and secure.

Chidi immediately contacted the New City College leadership to better understand the situation. The college confirmed their concerns and shared their frustration at feeling isolated, with limited support from Council or the police. Recognising that teamwork makes the dream work, Chidi brought together District Council officers, police, and college staff for a productive meeting. Independent Cllr Stephen Murray also joined the effort.

The District Council assured the college that their concerns were being taken seriously and last year, after reports from their Licensing team, County Council Trading Standards made two test purchases. Both alleged businesses passed these tests.

On the police side, Sergeant Jamie Shepherd outlined ongoing covert and overt operations on the Broadway and surrounding areas, and said that additional

undercover visits can be arranged to continue monitoring the situation. The college also received encouragement to report any incidents directly to police and the Council.

A key outcome from the meeting was discovering that the CCTV system on Chigwell Lane (at the junction with Borders Lane and The Broadway) is among the district's best and can significantly support police investigations.

All parties agreed to strengthen their collaborative approach to tackle anti-social behaviour cases on The Broadway more effectively. The college, which is doing an outstanding job with their students, left the meeting feeling genuinely supported and optimistic about the future. This success story demonstrates how resident concerns, when brought to the right people, can create positive change through community partnership and teamwork.



Tributes to Caroline Pond

Tributes have been paid to former LRA Cllr and Town Mayor Caroline Pond who passed away last month.

Mark Squire, the Town Clerk, has acknowledged that *"Caroline will be greatly missed by all fellow Councillors and staff, past and present, at Loughton Town Council. She did not suffer fools gladly, but she was unfailingly kind and unassuming, with a quiet determination to get things done. She did not seek the limelight, it was never about*

Caroline, but her focus was purely on what she could achieve for the community."
[More](#)

Tributes were also paid by many at a recent District Council meeting. [More](#) and [watch the meeting here](#) (first 15 minutes).

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.



28 Ollards Grove

The application proposes demolition of the existing building, replaced by a new house.

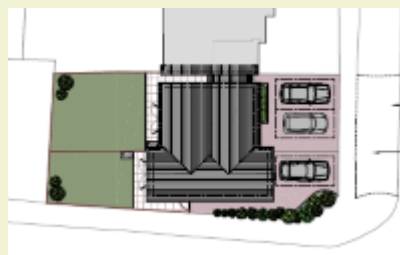
LRAPG has objected to this application. The proposed building is out of scale with its neighbours and, by reason of its height and bulk, will be detrimental to this part of Ollards Grove and the wider area.

The loss the existing building is unjustified on sustainability and embedded carbon grounds. It is not sustainable to knock down existing buildings and replace them with completely new builds. The existing building represented an enormous investment in carbon and energy already, and to simply throw it into the skip is unacceptable. It is also contrary to the principles of the circular economy.

Reference [EPF/0856/25](#). The formal consultation period ends 6 June, but you can still make comments after this date,

120 Valley Hill

The application proposes demolition of the existing single storey dwelling and construction of two new self-build dwellings including link, private amenity, off-street car parking, landscaping and boundary treatment.



LRAPG has objected to this application. The smaller house is virtually full onto the pavement of Greensted Road, well in front of the building line for Greensted Road. (The side of 118b Valley Hill is set back from the pavement edge). It will therefore appear as a sheer face to passers-by. The rooms in the smaller house appear cramped and deficient of a reasonable standard of living.

Reference [EPF/0806/25](#). The formal consultation period ends 12 June.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned road closures

- Burton Road - the road will be closed 9pm to 5am from 30 June to 2 July for work by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Bushfields - the road will be closed 9am to 2:30pm from 30 June to 2 July for carriageway patching by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Part of Borders Lane and surrounding roads to the south will be closed from 8am to 5pm between 13 and 27 June for road resurfacing by Essex Highways. Roads affected are (click on the individual links for more details):
 - [Borders Lane](#) between Deepdene and Colson Roads
 - [Colson Path](#)
 - [Cherston Road](#)
 - [Colson Gardens](#)
 - [Honeycroft](#)
- B181 from Epping to North Weald - the road will be closed during the day between 10am-3pm weekdays and 8am to 6pm weekends from 26 June to 4 July for road resurfacing by Essex Highways (this work has been delayed from late May). [More](#).



We understand that there will be access to the hospital at all times, however exercise caution and allow extra travel time. Check with the hospital if need be.

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.

Bus Shelters Upgraded

Residents may have noticed replacement of bus shelters around town. This is part of the Essex-Wide Bus Shelter Project by the County Council. [More](#)

Travelling by bus in Essex - Have your say

The County Council is inviting residents, passengers, and local communities to take part in a new bus survey. They are looking for responses from both bus users and non-bus users.

[More](#) and [have your say here](#). The survey is open until 30 June.

Police, Fire and Crime

Two arrests over dog incident

Officers investigating an incident where a woman was bitten by a dog have arrested two people

A woman in her 30s reported being bitten in Highwood Lane on 13 May and sustained an injury to her arm. The dog was with another dog. On 17 May a 61 year-old man and a 59 year-old woman, both from Loughton, were arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a dog dangerously out of control.

They have both been released on bail. The dogs have since been seized since the incident took place. [More](#)

If you have any information, CCTV, dash cam or other footage in relation to this incident, then please [contact the police](#) quoting the crime reference number 42/65350/25.

More from the police

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

Jessel Green Fun Day - 6 July

Once again, Loughton Town Council is organising the not-for-profit annual Jessel Green Fun Day, which will take place this year on Sunday 6 July.

There will be the usual inflatables, funfair rides, food, and community and charity stalls, along with a free soft play area for under-5s. Enjoy a dance performance from Straight Up Dance UK and be entertained by the ever-popular Mr Happy.

Wristbands for all inflatables and funfair rides remain at last year's price of £12. This gives unlimited access to all inflatables and funfair rides. Wristbands will be available to purchase in advance from the Town Council's offices from Monday 23 June, and from 11:30am on the day.



Epping Forest and Restore Community Churches will once again run the Café on the Green, and we are extremely grateful to John Walsh of the Cottage Loaf pub for his generous donation. John and his team will also provide live music from 4pm into the evening, rounding off the day perfectly. [More](#)

Blue-lidded recycling bins coming shortly

As a reminder, the District Council are delivering new blue-lidded recycling bins. These replace both the clear recycling sacks and blue box and the Council has now decided cardboard will be collected if folded/flattened and left beside the bin.

Residents can start using the new bin as soon as they receive it. The next collection will be the last which clear sacks will be taken.

Bins will be delivered in stages during June and July to limit disruption to collections. Blocks of flats will not get the new bins as they use communal bins for their recycling. [More](#)

We understand you will be able to request from the Council a larger, additional or smaller bin, but not until 1 September when the initial rollout is complete.

Charging for garden waste collections?

The District Council is considering charging £60 per year for fortnightly collection of garden waste. This would be in conjunction with separating food and garden waste into different bins for collection. [More](#) (from p23, PDF). Food waste would be collected weekly for no additional costs to residents.

The proposal will be considered by the District Council cabinet on 14 July.

[Compost bins](#) are of course possible alternative option to food and garden bins.

Loughton Wombles

The Loughton Wombles have been out at about over recent months helping clear litter around areas like Debden Park High School and Torrington Drive. Further litter picks are planned including for the [Jessel Green Fun Day](#) and subsequent dates. [The latest newsletter is here.](#)

BSL Signs at playgrounds

British Sign Language (BSL) signs have now been installed at all Town Council children's playgrounds.

Overgrown vegetation cleared

The District Council's Highway Rangers have cleared the overgrown vegetation obscuring the road signs by Lower Road and Englands Lane mini roundabout.



What's On

The District Council has published details of all activities, events, exhibitions and workshops from the Community Development and Wellbeing team for May to October. There's something for everyone, from wellness walks to our new upbeat dance session strictly dancing and dining for ladies and the full Play in the Park summer programme.

[More](#)

Local News

Dates for the Diary

- 6 July - Jessel Green Community Funday
- 6 September - Loughton Horticultural Show
- 20 September - Loughton Day

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:

- 6, 13, 20 and 27 June - Seated exercise. Booking required. [More](#)
- 7, 14 and 28 June - Children's Board Game Club. No booking required. [More](#)
- 14 June - Father's Day Card Making - No booking required. [More](#)



Proposed Data Centre on Langston Road

In January, we reported on plans to build a data centre on Langston Road. At the time, the only data centre application we were aware of is [a planning application that was granted permission](#) last year for the Alandale Scaffolding site on Langston Road.

Data centres use a lot of water for cooling. The previous planning application was approved, however at the time and based on comments from Thames Water, the [Decision Notice](#) (PDF) included a condition that "all water network upgrades required to accommodate the additional demand to serve the development have been completed". The developer would also need a water abstraction permission certificate from the Environment Agency for any abstracted raw water from local sources.

We have yet to see a further planning application for the site.

Single-use vapes banned

Single-use, disposable vapes are now banned from sale in the UK. Over 8 million vapes have been thrown away or recycled incorrectly every week. Not only is this a waste of precious resources but it is a danger to humans and the environment. [Research finds](#) that incorrectly disposed batteries caused over 1,200 fires in bin lorries and waste sites in 2022.

Please ensure that any single-use vapes are recycled correctly at a [recycling centre](#) or [retailer take-back schemes](#).

Health and Wellbeing

St Margaret's Hospital

The B181 road from Epping to North Weald will be closed during the day between 10am-3pm weekdays and 8am to 6pm weekends from 26 June to 4 July for road resurfacing by Essex Highways (this work has been delayed from late May).

The B181 road provides access to St Margaret's Hospital in Epping, so be aware if you have an appointment during that time. We understand that there will be access

to the hospital at all times, however exercise caution and allow extra travel time. Check with the hospital if need be.

Epping Forest

Conservation volunteering: upcoming dates

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



Surveying Reptiles

You may notice random squares of corrugated bitumen or roofing felt left in sunny spots in tall vegetation on the edge of scrub in the Forest. These are reptile mats that the Forest's Conservation Team use to survey reptiles at various grassland sites across the Forest.

The mat locations are all mapped and they will be checked and visited every two to three weeks throughout the summer and the presence of any reptiles will be recorded.

Fly-tipping: Caught in the act

A Forest Constable caught a fly-tipper in the act of dumping rubbish. [Watch the video here](#).

A fine was issued, the vehicle seized and details passed to the police.



Rewilding at Copped Hall

Over the past few months, a rewilding project has been transforming 73 hectares of former farmland at Copped Hall into flower-rich grassland. Almost 20 native species have been sown to help restore biodiversity, improve soil health, and lock in more carbon to help combat climate change. [Watch the video](#)



Watching Beetles

The [stag beetle](#) (*Lucanus cervus*) is Britain's largest land beetle. Males can grow up to 8cm, with striking antler-like jaws used to wrestle rivals for a mate. If you have seen one in the Forest [please log your sighting here](#) (and of other species).

These beetles are saproxylic, meaning they rely on dead and decaying wood during their long underground larval stage, which is one reason ancient woodlands like the Forest are so important.

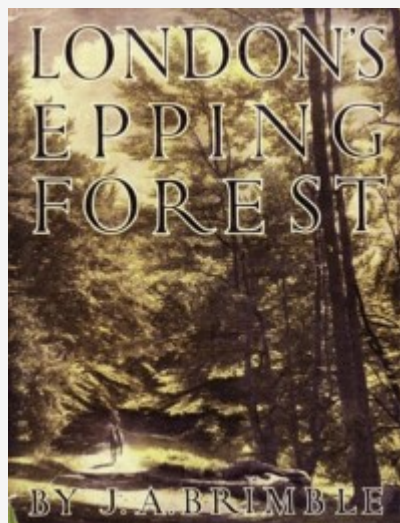
Stag beetles form part of the Forest's Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation.

James Brimble's Picture Archive Exhibition

This exhibition at includes some of the original copper printing plates from his book, *London's Epping Forest* - plus supporting material depicting his photographic legacy. This is a fascinating exploration of one man's remarkable relationship with the Forest.

The exhibition is at the Visitor Centre at Chingford until 28 September. Free and no booking required.

[More](#)



Concern over the future of buffer lands

Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT) are concerned over the City of London's plans to change the governance of its green spaces, including Epping Forest. The concern is over buffer lands, which are areas that the City bought after the Epping Forest Act 1878 to further protect the Forest. Those are outside the areas that are covered under the Act ([see them in this map](#) (PDF) marked in yellow). [More](#) and [news article](#).

Forest Focus - May 2025

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



And More

Subsidised Compost Bins

To help residents get started with home composting, you can purchase a subsidised compost bin for your garden. You can choose from:

- a 220 litre or 330 litre sized compost bin in either green or black
- a 439 litre wooden compost bin
- a bokashi bin twin pack



[More](#)

Thank you for supporting LRA.

These regular news emails are issued every 3-4 weeks, with some news special emails issued from time to time. The next news email is planned to be issued on Friday 4 July.

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



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



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

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