



9 May 2020

LRA's Loughton News

In this issue:

*News on the Coronavirus pandemic locally
(and how to help and get support)*

An update on Lucton's Field/Middle Site

And more...

Coronavirus/Covid-19

With daily life continuing to be disrupted and difficult, our news email continues to have lots of information on what is happening and the support available in the community. Further details are [below](#) and in our [earlier emails](#).

LRA is your residents association and remains contactable, however please realise that we are all volunteers. Also, the Councils are having to prioritise work with a depleted workforce.

LRA News

Planned Developments

***Lucton's Field, Borders Lane
(the field opposite the College)***

***Epping Forest College Middle Site
Borders Lane***



Thank you to the many residents who have raised objections and have copied their responses to us. It is clear that Loughton residents are very concerned about the loss of open space, the impact on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC), parking, congestion and the impact of additional commuters at Debden and Loughton tube stations.

We don't think the council can determine these applications until they have agreed air quality mitigation measures with Natural England over the SAC. The District Council have also [stated their position](#).

You can continue to send comments to the District Council. More information on [Lucton's Field](#) and the [Middle Site](#) is on our website.

District Council commercial property investments

The District Council have set up Qualis - a group of companies to buy and develop commercial properties. The Cabinet have authorised the transfer to Qualis of the various investment sites they have already bought. Their first and biggest development project will be the St John's Road site in Epping, and associated sites such as the District Council car parks behind Epping High Street, the old leisure centre in Hemnall Street and the Neville Conder building behind the Civic Offices. The Epping Society will doubtless have their views on this big retail/residential scheme. Qualis will work up a scheme and submit planning applications.

We don't expect there to be any proposals in the near future for work on the site now owned by Qualis on the west side of Loughton High Road between M&Co and the travel agency.

Jessel Green

LRA Cllrs David Wixley and Chris Pond reported that the District Council aims to make the pathway at the entry/exit of the play area in Colebrook Lane safe for residents and children who use it, possibly with help from County Highways and Loughton Town Council. They

also propose to repair the jockey rail and are looking at quotes for safety signs.

High Beech /Earls Path/etc - No Stopping or Parking

A Emergency Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) is being implemented by the North Essex Parking Partnership in High Beech in Epping Forest on 22 May to address on-street parking issues, deter non-essential travel to the Forest and support the Government's current guidelines to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The new measures hope to improve visitor safety and prevent the obstruction of local roads by problematic parking, reinforce the byelaw of local verges and release police resources that were required to manage the situation. [More](#)

[Maps showing the restrictions are here](#)

We think that there will be provisions made to enable the High Beech church to continue its business without too much impact and there may be subsequent additions to the initial scheme as any further roads become a problem. We've been told that a consultation will happen later. These restrictions could last for up to 18 months or could be made permanent.

Earls Path concrete blocks

A resident asked us about the appearance of these unsightly blocks, on both sides of Earls Path near the pond, where the Green Ride crosses it. LRA Cllr Chris Pond had been told by one of the Verderers that this was to happen. Apparently, it was done on police and Government advice. We agree they are very ugly, but in the circumstances of needing to discourage parking at beauty spots, it was probably the best that could be done quickly where parking places were ungated.

Chris has emailed the City of London to ask that they be removed as soon as possible after the lockdown ends.

Inessential journeys

A resident in Forest Road complained of cars making inessential journeys up to the Forest. LRA Cllr Chris Pond contacted the Inspector at Loughton police station, who alerted his patrols. They'd been detailed anyway on a joint operation with the Forest keepers to deter anti-lockdown activities.

Scrambler bikes on Loughton Golf Club, Clays Lane

A resident let us know about scrambler bikes on the now-disused Loughton Golf Club grounds, which are owned by the City of London. LRA suggested the resident take this up with the City of London. We also heard that in February the City of London were seeking a possession order for non-payment of rent.

Also a resident complained to LRA Cllr Bob Jennings about the collapse of fencing to the nearby footpath. The County Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer has been to take a look and says this is also the responsibility of the landowner.

Collectors congratulated

Cllrs have contacted the District Council to pass on thanks to Biffa, who have maintained the District's rubbish and recycling collections, whereas many other Essex authorities have curtailed theirs.

Flower baskets

Cllr Caroline Pond has ascertained these will be planted up by the Town Council contractor as usual during May.

Debden's concrete roads

Many roads in the old London County Council Debden estate and elsewhere have a concrete base with a layer of micro-tarmac on top. When the tarmac disintegrates, the

result is unsightly but the 'potholes' formed are not usually dangerous. However, in some cases passing traffic generates severe vibrations in nearby homes, and in the past residents and LRA Cllrs have had to fight long hard battles to get repairs made, because repairs are not straightforward and are expensive..

Essex County Council say they can't just patch the potholes as patches won't stick and will come off later, and for substantial cracks they need a stronger fix. A new technique called 'Fine Milling' is now available where appropriate, carried out by specialist company Roadtechs. Firstly the remaining micro-asphalt and any uneven concrete surface is ground or 'milled' off the top. Then any cracks, gaps or sunken areas are dug out and filled in with special new, slightly flexible aggregate, concrete-like material, coloured to match the existing surface. The result still allows the concrete slabs to expand and contract. We look forward to seeing it used in Debden and elsewhere in Loughton.

Planning and Licensing

[Read more](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information with the Application and Reference Numbers below, and how to comment.

*If you wish to comment, **don't delay even during the lockdown**. The process is time critical with several stages along the way. If you wish to make comments please try to submit them before the deadline set by the council. Although submissions can be made and have to be considered up to the time a decision is made, once the statutory deadline has passed, the application might be determined before your comments are received.*

Here we report on selected applications which are of notable interest or concern. This by definition means that you will mostly read about applications that LRAPG objects to or raises concerns about. LRAPG reviews many applications, most of which are acceptable or require minor changes or conditions that applicants accept.

143 High Road (Corner of Old Station Road)

This is a proposal for 8 flats on the first floor, replacing existing offices.

This is a 'Prior Approval' application; the conversion of offices to residential is permitted development which would mean that a formal planning application is not normally necessary.

The Prior Approval application gives the council a power of veto to make them apply for planning permission for such proposals but only on a few restricted grounds. One such ground is if the Council has concerns over the transport and highway impacts of the development. LRAPG is minded to object and argue prior approval should be refused because 8 flats with no parking on this busy junction has transport and highways implications. We consider it is inconceivable the occupiers will not own cars and this will add further to congestion in the area. The servicing of the flats is also likely to be dangerous and impact on this busy junction. We therefore consider prior approval should be refused and a planning application submitted in the normal way so the parking and servicing issues can be properly considered.

197 High Road (Hutchins the Chemist)

There are applications to change the existing signage including a high level illuminated sign on the side wall, and new solid roller shutters that would be visible when the premises are closed.

LRAPG has objected to these applications. This is a very prominent corner location and the new high level signage would detract from the setting and visual amenity of the drinking fountain and would also add to the visual clutter in the area. As there is already a sign on this location, we would not object if it was replaced by a traditional sign board that is not illuminated.

The shop premises is a really prominent heritage asset dating from c1878 by the architect Edmond Egan. Although the shutters would be placed inside the shop window, any alteration that materially affects the external appearance of building still requires planning

permission. The solid roller shutter would result in a blank shopfront when the premises are not open detracting from the ambience and setting of the shop and this part of the High Road.

We have suggested the applicant revises the scheme and provides a lattice style roller shutter to avoid a blank shopfront when the premises is closed.

Application Numbers EPF/0615/20 and EPF/0641/20. The statutory deadlines for comments were 7th May and 25th April

Government Planning announcements

More homes

The government has issued a document, 'Planning for the Future', listing the publications and legislation it would be introducing to deliver more homes. [More](#)

More safety

Housing secretary Robert Jenrick announced a series of measures comprising what he called "the biggest change in building safety for a generation" to building safety systems, including mandatory sprinkler systems and consistent wayfinding signage in all new high-rise blocks of flats over 11 metres tall/three storeys in height – dramatically reducing the height at which such systems are required. [More](#)

Virtual planning meetings

The government has issued the regulations required for English local authorities to hold public meetings virtually, by phone or video link, during the coronavirus lockdown. It makes provisions for "persons to attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in, local authority meetings without all of the persons, or without any of the persons, being together in the same place". [More](#)



LRA's Farmers' Market Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this Sunday's market has been cancelled

The market in June will be considered in the light of government advice nearer the time. We'll keep you updated via our [news emails](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Local News

For What's On and Local Organisations, [visit our website](#)

Our Community Policing team

The team is made up of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, Special Constables and active local residents. PC Marc Arnold looks after Loughton (including Debden) and has contributed information about what the team get up to. Contact them on EppingForestCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk with your concerns and information or use the Essex Police [website](#) (but remember to dial 999 to report any crimes in action or serious incidents).

Local Police Good News

Officers have been out and about on foot and in vehicles across the district on general

crime patrols and to enforce the coronavirus regulations. Police report great community involvement with most people compliant with the rules.



Much of what the police does never gets reported widely, so here is some selected news from around the town on how the police have done lately.

Loughton's own PC Marc Arnold has been busy with an arrest and remand to court of a suspect who was a prolific thief from motor vehicles, arresting a suspect in a rear garden, arrest and remand of a prolific shoplifter, executing a drugs warrant, policing the lock down, dealing with racially motivated crimes, dealing with a mental health patient in the street and detaining him under the mental health act, and taser deployments.

Some other highlights from the police teams:

5th April: A vehicle was seized along with cash, mobile phones and drugs. Four suspects are currently under investigation.

12th April: The Town Centre team tracked down 4 males, not from the same household, causing problems at the Roding Recreation Ground. One was reported for careless driving.

14 April: A person responsible for targeting vulnerable people at cashpoints was given a two year custodial sentence. An elderly man has thanked our officers following the investigation into four distraction thefts at a cash machine in Loughton. This was joint work with Lloyds Bank.

16th April: Officers on patrol around the High Beech area came across a large amount of fly tipped rubbish. They arranged for its removal and anything found in it that identifies where it came from can expect a knock on the door, whether or not it was those identified that tipped it.



20th April: Responding to a report from Loughton station, police pursued and detained two people who were found in possession of a hammer, machete, rolling pin, and Class A and B drugs.

27th April: A stolen vehicle in Debden was located but failed to stop and mounted a residential pavement so tactical contact was used and taser presented. Three

were detained and car swiftly returned to the owner – great support from the police control room and the Loughton local team.

29th April: a diverse day dealing with road traffic accidents, anti-social behaviour, mental health incidents, domestic incidents, abandoned vehicles, routine patrols and...peacocks met and escaped goats reunited with their owner!



1st May: At a speed check of three vehicles, all were being driven above 40mph in a 30mph zone and the last driver tester positive for cocaine. All the drivers were reported and the drug driver arrested.

New Suspicious Email Reporting Service

The National Cyber Security Centre, a part of GCHQ, has launched '[Cyber Aware](#)' [campaign](#) promoting behaviours to mitigate threats. It has also created a [world-leading scam reporting service](#) for people to flag suspicious emails for the NCSC to assess and take down malicious content by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk

Coronavirus/Covid-19
Followed by [Local News](#)

[Latest Updates](#)
[Government Advice](#)

[Local Support](#)
[County Council](#)

[NHS Advice](#)

[How to help and Facebook support group](#)

[Loughton COVID-19 Mutual Aid UK Group](#)

Essex Welfare Service

In response to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Essex Welfare Service has been set up to support the most vulnerable in our community.

Designed for people who are without the support of family, friends or neighbours they are co-ordinating requests and referrals for support and connecting them to volunteers who want to do their bit at this exceptional time of need.

Essex Welfare Service can also help people to access information and support to stay healthy and well during extended periods of self-isolation, or in response to the outbreak.

[More](#), and [how to get assistance](#), [refer someone for support](#), and [how to volunteer](#).

Are you a family carer?

If you are a family carer and need some support, Action For Family Carers is providing free support online and over the phone, as well as free online events for carers and their companions. [More](#)

Epping Forest Covid-19 Services and Food Locations

There is a [Facebook page](#) that has information and requests for help for services and good in our area. You don't need to be signed up to Facebook to see this (although to comment or participate you will need a Facebook account).

Help the NHS by making scrubs and scrubs bags

[ScrubHub](#) is a network of voluntary community groups who love to sew, and are making scrubs to order for NHS staff who are struggling to get them during this crisis. If you are a NHS worker and are searching for scrubs but haven't had any luck, visit the [directory of Scrub making hubs](#) to order.

"For the Love of Scrubs": see information on their [Facebook page](#) and on [YouTube](#) for how to get in touch, patterns, etc.

If you don't sew, you can still help by delivering scrubs.

Masks

There are lots of different mask patterns on YouTube. Some tie around the head rather than behind the ears (which apparently get very sore); some have a pocket for a filter if people want to use something. Check how many layers of fabric and used, and how easy they are to make. They're not intended for NHS use of course.

Help for the Helicopter Medical Service (HEMS)

To enable their crew to keep delivering their 24/7 life-saving Helicopter Medical Service (HEMS) with the protection they need, they need to raise £50,000 for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). [More](#)



District Council

- Local business grants: approximately £27m distributed.
- Local Authority staff testing facilities are available at Stansted Airport. Measures are being brought in with military and Operation Shield staff to bring testing kits to people's homes where travel to Stansted is not possible.
- Pay & Display parking income is down from £121,000 to £8,000 compared with the same period last year.
- What else is the Council doing to cope with the coronavirus crisis? [See the details here.](#)
- Latest staffing position: 29 people in isolation or off sick (3 of whom are showing virus symptoms), 67 people have returned to work, 414 people working remotely, 13% connectivity being used.



On-Street parking enforcement

NEPP have restarted some enforcement of yellow lines. The worst infringements (causing obstruction, driveway blocking, and parking on double yellows, no loading, zigzags or disabled bays) will be dealt with as a priority.

Holders of permits in CPZs will be emailed to explain new arrangements.

Refuse and Recycling

Services with Biffa continuing to perform well. Good feedback has been received on cleanliness of housing estates.

There has been a 23% increase in the amount of waste collected during the lockdown period. A comparison with the same period last year shows that refuse has increased by 21%, recycling by 18% and food and garden waste by 28%. The waste management team and Biffa have managed to maintain all service collections during these challenging times, and using additional vehicles to keep the streets clear of waste has meant they have been able to manage the extra waste during this period.

Please help your collection crew with your rubbish ([Larger image here](#))



Please let your collection crew get through

With more people working from home, inconsiderate parking is becoming an issue for waste collections. The cars are often legally parked, but parked in a way that makes it difficult for recycling and rubbish collections vehicles to negotiate roads. Letters will be placed on vehicles that are preventing the waste collection vehicles accessing roads to help reduce the incidences where waste collection crews have to make multiple journeys to the same roads in order to collect the waste.

Please park considerately and leave enough space for the large collection vehicles to get through.

Essex Recycling Centres

A number of local authorities are re-opening their recycling centres, albeit with some restrictions in place. Essex County Council haven't yet done so, but are keeping the situation under review. Refuse collection services have held up well across the County, and Essex hasn't seen the sort of increase in fly-tipping experienced elsewhere (although still too much goes on). They are expecting an announcement from Government about the current lockdown measures. If the essential travel measures are relaxed, they will start to get ready to re-open recycling centres, but that could take several weeks.

Epping Forest Conservators

The [current advice](#) from the City of London is that all public facilities are closed in line with Government instructions.

In order to enjoy our parks and open spaces they request you:

- maintain social distancing and keep at least 2 metres apart from anyone outside your household at all times.
- do not try to use the playgrounds, tennis courts, sports pitches, toilets, gyms, car parks and other public facilities that are closed.
- stay local and use open spaces near to your home for exercise and do not travel unnecessarily.
- please take all your litter and your dog waste home to dispose of.
- keep your dog under control, preferably on a lead.



If social distancing advice, unnecessary travel and other rules are not being followed, gated parks and green spaces may have to close.

There is now no parking in City of London forest car parks until further notice.

Grounds Maintenance

This year the District Council won't be able to provide full bedding displays throughout the



District over the summer months because of difficulties sourcing the required plants from suppliers. Normally they would start removing the bedding displays around now and replant with summer displays in June. This year they are going to extend the winter displays whilst they still look good (hopefully until mid-May) before clearing them and leaving them weed-free and empty. If stock is then available, they will provide a limited summer

bedding service in a number of flower beds throughout the District. They will revisit the issue again in the autumn, hopefully to provide a full winter bedding displays. This is a result of their ceasing to raise plants at the Pyrles Lane Nursery.

Post Office opening times

Check them [here](#). Times may have changed because of the coronavirus crisis.

Not using your car?

If you're not using your car at all, or only for short local trips, it's worth knowing how to keep it in good condition - see [this advice from the AA](#).

Your Home and Motor Insurance

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) (the voice of the UK's insurance and long-term savings industry) home and motor insurers [have pledged to:](#)

- Support those who need to make a claim. Insurers have implemented business continuity plans and work closely with service providers to do everything possible in these challenging circumstances to continue to handle claims and support their customers. We recognise there will be many customers who will need additional support and insurers will prioritise those in vulnerable circumstances."
- Support those who are working from home. If you are an office-based worker and need to work from home because of government advice or because you need to self-isolate, your home insurance cover will not be affected. You do not need to contact your insurer to update your documents or extend your cover.
- Support those who cannot work from home. If you have to drive to your workplace because of the impact of Covid-19, your insurance policy will not be affected. You do not need to contact your insurer to update your documents or extend your cover.
- Support those who use their cars to help their communities. If you are using your own car for voluntary purposes to transport medicines or groceries to support others who are impacted by Covid-19, your cover will not be affected. You do not need to contact your insurer to update your documents or extend your cover. This applies to all categories of NHS Volunteer Responders, including transporting patients, equipment, or other essential supplies.
- Support our key workers. If your work is critical to the national response to Covid-19 and you need to use your own car to drive to different locations for work purposes because of the impact of Covid-19, your cover will not be affected. You do not need to contact your insurer to update your documents or extend your cover.

Breaches of Social Distancing Guidance.

Please report these to the Police online through the [dedicated link](#). Call 999 in an emergency if:

- there is a threat to life (including road traffic incidents where someone is injured or the road is blocked)
- it feels like the situation could get heated or violent very soon
- there a risk of serious damage to property
- there is a serious offence in progress
- there is serious disruption to the public or there could be

Like all other incidents you may wish to report, please detail how many people involved, at what times (and dates), exact location and how are they flouting the guidance e.g. constantly receiving visitors, frequent gatherings etc. As with all reports, your call will need to be 'triaged' and dealt with appropriately. This could mean dispatching a patrol to deal with it promptly, or identifying the location as a potential patrol area for local officers. At present the police are seeking to resolve situations where people appear to be or are

contravening the government advice on physical social distancing and the stay at home measures without resorting to enforcement and issuing fines.

Please only tell the police about something only if you feel there is a significant issue or breach which you think they need to know about.

How have you been affected?

With the support of Active Essex and the University of Essex, *State of Life*, have produced a survey which aims to track how the current situation is affecting our experience of work, health, money, activity, mental health and life in general. [More](#) and how to take part online.



Capture your experiences

Epping Forest District Museum would like to ask if you would capture your experiences of life in Epping Forest District with your thoughts and emotions of the Coronavirus pandemic in a journal. Journaling can often be beneficial, organising your thoughts, looking back upon feelings and experiences and help to process them. It's also really important for the future. By writing a journal at the time of a historical event,

you can help future generations understand what happened in their local area, experiencing it first-hand. [More](#)

Local News

Loughton Citizen of the Year

In March the Town Council awarded its Citizen of the Year award to Judy Lovell for her dedication and tireless work on the Debden Broadway Estate through her roles within the Restore Community Church and the Oakwood Hill Community Centre. The picture shows Judy accepted her award, a silver engraved rose bowl, scroll and cheque for £250 for her chosen charity, Restore Community, from LRA Cllr Stella Murphy, Loughton Town Mayor. [More.](#)



75th VE/VJ Celebrations

This is an opportunity across the UK, as organisations, family and friends largely made up of descendants of those brave service men and women, and civilians come together to remember both the heroism and suffering of their forbears, many of whom have now passed out of living memory.

Whilst the Town Council is on their own current lock down and street parties, large gatherings and celebrations are sadly out of the question, it is still planned to mark the historic occasion. The council would like to collate articles from local residents who can recall and provide memories of the VE Day and/or VJ Day celebrations. The concept is to mark the sacrifices of a generation and preserve these anecdotes for future generations as we mark these 75th anniversary celebrations. They would hope to publish these articles at some point in the future.

Please contact the Town Council by e-mail at contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk for more.

Town Council Think Loughton

The summer issue of Think Loughton is now available on [the Town Council website.](#)

The decision has been taken by the Town Council not to produce this in hard copy form given the current situation.



Were you a member of the Friends of Epping Forest?

If so, have you joined the *Epping Forest Heritage Trust* which took over from the Friends when they merged with the *Epping Forest Centenary Trust*? If not, they'll soon stop sending you newsletters and will take your name off their list. You can check by emailing them at membership@eht.org.uk

The greater the membership of the new Trust, the more impact they can have in resisting/influencing development proposals that threaten the Forest.

Have you seen a toad in your garden?

Warty and wide eyed, the common toad is an iconic British species that is suffering from our ever-built up landscape. To help them Essex Wildlife Trust wants to figure out where all the Essex toads and toad crossings are, to stop them from losing their precious networks.

Please [let them know](#) if you've seen a toad, toadspawn or a toad crossing in Essex!

Forest Focus

The City of London are producing a monthly update of their *Forest Focus* newsletter rather than the usual printed summer edition. Sign up [here](#).



Take Action for Insects

The Wildlife Trusts are launching a new practical pack which will help everyone do their bit in reversing decades of decline for the UK's struggling bees, butterflies, moths, bugs and beetles. A recent report published by the campaign concluded that 41% of insect species now face extinction around the world.

[You can take action for insects today.](#)

(Photo: The Wildlife Trusts)

Thank you for being an LRA member, Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Saturday 6 June 2020, although that date could change.

Get more from LRA and keep up with what's happening between issues of Loughton News



Visit LRA on Twitter

Twitter is where we have all our latest news. You don't need to be signed up to Twitter to see this



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2. 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.

We can be contacted at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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