

11 April 2020



## LRA's Loughton News

In this issue:

Further local updates on the [Coronavirus pandemic](#)

The Broadway and High Road [planning applications](#)

[Police work](#) around town

### Covid-19/Coronavirus

We know that residents in our town will be very worried about the coronavirus and taking their own action during this extremely difficult time. It is heartwarming that many residents have spontaneously started to support their own local neighbourhood and vulnerable people, by providing assurance and practical support where needed.

LRA remains your residents association and contactable, however please realise that we are all volunteers and some of us will have to self isolate. Also, the Councils are having to prioritise work with a depleted workforce. Essex in particular are very stretched.

We shared local information and updates with you in our [recent news email special](#). More updates are in this email [below](#).

## LRA News

### Planned Developments

**Lucton's Field, Borders Lane - the field opposite the College ([map](#)).**

**Epping Forest College Middle Site, Borders Lane ([map](#))**

As mentioned in [a previous Loughton News email](#), Fairview Homes have now applied for planning permission for these two sites.



To object, you just need to email [appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) with your views expressed in up to 5-6 bullet points using your own words. For Lucton's Field use an email subject of "EPF/0379/20: Objection" and for the Middle Site use "EPF/2905/19: Objection", include your name(s) and address, and send only one email per household. Please also copy your comments to us at [applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

You can also [read our full objection to the Lucton's Field proposal here](#)

More on [Lucton's Field](#) and the [Middle Site](#) on our website.

## Planning and Licensing

[Read more](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information with the Application and Reference Numbers below, and how to comment.

*If you wish to comment, **don't delay**. The process is time critical with several stages along the way. If you wish to make comments please try to submit them before the deadline set by the council. Although submissions can be made and have to be considered up to the time a decision is made, once the statutory deadline has passed, the application might be determined before your comments are received.*

Here we report on selected applications which are of notable interest or concern. This by definition means that you will mostly read about applications that LRAPG objects to or raises concerns about. LRAPG reviews many applications, most of which are acceptable or require minor changes or conditions that applicants accept.

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### **Landmark House, Debden (formerly Zara Bar & Grill)**

This proposes to use the premises as a boxing gym. A similar permission had previously been granted for the gym elsewhere in the block but another tenant has secured the lease on this unit.

We have received concerns from local residents on amenity grounds. While LRAPG supports the principle of a sports facility, there is no proper layout plan showing how the boxing gym will operate. So we have asked for conditions regarding noise insulation, hours of operation and that no windows should be openable at the rear because of potential noise in the summer.

We has also requested that the applicant be told that they require further planning consent for any external works particularly for air conditioning units or a significant eating area/café that is not ancillary to the club.

*Application Number EPF/0495/20. The statutory deadline for comments was 3rd April.*

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### **66 The Broadway**

The existing retail premises is proposed to be changed to a place of worship and community hub.

Although we can see this is a worthy aim, in planning terms LRAPG has objected to the loss of A1 retail space. Insufficient information was provided to assess the impact of the proposed use. This would further erode the retail frontage and no letting details have been submitted to show that space cannot be let for retail purposes. There are residences above and the use may be disruptive to the occupiers. There are no details on how the ground floor will actually be used including the numbers of people, age groups, type of activity, amplified sound or parking requirements, nor a plan showing the proposed layout or description of the worship area or community hub.

*Application Number EPF/0273/20. The statutory deadline for comments was 27th March.*

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### **125 High Road, Lincoln Hall**

The building is proposed to be demolished and replaced with a purpose designed pre-school building, and is a revision to a previously withdrawn application. This will involve relocating 48 children from the existing Chrysalis Day Nursery at 3 Church Hill.

LRAPG has objected to this application as the set opening and closing times will lead to congestion in the High Road as there is no convenient parking nearby, including for staff. No information has been provided on the future of 3 Church Hill, which currently has parking/turn around capacity of The Uplands.

We also think that the new building would still be over-dominant and out-of-character with the area.

*Application Number EPF/0442/20. The statutory deadline for comments was 27th March.*

*Previous Application Number EPF/0730/19*

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### **T&G's Tapas Bar and Bistro, 154 High Road**

They applied to open for meals, with alcohol, until 11.30pm each night. LRAPG objected as this would mean customers and staff leaving the premises up to and after midnight in a residential area. The applicants agreed to close at 11pm from Sunday to Thursday and 11.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays. This was approved by the District Council.

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### **165 High Road (Lawlors)**

There are planning applications to build an extra storey on top of the building facing the High Road (on top of the 4 already approved) and to enlarge the new building being built behind it. LRAPG consider the approved schemes are already too large and out of keeping with the area. Any further additional height to these buildings is wholly unacceptable and

will be detrimental to the townscape and village feel of this part of Loughton.

*Application Numbers EPF/0426/20 and EPF/0542/20. The statutory deadline for comments was 4th and 9th April respectively.*

### **252A High Road**

A planning application has been made for a change of use of the Bo Jangles Fashion shop to a nail and beauty salon.

LRAPG has objected as this will be a loss of an A1 retail space which will impact on the vitality of this part of the shopping parade. The key retail area is already over the 30% limit in the draft local plan and no marketing information has been submitted to demonstrate the unit can no longer be let for retail purposes. With Royal Ribs and an estate agent that takes up two units immediately next to the shop, it would mean four non-retail units in a row, which would further erode the retail character and vibrancy of this part of the High Road.

Permission was recently refused for a nail salon at 273 High Road and this application should be refused for similar reasons.

*Application Number EPF/0503/20. The statutory deadline for comments was 9th April.*

### **260 High Road, Loughton Methodist Church**

A planning application has been made for two 49 inch digital screens at the front of the church, just off the footpath.

LRAPG has objected to this application, as there is already a lot of visual clutter on this part of the High Road and this double-sided internally illuminated sign will add further to the visual intrusion of this part of Loughton. It will be highly visible in the evening, given the amount of illumination which may reflect off the predominantly glass facade, and is wholly inappropriate for the setting of an ecclesiastical building. The council cannot control the advertising content, if approved, and at some future time the temptation might be to lease one or both sides of the sign for commercial advertising.

Overall the sign, by reason of its size, location and illumination, will be detrimental to the visual amenity of this part of the High Street and should be refused. We would not object to a traditional sign that is in keeping with the use, externally illuminated on one side only.

*Application Number EPF/0528/20. The statutory deadline for comments was 9th April.*

### **Loughton Cricket Club, High Road**

As mentioned in a [previous Loughton News email](#) a construction of an enclosure was proposed over the existing bowling lanes to allow for year-round use. The applicant has now withdrawn the application.

*Application Number EPF/2893/19. Application withdrawn*



**LRA's Farmers' Market  
Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this  
Sunday's market has been cancelled**

Some future markets are likely to be cancelled too - we'll keep you updated via our [news emails](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

## Local News

For What's On and Local Organisations, [visit our website](#)



### Gotcha!

On Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch's [Facebook page](#) last month there was a report by a resident who spotted shoplifting going on in the High Road and rang 999. The result? Police were quickly on the scene and grabbed the offenders!

So please - if you see a crime being committed, tell the police immediately.

### Chief Inspector Basford

He has now handed over the Brentwood and Epping Community Policing Team and Local Policing Teams to Chief Inspector Alcock, who knows West Essex well. At the height (or depth) of the reductions in police numbers, CI Basford made a real difference by re-focussing our local police on to "minor" crimes which were actually very important to local residents – car theft, anti social behaviour, etc. He was always accessible and went out on patrol rather than just staying in an office. He led the successful co-ordination of operations with the Met, the transport police and the police employed by the District Council.

A hard act to follow!

### Essex police carrying on despite the crisis

Essex Police have said that their *"priorities remain the same: to help people, keep them safe and to catch criminals, and we are keen to show positive examples of business as usual policing across the force."*

*We are encouraging our staff and officers to post to Facebook and Twitter about what they are doing as part of their everyday roles. These will be accompanied with appropriate pictures where possible to further reassure our communities. Some events will be postponed, like our Coffee with Cops engagements, but we encourage everyone to contact us in the usual way by email or via 101.*

*At a time where there's a lot of uncertainty, it's really important we can provide reassurance to our communities, letting them know that we're still there to protect them and keep them safe and emphasise the message to criminals that they cannot use COVID-19 as an excuse to commit crime.*

*We are proud of the way our staff have responded to working within an ever changing and challenging environment and we are working hard to ensure you still have the support and resources you need.*

*Requests for our assistance should continue to be made in the usual way.*

- To report a non-emergency incident [report it online](#) at or call 101.
- To report an emergency dial 999.

If you require further information regarding the current situation please contact your local Community Policing Teams by [email](#) or call 101.



### Local Police Good News

Much of what the police does never gets reported widely, so here is some selected news from around the town on how the police have done lately.

5th March: Officers and staff from Community Policing Team completed a knife sweep of The Broadway, Debden area of Loughton. No knives were found however they did remove a number of items including scissors, a wrench and a couple of jemmy bars as a

precautionary measure. At the same time units deployed to report of a male threatening another with a knife in Debden and units located the suspect and searched him. A knife was located at scene and a male arrested, charged and remanded for possession of knife, harassment and assault.

12th March: A vehicle was stolen during burglary, seen on false plates, and pursued by Essex Police. The vehicle stopped and the two occupants decamped. One was caught by the dog section and the second was located by the police helicopter trying to hide in bushes. A crowbar and drugs were on one suspect. Both were arrested for many offences.

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### Police blitz on drug dealers and violent crime

In the second half of March, officers fitted nearly four months of extra patrols into a fortnight during focused work in west Essex (including Debden and Loughton). This aimed at identifying anyone involved in drug dealing or intent on committing violent crime and resulted in:

- the arrest of 74 people on suspicion of various offences, including 14 for possession with intent to supply drugs.
- seizure nearly £18,000 in cash.
- seizure of crack cocaine and heroin, and weapons including a machete and an extendable baton.

All part of their everyday work to help keep people safe and catch criminals involved in knife crime, serious violence and associated drugs activity. [News article](#)

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### Need urgent police help through the 999 service, but can't speak?

See what to do [here](#). If you're in an emergency situation and need police help, but can't speak, Make Yourself Heard and let the 999 operator know your call is genuine.

## Coronavirus/Covid-19

Followed by [Local News](#)

### Latest Updates

[Government Advice](#)

[NHS Advice](#)

### Local Support

[County Council  
How to help and  
Facebook support  
group](#)

[Loughton  
COVID-19 Mutual  
Aid UK Group](#)

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### NHS Volunteer Responders

There are a number of volunteering opportunities available currently to support the response to coronavirus, although this is temporarily paused. [More](#).

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### Suffering from isolation?

[Mind](#) – this charity provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. For anyone where self-isolation may be having a detrimental impact to

their mental health, this may be a good place to turn (unless of course an emergency situation).

[The Samaritans](#). Need support? They're there to listen 24 hours, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for free or view [other ways to get in touch](#).

### Discreet emergency help for domestic abuse victims

Find out [more](#).

### Coronavirus – if you're helping people....

If you are running any virtual classes or fitness groups during the health crisis, or if you run a delivery service or your business is willing to mend someone's leaking tap, or their washing machine or take a self-isolating dog for a walk, taking all safety precautions of course, then please can you post it on the Epping Forest Covid-19 Services and Food Locations [Facebook page](#).

### Adult social care and health

Essex County Council have released £11.4m from their reserves to help adult social care providers cope with the impact of coronavirus ([more](#)). They will use a further £18.6m to increase the number of residential care beds they have available ([more](#)). This should help free up space in local hospitals.

### Highways problems

Please keep reporting faults to [County Highways](#).

The County Council is continuing with most repair work but are assessing their planned programme of work given the situation. The latest information in on the [County Council website](#).



### Visiting Epping Forest

Please remember to respect the travel restrictions when visiting the Forest. [More](#)

It is understood that the City have shut all lockable carparks and will be placing logs alongside all ungated ones.

*Please do not park on the verges.*

### Grounds Maintenance

Residents are asking why the Council team can be seen out and about. This is because the team is grass and hedge/verge cutting so that vital open spaces remain accessible for residents to exercise, and to make sure that sight-lines for our road networks remain safe for essential services, key workers and to keep the district moving for our volunteers to be able to deliver vital supplies to our vulnerable residents.

### Need clear recycling sacks?

There's an updated list of venues [here](#). The District Council say that if you run out of recycling sacks you can use a cardboard box or **clear** plastic bag, but not supermarket bags or black sacks as crews cannot see what is inside, so will not pick up.




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### Having work done at home?

The guidance from Government is as follows:

*"Work carried out in people's homes, for example by tradespeople carrying out repairs and maintenance, can continue, provided that the tradesperson is well and has no symptoms. Again, it will be important to ensure that Public Health England guidelines, including maintaining a 2 metre distance from any household occupants, are followed to ensure everyone's safety.*

*No work should be carried out in any household which is isolating or where an individual is being shielded, unless it is to remedy a direct risk to the safety of the household, such as emergency plumbing or repairs, and where the tradesperson is willing to do so. In such cases, Public Health England can provide advice to tradespeople and households."* [More](#).

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### MOT tests

The Department for Transport has said that car, van & motorcycle owners have a temporary exemption from MOT testing till end-September to ensure that vital services continue, people can carry on with essential travel and people can buy food & medicine. [More](#)

The District Council have suspended their MOT service for members of the public and all booked public MOTs have been cancelled. Taxi MOTs and taxi inspections will still be carried out.

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### Car Parking

NEPP have relaxed on-street enforcement. Council-owned car parks still operating, with light touch enforcement and with free parking for NHS Staff.

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### Flexible firemen & women

The Fire Brigade Union have agreed that their members can drive ambulances and indeed deliver vital medical supplies as well as delivering supplies to vulnerable people.

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### More scams

- **COVID19 related scams.** Action Fraud have received scam reports. The majority relate to the online sale of protective items such as facemasks and other items in short supply due to the outbreak, that don't exist. [More](#).
- **Please check out email scams** at the [Hoaxslayer](#) website before you risk replying or passing on a suspect email.

## Local News

### District Council [meetings](#)

Meetings are now restricted to key areas including:

- Planning applications – meetings of Area Planning Sub-committees and District Development Management Committee

- Licensing – Licensing Sub-Committees to consider and approve applications for local businesses
- Meetings of the Cabinet and Council – where key council business decisions are taken will be held as required.

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### Register of licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

The District Council maintains [a public register](#) of all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licences and ensures they contain adequate facilities and living space. If you think there's an unregistered HMO, please contact the Council.

An HMO (or "house share") is a property rented out by at least 3 people who are not from 1 'household' but share facilities like the bathroom and kitchen. Owners must get licences for large HMOs (rented to 5 or more people – [more](#)).

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### North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) charges

Updated charges were due to be proposed to an NEPP meeting on March 19th but the meeting was cancelled. The existing charges, and the charges proposed for 2020, 2021 and 2022 charges for Epping Forest are [here](#) on:

- page 15 for residents permits
- page 16 for parking bays

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### Town Council *Think Loughton*

The decision has been taken by the Town Council not to produce the Spring Think Loughton magazine in hard copy form, because of the cancellation of events and meetings, the risk of infection, and the uncertainty of delivery. This probably won't save money, as most of the costs are contracted in advance.

Instead it has been published on the [Town Council website](#). *Please be aware that events and activities in the magazine may be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.*

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### Loughton Wombles

Just as the Town Council's litter initiative was ready to start, coronavirus intervened. It will be taken up again as soon as possible.

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### Loughton Building Design Awards 2020

Loughton Town Council gives an award for recent building works that either:

- enhance the town
- improve a dilapidated building
- upgrade or enhance a conservation area
- noteworthy in terms of design or innovation.



This year's award went to 1 Hillcrest Road. [More](#).

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### Hospital Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection reports

- Queen's Hospital, Romford. Rating: Requires improvement. [Read the report now](#)
- St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood, Harlow. Rating: Outstanding. [Read the report now](#)
- The Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow Rating: Requires improvement. [Read the report now](#).

### Beating bed blocking

The mismatch between care on hospitals and care in the community causes all sorts of problems and wastes scarce resources. The County Council has commissioned [a report](#) on hospital discharge processes, reflecting on the appropriateness of historical care packages and where there would be scope for better outcomes. The analysis makes interesting reading – but as always the hard part will be putting the recommendations into practice!



### Street Lights, Forest Way and Staples Road

Nine heritage style lamp posts have been erected in Forest Way and Staples Road to replace old concrete and steel versions. This work started in 2009, when life expired concrete columns were replaced at the southern end of Staples Rd under the short lived Highways Community Initiative, and was continued up to Number 63 a few years later.

The Town Council asked for the remainder in the Conservation Area to be done 2-3 years ago, but in fact Essex Highways have also replaced those outside numbers 79 to 105, which are outside the Conservation Area.

Cllr Chris Pond has written to Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, thanking him for the installation by Essex Highways (EH) of nine heritage-style street lamps along Staples Road replacing old concrete ones:

*"The replacement of non-conforming concrete lamp columns in the Staples Road conservation area between no 65 and 105, and in Forest Way, appears to have been completed today, as I noticed during my daily prisoner's exercise period. I don't know if they'll have been connected yet. This was an Local Highways Panel scheme suggested by the Town Council. But I also want to thank Essex Highways (EH) for having gone beyond the scheme, and replaced those columns just outside the conservation area boundary. I know that is in line with policy, but we not had dared suggest it. It makes an excellent and neat job. Well done, EH, especially in this lockdown period."*



### Baldwins Hill

The road will be closed from 27th April for five days while Thames Water undertakes Service pipe installation. [More](#)

### Parking Controls, Shaftesbury/Staples Road

NEPP have stated their intention to advertise parking control schemes in Shaftesbury/Staples Road (they have been working on this 2-3 years) and Traps Hill (new scheme) in the next few weeks. These follow resident petitions.



### Lucton's Field

On Wednesday this week, an LRA member alerted us to the removal of the concrete blocks which prevent unauthorised access from Borders Lane. We understand that this was done to allow surveying by utility companies, with permission of the landowner.

### Can I recycle this?

Here's [some guidance](#) on what all those odd recycling symbols on products mean from

## Traidcraft

As Traidcraft say, 'Remember, not all packaging has a recycling label, but that doesn't mean you can't recycle it and should write it off for landfill. If you're unsure, either contact the company you bought the item from or check with your local council.'

The District Council website also tells you [what can be recycled locally](#).

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## Loughton in the 1930s and 40s by Richard Gresty

This new book by Richard Gresty is an account of his early life in Loughton, up to his joining the Army at the age of 18. Mr Gresty is a 93-year old retired army major. He was born in Connaught Avenue, and enjoyed a middle-class upbringing in a new house in the elevated part of Loughton, his father being editor of the Lloyd's List shipping newspaper. He attended Daiglen School in Buckhurst Hill, and then went to boarding school in Devon.

The Loughton of the 1930s, semi-rural, with shops from which good personal service was expected, and few entertainments, is distant from the present, but still recognisable. There are over 30 illustrations, including a fine colour plate of no 38A buses at the Crown terminus in 1939.

Available from the Loughton and District Historical Society (LDHS) Chairman (0208 508 2361 or [loughtonponds@outlook.com](mailto:loughtonponds@outlook.com); by post or for collection) £6.95 (LDHS Members £5.50) plus postage if required at cost.

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## Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel looking for Independent Panel Members

The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel is currently in the process of recruiting two Independent Members to work alongside its elected councillors. Interested? See more [here](#)

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## The City of London's Epping Forest magazine

**Forest Focus** [Spring Edition](#)

Stories about the Forest and more.

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## Can't get to see the bluebells?

Here's some photographed in 2018 in Apes Wood, Ongar.



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*Thank you for being an LRA member, Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Saturday 9 May 2020, although that date could change.*

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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.

We can be contacted at [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

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