



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

If this is the first time you've received this email and our email events bulletin, it's because I've been through our records and have added a few people we'd missed.

If you don't want to receive these emails in future,
please click on the [unsubscribe](#) link at the foot of one of them.

LRA NEWS

District Council Local Plan

- **Local Plan halted!** A property developer has made a successful application to the High Court for a Judicial Review of the Epping Forest District Local Plan – the case will be heard in May. See LRA's [Press Release](#).
- **Selection details finally revealed.** The District Council has finally (and very belatedly) put online the detailed documents recording the reasons why particular sites were or were not selected to be included in the list for housing developments. This information was not available to Cllrs (other than Conservative portfolioholders) before the meeting on December 14th at which the Plan was "approved", and Cllrs were anyway not given any say at that meeting about the selection of sites.
- **Jessel Green – reminder.** The District Council first raised the idea of building on Jessel Green in 2008. Since then they have consistently ignored widespread objections from residents and Councillors. The proposal conflicts with the rest of the Local Plans provisions on green spaces. Because it has completely ignored the responses to its consultations, we consider that the Council has failed to follow a proper democratic process.

Great Eastern Path subway lights (under the railway track) had been off for several days making it felt quite uninviting at night. These lights are maintained by TfL. LRA Cllr Rose Brookes spoke to the staff and engineers – they said that there was a major fault and would provide a generator to give some emergency lighting until the fault is resolved. The lights are now back on.

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>

Good News! Some weeks ago a local midwife's midwifery bags were stolen overnight from the boot of her car. The thieves threw away most of the stolen items in gardens and an alleyway.

Thanks to social media and the kindness of local residents, these have been returned to their owner!

More Good News! In reply to a comment by SaveJesselGreen about the terrible state of the road surface in Willingale Road, Essex Highways said that the road had been inspected and they are in the process of scheduling works (but no start date fixed yet).



Bad News! Essex Highways have told a local resident that this damage to the pavement in Torrington Drive is not bad enough to be worth repairing....

Loughton's East 15 Acting School wins [BBC radio awards](#)

The View, Rangers Road. Correction to last times' information: the View's opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday 10 to 5pm.



Epping Forest Citizens Advice Bureau were omitted from a recent list we gave of Town Council grants; we can confirm that they have had their £8,500pa Town Council grant renewed.

Trading in The Broadway.

- **At a recent District Council meeting**, Conservative Cllr Anne Grigg (the relevant portfolioholder) was asked about a survey of traders which had showed many of the businesses suffering badly after the long-drawn-out roadworks, made worse by the opening of new business park, as footfall has been taken away from The Broadway. Traders are concerned that the District Council's proposed rent rises (about 40%) will put many of them out of business, and their customers are saying that the severely inadequate parking is putting them off. Cllr Grigg gave an unsympathetic and unhelpful answer. [More](#) (paragraph 93).
- **Traders launch petition:** to see more, and to sign, see [here](#).

Epping Forest College

- **Merger.** The college has chosen the [New City College Group](#), the largest college in east London (and itself the result of several mergers) as its preferred merger partner. They will consult with stakeholders with a view to merging by 1 August. [Over the years, the college has had a number of fresh starts, but has fallen back to mediocre results, or financial problems, or both. The College owns Luctons field, Borders Lane, which is listed in the District Council's Local Plan for development.]
- **Report and questions at a District Council Committee meeting.** Details [here](#) (item 55)
- College now rated "[needs improvement](#)"



Car stopped by "police". There have been attempted [car-jackings](#) recently, one in Loughton, where the criminals have pretended to be police officers in plain clothes.

If this happens to you, you do not have to stop – indeed, EFNW's advice is to lock your doors, drive somewhere safe and report the matter on 101. (The legal position seems to be that "a routine or "reasonable suspicion" stop by officers not in uniform will be unlikely to be lawful, while those conducted in pursuit of a crime taking place, or of those seen to flee from a crime, will be lawful pursuant to the common law powers and duties of the plain-clothed police." See [here](#).)

Parking

- **On-street Parking Permit Charges** increases from April 9th
Resident Permits £50 (from £48) for first permit at an address. 2nd permits unchanged.
£160 (from £155) for the third permit at an address (where available)
- **[Albion Hill](#) & [Algers Road](#):** new residents parking schemes (specifications [here](#))



- **Albion Hill, Algers Road, Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate:** [No Waiting restrictions](#) on corners.
- **Sparelease Hill** residents last year sent a petition to NEPP to try to get some parking restrictions to relieve the pressure of commuter parking. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has confirmed that it is being considered by NEPP, but that the process will take quite a while.

Easter weekend

- **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,** NHS 111 is available 24/7 to offer medical advice and help when it isn't an emergency.



Planning matters

- **56 Tycehurst Hill.** An Inspector has rejected an appeal for a block of flats on this site as quite out of keeping with the prevailing character of the area. [More.](#)
- **60 Traps Hill.** The District Council has turned down an application for a block of 7 flats on this site as incongruous and overbearing - [more](#) (page 6)
- **12a Alderton Close.** The District Council has turned down an application for 4 houses on this site (reasons not yet available).

Epping Forest update

- **Epping Forest Operations Programme** for 2018/2019: see [here](#)
- **Ramorum Disease update:** the Sweet Chestnut tree at The Warren Plantation reported previously with suspected Ramorum proved positive for the disease. This tree is now dead and itself no longer poses a threat, but the disease may appear in the many other Sweet Chestnut trees - this will require a heightened level of monitoring and swift action to fell infected trees. No infection has been found amongst the Larch trees (the other major tree vector species). However, the long-planned felling of these conifers will take place as part of next year's work programme.

Highways

- **Nursery Road.** The City of London say that the small green on the corner of Nursery Road and Smarts Lane has had the new style oak bollards installed along its edge to deter commuter parking. Unhelpfully, part way along, and despite the service check showing no cables, electric cables appeared exactly on the line of the bollards. They'll close off the gap with a couple of benches.
- **Millsmead Way** to be one-way from April 3rd for up to 3 weeks between Goldings Hill and Harwater Drive for gas main replacement (for exact dates see www.roadworks.org)
- **Intended closure of Goldings Road,** 5th April for 5 days while Essex County Council undertakes machine surfacing. [More.](#)

District Council writes off overpaid benefits and unpaid debt. The District Council has an effective team dedicated to preventing benefit fraud, and an efficient Council Tax collection system. Nevertheless, some amounts become uncollectable, and some benefits mistakes will be made. [More.](#)

Princess Alexandra Hospital.

- **Out of special measures!** CQC inspectors have found marked improvements and the hospital has been taken out of "special measures". However, several areas of concern remain – see [the report.](#)
- **March Board** [agenda papers.](#)



Landlords beware! Epping Forest District Council successfully prosecuted and fined a landlord £21,575 for operating an unlicensed house in multiple occupation (HMO) and breaching legislation designed to protect tenants.

The Council advise any Landlord currently operating a licensable HMO in the District (3 or more storeys, occupied by 5 or more people (including children) living as 2 or more households), but not holding a licence, to contact the Council immediately so as to avoid prosecution.

Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF) have moved (temporarily) to 25 Hemnall Street, Epping CM16 4LU, 01992 564 178.



ESSEX POLICE & CRIME

- **150 new police officers to strengthen local policing** across Essex ([details here](#))
 - 53 for Local Policing Teams (on the front line on patrol, responding to emergency and priority calls)
 - 50 to Community Policing Teams (to increase visibility, prevent crime and work on the front line with partners to tackle crime and community problems such as anti-social behaviour)
 - 21 detectives to investigate domestic abuse and help vulnerable people to safety
 - 25 for the Operational Support Group (the uniformed team which supports local officers to prevent crime, tackle offenders and carry out visible patrols as well as using specialist tactics)
 - One specialist to the Cyber Crime Unit (to help tackle the rise in online crime).
- **Recent safety operation in Loughton:**

3 arrests	19 Mobile phones	39 seat belts
11 No MOT	4 seized No Insurance	1 Excess speed
- **Fit a tracker?** This scooter was stolen from London and found in Grays because it had a tracker fitted. Given the number of car and scooter thefts, you may wish to consider having one fitted yourself.
It doesn't work every time, but there is a good chance it might!
- **Pavement parking, corner Rectory Lane/ Westall Road.**
Following a complaint by a resident about cars blocking the pavement, the police promised to follow up the next day and issue tickets to any cars parked in the same position
- **LRA's public talk *Policing Loughton* on March 19th**
– see the speaker's rough notes [here](#)
- **Two complaints** made about the police at LRA's talk on March 19th have been passed on to the police for action.
- **Never think your reports to the police are a waste of time.** One apparent drug dealer in Chigwell received a police visit recently - having been alerted



the police take their time, gather more evidence and then they take out a warrant, so it might appear they are ignoring your call, but they will act if and when sufficient evidence comes in to lead to a prosecution. [EFNW]

- **Drugs arrests.** Thirty seven people were arrested, six warrants were executed and Class A drugs and weapons were seized during a crackdown on drugs gangs operating in Essex and across the Eastern region. [More](#).
- **[report on police effectiveness](#).** A recent report concludes that, although there were some areas needing improvement, Essex Police is:
 - ‘Good’ at preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour;
 - ‘Good’ at investigating crime and reducing reoffending;
 - ‘Good’ at protecting vulnerable people, and
- ‘Good’ at tackling serious and organised crime
- **Lost & Found.** The Police no longer take in “found” items - you have to keep what you find, [report it online](#) and if someone reports the item lost, then it is up to them to collect it. [EFNW]

OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Active Living. Improve your health and wellbeing, and have fun too. See the District Council’s *ForeverActive* programme of events [here](#). If you need a bit of help to get started, see [here](#) (page 32) – it’s available!



Toenail cutting by Age UK. For anyone who cannot cut their own toenails, including diabetics. Do you know some-one who’d benefit? April 10th & May 30th, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road. Details from 01245 423333 or toenails@ageukessex.org.uk



[Garden tips for March & April](#) from Garden Organics.

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

- **Loughton Potato Ground:** plots available www.loughtonpotatoground.com
 - **Roding Road Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association:** www.rodingeroadallotments.co.uk
 - **Willingale Road Allotments:** Shirley Haynes (Loughton Town Council: 020 8508 4200)
 - **River Housing site** (borders of Loughton & Buckhurst Hill): Julie Willis on 07870347713
- And see *GROW Community Garden in Help Wanted*.



HELP WANTED

Please be alert to the signs of suspicious activity, in order to help prevent terrorist atrocities such as the ones the country experienced in 2017. Any information, no matter how small, could ultimately help prevent a lethal attack. , so please familiarise themselves with the signs to look out for and come forward, in confidence, to report any concerns. Contact 101 or visit the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) [website](#).

Action Counters Terrorism: You can help tackle the terrorist threat

GROW Community Garden, Pyrles Lane, wants more residents to get involved. Join them on Wednesdays 10:30am-3pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. They welcome everyone regardless of age, ability or background. The Garden is off Pyrles Lane (next to Hillyfields Open Space). Contact anne@growloughton.org.uk or 074 9291 5331 @growcommunitygarden



Crimestoppers in Essex is looking for volunteers to join its team and help keep communities safer.

For more information, visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org or contact stuart.rawlins@crimestoppers-uk.org

Got any cuckoos in your road? It has been happening across Essex, gangs from London have moved in to the homes of vulnerable people and used their homes to sell drugs. This might be happening where you live, so please keep your eyes open and report what you see (anonymously to Crimestoppers if you prefer), as it can be impossible for a vulnerable adult to get out of what must be a terrifying situation. [More](#). [EFNW]



Volunteer Police Cadet Leaders needed. After successfully recruiting new cadets, new volunteer Cadet Leaders are needed so that more cadets can be catered for. Even if you can't commit to attending every week, Essex Police would still like to hear from you. For more about the [VPC scheme](#), please contact volunteer.police.cadets@essex.pnn.police.uk



Citizens Advice Epping Forest are looking for Event and Research & Campaign Volunteers. Register here to apply: Events <http://goo.gl/Cn6VYT> Research and Campaigns <http://goo.gl/DwgL9W>

Walk your dog? Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch now have a group for dog walkers / owners who like to keep an eye open when they walk their dogs and join Neighbourhood Watch members in reporting crime. If you would like to join them, you can find them [here](#).



THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Planning & licensing applications.

- **Loughton Town Council Planning Committee.** Whether you're applying for permission, or you're worried about an application nearby, remember that it'll be discussed at the Town Council committee, and you can give your views by email or in person – see the agendas [here](#).



- **The LRA Plans Group** also looks at all planning & licensing applications in Loughton, and comments to the Town & District Councils when appropriate. where appropriate, the chairman contacts residents on applications and puts in objections. We welcome residents who want to be made aware of local applications and to have an opportunity to comment. We work wholly on email. Interested? Email contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

The Planning system

- **The Local Plan**
The Local Plan sets out the strategy for the next 16 years to meet the economic and housing growth in the District, identifying potential sites for development and regeneration and setting out the development management policies. See <http://www.efdclocalplan.org/>
LRA is challenging some aspects of the Plan, including the proposal to build on Jessel Green.
- **How planning approval works**
Each application goes to the District Council. In most cases, a District Planning Officer will turn it down or approve it. However, if the Town Council and/or several residents have objected, or a District Cllr “calls-in” the application, the Officer isn't allowed to approve it - it has to go to a meeting of District Cllrs for a decision. Residents can send objections to the Town & District Councils and can speak at their meetings.

The applicant can appeal against a refusal by the District Council.

- **What's allowed**
The Planning Portal sets out in layman's terms whether your home improvement or large scale commercial project needs planning permission or building regulations approval – see [here](#).



GENERAL

Compulsory smart water-metering, for properties currently without water meters, is coming to Loughton over the next few months (existing meters won't be replaced until the end of their useful lives). More:

- [Epping Forest – Smart Metering Programme Briefing](#)
- [Smart Meter Booklet](#)
- [Smart Meter FAQs](#)



Sharing CCTV photos of alleged criminals. EFNW warn that this can give rise to challenges to the formal identification of the person in court, as the defence could argue that they had been identified them because the person identifying them had seen their picture on social media.

This might mean a court would not convict. Please ask the police before you circulate CCTV, just in case you compromise an investigation and make a conviction impossible. . [EFNW]



Make toast, not waste! [Love Food Hate Waste](#) is calling on residents to get behind the food waste fight and reduce their waste by freezing bread to make toast straight from frozen.

For parents



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

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 April 13th.
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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