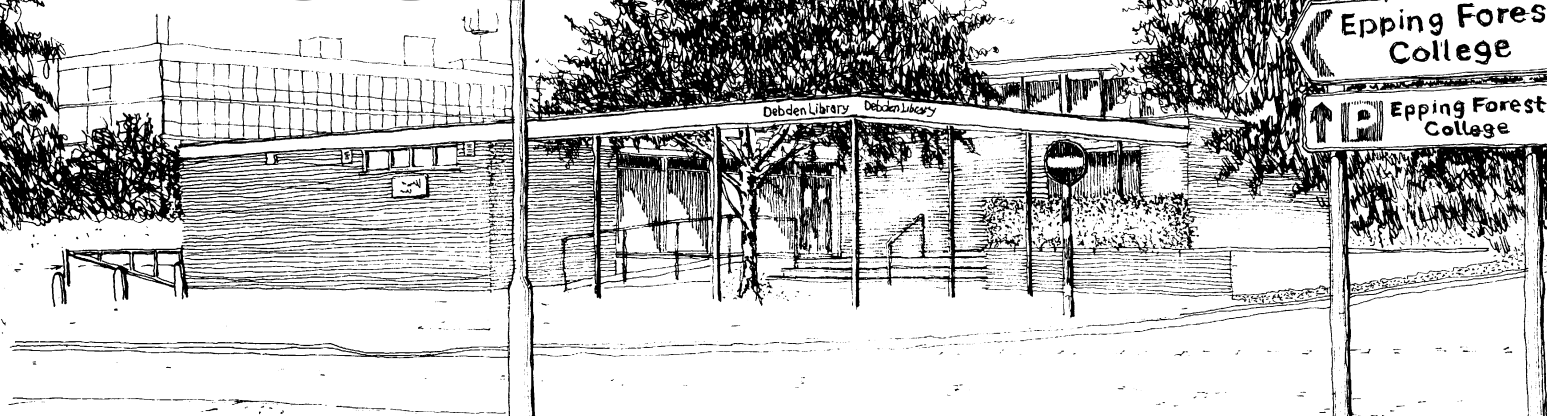


LOUGHTON LIFE



Debden Library drawn by Ron Heath

Newsletter 217

NEWSLETTER OF LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

IT'S A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Most people recognise the need to recycle more and to produce less waste, but the government is now bringing pressure to bear on local councils, including Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), by setting recycling targets for the coming year and imposing heavy fines if the targets are not met. Fines would be paid by all of us through our Council Tax. But making recycling improvements will also incur initial and ongoing costs. This is the problem EFDC has to solve.

Currently our district is above the national recycling average, at over 20%, but the European Union target is that at least 33% of all waste must be recycled by 2015. The introduction of Wheelie Bins is the method favoured by many councils and is being considered by EFDC. Among the possibilities currently being investigated, the favoured option seems to be fortnightly collections of different types of recyclables and 'residual waste' (rubbish to you and me). This would mean each household having a mixture of wheelie bins, blue boxes and sacks. We would all need to sort our rubbish more effectively, into green waste, glass, dry recyclables (cloth, paper etc) and residual rubbish.

Some Councillors and residents have expressed doubts about the proposal to introduce wheelie bins. They point out that initial costs will be high with the investment not only for the bins, which

will be provided free to households, but also for alteration to the collecting trucks. As the bins are slower to collect there may be the need for additional rounds. Also, they are not suitable for all households, and in terraced houses the bins and boxes being sited in front of the house would be to the detriment of the neighbourhood. Special 'big bin' arrangements would have to be made for blocks of flats.



**CHRISTMAS
FARMERS' MARKET**
Sunday 5 December.
Music at lunchtime/12:30
Carol Singers plus a Band.
Free mince pies and mulled wine.
Collection for St Clare's Hospice.



It has been suggested that pilot schemes be tried in small areas before committing to the cost of a full changeover to wheelie bins.

When the proposal for the change was put to a meeting of the cabinet at EFDC, the vote was split 50/50. The Leader cast his vote to request further information.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ? For more information visit our website www.loughtonresidents.com and complete our survey. Or write to LRA Secretary, address on back page.

If you wish to make your views known directly to EFDC, write to John Gilbert, Head of Environmental Services, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping, CM16 4BZ, or email jgilbert@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

Sheila Shillitto

HIGH ROAD FUNDING SUCCESS

Funding for Loughton town centre improvements to the stretch between St Mary's Church and the traffic lights at The Drive, the second phase of the enhancement scheme, was finally officially approved at a meeting of EFDC's cabinet on 15 November. This is a success for LRA. Despite opposition from some of our political opponents, we have been keeping pressure on the Council to agree funding for this work.

The first phase, from Station Road to St Mary's, is already being funded by

Sainsburys as part of the condition for being allowed to build the store in Old Station Road.

No timings have yet been agreed, as there is further detailed design work to complete, but unofficially it is hoped that work on both phases will commence by July 2005 and be completed by November 2005 at the latest. LRA Councillors will do their best to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum during this period.

The next objective is to secure funding for the third and fourth phases (the rest of the High Road), which remain unscheduled.

We are delighted that £100,000 has been approved for initial design studies on the Debden Broadway regeneration scheme. We understand that work on the Broadway scheme may start in 2006.

HELP WANTED

Would you like to have your say, and also help look after Loughton? If you're interested in local issues - transport, the environment, schools and/or social services, if you can spare some time during the day and if you can use email, then we would like to hear from you. Please ring David Linnell on 020 8508 2932

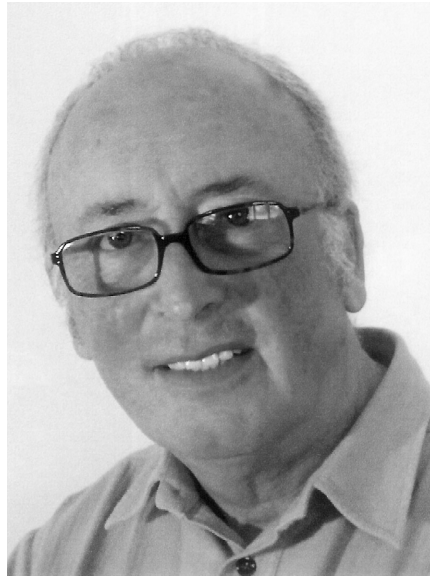
PETER HOUSE ELECTED CHAIRMAN

At the AGM on 26 October Chris Harper stood down as Chair, after two years of sterling work on behalf of the Association. He is succeeded by Peter House.

Peter says: 'We are experiencing a period of great change in Loughton, change that will decide what kind of town the Loughton of the future will be. As Chairman of LRA for the coming year, I want to ensure that residents have a say in what happens, and that your voices are heard.'

We in LRA have always been dedicated to a process of communication and consultation, ensuring that you, the residents, are kept informed of what is going on in your town and that your views can be reflected in decisions affecting the quality of your lives.

Our LRA Councillors on the County, District and Town Councils have one single aim - to do their very best for our town and for you, the residents. They are not politically motivated or guided by national party doctrine, and this will continue to be their strength.



Peter House.

The Association is run by a group of enthusiastic people who share the same ideals and aims. There is much that we do, but much, much more useful work which could be done if we had even more people to help us do it.'

HAVE YOUR SAY IN LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

PATIENTS FORUM

A forum has been set up locally to make sure that you can have your say in local health services. Its members are local people interested in improving healthcare provision locally - they have become involved as a result of a Government initiative to establish local organisations to take the place of the (much lamented) Community Health Councils.

A local Patients Forum has got statutory backing, and can undertake a wide range of activities - for example, working with local communities to get their views on various aspects of the local health service, and presenting these findings to local hospitals and the Primary Care Trust; independently monitoring the quality of local services, by visiting surgeries, wards and so on and reporting back both to the public and the providers; and looking at how wider issues in the local community, such as social care, transport and housing, can affect health.

It's important that Forum members, who are all volunteers, come from a wide range of backgrounds, and have differing sorts of experiences and skills. If you would like to apply to become a member of your local forum (for

instance, in Epping Forest District, or for Princess Alexandra Hospital) you can find out more by contacting the local Forum office. Write to PPIF - Epping Forest, Room 3, Moot House, The Stow, Harlow Essex CM20 3AG; telephone 01279 418666; or email marilyn.lambert@EMF-CEMVO.co.uk. You can get general information about Patients Forums and the work they do, on the national website: www.cppih.org

Sue Leggate

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRE

The recent public consultation on the proposed new centre in Borders Lane had a good response, with most residents being very positive. Loughton Town Council has agreed the scheme and estimate, and planning permission will be applied for very shortly. The site has now been fenced.

Town Cllr Suzanne Harper

RODING PARKING RESTRICTIONS

LRA councillors successfully represented residents in getting the planned parking restrictions round the Roding Road/Oakwood Hill/Loughton Way junction relaxed, since the original plan would have caused real hardship. Ken Angold-Stephens and Richard Pennington spoke to a number of residents and Ken organised a petition from all the traders

ALL CHANGE AT THE LEISURE CENTRES

Responsibility for managing sports and leisure centres may be taken out of the hands of the District Council, as we reported in Loughton Life 18 months ago. Three tenders have been received for managing the centres in Epping Forest District, including Loughton Leisure Centre, and these are currently being evaluated. A final decision should be made in December, with the contract due to start next April. Although not ruled out, an in-house solution seems unlikely.

Further news on the dispute between the Council and the contractors who built Loughton Leisure Centre is it is moving towards resolution and should be settled within the next few months.

Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens

ANOTHER ROUGH RIDE FOR POLICE AT AGM

Cllr Robert Chambers, Chairman of Essex Police Authority, was the speaker at LRA's public meeting on 26 October. The large audience heard him acknowledge that, despite his hopes, there had not been a significant improvement in the situation in Loughton since he addressed the AGM a year ago.

Questions and comments from the floor focused mainly on the level of anti-social behaviour across the whole of the town, the invisibility of the police and their lack of action when contacted by the public.

Mr Chambers hoped that within the next 12 months plans for a new call centre in Chelmsford would be announced. This should be particularly effective in improving the handling of non-999 calls, and would provide feedback to callers (which was largely lacking at present).

Epping Forest District Council had also been invited to send a representative to the meeting, to answer queries about parking in the town, but did not do so.

NEWS FROM THE POLICE

The Loughton Policing Section reports some marked success over the past 6 months with regard to burglary and vehicle crime. We have managed to target and arrest a large number of persistent offenders, which we feel has led to a noticeable decrease in crime levels in Loughton, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill.

We are also introducing a scheme to focus on one particular area at a time.

This will include targeting the chosen area for improvement schemes to better the general environment and providing high visibility police patrols. We will implement this in a selected area in the New Year, and then change on a yearly basis. We hope this will result in a large reduction in crime and anti social behaviour for these areas.

Inspector Piers Quinnell



SPARE TIME BLUES ?

There's nothing around here for young people to do ...

LRA is increasingly concerned about the plight of young people in Loughton. We recently hosted a meeting to discuss what is available to them and what more could be done.

While many young people take part in after-school activities and enjoy sport and organised leisure, others simply want to relax, meet up with friends and 'do their own thing'. The Loughton area lacks the commercial facilities of neighbouring London Boroughs - cinema, bowling, music venues - which youngsters (and others) would welcome nearer to home.

Voluntary clubs and organisations are struggling for cash, affordable premises and adult volunteers willing to lend a hand. Several already succeed and this marks a real achievement. But people do need to know what's on offer, and organisations need to work more closely together, and bring in young people themselves to plan activities.

Twelve organisations sent representatives to the meeting: Essex County Council youth service, Epping Forest District Council leisure services, Loughton Town Council, Epping Forest College, secondary schools, health workers, uniformed organisations, and voluntary sports clubs, police and churches, and several others have asked to be included in future talks.

A number of action points from the meeting are now being discussed by LRA's committee. Possibilities include an event where young people can meet up with providers, a look at the success of youth shelters elsewhere, talks with commercial leisure companies, a youth forum for Loughton, and better ways of supporting voluntary clubs. If you would like to be involved in this project/discussion, please contact me on 8508 2238.

Dorothy Paddon

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Tommy Egan from Willingale Road brought his giant pumpkin to the Farmers Market on 2 November. Getting people to guess the weight of the pumpkin, he made £130 for St Joseph's Hospice. The correct weight was 84 lbs and the winners were James Padwick of Spring Grove and Paul Ludwin of Traps Hill.

LOCAL HISTORIC BUILDINGS

In addition to the national register of listed buildings, local councils can also draw up their own list of Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest. Such a list only offers limited protection to the buildings, but it does mean that any application regarding alterations to or development near these buildings would be given particular scrutiny.

Town councillor Chris Pond has been meeting EFDC's Conservation Officers about the 'Local List', which it is hoped will be finalised early in 2005. The draft list contains about 50 buildings, including for example the Wheatsheaf pub, Kings Green cottages, Lopping Hall, Dryads Hall and Loughton Lodge.

Please send Chris your suggestions for inclusion. Contact details on back page.

CALLING ALL CARTOONISTS

We would love to include appropriate cartoons in Loughton Life. If you, or anyone you know, has skills in this direction, please contact Carol Murray (details on back page).

DELIVERERS WANTED

We are looking for people to deliver Loughton Life to houses in Fairmead Ward. If you could spare an hour or so once a month, your help would be very gratefully received. Please contact John Woods (details on back page).

SAVE GREEN VERGES

Throughout Loughton there are grassed verges designed specifically to provide an open aspect for residential areas. This is especially true on the Debden estate, which was designed as a garden suburb in a rural setting. Unfortunately the verges are now widely used for parking, with consequent damage and loss of grass. The residents can't be blamed, as they need somewhere to park their cars, but in some places this results in a churned up mud patch in winter.

The District Council have all but given up trying to repair the verges as they would be destroyed within a matter of days. Providing more and more cross-overs is not a solution, as this will destroy the green spaces for ever.

LRA District Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens proposes a detailed survey by the Council, to try to identify where new parking spaces could be created without unduly damaging the open green aspect of the areas. He also proposes the fitting of metal grids under vulnerable parts of grassed areas, so that the grass can grow through but the weight of a car would be supported. This solution has worked elsewhere. The proposal has yet to gain support within the Council, but we are hopeful.

Ken is collecting details of exact locations where verges are currently in dire need of renovation, and also those where roadside trees are dead or vandalised beyond rescuing. The Council officer responsible for verges and roadside trees will use the list when deciding what to include in the budget for planting. Please contact Ken and give your suggestions (contact details on back page).

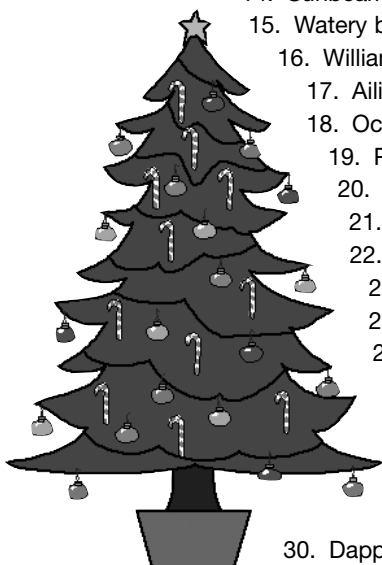
DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT !

Parking restrictions in Loughton are being enforced even on Sundays. On 16 October, for example, 17 fixed penalty notices were issued in the High Road for parking on double yellow lines, at bus stops and in disabled bays. You have been warned!

A CRYPTIC ESSEX CHRISTMAS

It's time for the LRA Christmas Quiz again - and this time it's based around Essex towns and villages. Usual rules: answers by January 5th to Les Harris at 32 Upper Park, or by e-mail to lharris@loughtonresidents.com. Bottle of fizz or a book-token to the first correct answer out of the hat. Have a very happy time!

1. Top religious festival (4, 6)
2. Good place for boating (5, 6)
3. Get a slope (9)
4. Brian's spice (7, 6)
5. Mr Laurel's bear (8)
6. Inter an Archer (7)
7. Noble ice cream (5, 5)
8. In a wooded head? (9)
9. Or without 'em (6)
10. Buried? (7)
11. Herb that teaches (8)
12. Prickly forest (9)
13. Mr Gascoigne is envious (7, 5)
14. Sunbeam on the meadow (8)
15. Watery bacon (7)
16. William and Richard, in short (10)
17. Ailing car (6)
18. Ocean - French or English (6)
19. Putting in an offer (8)
20. The topmost branches are here (7)
21. Brass in a religious setting (10)
22. The Bard gets blown around (10)
23. Antarctica in Essex? (8)
24. Jean of the Silver Screen (6)
25. Climb the cathedral tower (9)
26. Where we hear the dogs (7)
27. A dark heath (9)
28. Ships below a Scottish mountain (8)
29. Spans the Humber? (10)
30. Dappled horses? (5)



LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1 JANUARY

We hope you have enjoyed Loughton Life - we value your views and your support for our work, and hope you will renew your subscription. If you want to check whether you have paid for 2004, please ring 8508 2932.

To LRA Membership Secretary,
14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT

- I enclose £4 for 2005
- I enclose a donation in support of LRA's work
- Please send a receipt, I enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E Mail:

All membership information is held by LRA for its own records and is not made available to any other body.

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman Peter House	10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP 020 8532 1275
Vice Chairman Diane Rhodes	9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS 020 8508 3284
Hon Secretary Carol Murray	20 Queens Road IG10 1RS 020 8508 4892
Treasurer Tony Paddon	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
Press Officer Michael Benbow	28 Brook Road IG10 1BP 020 8508 4457
Membership Secretary Juliet Pollard	14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 020 8502 0552
Committee James Dean	69 Colebrook Lane IG10 2HN 020 8281 7932
Kay Ellis	31 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 6018
Larry Ford	47 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH 020 8508 4344
Chris Harper	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
Les Harris	32 Upper Park IG10 4EQ 020 8508 1333
Ron Heath	46 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW 020 8508 3458
Kevin Latchford	24 Colebrook Gardens, IG10 2HS 020 8502 4568
Dorothy Paddon	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
Sheila Shillitto	11 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2900
Bob Wilmot	50 Baldwins Hill IG10 1SF 020 8508 1987
John Woods	1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ 020 8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8 The Greens Close IG10 1QE 020 8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS (County, District & Town)

County Councillor St Mary's Division	
David Linnell	20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2932
Alderton Ward	
Caroline Pond (T)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Fairmead Ward	
Bill Lattimore (T)	29 Harvey Gardens IG10 2AD 020 8502 1901
Eileen Murphy (T)	44 Deepdene Road IG10 3PP 020 8502 5664
Forest Ward	
Jack Benjamin (T)	23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG 020 8508 4765
Rose Brookes (T)	3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB 020 8502 5981
Ken Faulkner (D)	'Briar Patch' Park Hill IG10 4ES 020 8508 1215
Suzanne Harper (T)	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
Roding Ward	
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T)	89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE 020 8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T)	49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ 020 8508 2226
Richard Pennington (T)	51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH 020 8508 0807
David Wixley (T)	2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH 020 8418 9284
St John's Ward	
John Markham (D)	77 Queens Road IG10 1RR 020 8508 1945
Roger Pearce (T)	32 Millsmead Way IG10 1LR 020 8281 1386
Caroline Pond (D)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Chris Pond (T)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Stephen Pewsey (T)	59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH 020 8508 5582
St Mary's Ward	
Mitch Cohen (D)	16 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW 020 8502 1533
Tony Lee (D)	33 Priory Road IG10 1AF 020 8508 7649
Brian Moore (T)	6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 7112
Mike Wardle (T)	61 The Drive IG10 1HG 020 8508 2771
Janet Woods (T)	1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ 020 8508 1764

December 2004

© Loughton Residents Association 2004