



# LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## LRA NEWS

### LRA objects strongly to Local Plan

LRA has sent representations to the District Council, setting out what we see as serious mistakes in twelve areas of the Local Plan, including calling for Jessel Green to be dropped from the development list. Loughton Town Council have also sent in representations.

The next stage will be a hearing in front of a Government Inspector, probably in Autumn 2018. At this stage, to get the Plan changed, we have to show that the Plan is not soundly-based and is not the most effective way to deliver the required results within the Plan's period.

We know that the District Council won't change anything at this stage, so our representations are aimed at this Autumn's hearing. You can see our representations and details of the Local Plan [here](#).



### Langston Road Retail Park:

- **shops.** The Conservative-led District Council has failed on its initial promises to attract fashion-led shops to the retail park, and has still not managed to fill all the units. While many residents welcome the wide range of outlets, there are signs that trade on The Broadway (where the shops are also owned by the Council) is being badly affected.
- **bus service.** There are signs that the District Council is finally starting to see sense on providing a bus service to the new shops, which LRA has been pressing for since the start of the project.
- **roadworks.** The Chigwell Lane roadworks dragged on far longer than originally promised; the traffic lights still need adjusting to match the traffic-flow, and more railings are needed at the Borders Lane junction. The highways issues had caused part of the project to be over budget with the Council approving a supplementary estimate of £741,000
- **Colson Road junction.** A resident has asked us whether there were any plans to paint a Keep-Clear or box junction on the 2 lanes at the Colson road junction (opposite Sainsbury's), to avoid tail-backs from the lights blocking access to/from Colson Road. LRA Cllr Chris Pond thinks that this was part of the original plans, and is following it up.
- **parking.** The 3-hour limit is in force, monitored by ANPR cameras. Action is being taken to stop non-electric vehicles parking by the electric car charging points. Since the ANPR became live, vehicles have been seen coming in with false number plates taped over their own.
- **Free parking limit.** Shoppers have complained that 3 hours was not long enough and the District Council say that this will be reviewed in the future. [Given that shoppers in The Broadway nearby are charged for parking, we think this is a ridiculous suggestion.]



**Landmark building (The Broadway/Rectory Lane).** The District Council is behind schedule on filling the new shops, and has had to offer incentives to some prospective tenants to put in shop-fronts (because the Council failed to provide for these when setting up the building contract!) They now expect to have a



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public house, a restaurant, a coffee shop and a Co-op convenience food store.

### Planning cases

- **13-15A Alderton Hill.** The proposal for a large retirement complex was withdrawn from January's District Council planning meeting. We believe that this is because the new "official" status of the Local Plan means that its requirement for large developments to provide "affordable" housing now apply to this development; we await further details. See the plans [here](#). [Picture and layout](#).
- **2 Connaught Avenue.** At the meeting, District Cllrs reluctantly approved a proposal for flats, but added extra conditions for half-height obscure glazing for the rear upper flat, the retention and upgrade of all existing doors and windows and for wheel washing equipment to be used during construction work. Had the Committee turned down the application, it would have inevitably been approved on appeal.

### Oakwood Hill estate

- **District Council parking** on the green space on the estate. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the Council's agents carried out the promised surveys of the availability of alternative parking on the estate, and the Council await the results. LRA Cllr Chris Roberts is following this up.
- **Pavement re-surfacing:** Chris is also following up the silence on the promised work on the estate, for which LRA persuaded the District Council to provide funding. The delays caused by the Council and the County Council in getting this done are getting to be quite outrageous.

**Litter on Great Eastern Path.** There still seems to be a problem with litter collection here, despite LRA Cllr David Wixley having raised this with the District Council a month ago. The Council team will take this up again with Biffa, and will get them to do a litter-pick as well. .

**Pavement heave, Habgood Road.** I've had an email from County Highways to say that the trip hazard that I reported on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 has now been repaired.

I suppose it shows it *is* worth using <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Report-It.aspx> - eventually....

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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>**

### Essex Police

- **Action on drugs.** On January 19<sup>th</sup> the police had a proactive patrol in plain clothes in Epping and caught a drug dealer red handed with 18 wraps of cocaine and large amount of cannabis. Two days later they closed down a cannabis factory in Chigwell (see picture).
- If you suspect your neighbour is growing more than tulips & petunias, tell the [police](#) or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (anonymous) [EFNW]
- Police screeching up in cars when dealing has been reported looks good in TV stories but usually means the dealers or the drugs are long gone before the police arrive. The local police drugs team are a small group, but they are doing their best to make a difference – you can help by



telling them what they need to know, which is dealers' car registration numbers - then they can catch dealers in transit with the drugs on them.

**Closure of Epping New Road, Robin Hood Roundabout**, 8<sup>th</sup> February for 2 days while Essex County Council undertakes Phase 1 of Surface Dressing works.

[Video](#). [Details](#).



**Planned road closures** in the next 18 months. Exact dates will be specified later. Emergency access maintained; residents to be informed. <http://roadworks.org.uk>

- **High Beech Road**, High Road – Smarts Lane
  - **Connaught Hill**, Forest View Road – High Road
  - **Ollards Grove**, Forest View Road – High Road
  - **Forest View Road**, High Beech Road - Ollards Grove
  - **Connaught Avenue**, Nursery Road – Ollards Grove.
  - **Valley Hill**. Roding Road – Greenstead Green
  - **Goldings Road**, A121 – Englands Lane
  - **Staples Road**, York Hill to end of road
  - **Lenthall Road**, whole road from Langston Road jn.
- Essex County Council 0345 603 7631.

**Royal Oak site.** Whoever painted the hoarding of this Higgins development can only be described as slap-dash, as the pavement shows!



#### **Council Tax:**

- **[Police & Fire](#)**: the police element of local Council Tax (CT) will go up by £12pa for a band D property, which is just £1 per month, Essex Police has had the lowest funding per resident of any force in the country. In a recent public survey, approximately two thirds (65%) of people said they would be prepared to see this element of local CT increased by more than 2% so that more money could be made available for policing in Essex. Three-quarters (75%) of people who gave a view said they were prepared to contribute an additional £10 more per year and the majority said they were prepared to contribute over £20. Essex Police has also identified a further £3.5m in potential savings by working more efficiently and this money will be reinvested back into the force
- **District Council**: proposed Council Tax will increase of 2.48% for three years to pay for three police officers and other initiatives to tackle the increase in anti-social behaviour (£38.16pa for a Band D property)
- **County Council**: 4.99% increase proposed (2% for social care and 2.99% for general purposes), an increase of £58.05 for a Band D household.
- **Loughton Town Council**: proposed increase of 4.75%, which is £2.43pa for a Band D household.

**Improved TfL Hopper fare** now allows you to make unlimited pay as you go bus and tram journeys within one hour of first touching in, all for £1.50.

Hopper fares apply to adult rate and discounted pay as you go journeys.

This is part of the Mayor, Sadiq Khan's commitment to make travel in London more affordable. You must use the same card to touch in on all journeys. [More](#)



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**OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE**



**Free stall available for a local charity or voluntary organisation** at LRA's Farmers Market in the High Road on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>. Normally we're booked up well ahead, but here's an opportunity to wrap up well and promote your organisation. [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

**Fed up hearing about crime and want to fight back?** An ACTIVE Neighbourhood Watch makes such a difference, so if your one is going nowhere and you would like to revive it, or if you would like to start up a new Watch group where you live, please get in touch via <http://www.eppingforestnhw.org.uk>



**Home Fire Safety Check** by the Essex Fire Service  
– see [here](#) for how to book a free visit to your home, and for home safety advice.

## HELP WANTED

**Verderer of Epping Forest vacancy.** Four Verderers sit on the Epping Forest and Commons Committee which manages Epping Forest. As the only locally-elected members of the committee, Verderers primarily represent local and community interest in the Forest. Closing date 5th February. [Details.](#)



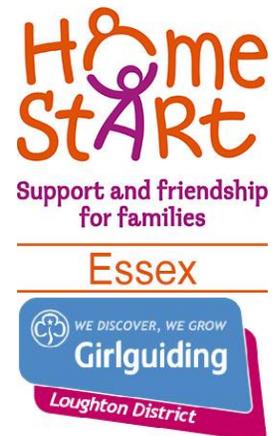
**Young people needed** to nominate themselves to join Epping Forest Youth Council (EFYC) and be the voice of Epping Forest's young people. Get involved, have your say, find out how things work in local Government. [More.](#)

**Support the CSE Campaign** to raise awareness of the vulnerability of young people to exploitation and abuse within stations & transport networks in Essex. Public transport networks across Essex are often used by young people who may be vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and other types of abuse. [How you can help.](#)

**Home-Start Essex** provides support for young families. Through home visiting volunteers support local families whom are facing a variety of difficulties, including loneliness and isolation, ill health, post-natal depression, disabilities and bereavement.

A Volunteer Preparation Course starts on February 22 and runs for ten weeks, excluding school holidays, from 10am to 2.30pm in Loughton Email [eppingforest@home-startessex.org.uk](mailto:eppingforest@home-startessex.org.uk) or go to [www.home-startessex.org.uk](http://www.home-startessex.org.uk) to find out how you can help out.

**Girlguiding in Loughton:** see *GENERAL* section.





**Grow Community Garden** is looking for more volunteers on Wednesdays 10.30am – 3pm) and Saturdays (10am – 2pm). No experience needed, just come along and join in with a range of gardening activities. Pyrles Lane (entrance via unnamed access road by 109 Pyrles Lane).

## GENERAL

**Thefts of vehicles.** Essex Police say a steering lock or similar can persuade a hi-tech crook to look elsewhere. Get a bright colour (so easily seen) good quality product (“Secured by Design” recommended) & check it's easy to use - some are more awkward to fit.  
[Essex Police]



**London Underground step-free access.** There are now 72 step-free stations across the Tube network - Tottenham Court Road and Bond Street were the most recent stations to be converted. TfL's £200m investment in delivering step-free access will mean that by 2022, over 100 Tube stations will be step-free. Find out [more](#) about accessible travel.

**Protect yourself against fraud!** See <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

**How much information could a stranger find out about you** from your social media profiles? It might be more than you think!  
[Here's how](#) to review your privacy settings.



**Cold mornings.** One of our local police officers has warned of the potential theft opportunity if you defrost your car in the morning - an opportunist thief can take advantage and steals the car with the keys and engine running. He says that this happens every year when heavy frosts occur. Also, EFNW warn that your insurance company might not pay up if your car is stolen in this way as you should not leave a car with the keys inside unattended.



**Money for your old jazz records and CDs!** The National Jazz Archive and Rabbit Records can take all those dusty albums and CDs off your hands. Rabbit Records works with the Archive to help people to donate or dispose of their collections of records and CDs. [Read more](#) about how your collection can benefit the work and continued development of the Archive.

### Girlguiding in Loughton

- Loughton District covers Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units which meet at Lopping Hall, Loughton Baptist Church, St. Edmund's Church, St. Michael's Church, St. John's Church and Kingsley Hall.



- There are 3 Rainbow units, 6 Brownie packs, 4 Guide companies and a Senior Section unit. They are a very friendly district and the leaders organise many joint events such as District holiday weekends, trips to pantomimes, theme park trips, parties and discos. The Leaders always have just as much fun as the girls!

- Guiding is very popular with girls in the area, and all of our units are well supported and some have waiting lists. To avoid disappointment we advise that you put your daughter's name down at your chosen unit well in advance of her reaching the age group for that section. [Register Your Daughter](#)
- To give the opportunity of the guiding experience to more girls, they need more adult volunteer leaders. To find out what's involved go to [Volunteer](#)

## KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS BETWEEN OUR EMAIL BULLETINS



**TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at @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 February 16<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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