



LRA's Loughton News

11 June 2021

This month, we provide further updates on the proposed developments on [Lucton's Field](#) and the [College Middle Site](#). There are also proposals to develop the [old nursery site on Pyrles Lane](#) and [convert the Higgins building](#) at the corner of Langston Road and Chigwell Lane into flats.

We are also report on [recent police activity](#). There are many scams around so [here's what to do if you get one](#).

The latest update on [Covid vaccines](#) is included along with the latest uptake locally.

After the recent elections, [Loughton has a new mayor](#), and we also provide an updated list of our District and Town Cllrs.

[Read also about visiting Epping Forest](#) over the summer and remember we also have Roding Valley Meadows on Loughton's doorstep. We are very fortunate to have easy access to these areas.

Thank you for being an LRA member. You can always contact us by email at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk to raise an issue, to give your views, or to offer help.

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LRA News

Lucton's Field, Borders Lane

We are still waiting for the Planning Inspector's decision on Fairview Homes appeal against the District Council's failure to decide about their application to build flats on the field opposite the College. So residents were concerned when work started on the field; however, a resident asked the workers about it, and they said that they were installing a temporary mobile mast as the one in the College grounds has ceased to operate (there are provisions to allow for a temporary installations without the need for planning consent until the existing one is fixed). However, the works

appear more extensive than would be needed for a temporary mast and the District Council has been asked to investigate. [Background on our website](#)

Epping Forest College Middle Site, Borders Lane

The old building is now being demolished. The developers applied for prior approval for removal of the old building and this wasn't objected to. Therefore what is being done is lawful and doesn't predicate the Inspector's decision, which is still awaited. [Background on our website](#).

Pyrles Lane site

In 2013, the District Council, which owns the old nursery site to the rear of Pyrles Lane, proposed to develop it for housing. LRA Plans Group objected to this "backland" development but in 2015 a planning application was approved. However, that planning permission has expired and a new application will be needed (this will be passed unless some new objection applies).

The Council is now considering selling the site to Qualis, its wholly-owned development subsidiary. This was discussed at a Council committee meeting on June 8th – [here is the report](#). This development cannot take place without adversely affecting the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation, a factor which the Council had completely omitted from its report.

Loughton Library

We understand the much-delayed consultation on this project to demolish Loughton Library and provide a smaller library under a block of flats will take place in July.



Please be ready to give your views!



Can you help please?

In early July we are looking forward to being able to produce a members' edition of our members' Loughton Life newsletter for our volunteers to deliver to you.

We will be contacting our usual deliverers, but we need someone new to deliver 16 copies in the Goldings Hill area, please email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk

As well, our long-standing organiser for Forest ward is standing down, so we need someone to receive the copies, to split them into the individual delivery rounds, and to drop them off to the dozen or so deliverers. If you could help, please email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk

New Town Mayor

We are delighted that LRA Cllr Rose Brookes (right) has become the Town Mayor for 2021-22, and LRA Cllr Barbara Cohen her deputy. [More](#)

Our website also has an [updated list](#) of local District and Town Cllrs.

Image: Loughton Town Council



High Beach helicopter base

LRA Cllr Chris Pond says that the proposed return of Metropolitan Police helicopters to High Beach will create more pollution in the forest. LRA, local residents, and the District Council are also concerned about the extra noise and pollution the return of the base will create.

The air support unit moved from Lippitts Hill to a base on North Weald Airfield two years ago. It appears that neither residents nor the District Council can prevent the return, because the original planning permission is still valid. The National Police Air Service will remain at North Weald Airfield.

Debden Road Signposting

A local resident reported that the signage for Debden Road was unclear and has led to problems for emergency services and delivery drivers.

LRA Cllr Caroline Pond raised this with the County Council. A new street sign was installed, although resident feedback was that wasn't quite in the right place. Caroline requested it to be moved, and this has now been done.



New Alderton Hill Speed Limit

A new advisory speed limit of 20mph now at the bend on Alderton Hill. This resulted from a petition from residents at the top of the hill, where cars have repeatedly felled walls.

Residents along with LRA Cllr Chris Pond attended a highway surgery in the winter, and the new speed limit was later agreed.

Covid-19/Coronavirus

Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Hands



Face



Space



Fresh air

Coronavirus restrictions remain in place across the country, including for people who have been vaccinated. In England:

- You can meet indoors in a group of up to 6 people or a group of any size from 2 households
- You can meet outside in a group of up to 30 people
- Work from home if you can and travel safely
- If you have symptoms get a test and stay at home



[Find out the rules on what you can and cannot do](#)

More from the [government](#) and [advice from the NHS](#)



Vaccine information for Essex

The COVID-19 vaccination programme across Essex is well underway with thousands of people vaccinated already ([more local data](#)). This is part of the biggest immunisation programme in NHS history. Information and support on the Covid vaccine for Essex is [online](#) including [frequently asked questions](#) on the vaccine. You can also [watch this video](#) discussing vaccine safety

concerns.

You can [check current eligibility](#) then use the [National Booking Service](#) or call 119 for an appointment at a vaccination centre. Or contact your GP and make an appointment.

If you live in Essex and need help to book an appointment or if your 2nd dose of the vaccine is due within the next seven days and you still don't have an appointment, phone 0344 2573 961 (open 10am to 4pm, local rate).

The country's most vulnerable are also being [offered their second COVID-19 vaccine earlier](#).

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.

The District Council takes the decisions on planning applications. The application will be decided upon by a Council Officer or by Cllrs in a District Council Planning Committee, and residents' comments on the proposals will be taken into account but not necessarily agreed with. This is a quasi-legal process, and decisions have to be taken **on planning grounds only**, based on the national planning legislation and the District Local Plan, whatever the views and feelings of the individual Cllrs involved.

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.

The process for alcohol licensing applications is similar to the process for planning applications, except that objections must relate to one or more of [the four Licensing Objectives](#) (page 3, section 1.7) and any comments received after the end of the formal consultation period won't be taken into account by the District Council.

Higgins, 1 Langston Road

It is proposed to change the Higgins office building into 57 flats. As part of the Government's reforms to "cut out planning red tape", offices can be changed to flats without the need for planning permission. This means we cannot take into account the impact of the new residences and car pollution on the Forest or question the principle of the change of use. However certain aspects of the changes need the prior approval of the Council such as flooding, natural lighting to the new flats and parking.

LRAPG has objected to the prior approval application because there is insufficient parking for the new flats and because of the likely effect of noise from nearby commercial premises on the intended occupants. The original planning permission includes a second office building on the site and, if this is built, it would block the windows and natural light to some of the new flats.

LRAPG has also noted that the original planning permission for 1 Langston Road included a number of details which had to be approved by the council ("conditions") before work started on the site; if these weren't submitted and approved then the existing building would be unlawful. Similarly, under a legal agreement signed by the owners, there should have been a travel plan for the building's occupants. LRAPG have asked the Council's planning officers to check, before they make any decision on this latest application, that all these things were actually done, as the Council cannot grant prior approval for a change of use to an unlawful building.

Application [EPF/1408/21](#). The formal consultation period ends on June 23rd.

Pizza Hut, 21 The Broadway

MSAJ Pizza Ltd have applied for a new premises licence for a pizza delivery and take-away restaurant.

The Town Council, LRAPG and three local residents have objected to the application, which will be considered by the District Council on June 15th. The applicant applied for opening until 1am but has agreed with Essex Police to close at midnight Sunday to Thursday (both instore & deliveries) and on Friday and Saturday to close the shop doors at midnight, with home deliveries only until 1am, for telephone and online orders only.

LRAPG comment: while the change in hours is an improvement, it would still mean residents in the flats above being disturbed by shop staff and delivery vehicles after midnight. If the application were to be granted licensing approval to open for home

deliveries after midnight, they would also need separate planning permission for this, which LRAPG would also strongly oppose.

Reference [WK/202114377](#). The consultation period has ended.

Street trading on The Broadway

The District Council has turned down [an application](#) (item 116) for a Street Trading Licence made by Debden Traders' Association, for shops or other traders to sell goods on The Broadway on the pavements outside the shops, Monday to Sunday 8am to 5pm. A street trading consent cannot be used as an extension of a shop, and Essex County Council had anyway objected to businesses expanding their selling areas in a way which would obstruct the public highway. [More](#) (item 116)

The District Council do not currently have a markets policy. They are planning to devise and consult on one.

Roads, Parking and Travel



Transport for London Safer Travel

Read [the latest safer travel advice](#) for the Transport of London network, including about hygiene, cleaning, social distancing and [travelling at quieter times](#).

Card Only for Parking and Travel

The payment machines for parking in the High Road are now card-only, and don't take cash payments.

The ticket machines at Loughton and Debden stations are also card-only. Stations still accepting cash are [listed here](#).

Planned Road Closures

Upper Park

The road will be closed for gas main replacement until June 21st. [More](#)

Police and Crime

Recent police activity

- The Community Policing Team provided reassurance patrols and engagement with local Jewish communities across the District following a recent hate incident in Chigwell (two people have been charged in connection with this).

- In response to ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) concerns, Special Constables have been supporting local officers with high visibility patrols in Debden, and the Special Inspector visited The Broadway and talked with a number of local businesses.
- The Community Policing Team continued to pay attention to Loughton tube station, and surrounding areas, to deter criminality and ASB.
- Complaints have been received about ASB and violence in Station Road, and LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the local Inspector to step up the attention given to this road.



Essex Police jail drug dealer

Operation Raptor officers have succeeded in jailing a man for six years for dealing cocaine in Loughton. Phones, drugs, Rolex watches and cash were seized from his address. [More](#).



If you are worried about criminal activity or antisocial behaviour, please tell your local policing team by [reporting it online](#) or call 101 - please don't assume they already know about it.



Scams

Unfortunately there are far too many scams around for us to report them here. However, find out how to protect yourself with advice from Which? magazine [here](#).

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If you get a scam email with an attached quote, bill, etc. Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch urge you to send it to report@phishing.gov.uk and help make a difference. If it's a text message, forward it to 7726 - it's free. [More](#)

As of 31st May, they have received over 6 million such reports, and that has allowed them to remove more than 45,000 scams and take down 90,000 malicious URLs.

Get involved

If you have CCTV, the Neighbourhood Alert system for receiving crime and local area information messages allows you to register so that the system administrators can contact you about any CCTV issues or information requests that may be relevant to you. [More](#), and join up [here](#).

Stolen vehicles

Stolen vehicles can often be parked up and left for several days at a time. If you feel something isn't right about a parked vehicle, please report it using [Live Chat](#) (7am-11pm) or by calling 101 (if you feel a crime is in progress, always dial 999).

Vehicles recently stolen can also be driven to 'chop shop' locations and quickly dismantled. If you notice lots of high value vehicles arriving at a location near you

and not leaving, or any other unusual activity, please report it for investigation to the police, or anonymously using [CrimeStoppers](#).

Council News

Noisy dogs

A persistently noisy dog can make life very difficult for neighbours and can also mean that the dog is in distress. The District Council will not tolerate irresponsible pet owners who allow dogs to bark unchecked. Recently, noisy dogs cost a Waltham Abbey man £1,347 at Chelmsford Magistrates Court for breach of a Noise Abatement Notice and Community Protection Notice. [More](#).

Report dog noise to the District Council [here](#).

High Road and The Broadway regeneration

A District Council meeting on June 8 considered a number of reports suggesting how the District's Town Centres could be regenerated and made better and more attractive places to live, work and play. This is the first stage in a long process, which will need to involve consultation and working together by the District, Town and County Councils, together with local businesses, residents and local organisations like LRA. You can see the details [here](#).

Are you a Council tenant?

You can watch the recording of the District Council's second housing webinar [here](#) - topics discussed include: hoarding, housing fraud, and domestic abuse.

Qualis Quarterly Monitoring Report – Q2 2020/21

You can see the commentary on the latest report for the District Council's subsidiary [here](#), and the report itself [here](#) – it covers its work on property developments and managing the Council's housing stock.

Local News

Methodist Church hit again – and again

At the end of last month a car went out of control as it came down Traps Hill and shot across the High Road, over a low wall, and into the glass front of the Church. No-one was seriously injured (the Church suffered a similar incident nine years ago).

At the start of this month, another accident outside the church led to further damage to the wall but as far as we know there were no serious injuries.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond had asked for a safety review of the Traps Hill junction.



Recycling Green Waste

Have you ever wondered what happens to the green waste collected at your recycling centre?

It's taken to Birch Airfield composting site near Colchester, and some of it is being reused again to mulch newly planted trees and hedgerows in Tendring (this site in St Osyth is one of the driest fields in the entire Country – so 'mulch' needed for the young trees!)

(The District's street collections of green waste by Biffa are dealt with separately.)



Images: [Essex is Green](#). Click to enlarge

Improving our wildlife

Epping Forest Countrycare visited an area next to Willingale Road Allotment early last month to carry out a volunteer work session. As with previous sessions at this site, grass was cut and areas covered in brambles were cut-back. They created a pathway through the section of brambles close to the border with Debden Park High School. Countrycare Officers placed a number of refugia (mats to encourage habitat for reptiles and insects) around the site; a couple of weeks later many had become homes to slow worms, common lizards and a grass snake (all of them, of course, harmless to people).

Health and Wellbeing

Whipps Cross Hospital redevelopment – message from Action4Whipps

Action4Whipps is a group of concerned residents who are asking for help to secure the new Whipps Cross hospital to be the hospital they believe we shall all need in the future. It will need enough beds (not 51 fewer than now), sufficient space for services

and enough land for expansion in the future. The ever-growing population within the hospital's catchment area leads them to believe that action is needed to act now in the planning stages of the building process, before all decisions are set in stone. They want to preserve enough land from housing development for future expansion of the hospital needs. For more, and how to give your views, see [here](#).

Epping Forest

Visiting Epping Forest and our Green Spaces

The latest update for visiting Epping Forest is in [Forest Focus](#) (scroll down to the Covid-19 section). Most facilities are now open, with some restrictions in place.



Remember that charging for some car parks in the Forest have been [introduced](#). The new system is cashless, accepting payments through the RingGo app or by card (at High Beach only). You may want to [set up the RingGo app and an account](#) before you go, however not all car parks are being charged for - [check here first](#) under 'Are all Forest car parks included').

Visitors are asked to take litter home to dispose of it responsibly there, rather than use the litter bins, which are likely to become full very quickly at this time, so please remember to keep our forest tidy!

Also don't forget Roding Valley Meadows which is on Loughton's doorstep. It is part of the 160 acre Roding Valley Nature Reserve which comprises the largest surviving area of traditionally managed river-valley habitat in Essex and follows the River Roding. More [here](#) and [here](#).



Do not disturb

Fallow deer have been an important aspect of the Forest's ecology for centuries, browsing on new growth and helping to maintain the wood pasture that is such an important feature of Epping Forest. Fallow fawns are born in the summer so it is very important that dogs are kept under close control when visiting the Forest at this time of year. You

may come across fawns alone in the undergrowth and wonder if they have been abandoned. Please do not disturb these young deer as they have been safely hidden while the mother feeds close by. She will return to the fawn once you have gone.

Image: [Epping Forest Focus](#)

No fires or barbecues allowed in Epping Forest

We love to see visitors enjoying a picnic, provided they take their litter home with them but please remember that fires and barbecues are not permitted anywhere in Epping Forest; this is to prevent the very real risk of a wildfire in this ancient woodland. Please help to protect this special place.

And More

Loughton, then and now

See pictures of Loughton from [the past and present](#), and see how our town has changed over the years - and continues to change.

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday July 2nd although that date could change.

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



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Twitter is where we have all our latest news. You don't need to be signed up to Twitter to see this



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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

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