



LRA's Loughton News

6 March 2026

In this issue is a further reminder about [changes to food and garden waste collections from 31 March](#).

Read also about LRA's [hearing from local residents](#), and [helping residents](#).

We also report on [a planning application for a data centre on Langston Road](#). On 18 March is the [Annual Town Meeting](#), and we also provide [other dates of events locally](#) later this year.

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](#)

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LRA News



Planned Works on Torrington Drive housing

Over the past few weeks, several Torrington Drive residents contacted LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke after receiving a Section 20 Notice about potential major works. Some residents were unsure what the letter meant, how much the works might cost, or what support would be available. One resident in particular expressed real worry about affordability.

To protect residents' interests, Chidi immediately raised the issue with District Council officers and pressed for clearer communication, cost transparency, and reassurance for anyone struggling financially.

Chidi secured for residents:

- Clear confirmation of what programmes may be planned, including windows, roofs, decorations, electrical testing, and door entry upgrades.
- Assurance that no work will proceed until each block undergoes a full condition survey, meaning unnecessary works will not be carried out.
- A commitment to flexible payment plans for any resident concerned about affordability.
- Improved future communication, ensuring ward councillors will now be kept informed earlier so we can support residents from the start

He also got clarity on costs (where known).

As LRA Cllr for the ward, Chidi will continue pushing for transparency, fairness, and timely communication so residents are never left in the dark.

Borders Lane tree safety works completed

Residents of Borders Lane will be pleased to hear that long awaited tree maintenance and safety works from numbers 4 to 54 have now been completed. This followed concerns raised earlier this year at a meeting with residents about falling branches with near miss incidents and the condition of several mature trees.



LRA Cllr Chidi Nweke promptly escalated the issue to the District Council's Arboricultural Team. An inspection confirmed that works were already scheduled, but additional checks were arranged to ensure no new risks had arisen.

The Arboricultural Officer, has now confirmed that contractors have completed the maintenance works for the oak tree outside numbers 6/8 and the group of trees outside 50/52 Borders Lane. These works included reducing, thinning, lifting, and removing deadwood from the oak, as well as lifting the crowns and clearing foliage at the base of the other trees. An inspection will also be undertaken to verify the quality of the completed work.

This proactive follow up ensures that the area remains safe for pedestrians, residents, and vehicles—especially important given the concerns about falling branches. The Council also reminded residents not to park beneath the trees, as parking on root plates contributes to soil compaction, root damage, and future branch failures and will continue to monitor the trees as part of its regular maintenance programme.

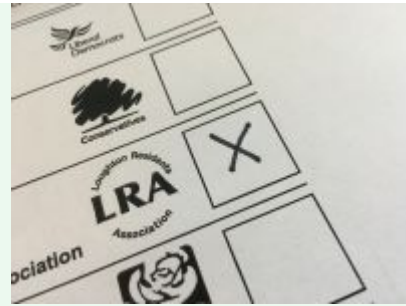
Chidi said he is *“pleased that the works have now been completed and that officers responded promptly to residents’ concerns. This outcome reflects effective partnership working, between councillors, officers, and the community, to keep our neighbourhood safe.”*

May local elections

On May 7 there will be local elections for Cllrs in the four District Council wards and two County Council wards that cover Loughton.

Consider registering for Postal Voting (if you have not already done so). Postal Voting is safe, secure and the most convenient method where you vote at home.

Ballot papers are posted to you about 10 days before election day. You mark your choices and simply post the ballot papers back in the prepaid envelope. [More](#)



Can you help deliver Loughton Life, please?

LRA's 100 or so hard working band of volunteers are currently delivering our Townwide Loughton Life newsletter to every household in Loughton – we're very grateful for their help.



We have a few remaining gaps where we need deliverers:

- Barrington Close, Barrington Green/Barrington Road
- Doubleday Road, Kingsley Road
- Parts of Torrington Drive, Torrington Gardens
- Cranleigh Gardens, Drayton Avenue, Elmhurst Way, Malvern Gardens, Roydon Close
- Valley Close and Valley Hill
- Greensted Road / Sutton Close
- Nevill Way

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](#).

New data centre proposed for Langston Road

We've reported previously on government announcements on Artificial Intelligence (AI) including a reference to a private company, Nscale, that had *"signed a contract to build the largest UK sovereign AI data centre"... "to be delivered in the first quarter of 2027"*, which was reported to be on the Alandale Scaffolding site on Langston Road.

A planning application has now been made for the data centre, which is a follow-up

to [an application that was granted outline planning permission](#) (PDF) in 2024 with many conditions attached.



LRAPG are objecting to this application. Whilst LRAPG had no objection to a data centre when the previous application was considered (as LRAPG recognise they are essential infrastructure) this was on the condition the District Council was satisfied over power and cooling. Officers ignored this in their report and it is worrying we are now presented with a significantly larger scheme mainly to accommodate cooling equipment.

The revisions result in a considerably uglier and larger monolithic building which would be readily visible across Green Belt land from Abridge Road. Due to the size and unsympathetic design, which means it stands out amongst a green background, harm is caused to the countryside. LRAPG consider this is a lazy “off the peg” design; the colour chosen for the walls can only be described as garish and the building totally fails to assimilate with the skyline.



The least the applicant should do is to choose a green or brown cladding in deference to the proximity to the Forest or integrate a green wall. The larger structure will be also visible from parts of Torrington Drive, particularly where it meets The Broadway. We notice the applicant has failed to provide verified views from this location. Torrington

Drive consists of the worst road conditions in Loughton, if not Epping Forest, with so much subsidence and potholes that the road is extremely dangerous particularly when it is dark. The applicant should fund the resurfacing of the road as a mitigation measure and help address the appalling conditions residents have to put up with on this road.

Application numbers [EPF/0365/26](#), [EPF/0388/26](#), and [EPF/0404/26](#). The formal deadline for comments is 17-19 March.

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/Oakwood Hill/Roding Road - the traffic signals are being upgraded, with works due to end on 14 March. These works are being carried out overnight between 7pm and 5am to limit the impact on local businesses and road users. Temporary multi-way traffic signals are necessary for the duration and incorporate temporary signalised pedestrian crossings. [More](#) and [more](#)



Roding Road is closed during the same dates from 5pm to 5am, from the

junction of Valley Hill for 15m towards the Recreation Ground. [More](#)

- Borders Lane service road - the road outside the parade of shops is being reconstructed by the County Council until 20 March. This includes repairing and rebuilding parts of the road and pavement, replacing damaged kerbs, installing new low timber fencing, and improving the grass verge areas. [More](#)
- High Road/The Drive junction - this section of road will be resurfaced by the County Council from 16-19 March. [More](#)
- Permits have been granted to close the following roads for works by Thames Water for three months. These seem very long closures; they could change. Check the links for the latest updates.
[Sparelease Hill](#) and [Tycehurst Hill](#) - a closure of the roads around the junction of the two roads and the north-east section of Sparelease Hill from 9 March.
[Queens Road](#), [York Hill](#) - closures from 4 March.
[Kings Hill](#), [Woodbury Hill](#), [Waller's Hoppet](#) - closures from 21 April.
- The Croft - the road will be closed 23 March to 27 April for works by Thames Water. [More](#)

Police, Fire and Crime

Police update

During January the police in our district:

- helped to find 52 people who were reported missing and helped them to get the support they needed.
- investigated 51 reports of antisocial behaviour having listened to local communities about the things which were causing them concern.
- attended 60 road traffic collisions, helping to keep those involved safe and our roads moving.
- investigated 186 reports of domestic violence incidents and made sure victims were given help, support, and advice, putting them in contact with relevant organisations where appropriate.
- solved 126 crimes, ensuring those intent on committing crime are held accountable for their actions.
- submitted 489 pieces of intelligence which assists the police to target criminal activity in our community.



Arrests after cable thefts

After a report from a member of the public of suspicious activity near Loughton Station, police responded and arrested two males on suspicion of stealing cable from the rail network. The investigation is ongoing, with British Transport Police now taking ownership of the case.

Secure your garden and help secure your home

With the dryer weather and spring almost here, it's time to think about sprucing up the garden and at the same time check how secure it is.

Simple steps like updating old shed locks and gates and using prickly or dense planting can help stop criminals at the first hurdle. A well-secured garden can be the first line of defence in protecting your home and valuables.



Cyber resilience resource for organisations

The Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre (ECRC) is a police-led, not-for-profit organisation established to support SMEs, charities and schools across the East of England with strengthening their cyber

resilience.

Whether you run a shop, cafe, hotel, factory, Airbnb, or you're a sole trader, charitable trust, or not for profit using email, social media, websites, computers, or any internet enabled devices, the Cyber Resilience Centres provide a free public service offering access to training, tools, and guidance that help identify and fix vulnerabilities before criminals exploit them. The training helps staff spot risks, reduces disruption, and supports your data protection and GDPR responsibilities.

[More](#)

More from the police

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



Council News



Annual Town Meeting

The Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be on Wednesday 18 March at Murray Hall on Borders Lane from 8pm. All are welcome.

Doors open at 7pm to view displays from local organisations. Meet your local Cllrs, ask questions and express your views. [More](#)

Waste collections changing on 31 March

From Tuesday 31 March, your food and garden waste will be collected separately.



You will (or may have already) received a new brown kerbside caddy for food waste, which will be collected **weekly for free**. You will also be provided a kitchen caddy. [Check here](#) to see if your caddies have been delivered.

Your existing green-lidded bin will be for **garden waste only**, which will be collected **fortnightly for a charge of £60 per year**. [More and how to pay](#). Once paid, a permit sticker for the green-lidded bin will be provided that shows your address and a unique reference number. [More](#)

If you want to continue to have your garden waste collected, you need to pay the charge. Your final mixed food and garden waste collection will take place in the week starting Monday 23 March.

Where does my garden waste go?

[This short video](#) explains the journey, from collection to eventual reuse as compost.



Loughton Cemetery Tree of Grief

The Town Council has installed a new interpretation plaque at Loughton Cemetery, marking the site of the “Tree of Grief” — a place dedicated to reflection and remembrance.

The Tree of Grief draws upon a historical Scottish tradition. Known historically as a Dule or Dool Tree, such trees were once commonly found at the entrance to burial grounds. They served as natural gathering places where communities paused to mourn loved ones, reflect quietly, and mark significant local events. The word “dule” means sorrow or grief, while “dool” also conveys lamentation.

When the original tree at Loughton Cemetery died, the Town Council chose to honour this historic custom by preserving its significance as a contemplative space for quiet remembrance. The newly installed plaque explains the tradition and invites visitors to pause and reflect.

The Tree of Grief now stands as a symbol of continuity, respect, and shared memory — offering all who visit a moment of stillness in which to remember those who have passed.

Residents and visitors are warmly invited to take a moment at the site to reflect and remember.

Image: Town Council

Willingale Road Allotments

The Town Council has agreed to pay for covers for the thirteen water tanks in the allotment for safety, hygiene and compliance reasons. There was also a request for

anti-climb paint for the top of the allotment gates however this was not agreed to due to concerns about the welfare of wildlife.

Loughton Wombles

The wombles were out in January with one group focused on the Pyrles Lane shopping area, Hillyfields Green, and the full length of Hillyfields. Meanwhile another group covered Chester Road, litter picking the stretch between Pyrles Lane and Davenant School in Willingale Road, including the communal grass areas along the route.

Loughton Wombles recently celebrated its 4th year anniversary. The Town Council have said a huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in the litter picks. As a token of appreciation, laminated certificates (showing the appreciation of the Council to the Wombles dedication) were presented to Wombles that have been there from the outset and other regular litter pickers who have subsequently joined.

Tree survey

The Town Council has reviewed a recent tree survey which found the majority of trees were found to have good vitality with no visible major defects. However there are a number of trees that require attention with work required in the Town Council Cemetery and Lady Whitakers Mead exceeding planned budgets. The Council will prioritise and progress the work required.

Hanging Baskets

With hanging baskets already on The Broadway, High Road and Old Station Road, the Town Council has agreed to extend them from The Drive to Traps Hill, providing the costs are within budget.

Dates for the Diary

28 June - Jessel Green Fun Day
5 September - Loughton Horticultural Show
19 September - Loughton Day



Blue plaque for Percy Thompson

A dedication ceremony was held on 19 February for a Town Council heritage plaque commemorating Percy Thompson, a Loughton historian, at 62 The Uplands.

Percival George Thompson moved to Loughton in 1893, became an enthusiastic local historian and naturalist, and served as Chairman of Loughton Urban District Council. His publications

included *The Story of the Parish Church of Loughton, Essex* and contributions to nature journals. He was also Curator of Queen Elizabeth's Lodge Museum.

Research by Percy Thompson focused on the history of the parish and topography of Loughton, including the churches, chapels, schools, local government, cricket club and notable buildings, maps, plans, transcripts of records and monumental inscriptions, copies of souvenir programmes and photographs.

Thompson became a member of the Essex Field Club and served as curator and secretary of the society. He was a prolific curator of records and his collection is still

held at the headquarters at Wat Tyler Country Park in Pitsea, Basildon.

He died in 1953 and is buried in Loughton Cemetery. [More](#)

Image: Town Council

Garage rental - Have your say

Garages owned by the District Council and managed by their Housing & Property Services team provide important facilities for residents, supporting safe storage and contributing to neighbourhood management and income generation. A draft policy sets out how garages will be allocated, managed, maintained, and, where necessary, decommissioned or redeveloped. It aims to ensure fairness, consistency, transparency, and value for money in the management of the Council's garage stock.

[The draft policy is here](#), and you can have your say by 16 March by emailing residentinvolvement@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Council Tax

- County Council: The Council has agreed a 3.95% increase (an extra £62.37 per year for a band D property), which includes the adult social care precept as set out by the Government. [More](#)
- Essex Police: An increase of 5.74% has been agreed (an extra £14.94 per year for a band D property). [More](#)
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service: An increase of 5.65% has been agreed (an extra £4.95 per year for a band D property). [More](#)
- District Council: The Council has agreed a 2.98% increase (an extra £5.13 per year for a band D property).
- Town Council: The Council has agreed a 3.46% increase (an extra £2.78 for a band D property). The Town Council does not receive funding from central Government, so the tax increase must reflect inflation that the Council must bear.

Almost three-quarters of your Council Tax goes to the County Council. Under 4% goes to town and parish councils. [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:

- 13, 20, 27 March - 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 required. [More](#)
- 13 March - 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 our library computers. Booking required. [More](#)



- 13, 20, 27 March - 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](#)
- 14 March - Mother's Day Card Making - Come along to Loughton Library and make a Mother's Day Card. No booking required. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Adult social care - Have your say

The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a consultation to seek views about adult social care reform. They want to hear views from councils, partners and the public on what role local government should play in the future, and how it can best support people to live the lives they want to lead.

The outcome of the consultation will inform the LGA's collective input to the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, chaired by Baroness Casey, and feed directly into government thinking, including the commitment to build a National Care Service. [More](#)

Measles outbreak and vaccinations

With the news of [significant outbreaks of measles in north London](#) where, to date, 34 children in the borough of Enfield have contracted measles so far this year, the NHS is reminding everyone that routine childhood immunisations are free on the NHS and protect children against diseases that can make them very unwell and even put them in hospital.

If you are a parent of young children, or have young children in your families, you can arrange a vaccination at a GP surgery, but for any that have been missed, please call the Community and School-Aged Immunisation Service on 0300 555 5055 (choose option 7). Have your child's red book handy and bring it along to any vaccination appointments.

Help for common anxiety conditions

NHS Talking Therapies treatment helps with obsessions and compulsions, anxiety in social situations, flashbacks of a traumatic event or with panic attacks, obsessing about your appearance, or a phobia. This involves talking to a trained professional about your thoughts, feelings and behaviours. Treatment can be in-person, on the phone or an online course. It gives you practical skills and techniques to overcome a range of mental health conditions [More](#).

You do not need to have a diagnosed mental health condition to refer yourself to NHS Talking Therapies for anxiety and depression, although talk to your GP if you want help with your mental health but are not sure if NHS Talking Therapies is right for you.

Epping Forest

The quiet work of caring for the Forest

A number of important projects are afoot, alongside ongoing day-to-day work,

These include the multi-year Habitat Restoration Programme, which aims to rejuvenate the Forest's historic wood-pasture landscape, the leaky-dam project which uses wood from the Forest to create simple timber structures to slow water flow, pond and wetland restoration, and protecting scheduled monuments from scrub encroachment and erosion. [Read more in Forest Focus.](#)

The Grey Belt

With the District Council's "Grey Belt" review incoming, the Epping Forest Heritage Trust has produced a brief on the Grey Belt, and the potential adverse implications for the Forest, which also includes a potted history of grey belt, and the risks that this Government policy could pose, locally, to the Forest and to its surrounding open spaces. [Read the brief here](#)

Upcoming Events in the Forest

Events include [onboarding for the Epping Forest Butterfly Survey](#), guided tours of [the Visitor Centre](#) and [Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge](#), [a Forest Walk after dark](#), and [a circular walk through woodland and meadows](#).

Most events are free, with some requiring booking.

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



Your flood risk

You can find out what the risk of flooding is from surface water, which is what occurs when the volume and intensity of rainfall overwhelms local drainage systems.

You can [enter your postcode here](#), or [view the full map here](#) (zoom in to see the detail).

London Open Gardens 2026

This event on 6-7 June gives exclusive access to more than a hundred of the capital's parks, gardens and squares, most of which are not normally open to the public. In addition to the main programme, behind-the-scenes tours, guided



walks and cycle tours are curated specifically for this weekend and will be announced in the coming weeks. [More](#)



Postal Museum Store in Debden Visits

This April and May, The Postal Museum store on Lenthall Road (off Langston Road) is re-opening the doors after being closed for almost a decade for a series of exclusive, behind-the-scenes store tours offering visitors a rare glimpse at a working museum store. Visits will consist of an hour-long tour of the store, led by The Postal Museum's expert curators, followed by half an hour

of free time to explore the space and get up close with historic items including postal vans, pillar boxes and motorbikes. Booking required. [More](#)

*Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 27 March.
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

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www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

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