



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

A Happy Christmas & New Year to our readers

ROUND AND ABOUT – LRA CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2016

There's been a lot of focus on Europe this year, so the LRA Christmas quiz is following the trend, and is featuring European towns and cities. Answers please by 5th Jan to Les Harris, 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ,

or by email to lesandsueharris@aol.com

Book token or fizz to the first correct answer out of the hat.

Happy quizzing – and a very Merry Christmas to you all.

Because we changed the publication dates of *Loughton Life* this year, you can find the quiz on our website - [here](#).



LRA NEWS

Draft Local Plan.

- **Thanks to all those who responded**, and particularly to those who copied us in (we were copied in on around 350 emails, and on Monday LRA Cllr Leon Girling hand-delivered another 250 residents' responses to the Council).
- **LRA & Loughton Town Council (LTC)** have worked hard on their respective responses - LRA response [here](#) & LTC response [here](#).
- See **comment on the LTC response** [here](#).
- See **the Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society response** [here](#)
- **What next?** District Council Planning Portfolio Holder John Philip has said that all changes to the draft Local Plan would be made public. He expected further changes to the draft Plan following analysis of the latest consultation. We now have to wait to see how much notice the District Council takes of the chorus of disapproval of their proposals. We'll keep you updated.
- You can register for District Council updates on their [website](#)



Problems sorted out:

- **Sight-lines.** A resident asked us about an overgrown hedge which was dangerously blocking the views at the junction of Church Lane and Whitehills Road. LRA Cllr Chris Pond took this up with County Highways and the hedge has now been cut back.
- **Building site.** A resident contacted LRA Town Cllr Barbara Cohen with concerns about builder's materials on the pavement & mud on the road. LRA District & Town Cllr Judy Jennings followed up with the District & County Councils, and the problems have been sorted out.
- **Highways works.** A resident contacted us when a County Highways officer said he wasn't senior enough to get any action on the resident's immediate problems with Highways work – LRA Cllr Chris Pond took up the case and action swiftly followed.

If you see a dangerous Highways problem, please [report it](#), and let us know if nothing happens.

LOCAL NEWS

FOR LOCAL EVENTS SEE SEPARATE EMAIL

Check ahead for events in red, which need to be booked in advance!

FOR LOCAL LEISURE ORGANISATIONS SEE <http://tinurl.com/pbel693>

District Council car-parks [free at weekends](#) throughout December.



Own or run a Loughton business?

See what Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce has to offer - [newsletter](#)

Police:

Please report all thefts and damage ((ring 999 if a crime is happening; otherwise ring 101 or [online](#))).

- **Burglaries and thefts of & from vehicles:** the police are making extra patrols in areas that have recently been affected. [EFNW]
- **Body Worn Video** have been issued to most of our neighbourhood officers; these should increase evidence capture & protect officers
- **Attempted burglaries of houses with alarms** have recently been reported – thieves are obviously assuming that any old metal alarm bell boxes are dummies (newer ones are plastic) or assuming they can get in and out before any-one responds to the alarm – so far they've failed
- **If you are considering having an alarm fitted** feel free to contact Tony Ellis* first and he will give you a few 'do's' and 'don'ts' to help you chose the right alarm system for you. (*Crime Prevention Assistant, Essex Police: 101 ext. 319383)
- **For further security advice** visit: www.essex.police.uk/burglary
- **Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey** spoke at a recent District Council Committee meeting and took questions. See [here](#) (item 32).
- **All new police officers** will need degrees – see [here](#)



Dog-walkers: new tennis balls in Epping Forest which rattle. A resident taking his dog for walks in the Forest has emailed us to say that following the fox poisonings he has been wary of anything odd and has confiscated all the balls he finds. One he cut open contained mustard coloured particles of something which smelled like a chemical substance. He has reported this to the police and suggests other dog-walkers should be wary.

Bus route 167. Earlier this year TfL held a public consultation on terminating the 167s at Loughton station. It seems from their reports on the consultation responses that the consultation was a sham – they had no intention of continuing the service!

From 11 March 2017, they will introduce the following changes:

- Route 167 will no longer run between Loughton station and Debden station
- A new route 677 will be introduced providing a limited stop service between Ilford and schools in Debden using double-decker buses.

[More](#)

Bus route changes from January 3rd

- **New service to Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow.** Buses will leave Loughton Station at 0718, 0818, 0920, 1020, 1123, 1223, 1330, 1423, 1523, 1623, and to Harlow Bus station only at 1728, 1830. The journey takes 1hr 5min (or 1hr 17min at peak hours), and takes about 40 minutes to Epping.



Return journeys leave the hospital at 48 or 50 past each hour, the last being 17.50, plus one at 18.55 from the bus station only.

These buses will serve all stops on the route, Old Station Road, High Road, Traps Hill, Borders Lane, Newmans Lane, Rectory/Chigwell Lanes. They won't serve The Broadway.

- **Service 418**, operated by Trustybus on a commercial basis between Epping and Harlow, will no longer go via Church Langley and Old Harlow, it will however, following the route of services 419/420 and will be extended in the daytime to Prince Alexandra Hospital. There are no changes to the County-Council-contracted evening journeys or the Sunday journeys.
- **Service 505** is operated by Trustybus on a commercial basis between Harlow and Chingford Station; also serves Nazeing. Monday to Friday journeys are to be withdrawn, but *not* the Saturday journeys. (Actual date of changes not confirmed but expected to be about January 3rd).

Loughton Town Council

- **Christmas Card Competition winners** (page 6)
- **Christmas Window Competition winners:**
 - "bababoom" - the pregnancy and birth shop in the High Road;
 - Mezesphere café and restaurant - also in the High Road; and
 - St Clare Hospice shop in The Broadway



The decline of Loughton High Road: [interviews](#) with our shopkeepers. LRA has fought many battles to try to halt the switch away from retailers, but the increase in online shopping and more recently Government changes in planning rules have severely limited what we (and the District Council) can achieve. Nevertheless, the Council recently turned down an application from Carluccio's to take over three shops, because of the loss of retail space which would result.



M11 new Junction 7A Harlow - Public Consultation Outcome and Designation of Preferred Route Status – [report](#) to County Council Cabinet.

All-night Underground services. The Night Tube launches on the Piccadilly line today (Friday 16th), and will be running all night on Fridays and Saturdays. [Details](#) of this & other all-night services.

Children with special needs. Loughton Library, Traps Hill, has installed a new sensory area in the children's library which they will use for individual children or small groups, with a curtain around to cut down the background noise and to give the area some privacy.



Lorries on York Hill. We hoped that LRA Cllr Chris Ponds' successful efforts to get better signage would stop foreign lorry-drivers taking a "short-cut" up York Hill. However, ten days ago three foreign HGV lorries attempted it! Two realised quickly and retreated. However, a third tried to continue. Having hit one parked car, then trying to reverse, he got completely jammed. Residents came out to help until the police arrived. Chris will see what further action can be taken to stop this.

Deer-culling in the Forest borderlands. Please don't believe everything you read on social media (unless it's ours) - find out the background facts [here](#).



District Council

- **Loughton Broadway Parking Review** Significant progress has been made in implementing Phase 1, a handful of sites that are experiencing severe parking problems due to inconsiderate parking by commuters. Proposals for on-street parking restrictions in Oakwood Hill and the Industrial Estate have been finalised and the necessary Traffic Regulation Order will be advertised.
- **TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) update.** In Spring 2017 NEPP will consult on restrictions on Loughton Station entrance. They are investigating schemes for Smarts Lane / Forest Road and High Beech Road (double-yellow lines on the corners of Forest Road, Shaftesbury, Earls Path and Smarts Lane are being progressed separately). Officers have started work on a scheme for Kings Green. [More](#) (page 5)
- **CCTV camera, Longcroft Rise.** Despite objections from Loughton Town Council, the District Council will be removing the camera from the Oakwood Hill Shopping Parade. However, should there be an increase in serious ASB or crime there, the Council will be proactive in installing a mobile CCTV system, at no cost to the Town Council.
- **Council Tax Single Person Discounts.** This is the most abused discount. As part of a recent review, 3,442 accounts were checked and contacted. This resulted in the removal 726 discounts, generating £458,000 potential revenue for the Council and the County Council.
- **Traveller Incursions.** In general, travellers have moved on the day of or just before the Council's court actions. The Council's failed to get a specific injunction to stop one particular group returning to the District - the District Judge felt it was too wide an area for such a restriction. The Council are considering reapplying for a smaller more defined area.
- **Careline Alarm Monitoring Service,** based at Parsonage Court, Loughton. The Council is considering out-sourcing this service to a full-time provider. It currently offers a twenty-four hour, 365 days per year, emergency alarm monitoring service for the District's older and disabled people. There are currently 2,572 properties (around 3,500 people) linked to the service.
- **Illegal Eviction by Landlord:** the Council took action against a Landlord who unreasonably evicted her tenant. The landlord appealed against her conviction at the magistrate's court – her fine was increased, and she was ordered to pay costs. [More](#) (page 3)
- **Homelessness service:** a growing problem. The Council employs 6 FTE Homelessness Prevention Officers to provide an effective and comprehensive service to help resolve the housing difficulties of their clients. [More](#) (last page).
- **Drug Detection Case Study.** The Council's Community Safety team was asked to investigate a case where a male was regularly visiting a Council property and drug-dealing was suspected. Working with the police, they brought the case to a satisfactory conclusion. [More](#) (page 2)
- **Safeguarding children & adults.** This little-known aspect of the Council's work continues to grow – find out more [here](#) (page 3).
- **Langston Road Retail Park:** [progress](#)



Metloc Printers has been placed in administration. [More.](#)

Domestic abuse.

- **Reflect campaign.** To try to reduce domestic abuse incidents and the serious harm caused to victims, Essex Police has joined forces with partners to launch this campaign. It's



designed to engage with perpetrators and encourage them to "reflect" on their abusive behaviour and to seek help with The Change Project, an Essex-based charity. [EFNW]

- **Job Centres help domestic abuse victims:** [more](#)

Fake [letters](#) from "Lloyds Bank". Watch out for a very convincing scam! [EFNW]



OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Christmas can be a difficult time.

- **Too much to cope with?** Talk to the Samaritans 116 123
- **Some-one with mental health problems** can get help from [Mind](#)

Concerned about someone sleeping rough?

- [Streetlink](#) can help connect them to local services. You or the homeless person can call 0300 500 0914.
- They can contact the District Council's homeless prevention team 01992 564 165 (office hours).
- They can seek help at the Restore Centre in The Broadway. [EFNW]



Are you safe at home? The fire service does home safety checks and fits smoke alarms free of charge – book at 0300 303 0088 or [online](#)



Essex Energy Switch uses people power to drive down energy price by bringing residents together to collectively negotiate for the best price. Over the last two years residents have saved over £2m through the scheme. [Click here to register.](#)

Know some-one frail who'd suffer in a power-cut? UK Power Networks have a *Priority Services Register* to enable them to identify vulnerable people quickly in the event of a power cut and get them the help they need. [More.](#)



Find a local ramble – with a group or on your own. [Festival of Winter Walks.](#)



Stay safe – see the latest *Essex Watch* [magazine.](#)



Community Agents Essex: an innovative new partnership supporting older people and their carers. So far there's no local information for Loughton on their [website](#), but to find our local agent look for *Your local agent* & then to *Epping Forest* and scroll down Loughton at the bottom of the list. Office: 01376 574341 or Freephone 08009775858.

Pregnant or recently had a baby?
 Want to improve your fitness levels and meet other mums?
 Antenatal and postnatal classes start in January 2017. [More](#).



Grants for community groups. Could your community group use £5,000 to help the social and physical wellbeing of the District’s residents? If yes, [apply now for a grant](#) for your one-off project, initiative or even the further development of an existing scheme.

GENERAL

Christmas & New Year Holidays.

- **Parking.** Remember that NEPP wardens now work on Bank Holidays. Unless the sign says that charges don't apply, they do!
- **if you're unwell** over the bank holidays, NHS 111 is available 24/7 to offer medical advice and help when it isn't an emergency.
- **bus operators' timetables.** In most circumstances bus services will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, although exceptions will apply.
- **Streetlights** will be switched on for the early hours of New Year's Day and Christmas Day as part of a festive commitment by Essex County Council.



Be safe in the snow and ice!

If you have to go out on slippery paths, then wearing slip-on “ice grips” can give you a much better grip and reduce the risk of a fall.
 Try Googling “ice grips UK” for suppliers, or email me for the ones we use.

Nottingham Knockers are out and about, hoping you will be willing to share a bit of Christmas spirit and buy their tea towels. These door-step salespeople are usually not on a genuine ex-offender scheme - to help people make a new start, donate your money to an ex-offender's charity. [EFNW]



If you lock your car or van electronically, please check your vehicle is actually locked. There are commercially-available signal blockers – this may account for some recent thefts from vehicles where there were no physical signs of forced entry to the vehicles. [EFNW]

Spoil Christmas for thieves! When you're out and about

- keep your handbag in front of you,
- keep your wallet, credit cards & phone somewhere safe (not your back pocket)
- keep your children right beside you
- use cards rather than carrying lots of cash
- shield your card keypad
- don't hang bags on chairs



- before you go out, if you haven't already done so, register your phone's IMEI on [Immobilise](#) (dial *#06# to get its unique number)

If you see something suspicious, please report it
(ring 999 if a crime is happening; otherwise ring 101 or [online](#))

[EFNW]



TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @LoughtonRA



FACEBOOK: Like and Follow our Facebook page by going to www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday January 6th.
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 david.linnell@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. To enlarge a picture, click on it and then drag one of the corners outwards
6. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch

David Linnell

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For more about LRA & Loughton see
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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