



LRA's Loughton News

6 June 2026

In this issue, [the Town Council has announced](#) that LRA Cllr Stephen Harriman is the new Town Mayor for 2026/27, with LRA Cllr Les House his deputy.

[The Town Council has reached its 30th anniversary](#), and long-standing Cllrs have been given awards.

At the end of this month is the [Jessel Green Fun Day](#). Please mark your diaries and come along to this annual event, for inflatables, fun fair rides, food stalls and more

The District Council is introducing [changes to the food waste service for flats](#), and did you know [your shredded paper can go into your blue-lidded recycling bin?](#)

Enjoy the Forest in summer, but please be aware of [blue-green algae](#) and [Oak processionary moths](#).

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](#)

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](#)

Dear Members,

I am writing to update members following the decision by Councillors Louise Mead and Roger Baldwin to leave Loughton Residents Association and form a new group called "Residents for Loughton".

First, it is right that we thank both Louise and Roger for the contribution they have made as LRA councillors over the years. Both have served Loughton in different capacities, and we recognise the time, energy and commitment that public service requires. We wish them well in continuing to serve their residents.

However, we also believe it is important to correct the record following the public statement that has been issued about their reasons for leaving LRA.

LRA strongly rejects the suggestion that the Association has been "taken over" by a small group of councillors, or that decisions have been driven by private agendas. The recent decisions taken within LRA have been based on discussion, debate, and the majority view of LRA councillors and members involved in the relevant

processes.

The central disagreement was not about personalities. It was about the political direction of LRA.

Following the May elections, there were discussions about whether LRA should enter into an arrangement, whether formal or informal, with the Conservative Group at Epping Forest District Council. This included the possibility of a coalition-style arrangement, support for Conservative positions, and potential roles within the administration.

The majority view within LRA was clear: LRA should not enter into any formal arrangement with the Conservatives, or any other national political party. We believe that would be contrary to the independent, residents-first principles on which LRA was founded and on which our councillors were elected.

Residents voted for LRA councillors because they wanted independent local representation, not party-political deals or arrangements that could compromise our ability to speak freely for Loughton.

This does not mean LRA refuses to work with others. Far from it. LRA councillors will always work constructively with councillors from any group where it benefits residents. But there is a clear difference between constructive cooperation on individual issues and entering into a formal political arrangement with a national party.

There has also been criticism of discussions with the Epping Forest Independent Group. Again, we believe this has been misrepresented. The purpose of those discussions was to explore how independent and residents-focused councillors could work together to protect effective scrutiny, maintain a strong independent voice at district level, and ensure Loughton residents continue to be properly represented.

This was not a takeover. It was not a private deal. It was a response to the political reality at Epping Forest District Council and was discussed among LRA councillors. A clear majority supported working with other independent councillors rather than entering into a formal arrangement with the Conservatives.

It is also disappointing that recent democratic decisions within LRA have been described as intimidation, threats or internal manoeuvring. Robust disagreement is not the same as intimidation. LRA is a democratic organisation, and all councillors must accept that no individual councillor, however experienced, can override the majority view of the group.

Where concerns were raised about leadership, committee positions, or voting decisions, those concerns were raised because members and councillors felt that LRA's agreed position and residents-first mandate were not being properly reflected. It is never easy to have these conversations, but accountability is part of public life and part of any democratic organisation.

The new LRA constitution and Executive arrangements were agreed through the Association's democratic processes. They were not designed to remove LRA's values. They were designed to strengthen accountability, clarity and good governance.

LRA remains the same residents-led organisation in its purpose: to stand up for Loughton, protect our town, represent local people, and put residents before national party politics.

We will not be distracted by division. We will not enter into public personal attacks.

Our focus remains on the work residents elected us to do.

LRA will continue to:

- put Loughton residents first;
- remain independent of national party control;
- work constructively with all councillors where it benefits residents;
- oppose formal political arrangements that compromise our independence;
- uphold democratic decision-making within the Association;
- focus on local issues, local services, scrutiny, accountability and community wellbeing.

We understand that members may have questions, and we will do our best to answer them openly and respectfully. This is a difficult moment, but it is also an opportunity to reaffirm what LRA stands for.

LRA was created to give Loughton a strong independent voice. That remains our purpose today.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,
Councillor Chidi Nweke
Leader, Loughton Residents Association

LRA News



New Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

LRA Cllr Stephen Harriman is the new Town Mayor for 2026/27, with LRA Cllr Les House his deputy.

Stephen has lived in Loughton with his wife and family since 1994. He is a relatively new member of the Town Council, having joined in 2024. He currently represents St John's Ward and serves on the Environment and Heritage Committee. As a resident of Loughton, Stephen looks forward to contributing to the town's managed development and successful future.

Members said they were pleased to see Cllr House back in action and on the road to recovery, and that it was only right that he resumed the position of Deputy Mayor.

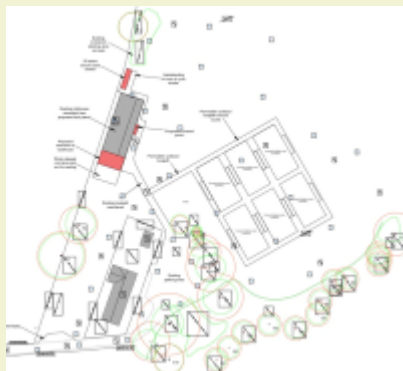
Members also paid tribute to the work of the outgoing Mayor, LRA Cllr David Wixley, commenting that he had done "a wonderful job as Mayor, chairing our meetings appropriately and acting as the voice of the Town Council at community events". David said he had greatly enjoyed his year in office and was sad to be "hanging up his chain". [More](#)

Image: Town Council

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](#).



Old Loughton Rugby Club, Squirrels Lane, Buckhurst Hill

This application proposes construction of six padel courts, redevelopment of the old club house and associated works.

LRAPG has objected to this application for multiple reasons.

Padel Courts are very popular and members will travel distances to use them. We anticipate all six courts will be used most of the time and their cars will use Hornbeam Road, Chestnut Avenue and Squirrels Lane which are too narrow and cannot accommodate two-way traffic. Also the application does not include a parking layout to cater for these vehicles.

It is well documented Padel Courts greatly disturb neighbours and have caused significant problems when they have replaced traditional tennis courts; it is the unpredictable thud of balls against the walls and rackets and shouting of players that is disruptive for neighbours

The proposed opening times of 7am to 11pm will cause disruption to neighbours, along with the courts being floodlit during winter months, and opening hours should be reduced.

Whilst sports facilities are appropriate in Green Belt land, the Padel Courts, by reason of their design, size, and unusual configuration at angles to the prevailing buildings, harms the openness of the Green Belt.

[The full LRAPG objection is here](#) (PDF)

[EPF/0912/26](#). The formal deadline for comments was 4 June but you can still comment to the Council.

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.

- Valley Hill - the road will be closed until 9 June between 8pm and 5am from The Meadway to Malvern Gardens for road joint sealing. [More](#)
- Roding Road - the road will be closed 15-23 June between 8pm and 5am from the railway bridge to the Oakwood Hill junction for road joint sealing. [More](#)

- Etheridge Road - the road will be closed 8-10 June for carriageway patching. [More](#)
- [Extensive works by Thames Water](#) are affecting several roads for extended periods including [Sparelease Hill](#) (until 13 June), [Queens Road](#) (until 29 June), [Kings Hill](#) (until 12 July), [Woodbury Hill](#) (until 12 July), [Hillcroft](#) (until 3 August), [Debden Lane](#) (13 June - 17 August), the side road alongside [Rectory Lane](#) (until 1 November), and [Wellfields](#) (until 1 November).



Police, Fire and Crime



Police Road operation

On 12 May specialist roads policing officers and partners conducted an operation to tackle unsafe driving by focusing on identifying dangerous driving behaviours. Five arrests were made for drink or drug driving offences, and officers detected 46 seatbelt offences, 39 mobile phone offences, three careless driving offences, and 30 speeding

offences detected by a mobile safety camera. [More](#)

Booking a concert or sporting event?

Only buy tickets from places you trust, like the event website or the venue. Be careful if someone asks you to pay a "holding fee" or wants money sent by bank transfer. This is often a scam. If you can, use a credit card. It gives you more protection if something goes wrong.

If it doesn't feel right, stop and check before paying.

More from the police

- More from the police for [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to March.
- Some items we report on come from the Dispatch Newsletter from Essex Police. You can [subscribe here for free](#) (choose the Epping Forest edition).
- There are events in [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) with the police locally. Just drop in, no booking required. [All future events are listed here](#).



Council News



Jessel Green Fun Day Sunday 28 June

Under one month to go until our Jessel Green Fun Day.

Inflatables, Fun Fair Rides, Food Stalls. All on Jessel Green 12 noon to 4pm.

The regular fairground rides, inflatables, food, ice-cream vans and the ever-popular Mr Happy will be there with a good selection of community groups, craft stalls and small local businesses attending.

Town Council's 30th Anniversary

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the conception of Loughton Town Council, long serving certificates have been presented to the following Town Council members.

- LRA Cllr Chris Pond, founding member, joined in 1996 was awarded a special certificate for his continuous service of 30 years and a gold certificate for 20+ years.
- Independent Cllr Stephen Murray, also a founding member, who had a break in service from 2004-2008 was awarded a gold certificate of 20+ years.

- LRA Cllr Rose Brookes, who joined in 2004, but had a break in service from 2012 – 2016, LRA Cllr Carol Davies who joined in 2008 and LRA Cllr David Wixley who joined in 2004 were all awarded a silver certificate for services of 15+ years.
- Cllrs Stella Murphy and Mick Stubbings who both joined in 2016 were awarded bronze certificates for services of 10+ years.

Awards for Street Cleaning

Two members of Terra Verde Services (Ltd) street cleansing team have received awards of excellence from the Town Council.

Barry and Jamie, were presented with their Special Certificates of Recognition. The awards recognise their exceptional dedication and consistently friendly manner while carrying out street-cleaning duties across Loughton. The awards are particularly important because they are voted for by local people. [More](#)



Food waste update for flats

The District Council has announced that the next step in the new food and garden waste service will focus on residents living in flats with an existing communal green-lidded food waste bin.

Every affected flat will receive a 7-litre kitchen food waste caddy. The lid of the existing green-lidded communal food waste bin will be changed to a brown lid, labelled with 'food only'.

The kitchen caddy is for indoor use and should be emptied into the communal brown-lidded food waste bin located on site. Food waste will continue to be collected weekly on the usual collection day. [More](#)

How do I recycle shredded paper?

Shredded paper can go into your blue-lidded recycling bin for collection, along with paper, card, newspapers and magazines. [More on what goes in each bin.](#)

Understanding waste and recycling household collections

[The District Council has published this report](#) (p7 - 38, PDF), with detail on how waste and recycling operates in our district. This covers the organisations that are involved, where different waste and recycling items go, and frequently asked questions.

Also of interest:

- Mixed dry recycling is sent to a facility in Edmonton, which is able to process comingled materials.
- Food waste and residual refuse are taken to Harlow, before being transferred to other disposal locations within Essex.
- Purple-coloured wheelie bins at flats are used to collect small electrical items, textiles and batteries for recycling.

- Hessian sacks delivered to flats are to help residents to transport their recycling from their flat to the communal recycling bins. They are reusable and washable.
- Bubble wrap cannot be recycled by the Council, but it is classified as soft plastic so may be accepted by local supermarkets' recycling bins (check at the store first, and deflate the bubbles before recycling).

New District Council Chairman

Conservative Cllr Alan Lion was elected as the new Chairman of the District Council at its annual council meeting on 28 May, the first to be held since the 7 May local elections.

Outgoing Chairman, LRA Cllr Louise Mead, welcomed 13 new councillors to the chamber, their first council meeting since being elected, before handing over the chains to the new chairman. [More](#)

Our thanks for Louise for representing LRA as Chairman for the past year.

June amnesty for illegal subletting

The District Council are holding a Subletting Amnesty this month, offering tenants who are illegally subletting their homes the chance to come forward without facing penalties.



Under the scheme, tenants who voluntarily return their keys and end their tenancy will not face further action. Tenants wishing to take part are encouraged to contact the council by email at rehousing@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or call 1992 564716.

However, the amnesty does not apply to cases already identified by our Tenancy team and are awaiting action.

Building stronger High Streets together

High Street businesses can register for free support to help their business with the Epping Forest High Streets business support programme.



The support is based on the actual challenges high street businesses are facing right now – not generic advice. Everything is designed to be relevant, practical and immediately useful to your business.

Get hands-on guidance in key areas such as:

- Attracting more customers and increasing footfall
- Marketing and social media
- Pricing and improving profit margins
- Customer experience and repeat business
- Using digital tools to save time and grow
- Building a more resilient, sustainable business

[More](#)

Women's Safety Charter - Have your say

The District Council want to understand how safe people feel in our district and have launched a survey to help shape the future of woman's safety. Any adult can take part.

[More](#). The survey closes 30 June.

New domestic abuse policy - have your say

The draft policy sets out the District Council's commitment to supporting people affected by domestic abuse. The draft reflects the council's belief that no one should live in fear of violence or abuse. It outlines actions the council will take to respond to reports of domestic abuse, including:

- Timely intervention
- Tailored support for individuals
- Partnership working to help protect victims

[More](#). The consultation closes 15 June.



What's on in our district

The District Council have published their What's On in Epping Forest brochure, with activities, events and workshops for May to October. [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:

- 12, 19, 26 June - 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](#)
- 5, 12, 26 June - Barclays Bank - help with frauds and scams, online banking, as well as managing and opening accounts, account queries, reviewing transactions and registering for new products on your phone, tablet or computer. [More](#)
- 9 June - Home Instead Epping Forest will be offering advice about dementia in an informal setting. No booking required. [More](#)
- 10, 17, 24 June - 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](#)



- 12 June - 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](#)
- 20 June - Father's Day card making. Free event, no booking required. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Living with multiple long-term health conditions

Healthwatch Essex has published a report exploring how women experience life with multiple long-term health conditions and the challenges they face navigating health and care services. [More](#)

Mental Health Support - Have your say

Healthwatch Essex are currently running a survey to hear from young people across Essex about their experiences and views of mental health support, including CAMHS and school-based Mental Health Support Teams. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Upcoming events in the Forest

Events include guided walks for [The Bufferlands of Epping Forest](#) and [A summer trail between Epping and Chingford](#). Most events are free, with some requiring booking.

Warning of blue-green algae

There is a warning that warm weather encourages the growth of cyanobacteria (commonly known as blue-green algae) in still or slow-moving water like the ponds and lakes across the Forest. It is harmful to dogs and people.

Cyanobacteria are naturally occurring and thrive in nutrient-rich water. Some produce toxins that can be fatal to dogs affecting the liver or nervous system - even if the water looks clear. There's no antidote, so early veterinary treatment is vital.

Cyanobacterial blooms are a common and growing issue across the country. The safest option is often to keep dogs out of ponds and lakes entirely. [More](#) (PDF)

Artwork for the Annual Summer Show

Are you an artist or creative inspired by Epping Forest? If so, why not submit a piece of artwork to the annual Summer show.

The theme this year is 'colour and vibrancy'. Perhaps consider how colour and light interact and change with the seasons. The brightness of summer, the starkness of winter or simply a close-up detail. [The application form and more details are here](#) (PDF)

Watch out for Oak processionary moths (OPM)

OPM not only strip oak trees of leaves but can also be a health risk to humans, and can be identified through processions of caterpillars, silk trails and silk nests on the trunks or branches of oak trees.

Their hairs can cause unpleasant skin, eye and throat irritations in people and animals. While these effects are usually temporary, they can be severe in some cases. Please do not touch or disturb the caterpillars. When left alone they pose little threat.

Early detection is critical to effective control and [should be reported here](#). [Sightings can also be recorded here](#).

*Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 26 June.
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

LRA on Facebook



LRA on X



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](#)

