

# LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Help needed

Copies of our next Townwide printed *Loughton* life newsletter will be with us next week. For various reasons (illness, holidays and moving away) we have a few delivery rounds vacant this time, and would be very grateful for volunteers to take them on – copies will be delivered to you to be delivered in a week - 10 days after delivery please.

**Please contact David Linnell ([david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)) if you can help with any of these rounds, or you'd like more information.**

Round	Roads	Number of copies
A5/6	Borders Lane (112-170 & The Spinney)	60
A8	<u>Colson Gardens, Colson Path, Colson Green</u>	53
B2	<u>Austen Close, Lytton Close</u>	38
	<i>Gt Woodcote Pk:</i> Harvest Lane Kings Place Regents Place Richmond Park	
F14	The Chase Treetops View	69
J2	Grasmere Close, St John's Road, The Heights	89

## LRA NEWS

### Library consultation

Essex County Council may well close Debden Library and cut back the hours at Loughton Library, after a highly-flawed public consultation.

LRA & other non-Conservative groups on the County Council secured a special Full Council meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the County Library closure programme. [As expected, the Conservative majority meant that their motion wasn't carried, but LRA Cllr Pond commented that the occasion had been worthwhile as it may lead to improvements in the Council's plans. [More](#)]

Note: our previous attempts to get Debden Library moved to somewhere more convenient for residents (for example, a shop in The Broadway) were rejected by the District Council.



### Litter

- **Litter on M11 slip-road.** A resident approached us about the poor state of the slip-road from Chigwell Lane. We approached Highways England (with support from the local MP, Mrs Eleanor Laing). They have replied to say that their teams last collected litter from the junction last December, collecting approximately 60 bags, and that they're intending to go back and collect again on 22 March.

Because it's a single lane entry onto the M11, to provide a safe working area for their litter-picking crews, they need to put a full lane closure in place. In addition, they need to set up a full diversion route and get permission from Transport for London before they can carry out any work. This slip-road is a litter hot-spot and as such, despite being limited in the number of closures they can make, they are trying their best to keep it clear.

- **Litter cleared at last from The Drive.** A patch of private land and carpark off The Drive at the back of the shops and flats has had a bad litter problem for many years. LRA Cllrs and Loughton Town Council had kept reporting the mess and a few weeks ago it was cleared. Unfortunately the District Council has limited powers on private land, but they do try to communicate with owners. They are reluctant to issue a formal notice to clear unless there is a public health issue requiring clearance. We hope the owners will now cleared it up regularly now.

**Missing Loughton sign.** LRA Cllr Carol Davies spotted that the sign on Loughton/Debden Lane has gone missing – it's been reported to the Town Council for them to follow up.

**Mind that deer!** [The Epping Forest Wildlife Protection Group](#) are trying to raise awareness that, as we live within a wildlife habitat area, it is not just likely but inevitable that we will encounter wildlife on the roads as we drive around. They are also aware that there few signs around to warn people. The deer will soon be producing fawns and there can be nothing sadder than a doe not returning to her fawn because she has been knocked down by a speeding car. Please slow down on the forest roads and spread the word.

**If you see an injured deer call the Forest Keepers 24 hours 020 8532 1010.**



**Traps Hill trees disappear.** Following a query from a resident, LRA Cllr Judy Jennings checked with the District Council about the felling of trees on the corner of West View. The Council confirmed that the trees had been on private land and weren't protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

**Baldwins Hill streetlight.** LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up a complaint from a resident about a non-committal reply from County Highways about a streetlight out of action – it has now been repaired.

## Annual talk & AGM Loughton 100 years ago

Please come along to see Chris Pond's pictures of Loughton as it used to be, and ask your questions.

Starts 8pm on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

Talk followed by refreshments and our brief AGM.

Loughton Cricket Clubhouse (entrance in The Uplands, off Church Hill).



## Books – are you having a clearout?

We need some more books for our second-hand bookstall at our monthly High Road Farmers Market – the proceeds pay for our displays at the markets.

If you've can spare some books – in good saleable condition please – you can drop them in to our stall.

If they're too heavy to bring, please email [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk) and we'll arrange to collect them.

We rotate the books regularly and any we don't sell go to a good charity.

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# 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://tinyurl.com/pbel693>

## New arrivals

- The District Council have hired a new Chief Executive: Georgina Blakemore
  - Loughton Town Council now have a new Town Clerk: Mark Squire (a Loughton resident).
- We wish them well in their new roles.

## Debden station step free access.

TFL have awarded a design and build contract for Debden Station and six others. They are on schedule to deliver step-free access at these stations by 2020. [LRA will be watching how the design for this much needed work at Debden Station accords with the access and heritage issues there]

**Licence review for Wo Fat 270-272 High Road** on March 18<sup>th</sup> in Epping. Immigration officials discovered illegal immigrants working on the premises. The Police have asked for a review under the crime & disorder provisions of the Licensing Act. A number of residents have written in support of the owner. Details [here](#).



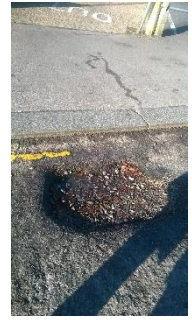
## What do the District Council Environment & Neighbourhood Enforcement team do?

- **fly-tipping issues** require the most attention, with officers involved in the investigation and arranging clearance of deposits. They recorded 2,606 incidents of fly-tipping in 2018 (2017: 2,431). £4,236.80 of financial penalties were imposed on offenders through prosecution action in 2018. Twelve fixed penalty notices were also paid, amounting to an additional £2,540.
- **noise complaints** make up the majority of the rest of the workload, with a peak in summer months. Loud music and barking dogs are the primary cause of complaint. However, they regularly receive complaints that appear to relate to normal living noise that neighbours can hear due to poor sound insulation. Where these cases don't involve unreasonable behaviour, no formal nuisance action can be taken. Officers aim to resolve issues informally wherever possible and will carry out simple noise tests to help those making noise understand what is acceptable. However, four formal notices were served to control excessive noise in 2018.  
Incidents of noise nuisance are often linked in with other anti-social behaviour (ASB) and can be quite challenging for officers dealing with vulnerable victims and perpetrators, who often suffer from mental health issues and/or addictions.
- **other complaints.**  
The team investigates other neighbour nuisance issues, such as smoke, dust, odour, dog fouling, litter and light nuisance.  
Taxi and other licensing issues are also investigated by the team, who make regular late-night checks. The team additionally respond to unauthorised encampments on Council land, completing the eviction process for the Council if necessary and provide expert noise advice on planning applications and are statutory consultees on licensing issues regarding public nuisance control.

## What do County Highways do?

[Slides from a presentation](#) to local councils on

- Highways strategic planning and its links to Districts & Parishes
- Network & streetworks management
- Flooding management
- “Green claims”
- Local Highways Panel update.



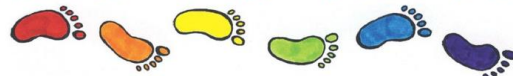
## OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

If your school could do with reducing the number of cars around its gates, but, doesn't know how to, or needs a helping hand, why don't you suggest it joins *Clean Air Heroes*? It's a new activity, ONLY available to Essex schools, funded by the County Council. It's FREE and it is NOT a fundraising exercise.

Clean Air Heroes' main aim is to increase the number of pupils walking, scooting and/or cycling to school by offering a novel incentive: the chance to help protect the African Rhino.

If the school hits one of the 3 targets, Colchester Zoo will donate the corresponding amount to the Save the Rhino project. Many schools from across Essex have already joined. More information [here](#)

### Clean Air Heroes



*Walk, scoot and cycle to school*

### Gales - power cuts.

- Call 105 to report power cuts & damage to the electricity network, or 0800 3163 105
- <http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut> +postcode for live power cut map.
- Go to [@ukpowernetworks](#) to report power cuts or for updates.

**Toenail cutting** offered by [Age UK](#) at Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road, 10am – mid-day on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Book at 01245 423333 or email [toenails@ageuk Essex.org.uk](mailto:toenails@ageuk Essex.org.uk)

### Get an allotment NOW.

The benefits of an allotment: [National Allotments Society](#).

- **Loughton Potato Ground:** plots available [www.loughtonpotatoground.com](http://www.loughtonpotatoground.com)
- **Roding Road Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association:** [www.rodinroadallotments.co.uk](http://www.rodinroadallotments.co.uk)
- **Willingale Road Allotments:** full & half-size plots  
Loughton Town Council: 020 8508 4200
- **River Housing site** (borders of Loughton & Buckhurst Hill):  
Julie Willis on 07870347713

Or help at [GROW Community Garden](#), Pyrls Lane.

## ALLOTMENTS

NOW AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR 2019

Grow your own fruit & vegetables and keep fit and healthy. Visit our website [www.loughtonpotatoground.com](http://www.loughtonpotatoground.com) or email us [lpgallotment@gmail.com](mailto:lpgallotment@gmail.com)

# HELP WANTED

## Green Belt development proposal petition.

Redbridge Regeneration is proposing to develop 162 acres of Green Belt land for the Corporation of London, relocating three massive London markets – Billingsgate, Smithfield's and New Spitalfields. The area pinpointed by Redbridge is farmland on Hainault and Red House Farms on Hainault Road & Billet Road, Little Heath.

The land is also a wildlife site being part of the largest Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the borough and one of the largest in London with a population of brown hare and farmland birds. There are also major transport and associated pollution issues.

Four other sites are in the running and the Corporation will decide on their preferred site in mid-April. There is a petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/Redbridgegb>

## EVENTS



### Coffee with Cops: Monday March 18.

10 - 11am at St Marys Church, High Road.

Come along to meet an officer from Epping Forest Community Policing Team, ask questions, voice concerns - tell them how they can help you. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### LADS "Pygmalion" by George Bernard Shaw

Thursday 28th, Friday 29th, Saturday 30th March.

Tickets (£10) from the box office: 07552 736 110, from the website: [www.lads.org.uk](http://www.lads.org.uk); or by sending an email to [lads.boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lads.boxoffice@gmail.com).

### Easter holiday activities for youngsters:

see the District Council's full list [here](#)

- **Play in the Park.** Two sessions are to be held at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground during the Easter holidays on Wednesday 10 and 17 April.
- **Tennis Coaching.** Two one-hour coaching sessions at Roding Valley Recreation Ground for children have been arranged for the afternoons of the two Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Easter school holidays, at a cost of £240. The fees per child are £2.50 per session and all equipment is provided. The sessions are aimed at 4-11 year olds (4-8 year olds 2pm to 3pm and 8-11 year olds 3pm to 4pm).
- **Athletics sessions** aimed at introducing children from four years of age to athletics are held at Roding Valley Recreation Ground each Saturday between 8.45am and 10.00am. The sessions are run by officers of Epping Forest District Council at a cost of £3 per session, with the first session free of charge.

A poster for 'Quiz Night' on Friday 5 April 2019. The text includes: 'FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2019', 'TIME: 7.30pm for 8.00pm', 'VENUE: Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER', 'COST: £16.00 to include fish &amp; chips OR chicken and chips supper. Vegetarian option available.', 'Orders please when booking', 'Please bring your own drink plus glasses', 'Teams up to 8 people', 'Contact: Dawn Mean on 01992 561494', 'Email: admin@efcab.cabnet.org.uk', 'Cheques to: Epping Forest District Citizens Advice Bureau, 50a Hemnal Street, Epping Essex CM16 4LS.', 'RSVP and payment by 18 March 2019'. At the bottom, there are logos for Epping Forest District Council, Epping, Loughton and Waltham Abbey Town Councils, and Citizens Advice Epping Forest District.

Jessel Green Fun Day event will take place on 30 June.

**Loughton Horticultural Show:** Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> at Murray Hall, Borders Lane. Classes will include fruit & vegetables as well as flower displays, home baking & preserving and special sections for children's entries. (See Offers & Help Available for local allotments.)

## POLICE AND CRIME

### Empty properties.

Police recently arrested suspects in possession of drugs from an empty house in West View. EFNW commented that, if you live near a vacant house and you suspect it might be used as a drug shop, a cannabis farm or similar, why not let the police know, just in case your suspicions are accurate. You can report it [online](#), email the [police hub](#), or report it via [Crimestoppers](#).

### Are you giving away a free car?

If you've got a "keyless" car and you're not putting the keys in a Faraday bag (and, preferably, a steering lock as well) then you may well join the drivers who've had their cars stolen in recent weeks. And even if you're setting off early in the morning, please don't leave luggage or tools in your vehicle, overnight as thieves seem to have a "nose" for these. The Loughton Community Policing Team and the police employed by the District Council have been organising extra targeted patrols in the recent hotspots in Loughton & Buckhurst Hill. However, prevention's better than hoping police will spot a theft occurring, or that they'll recover your vehicle later.

### [Operation Sceptre](#) knife crime crackdown

Police have carried out operations involving the use of metal detectors, body searches and bag searches at the New City College (Epping Forest College as was), in Borders Lane, and at Loughton station.

At the College, over 4,500 people entering the college

were screened and were very appreciative. Only one refused to be screened - the College refused their entry and took back their pass. No knives or any type of weapon were found.



**More about [Operation Sceptre](#)** – a national crackdown over the last week – and beyond Tackling knife crime and getting weapons off our streets will be the focus for Essex Police during and after the national crackdown, called Operation Sceptre, Action taking place will include:

- Weapons sweeps to find weapons that criminals may have hidden for later use
- High visibility patrols and intelligence-led stop checks
- Joint patrols with British Transport Police and the use of knife arches at some of the County's train stations to disrupt criminals using the railway network
- Knife crime awareness events with our community safety partnership colleagues and charities such as [Only Cowards Carry](#)
- Working with schools, colleges, and youth organisations to educate children and young people about the dangers of carrying knives
- Working with Trading Standards teams to raise awareness among shop owners about the importance of challenging underage customers & the law around selling knives and bladed objects.

In Essex there was a 35% increase in violence against the person offences for the 12-months to the end-January 2019 with 54,064 offences compared with 40,032 for the same period the previous year. The county also saw a 12.6% increase in the number of possession of weapon offences with 2,014 offences in the 12-months to January 2019 compared with 1,868 for the same period the previous year.

Essex Police have commented:

“Tackling knife crime involves more than just enforcement. It is a community responsibility, which is why we work with other organisations within the criminal justice system, our community safety partnerships, charities, schools and community groups to try and educate people to prevent knife crime happening in the first place.

“Information is also really key. If you know someone who carries a weapon or have information about drugs or gangs, for example, tell us. We can then take action against those people.”

”We also encourage young people worried about knife crime to find out about [Fearless.org](http://Fearless.org) for information about all of the different types of crime and where to access further information, advice, help or support.



For more information about knife crime in Essex, visit [www.essex.police.uk/knifecrime](http://www.essex.police.uk/knifecrime)

## KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS BETWEEN OUR EMAIL BULLETINS



**TWITTER:** Follow us on Twitter at [@LoughtonRA](https://twitter.com/LoughtonRA)  
Not on Twitter? See our tweets at [www.loughtonresidents.org.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.org.uk)

**FACEBOOK:** *Like and Follow* our Facebook page by going to  
[www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents](http://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents)

## NOTES

1. We expect to send out the next news bulletin on Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>.
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](mailto: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](http://www.loughtonresidents.co.uk)  
or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**

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