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## LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### **LRA's Loughton News**

14 December 2019

*In this issue: An update on the Local Plan, more on the Central Line changes in 2020, and a useful way to find out about roadworks around town.*

## **LRA NEWS**

### **Local Plan Progress Update**

The District Council's progress report can be seen [here](#). The report is Agenda Item 11 from page 55 onwards. A list of sites is in Appendices B, C and D from page 71 onwards.

The City of London is very unhappy with the way in which the District Council is taking forward matters in relation to the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation – see [here](#) (item 17).

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### **District Council Statement of Community Involvement**

The District Council is producing a revised Statement setting out how it will notify and consult the community and other stakeholders in the preparation and review of planning policy which includes: the Local Plan; supplementary planning documents; neighbourhood plans; policy such as that contained in master plans; and in the consideration of planning applications. The report is [here](#) from page 15 onwards.

Given that over several years the Conservative administration in Epping took no notice whatsoever of residents' strong opposition to their plans to put housing on Jessel Green, we wonder whether there's any point in this exercise?



### **Central Line - Service Reductions north of Loughton from 26 January 2020**

As mentioned in our previous email, Transport for London (TfL) has announced changes to the Central Line service.

The Mayor of London has replied to the [petition organised on change.org](#), signed by nearly 10,000 people. He admits that 15,000 people will experience a reduction in train frequency, or will be required to change trains at Hainault (out of the over-100,000 passengers each day).

Further details on the changes have emerged:

- For Monday to Friday peak services, trains terminating at Loughton will alternate with those terminating at Epping. No trains will terminate at Debden. This

will mean a far better service to Loughton with more empty trains in the morning peak. However those travelling from Debden in the morning peak will not have empty trains to get on, and fewer trains.

- Trains terminating at the centre platform at Loughton will come in and then head back into central London almost immediately.
- Additional trains have been scheduled at other times in the morning and evening, and on Saturdays and Sundays.

More details on these changes are on [our website](#).

We have also been told:

- There'll be meet-the-manager sessions at Debden. We'll let residents know when we know when.
- There's no indication of when the Debden service will be restored to present levels but the upgrade work is expected to continue till 2023.
- The three Grange Hill - central London via Woodford morning peak trains will continue.
- It doesn't look as if the present 1992 stock trains will be replaced till about 2033.



## **LRA's Farmers' Market Next Market: Sunday 12 January**

Come along to LRA's Farmers' Market on Sunday 12th January, on Centric Parade, High Road. The market is held 9am - 3pm, opposite The Last Post. LRA's volunteers, and our second-hand bookstall, will be back at the market on Sunday February 9th.

## **MORE LRA NEWS**

### **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.

### **New Lidl Store, 140 Church Hill**

Lidl already have planning permission for their new store, with no deliveries and waste collections being made outside of the hours of 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, and no deliveries or waste collections being made on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

However Lidl are concerned that these restrictions will affect the store operations especially with delivery vehicles arriving during store opening hours when the car park is in use, and there will be a negative effect of waste not being collected for up to two days on weekends and bank holidays. They are therefore seeking to extend delivery hours to 7am to 9pm Monday to Saturday, and to have Sunday deliveries between 4:30pm and 6:30pm.

We have pointed out that these conditions were imposed to protect nearby residents and Lidl should have factored this in before acquiring the site given the limited parking and tight

turning circle for lorries.

We know that delivery lorries are likely to turn up early and wait outside until 7am with their engines running making a noise. A broadband reversing alarm still makes a noise even though it sounds like a strangled parrot, as does moving glass bottles; rattling together as they are moving is very disturbing for residents especially in the summer when they have their windows open. There is also the issue of disturbance from the banging of doors and lorry roller shutters. One-off noises and bangs are more disturbing for residents than constant noise.

We have responded to Lidl as we think 7am is too early. We have suggested 7.30am as a compromise but subject to any consent being temporary so it can be reviewed, and also emphasising the adjoining residents should be fully consulted on such a change.

### **New Mobile Phone Mast, Corner of High Road & Warren Hill**

This application includes a 22.5 metre monopole supporting 9 antennas, along with the installation of x 6 equipment cabinets within a fenced compound and ancillary works.

LRAPG are objecting to this application as it is situated in a prominent position just off the main road and by reason of its height and design will be extremely harmful to this part of the forest. There is no information on what alternative sites they looked at and, even if the Council was daft enough to accept this, they should be looking for a design that fits in with the forest. It is possible to design these so they look like trees. There is no information on whether any trees will be lost to access the site for installation and maintenance.

*Application Number EPF/2753/19. [Comments](#) should be made by 26 December 2019.*



### **Landmark House, The Broadway**

This application includes a new front façade to the existing shell for a public house with new front elevation signage and new air conditioning/ventilation system. It appears the work has already been carried out which is also disappointing.

LRAPG are objecting to this application given the negative impacts on residents from the ventilation system. The extracts should discharge at roof level where smells and heat will not affect the residents in the building. Overall this is a badly planned scheme in the first instance where extract infrastructure should have been planned into the development right from the very start.

The signage should be at fascia level and not on the pillars between the windows which is harmful to the building and streetscape. The council granted permission for this building partly because it would be a landmark building so let's not deface it with inappropriate signage now. We have therefore requested that the council instigates discontinuance action.

*Application Number EPF/2668/19. The date for comments has passed.*

### **Fruteria (Corner Shop), 232 High Road (corner of The Drive)**

Residents may have noticed new signage has replaced Fruteria signs.

The new signage did not need planning permission, although it's not in keeping with the signage on the High Road. However the District Council has the ability to take discontinuance action against the signage if they consider it impacts on the amenity of the road. LRA would argue it also is distracting for motorists - the facade is plastered with signage. LRA will be raising this with the District Council.

### **The Hollybush, 140 High Road**

They applied for live & recorded music until midnight on Sundays to Thursdays, and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays, plus the removal of the current condition requiring any



music to stop an hour before the end-time for alcohol sales.

The District Council have removed the condition but decided to limit the extension of live and recorded music to: Sunday to Thursday 11.30pm Friday and Saturday 00:30am.

LRAPG feels that this is unreasonable in the light of the number of complaints made by residents about disturbance, and will be contacting nearby residents about the decision.

### **69 Church Hill appeal dismissed**

Despite a recommendation by officers in favour of an application to demolish the existing bungalow and replace it with a block of 10 flats (EPF/2040/18), the District Council turned it down (there were objections from nearby residents, the LRA Plans Group, Loughton Town Council and the Hills Amenity Society). The applicant's appeal against the refusal has now been dismissed by a Planning Inspector on the grounds that the proposal would result in significant harm to the character and appearance of the area.

*Application Number EPF/2040/18*

### **76 Algiers Road**

The applicant has appealed against the District Council's refusal of an application to replace the current house with a block of three 1-bedroom and three 2-bedroom flats.

*Application Number EPF/2881/18 (Refused Application)*

### **The Ridings, Manor Road Application for 2 houses**

This property is just outside the Loughton boundary but would have an adverse effect on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (EFSAC). The District Council turned down an earlier application for flats, and the applicant is now proposing replacing the existing building with two houses. The legislation is clear that *any* proposals which would adversely affect the EFSAC (vehicle air pollution or increased use of the EFSAC) are unacceptable, and LRAPG will be opposing the proposal.

*Application Number EPF/2767/19 [Comments](#) should be made by 1 January 2020.*

### **Loughton Health Centre and Crown House**

We note that there are preliminary proposals to demolish the Loughton Health Centre in The Drive and replace it with 14 flats and a new Health Centre. Proposals also include plans to demolish Crown House and the car park (corner of the High Road and Station Road) to create a new "landmark" building consisting of offices, retail and residential accommodation (these are at any early stage and we will let members know when formal planning applications appear).

### **Parking schemes in Debden**

In our last bulletin we mentioned that the District Council has decided not to construct any more parking spaces for Debden residents, and that in future the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) will be asked to consider introducing parking schemes and parking restrictions, in the same way as for the rest of the town. [More](#).

At the following District Council Cabinet meeting, LRA Cllr Chris Pond said the problem wasn't regulating parking, but creating extra spaces in roads where residents had insufficient off-road parking space. The Council Officer involved has agreed to accompany

LRA Cllr Wixley to have a look around his ward one evening to see the problems for himself.



### Work on Hillyfields

We're hoping that the site will look better once the grass has re-grown (the City of London have also specified the type of seed to be used). The Town Council is following up a strip of land which doesn't seem to have been seeded, and a small but incongruous mound of earth.

We understand that the work was needed to protect nearby houses in danger of flooding once in thirty years (most of the work was on City of London land and The District, County and Town councils were all involved in the scheme). Soon after completion we had a complaint that a pond had formed – we think that this was an indication that the scheme is working as it is supposed to work (that is, storing potential flood water in order that it can be drained out gradually through the existing drainage system without flooding properties).

### Refuse and litter

In October LRA Cllr Caroline Pond followed up a complaint about a missed Friday collection in Hatfields, which was closed to traffic at the time the collection lorry arrived. When this happens, they're meant to return the next working day (in this case, the following Tuesday), which they did.

In mid-November we told the District Council that there was rubbish spread over the Alderton Hill end of Roding Road – within an hour a Biffa crew had arrived and had swept it all up.



### Something Useful:

#### [What is happening with roadworks around town?](#)

*This useful website shows road closures, diversions and roadworks planned over the next two weeks. These roadworks include Essex County Council roadworks and those involving water, gas, power, and telephone services.*

*[Read more](#) about this map from the County Council.*

## LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL LEISURE ORGANISATIONS ARE [HERE](#)

### Free Christmas Parking

From Sunday 1 December to Sunday 29 December residents and visitors will be able to use any of the District Council run car parks free of charge at weekends. [More](#) and [where to find a car park](#).

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### Are the main roads being gritted?

To find out, look at or follow Essex County Highways' Twitter account [@essexhighways](#) for their daily decisions.

Sometimes they only grit in certain areas, according to local specialist weather forecasts. [More](#).




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### Local Air Quality - Vehicle Emissions

The District Council have produced [a report](#) looking at the role and responsibilities of Council Officers in respect of air pollution caused by vehicle emissions.



### Blocked drains

Last September Essex County Highways cleared 2,857 drains in our District.

If you know of a blocked drain, please report it (along with any other Highways problems) [here](#).

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### District Council plan to refurbish the Civic Offices in Epping

The council has submitted a listed building planning application for the work which includes space for a public cafe and also a possible new library, if the County Council decides to close the current library in St John's Road. For the details see [here](#).

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### Loughton Festival 2020

The Festival will run from Saturday 6 June to Sunday 14 June. Due to the lack of volunteers the 2020 festival will be the last.

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### District Council Customer Service Strategy

This new strategy is intended to support the Council's focus to put customers at the heart of everything they do – details [here](#) (item 12).

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### District Council fraud controls report September – November 2019

Among the cases reported are

- Five Right to Buy applications have been stopped or withdrawn as a result of Corporate Fraud Team (CFT) intervention resulting in a discount saving of approximately £414,000 and potential ongoing rent revenue streams of around £260,000.
- Two properties have been recovered as a result of investigations into tenancy fraud related matters representing an approximate saving to the council of £186,000. In addition, two people have been removed from the housing register as a result of

investigations into their respective housing applications. On both occasions it was found that the applicants had submitted false information / failed to disclose material facts.

- Three internal investigations have been undertaken. Two of these are still subject to ongoing enquiries; however, in the other case, whilst no evidence of any impropriety / misconduct was found, a need for revised control measures was identified.
- The council is due to receive a Proceeds of Crime Act award of approx. £50,000 deriving from a previous successful prosecution for tenancy fraud.

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### **Loughton Health Centre Patients Group**

Patients can see what was reported at the last meeting [here](#). All registered patients are welcome to come to the next meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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### **Building a Brighter Future for Whipps Cross Hospital**

The vision is for a new hospital within a wider health and wellbeing setting, alongside new homes, leisure, culture and other community facilities. The Barts Health group is sharing some early ideas about the potential site of a new hospital, the services it will provide, and the scope of the building. For more about this, the site masterplan and how to give your views, see [here](#).

Although there was an initial deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup>, you can still make comments after that date as they'll be taken into account as plans are developed.

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### **Waste and recycling**

The District Council will be looking at:

- the feasibility of introducing a third wheelie bin to replace clear recycling sacks;
- the future collection of food and garden waste in separate containers and the option to charge for the collection of garden waste;
- the possibility of not collecting garden waste in certain months of the year when demand is low;
- a review of street cleansing arrangements to achieve improvements in cleansing standards;
- improvements in the provision of waste and recycling containers and cleansing operations on the high street including the segregation of recycling materials;
- changing the bin design to ones with separate compartments for recyclable litter and residual refuse.

These are at an early stage and may or may not result in any changes.

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### **Essex Recycling failure**

The County Council have announced that around 200,000 tonnes of waste will be buried in a landfill, rather than being transformed into aggregates or, after composting, RDF, as was originally planned. [News Article](#)

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### **Reporting Crime, Suspicious Activity and Fraud (from Essex Police)**

#### ***For crimes and suspicious activity NOW - Call 999***

For other non-urgent contact and reporting a crime that has already happened - Call 101

Alternatively you can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes on line at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) and click on the appropriate button.

**Action Fraud**

They are the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber-crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Call 0300 123 2040

If you have been defrauded i.e. for lost money or phone, report online at

[www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime)

If someone has tried to defraud you but you have **not** lost money or phone, report online at

[www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing)

**Crimestoppers**

Call 0800 555 111

To give information anonymously phone or report it online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

***The information you provide is very important to Essex Police, so please make sure that they can use it effectively, by reporting it correctly through the proper channels.***

**Good News Stories from Essex Police**

6 November: As a result of action being taken to tackle vehicle theft, the Loughton based Local Policing Team stopped a Range Rover in Loughton in the early hours. The driver ran off but was soon caught and, as the vehicle was on cloned plates, he was arrested on suspicion of theft. At that time the victims did not know that their vehicle had been stolen. *Excellent work!*

11 November: Foot patrols by the Epping Forest District Town Centre Teams in the Langston Road area spotted a prolific offender, wanted on recall to prison. The male was arrested and also interviewed and charged with an additional retail theft. *Now going back to prison and later back to Court!*

15 November: The Epping Forest Police Community Safety Team working with Epping Forest Community Policing Team and Roads Policing Unit, arrested three people for theft from motor vehicles in Epping and Loughton. *Investigation continues.*

**Financial Assistance for Loughton organisations**

The Town Council wants to hear from Loughton's local groups, organisations and charities needing financial assistance for the period from April 2020 – March 2021 (closing date Thursday 2 January 2020). Application forms can be [downloaded from the Town Council website](#), or contact the council by email at [contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk), or call 020 8508 4200.

In this current financial year, the council have helped 23 groups totalling over £34,500 to improve or maintain their services to the local community (this sum includes the continued support for the Loughton Branch of the Epping Forest District Citizens Advice Bureau based in the Loughton Library which gives valuable free help and advice to all that request it).

**Jessel Green**

We're pleased to see that the efforts made to save Jessel Green have been praised in "[The Playing Field](#)" (see page 15-16), the magazine of the Essex Playing Fields Association.



## WW2 bomb exploded

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, bomb disposal experts set off a controlled explosion in Epping Forest, near to Fairmead Road, to dispose of a piece of second world war munitions which had been found earlier that morning. It was identified as an air-dropped incendiary bomb.

## GENERAL

### Need help?

[Frontline](#) gives information about local services which has a number of functions such as requesting a call back from service providers. This is all about helping people to help themselves by getting support as early on as possible and is free for everyone across the county. [There are also mobile apps](#) available for iOS and Android.

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



### Visit LRA on Twitter

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



### Visit LRA on Facebook

*Facebook is where we have selected news.  
You don't need to be signed up to Facebook to see this*



### Visit LRA's Website

*All our Tweets, past issues of Loughton News and Loughton Life, and more*

## NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Saturday 18 January, although this could change.
2. In the process of drafting these items and sending them by email, some links to websites or email addresses can be broken; you can get round this by right-clicking on the link and then clicking "open" or, if this does not work, by cutting and pasting the address into an email or browser as appropriate.
3. If a web address doesn't work, or anything else is wrong, please let us know at [loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)
4. 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.
5. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch.

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or email [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

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