



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LRA Membership

You should recently have had a copy of our latest *Loughton Life* newsletter, together with a letter about your £5 LRA subscription for 2016.

If you haven't already paid*, you can pay by cheque, by bank transfer, at our stall at the High Road Farmers Markets each 1st Sunday of the month or by Standing Order (see <http://1drv.ms/1CAVMPq>).

If you have already paid, or you pay by standing order – thank you!

*If you're not sure, please email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk and we'll check.

LRA NEWS

Potholes in the High Road. County Highways have said that the potholes we reported in the central section of the High Road shopping area aren't big/deep enough to meet their repair criteria!

Alderton Hall Lane safety. A resident asked whether anything could be done about vehicles parked dangerously and/or inconveniently close to the Alderton Hill junction. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been pressing for safety measures here (but so far Highways' suggestions don't seem address the real problems). There is a meeting this month to review this and other schemes, and he'll see if he can add in some no-parking provisions.

Pedestrian crossing foot of Church Hill. LRA Cllr Chris Pond asked for this to be brought forward, as this is urgently required for the safe crossing by children to/from Staples Road school to the Cricket Ground, where their sports take place in the summer term. Work should have started by now but the delay may have been caused by the recent cold weather.



Council tax: while we support the [District Council's efforts](#) to keep down costs, we are less happy about their expressed desire to "have the lowest District Council Tax in Essex one day" - the right balance needs to be struck between cutting costs & maintaining the vital services the council provides. Similarly, Essex Police currently has the second lowest policing precept across the shire counties, and even with the proposed rise in our council tax (£4.95 for a Band D property), they will still struggle to do everything we want them to do. [EFNW].

Planning applications turned down by the District Council

- **Oaklands School, Albion Hill,** had proposed a car-park on one of the fields accessed from Warren Hill, with a drop-off point, and an increase of 30 in pupil numbers. The school's position means there are significant traffic problems and considerable on-street parking by parents and staff. The LRA Plans Group (LPG) consulted local residents, who had mixed views about the car-park proposal and were broadly against the increase in pupil numbers.
- **land and Garages opposite 39-45 Ladyfields.** Loughton Town Council, some local residents had objected and the LPG felt that the proposal would be an overdevelopment of the site

- **Bridge House**, Roding Road. An application for flats was refused because of the flood risk (LPG feel that this would also be an overdevelopment of the site, and out-of-character).

Litter bins. Residents asked LRA Cllr David Wixley about getting a bin in Brook Road and replacing the missing bin in Burney Drive, opposite Swanshope. David took these requests up with the District Council, and new bins are being installed. [Note: [dog fouling waste](#) can be placed in any public waste bins, including litter bins, as long as it is in sealed bags. Or you can take the bag home and put it in your black wheelie-bin. (Dropping a bag of dog faeces on the road or pavement is a fineable offence.)]

Spring Grove. A resident raised the poor quality of the road surface, particularly at the High Road end, and we reported this to County Highways. They replied that their annual inspection last month showed some “low priority” carriageway defects but they can’t say when these might be repaired. All roads in Essex are regularly surveyed and the priority for resurfacing established by an algorithm that processes all the data resulting from the survey - defects, subsidence, skid-resistance, usage etc.

Help wanted - Lucton’s field, Borders Lane.

We know that plans are being developed for housing and a sports centre on this field. If you or your children (or grandchildren) played games on the field we would be grateful if you could email [Loughton Town Council](mailto:contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk) (contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk) with the approximate dates - this may be useful in due course.



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>

Annual Town Meeting. 7.30 for 8pm. Wednesday, March 16th. Murray Hall, 106 Borders Lane.

- with local elections in May, **meet your councillors**, ask questions, express your views
- **see displays** by a number of local voluntary organisations
- **hear guest speaker: Brian Page**, Acting Principal at Epping Forest College talk about academic progress and plans for the future.



Flats & Sainsbury’s Local site, Church Hill. The District Council is investigating a report by a resident that the building so far appears higher than allowed for in the approved plans.

This year's Loughton Festival is raising money for the Chigwell Disabled Group; also events for [Haven House Children’s Hospice](#) & the [Gorilla Organisation](#) - see the [Festival Programme](#)



Council Tax 2016-17 Band D	2016/17	2015/16	Increase	As % of total Council Tax
Essex County Council	£1,130.13	£1,086.75	3.99%	73%
Essex Police	£152.10	£147.15	3.36%	10%
Essex Fire & Rescue Service	£67.68	£66.42	1.90%	4%
Epping Forest District Council	£148.77	£148.77	0%	10%
Loughton Town Council	£49.18	£49.18	0%	3%

Total Council Tax	£1,547.86	£1,498.27	-	100%
-------------------	-----------	-----------	---	------

Epping Forest

- Superintendent's [latest report](#)
- **Proposed Epping Forest [Consultative Committee](#)**
- **Operations [Programme](#)** for 2016-2017
- **Grazing cattle in the Forest: [report](#)**
- **[Keystone trees](#)**

Highways & parking

- **Parking Restriction Schemes Smarts Lane/Forest Road/High Beech Road.** In principle, the LRA-led Loughton Town Council supports the proposal to introduce a residents parking scheme in these roads – however, it will oppose any plans to ban parking from one side of Forest Road as there would be insufficient capacity for residents. There are also concerned that the proposal would move commuter parking to nearby roads, so we think that the area under consideration should be extended. Clifton Road, which already had a residents parking scheme in place, should remain as a separate zone. www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/pdfmin/1cou1516.pdf (item 273.3.2)
- **Loughton Broadway Parking Review.** We are very pleased to see that the District Council is finally taking the first steps on the long-delayed [review](#).
- **Loughton Station.** The Town Council supports the prevention of illegal parking on the central reservation and would like to see a sympathetic solution (such as bollards and/or flower baskets and trees). www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/pdfmin/1cou1516.pdf (item 273.3.1)



Local Highway Panel (LHP) Requests. www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/pdfmin/1eah1516.pdf Item 200

The Town Council will put forward the following schemes for consideration by the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel (LHP) for funding in the 2016-17 financial year:

- **Harwater Drive:** surfacing works on the path (Woolf's Path) at the rear of the Drive
- **The Broadway:** a feasibility study into improvements to the central reservation.
- **Hillyfields:** – measures to prevent damage to grass verges.

Notes:

- **Caution:** the schemes may not be agreed or, if agreed, there may not be enough funding for them
- **Pyrles Lane & Burney Drive:** schemes for traffic calming have already been submitted.
- **the proposed County Council Budget** provides for a halving of LHP resources in 2016/7.

Police & Crime Commissioner's *End-of-term Report* [Report](#) looks at what has happened over the last 3½ years.



Dealing with ASB. Police cut-backs mean much more of this burden will fall on District Council staff. See the Council [report](#) on this and other Community Safety matters.

Planning matters

- **Burton Road development.** The Contractor should now have taken possession of the site, with work commencing on site around June 2016 once the planning conditions have been discharged and the detailed designs prepared and approved. The contract period is 20 months.
- **Council garage sites.** The District Council aim to build 40 new affordable homes on 13 sites across Loughton, made up of a mix of bungalows, houses and flats. Planning applications have been registered for each of the sites. If approved, the estimated cost of delivering each of the new affordable homes making up Phase 4 would be £9.4m, and work would start on site in April 2017 and end around 20 months later in November 2018.

Protecting the District. Late last year the District Council successfully prosecuted property owners for unauthorised works on Grade 2 Listed Buildings in The Street, Willingale. The Council was also successful in its prosecution of the owner of Blunts Farm and his contractor for carrying out unauthorised work to a willow tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

Civic Offices, Epping - Solar Panels. The District Council have fitted 184 solar panels to save the Council money on its energy bills and reduce carbon emissions. The life expectancy of the panels is 25 years and they should re-pay the initial costs in just over 6 years (annual saving of £10,000 pa).



Housing costs in the District. From this year's National Housing Federation report

- **the average property price** was around £410,000 (5th highest in the Region and the highest in Essex; the average for Essex is around £268,000)
- **the ratio of average house prices to average incomes** was 12.7 (4th highest in the Region and the highest in Essex – ratios 9.4 and 9.6 respectively)

Local Plan update: the new Plan will affect where properties can be built in the District, & may affect the Green Belt. LRA Cllrs are closely involved, but progress seems painfully slow.

Green Belt development: Eleanor Laing MP issues "[stand firm](#)" plea to residents

Hospitals

- **Whipps Cross hospital:** Barts Health Trust [presentation](#) to a District Council committee.
- **Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), Harlow:**
 - latest Board meeting [papers](#) latest performance [report](#) improvement [plan](#)
 - PAH will no longer be a receiving centre for stroke patients, who will be diverted by the ambulance service to Queens Hospital Romford, Broomfield or Lister Hospitals). Later care will still be at PAH. TIA ("mini-stroke") patients will still be managed by the PAH TIA clinic.

OFFERS & HELP AVAILABLE

Compost bins for just £8.98 - half their normal price!
Visit the [GetComposting](#) website. Prices guaranteed until end-March.



Essex Police are [recruiting](#)!

www.essexdementiacare.org.uk

Essex Dementia Care:

learn more at
<http://bit.ly/EDCAboutUs>

Does the library have your favourite magazines to read free? <http://ow.ly/YnUaB>



FREE DIGITAL MAGAZINES from your library! zinio
Free e-magazines with Essex Libraries
Download and keep your own magazine library
For full details go to www.essex.gov.uk/libraries

Lost something in London - see inside TfL's lost property room.
If you've ever lost a phone it could be here: <http://buff.ly/1QjB2XB>



[One Business Briefing](#) (Winter 2016) for businesses.

News, advice and information from around the Epping Forest including:

- District Energy Efficiency for Business
- Ultrafast Broadband for Business
- Exporting is GREAT
- Digital Workshops
- Freelancing

HELP WANTED

Loughton Festival will need volunteers to deliver Loughton Festival programmes in Loughton. Can you spare an hour or two?



Countrycare volunteers needed. Interested in the environment, keeping fit and making a difference to your community? If the answer is yes, why not join the intrepid team of Epping Forest Countrycare volunteers?

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/news/2016/02/countrycare-volunteers-need-you/

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service consultation: future shape and role second stage – give your views on their three options for change, [online](#).

Free Tube passes for the elderly in Epping Forest District:

- a group of residents have launched a [petition](#) to the District Council – more at <http://1drv.ms/1L1mnzV>
- discussions on this some years ago failed as the County Council and TfL were unable to agree on how the cost of free passes should be funded
- meanwhile if you have a Senior Railcard you can get a discount on your Oyster card.]

[LRA is generally in favour of extending concessionary elderly and disabled travel on the Underground to local people, if that can be financed. We have argued the case in the past, but with no success.]



[Hints](#) for older people's cheap travel from Loughton.

Incidents with dogs on or near to Oakwood Hill and Valley Hill. If you have any information about who owns the dogs, please tell police (101) Crimestoppers (anonymously - 0800 555 111).

Dog walkers. There are concerns that someone may be leaving poisoned bait near the David Lloyd Centre. If you spot anything unusual, please contact the Roding Valley Meadows keeper (020 85003094 roding@essexwt.org.uk) and warn other dog walkers.

GENERAL

Have you got CCTV? <http://1drv.ms/1QjOeYO>



Nuisance calls. BT is asking customers to register their interest in a blacklist of rogue numbers, calls from which will be blocked. www.bt.com/nuisancecalls

Tumble dryers: if you own a Hotpoint, Indesit or Creda dryer, check if it's a fire risk at www.indesitservice.co.uk/safety-notice/ or www.hotpointservice.co.uk/safety-notice/



Common scams [roundup](#)

Bikes. Buy a strong lock and register your bike with [@bikeregister](#) or [@ImmobiliseCrime](#)



Vehicles: [crime prevention advice](#)

- don't leave valuables on display
- ensure your vehicle is locked before leaving it.
- If you have any information contact Essex Police (101) or anonymously to Crimestoppers (0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

Epping Forest: please don't dump garden waste in the Forest!
It adds invasive weeds to fragile forest habitats.



SugarSmart app will let you know just how much total sugar is in the food and drink you buy. Download it today! www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/campaigns/sugar-smart/home

Recycle for Essex: 300,000 disposable nappies are buried daily in Essex landfill sites. Reusable nappies qualify for a £30 refund <http://ow.ly/YvzbG>



Applying for a Blue Badge. The District Council is warning residents not to pay to use the website www.bluebadgeonline.org as [applying for a "Blue Badge"](#) is free.

Product recalls.

food.gov.uk

- **Mars Chocolate UK:** products produced in the Netherlands may contain pieces of plastic
- Weetabix Food Company: **packs of Oatibix Flakes** (the product may contain pieces of rubber)
- Nua Naturals Organic **Apricot Kernels** - the recommended usage incorrectly advises 'No more than 3 to 5 kernels daily.' (Should not exceed 1-2 kernels per adult per day due to potential acute and long term toxic effects associated with cyanide, a natural toxin in bitter apricot kernels)
- **Selfridges Christmas Puddings** produced by Melrose and Morgan, with a 'best before' date of 30 April 2016, due to the presence of mould.



TWITTER: Follow us on Twitter at [@Loughton RA](#)



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 March 18th.

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. EFNW = Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch

David Linnell

© 2016 Loughton Residents Association

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

Promoted by & on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association of 20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN