



LRA's Loughton News

7 August 2026

In this issue, we report on LRA activity in the community including helping to fix a [trip hazard](#) and replace a [burnt fence](#). These things may sound like small issues, but in local areas they are what residents care about.

From the police, [an ATM thief that had stolen from local machines has been jailed](#), and [Trading Standards warn about rogue locksmiths](#).

With summer heat and very dry weather continuing, [here's a further reminder about wildfires](#), [watch out for fires in the Forest](#) and a reminder of [the hosepipe ban](#).

September will bring two key local events - the [Horticultural Show](#) and [Loughton Day](#). Mark your diaries.

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](#)

LRA News

Trip hazard at Oakwood Hill resolved following councillor intervention

Residents will be pleased to hear that a potentially dangerous trip hazard outside 114 Oakwood Hill has now been fully repaired following action taken by local councillors and council officers.

After concerns were raised about a damaged manhole structure in the green area outside the property, which posed a risk to pedestrians, particularly children, older residents and dog walkers, Cllr Chidi Nweke reported the issue and requested urgent action. The matter was quickly escalated to the appropriate teams, with an emergency repair arranged to make the area safe. Further investigations and follow-on works were subsequently carried out, and Qualis Property Solutions has now confirmed that all repair works have been completed.

**Before****After**

Working together with housing officers, contractors and ward colleagues, the issue was identified, assessed and resolved, helping to improve safety for residents using this communal green space. Chidi said "I am delighted that this issue has now been fully resolved. Resident safety must always come first, and I would like to thank everyone involved for their swift response and commitment to getting the repairs completed. This is a good example of how reporting issues and working together can deliver positive results for our community."

The repair ensures that the area is now safe for residents and visitors and demonstrates the value of prompt reporting and partnership working between councillors, council officers and contractors.

Got a local issue that needs attention? Residents are encouraged to [contact their LRA ward councillors](#) so concerns can be raised and addressed as quickly as possible. For road and highways issues, please [report them to Essex Highways](#).

Burnt fence replaced following councillor intervention

Damaged fencing on Colson Road has now been fully replaced following a case that LRA raised with Council officers earlier this year.

The fencing, located alongside The Spinney, was damaged following a vehicle fire on Colson Road. After the incident, residents raised concerns about the condition of the fence and asked whether repairs could be arranged. LRA subsequently contacted Council officers to establish responsibility for the damaged section and requested that an inspection and any necessary repairs be carried out.

**Before****After**

The work has now been completed and the damaged fencing has been replaced, restoring the appearance of the area and addressing residents' concerns. The Council officers involved are thanked for their assistance in resolving this matter and the resident who brought the issue to our attention.

The work has now been completed and the damaged fencing has been replaced, restoring the appearance of the area and addressing residents' concerns. The Council officers involved are thanked for their assistance in resolving this matter and the resident who brought the issue to our attention.

This is a good example of how residents and councillors working together can help ensure local issues are identified and resolved for the benefit of the wider community.

Tackling many issues by LRA Cllr

LRA Cllr Rose Brookes for Buckhurst Hill and Whitebridge ward continues to be contacted by residents from both Loughton and Buckhurst Hill on a range of issues. In recent weeks she asked Qualis to complete ground maintenance work in Kirby

Close and chop down overhanging hedges on footpaths on a tenant's property.

Rose has done several cases of advocacy in housing cases and campaigns for more homeless provision in the district. Norway House and Hemnal House in Epping are full and, with increasing numbers of evictions, families and individuals are being placed in Ilford and Harlow. The wait time for suitable accommodation is usually at least a year, and sometimes two years .

Along with Independent Councillor Stephen Murray she pressed for the replacement of the fisherman's platform at the lake on Roding Valley Recreation Ground. This has just been completed.



Loughton Station rough sleeper

LRA Cllr Barbara Cohen was contacted by a number of concerned residents about a rough sleeper who had set up a tent on the verge in the alleyway near Loughton Station. Over time, rubbish accumulated around the tent, and residents understandably asked why it could not simply be removed.

While the concerns were valid, the situation was not straightforward. There are legal procedures that must be followed when dealing with rough sleepers to ensure vulnerable people are given the opportunity to access support before any enforcement action is taken.

The homelessness charity Chess Homeless and StreetLink made several attempts to engage with the individual. They visited the site on a number of occasions and left contact cards encouraging him to get in touch so that help could be offered. A resident and an active LRA member, Philip Abrahams, also assisted by keeping Barbara updated on sightings of the rough sleeper, as he was often away from the site when outreach workers visited.

Once the required process had been followed, Terra Verde Services (TVS) were arranged to remove the tent, its contents and the accumulated rubbish. However, when the team arrived, the individual returned to the site, meaning the clearance could not go ahead.

Environmental Enforcement officers then became involved and visited the location three times on the same day in an effort to speak with the rough sleeper, issue a verbal warning and encourage him to engage with the homelessness support services.

Before this could happen, and between the Environmental Enforcement visits, the tent and its contents were set alight. Fortunately, the fire did not spread and nobody was injured. Once the site was safe, Terra Verde Services returned to remove the remaining debris and clear the area.

This case highlights the challenges of balancing the concerns of local residents with the need to treat vulnerable individuals fairly and compassionately while following the proper legal process. LRA would like to thank everyone involved for their patience and cooperation in bringing the matter to a safe conclusion.

Can you help as an LRA Cllr or Treasurer?

We recently asked for expressions of interest for being a councillor for the new West Essex Council, or for being LRA's Treasurer.

If you are interested, please email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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 extended periods:
 - [Church Lane](#) (to 14 August)
 - [York Hill](#) (to 6 September)
 - [Spareleaze Hill](#) (to 11 September).
 - the side road alongside [Rectory Lane](#) (until 1 November).
- Roding Road - the road will be closed overnight on 2 September from 10pm to 5:30am near the corner of Oakwood Hill for sewer cleaning works by Thames Water. [More](#)



397 Bus Route

As we reported in March, the County Council received a £50,000 government grant to extend the Route 397 timetable later in the evening. This was after an initiative by LRA Cllr Pond and the Town Council given the service did not operate after 7pm, despite the huge amount of housing recently erected along Borders Lane.

Here are [the times for the new service](#) (PDF), which started 26 July, along with [the route map](#) (PDF).

Central Line new timetable

We reported last time that a new timetable was being introduced from 20 July. [The full timetable has been published here.](#)

TfL support for visually impaired customers and manual wheelchair users

Transport for London have recently made two enhancements to their turn up and go service on the tube.

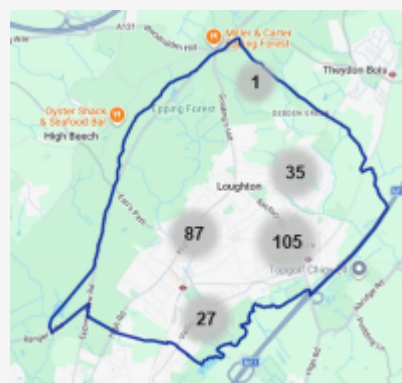
- If you are visually impaired and travelling with a guide dog and an item of luggage, staff can assist by carrying your bag if needed. This enables you to take the member of staff's arm for sighted guiding while continuing to manage your guide dog safely and comfortably.
- While many customers who use self-propelled wheelchairs travel independently, there are times when extra support is helpful. If requested, staff will help push your wheelchair as required.

[More](#)

Police, Fire and Crime

More from the police

- More from the police for [Loughton](#) and [Buckhurst Hill](#) including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to June.
- 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.](#)



ATM thief jailed

A prolific thief used cash trapping devices to steal tens of thousands of pounds from ATMs across Essex and London, including Loughton.

Artur Sutu targeted the cash machines over a six-month period, pocketing around £40,000 and causing damage totalling a further £60,000. He would visit the cash machines late at night or during the early hours and secretly fit a device designed to trap money inside the machine. When unsuspecting customers later tried to withdraw cash, their money would become stuck. Sutu would then return and use tools to force the machines open to retrieve money, often leading to significant damage.

He has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment. [More](#)

Trading Standards warns residents about rogue locksmiths

Essex Trading Standards have received reports concerning rogue locksmiths. Incidents often occur at a distressing time when people are locked out of their homes. Rogue locksmiths exploit these situations by advertising low call-out fees, often from around £79, but then present customers with invoices many times higher than the original quote once the work is completed. In many cases, the locksmith arrives and quickly drills through the lock without exploring other methods of entry. Customers are then charged for additional items and services, such as opening the lock, supplying a new lock, fitting the lock and VAT.

Before agreeing to any work, ask whether the person you contact will carry out the work themselves or subcontract it to someone else. It is also important to establish exactly what the advertised price covers and whether the quote is fixed or only an estimate. A legitimate locksmith will usually ask for proof that you live at the property, such as a driving licence, before gaining entry. They will normally ask questions about the problem and the type of lock involved and will typically have a range of specialist tools rather than relying solely on a drill.

Council News

Loughton Horticultural Show

The Show is back on 5 September at Murray Hall, and open to the public from 2pm.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a keen baker, a talented crafter or simply fancy trying something new, the show is open to anyone who lives, works, studies or has an allotment plot in Loughton — so why not get involved? There are classes for all ages and abilities, and you might even come away with a prize.

The Town Council would like to see as many children as possible entering this year. There are children's categories which are a brilliant way to get children involved over the summer, helping them get creative, spend time outdoors, and have fun. Parents, grandparents and carers – why not encourage your little ones to give it a go?

Matthew's Plants will be supporting the event again with a plant sale available on the day. All money raised, along with any donations, will go towards the Town Mayor's chosen charity, Haven House.

Here are the [rules and regulations](#), [the entry form](#), and [a beginners guide](#).

Loughton Horticultural Show



Saturday 5 September 2026
at
**The Murray Hall, Borders Lane,
IG10 3SB**

Doors Open at 9am for exhibitors and
2pm for public viewing
followed by the
Town Mayor's
Best Allotment Awards at 4pm

Donations to the
Town Mayor's Charity



Charity Number: 1044296

Loughton Day - coming soon

The 4th consecutive Loughton Day is being staged on Saturday 19 September at the Loughton Cricket Club ground. Mark your diaries.

Yellow sacks for fly-tips

Bright yellow sacks are being used by the District Council to highlight waste that is being investigated at fly-tips. The purpose of the distinctive sacks is to send a message to residents and tenants that fly-tipped waste can be traced and will almost certainly lead to enforcement action. [More](#)



Polling station review consultation - have your say

A review of polling stations in the district is considering changes to polling stations. The only proposed change affecting our town is moving the Kingsley Hall polling station to Barrington Close Centre.

[More](#) and [have your say here](#). The consultation closes 11 September.

Summer activities for children

There are free [Play in the Park sessions](#) which will take place at the Recreation Ground on 18 August and Jessel Green on 28 August. [More](#)

[More activities are in the District Council's What's On brochure](#) (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:



- 8 August - Block Builders Construction Club. Have fun building and bring your creations to life in these drop-in sessions Suitable for children aged 6 to 10. Parental supervision required. No booking required. [More](#)
- 10, 13 August - Ancient Rome Fun and Crafts for Under Fives. Songs, crafts, play and object handling with Epping Forest District Museum. This is a free event for children under 5. Booking required. [More](#)
- 11 August - Dementia Advice. Home Instead Epping Forest will be available to offer advice about dementia in an informal setting. No booking required. [More](#)
- 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 August and 1, 4 September - 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](#)
- 12, 19, 26 August and 2 September - 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](#)
- 13 August - The Jungle Jam. Practise Rhythm and rhyme in this free song writing workshop for ages 5 to 11. No booking required. [More](#)
- 21, 28 August and 4 September - 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](#)
- 14, 21, 28 August and 4 September - 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](#)
- 14 August - Make Your Own Rainstick. It's that exciting time of the year when Loughton Library has Summer Reading Challenge themed craft. No booking required. [More](#)
- 21 August - Make Your Own Harmonica. Part of the Summer Reading Challenge themed craft series. No booking required. [More](#)
- 25 August - Employability. To support people with mental ill health to secure and retain employment. No booking required. [More](#)
- 28 August - Make Your Own Drum. Part of the Summer Reading Challenge themed craft series. No booking required. [More](#)



Lions on the loose

A pride of 32 colourfully decorated, super-size Lion sculptures are roaming Loughton, Epping and Harlow until September bringing colour, creativity, and community spirit to the streets. Each sculpture is sponsored by a local business or organisation and has been uniquely decorated by talented artists from across the region. [More](#)

Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve 40th Anniversary

On 30 June 1986 the Reserve was declared. Before this, from 1938 to 1964, part of this land was occupied by RAF Chigwell. The area is owned by the District Council and managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust.

The Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve is enjoyed by so many of us but is also important environmentally. Many of the fields making up the reserve are designated with SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status.

Hosepipe Ban

There is now a temporary hosepipe ban across the district. This includes not using hosepipes for:

- Watering gardens, lawns or allotments
- Cleaning private cars, patios, paths, driveways or windows
- Filling or topping up paddling pools, swimming pools or hot tubs
- Using sprinklers or similar equipment connected to the mains water supply

[The full details and rules from Thames Water are here](#) and [FAQs are here](#).

Grants available for heat pumps

The government is offering grants of up to £9,000 to households that rely on heating oil, or up to £7,500 for other households, to help cover the cost of installing a heat pump in your home. [More](#)



Wildfire warnings

With the dry weather and serious wildfires in the UK and Europe, the fire service is urging residents to avoid fireworks, bonfires and disposable barbecues after crews responded to more than 570 incidents during one of their busiest weeks in four years.

Also please do not park over fire hydrants. These are marked by yellow-painted cover plates and/or H markers.

Between 8am on Friday 24 July and 8am on Thursday 30 July, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service's Control team received 2,029 emergency 999 calls, resulting in firefighters being mobilised to

570 separate incidents. [More](#)

Report fires immediately by calling 999

Health and Wellbeing

Healthwatch Essex

Healthwatch Essex has published new reports (PDFs):

- [Their annual report](#)
- [Children's Oral Health Report](#)
- [Pharmacies Report](#)

Protect yourself against MenB before university

A new NHS vaccination programme is offering protection against meningococcal B (MenB) disease to eligible young people across England. The vaccine is being offered as a one-off programme to help protect those at highest risk before they start university or residential higher education in autumn 2026.

MenB disease is rare but can be very serious. It can cause meningitis and blood poisoning (septicaemia), which can lead to life-changing disabilities or death. [More](#)

Epping Forest

Epping Forest Heritage for All: Community Callout

The Epping Forest Heritage Trust wants to hear from community groups in or around Epping Forest who could collaborate with them to help people discover and enjoy the Forest through the Epping Forest Heritage for All project.

Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, this project aims to inspire people from all backgrounds with the rich heritage of the Forest, and come together to celebrate, enjoy and encourage people to come together to protect the Forest now and for generations to come. [More](#)

Avian botulism outbreak

The City of London has recently responded to an outbreak of avian botulism affecting some of the waterbirds at Connaught Water.

Avian botulism is a naturally occurring wetland disease that can affect ducks, geese and other waterbirds. The bacteria responsible are associated with particular environmental conditions, and outbreaks can have serious consequences for local wildlife. Staff are carrying out regular monitoring and removing affected birds to help limit its spread and protect local wildlife.

If you're visiting Connaught Water, please:

- Keep a respectful distance from waterbirds.
- Do not approach or touch birds.
- Report any concerns by email to epping.forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk
- Take extra care around the water's edge. Please do not let dogs enter the pond or approach wildlife.

Care in the Forest

Throughout the warmer summer months, visitors are reminded to take extra care while enjoying the Forest. Disposable barbecues, campfires and open flames can quickly get out of control and cause serious damage to wildlife and habitats. Fires and barbecues are never permitted anywhere in Epping Forest.

If you see a fire or barbecue in Epping Forest, please report it urgently. Any situation requiring an emergency response should be reported immediately to 999. You can also report incidents via the 24/7 phone line on 020 8532 1010.

Please do not smoke in our Forest and open grasslands

Thank you for supporting LRA. The next regular news email is planned for Friday 4 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

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](#)