



LOUGHTON LIFE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

Can't Park Near Your Home?

The latest on residents' parking problems...

Residents in roads all over Loughton are incensed at being unable to park near their home or finding themselves blocked in.

Our councillors have worked hard to get the District Council to approve and set up parking reviews, which would tailor parking restrictions to the needs of individual roads, and give residents a better deal by bringing in resident's parking schemes and other measures.

Disappointingly, although the review for Loughton was approved two years ago it was not completed by EFDC Highways officers. Cllr Ken Angold Stephens, determined to bring this issue to the top of the District Council's agenda, is chairing a panel to study the problems, get a full explanation of the delay and implement action.

The Highways Department is now in Harlow and is run directly by Essex County Council. LRA invited Essex County Council's Area Highways Manager Paul Hardy to attend the LRA public meeting in October, where he faced questioning by LRA Councillors Ken Angold Stephens, Tony Lee and members of the public. His replies gave firm assurances that the work on the review will start early in 2006 and there will be no further delays. He spoke about the legal and bureaucratic difficulties that his department has to deal with, but said that with the reorganisation of his department and better funding this year he is confident that he can deliver.

So what can you expect to happen - and will it work?
See page 2 for the options.

A Hole in Your Road ?

If you have a complaint, report it to County Council with exact location - e.g. deep pothole outside 66 High Rd Loughton, or lamp off, lamppost 23, by 7 Colson Drive, Loughton Essex.

County Council deals with all highway matters, including lighting, potholes, loose kerbs, cycleways, traffic lights, signage, public paths, gully emptying, yellow lines etc. Telephone 0845 603 7621, or email highways.westarea@essexcc.gov.uk. Please copy to me at cllrpond_essexcc@hotmail.com and if you get no action, let me know and I will chase things. Please DO report defects. Only by you pressing the send button will we get anything done.

Chris Pond, LRA County Councillor

The Third Loughton Station

Loughton Station shown in the sketch by Ron Heath above, is 65 years old. The thousands of commuters who stream through it every day are probably thinking more about how the trains are running than looking at the interesting façade of the building. For the record, the present Loughton Station is a Grade 2 listed building, a good example of station design of that period.

However, this is the third station. When the railway came to Loughton the first station was built almost 150 years ago in 1856. Then it was situated near the junction of Station Road and the High Road (where the chemist/Post Office stands today). The second Loughton Station, when the line was electrified and extended to Epping and Ongar, opened in 1865 close to the present site. The original intention was to run the electrified service Loughton-London and only a shuttle Loughton-Epping. They therefore needed a reversing platform so they built the third, and present, Loughton Station.

Joy Gordon

Eat, Drink and Be Merry at the December Farmers Market

There will be music, wine and mince pies for all at the LRA Farmers Market stall on December 4th.

The Roding Players Orchestra will provide festive music at 10:30 Carol singing starts at 12.15. If you would like to join the singers, just come along, song sheets will be provided.

There will be no market in January so the first Farmers Market in 2006 will be held on February 5th.

For further information contact Suzanne Harper 8508 4770



Parking is such sweet sorrow

pros and cons of Parking Schemes

Residents living near the main shopping areas and the stations have complained for years about unrestricted parking. Shoppers, who tend to stay for a fairly short time, are not the main problem. The chief culprits are those who park for the whole day – people who commute into London, and those who drive to Loughton to work. Parking restrictions should encourage the use of our car parks. Commuters and workers in long-term car parks, and shoppers in short-term parks.

Parking Schemes may take a number of forms, and may bring their own problems. All possible solutions require increased enforcement. Residents may find themselves caught in the net

Residents permit

Controls the parking use of a road by 'in-comers'.

In older roads with narrow house frontages, and in Debden, cars will simply be displaced to other roads.

No guarantee of a space, and more permits than spaces are usually issued. Charged on a rising scale for 1–2 or more permits.

Can 'sanitise' roads – 'residents only' areas of South Woodford are empty during the day.

1-hour midday ban

Stops commuters.

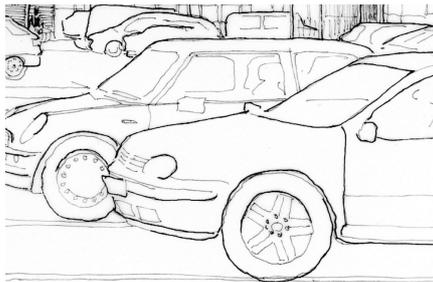
Local workers can move their car for the hour.

Metered parking

Charges must be similar to car parks to discourage on-street parking.

Effective only in roads where residents have off-street parking.

The police are responsible for road or pavement obstruction.



The Last Fall of the Hammer

Ambrose Auctioneers, one of the oldest remaining businesses in Loughton, closed in September.

As an integral part of Ambrose & Son Estate Agency & Auctioneers, founded in the late 19th century, auctions were held at the original premises in Forest Road (near the police station). The present building was custom-built for Ambrose and opened for business in July 1933. After passing through several owners, Ambrose separated from Ambrose Estate Agencies 7 years ago and continued with a large provincial auction group. The auction rooms have been an abiding part of Loughton life, and many are sad to see them go. Past vendors and buyers came along in September to the last auction to bid farewell and to share memories of the various auctions held over the years.

Adult Education Gap Filled

Following the article on Adult Education cuts (last issue), there is some good news. Courses are still available on our doorstep. Lifelong learning and an active retirement are still being made possible by the hard work of volunteer organisations.

For nearly 40 years adult education has been provided by the local branch

of the WEA . Day-time liberal studies courses this year cover British and Roman history, the study of literature, drama in performance, ecology and church architecture.

The branch also runs one-day study courses. The autumn programme includes Nelson and Trafalgar and, topically, a lecture on "This Unstable Earth", looking at changing climatic patterns and the consequential storms as well as causes and effects of earthquakes . For more information on the Loughton and Epping Branch of the WEA please contact Mrs Gwen Rees 020 8508 3183 or Mrs Pat Dale 020 8281 1536 or e-mail richard.dale@btinternet.com.

Richard Dale

To join TOWN WATCH online go to www.loughtonresidents.com

Help Ben stop the dumping.

A resident of Forest Road is fed up seeing piles of rubbish dumped in Forest Road, between the builder's yard and the Glass company. He now reports the problem to EFDC who clear it (tel. 01992 564608 or emailHbruty@eppingforestdc.gov.uk).

But as Ben says, within 24 hours there is another pile which may include a TV, or other large items and there are always black bags of litter. If you have seen a vehicle leaving litter in this way please contact the Council and LRA with details and description.

TOWN WATCH

Please help LRA to monitor Loughton's environmental services. Loughton Life will be focussing, one by one, on the various services that look after our surroundings. Our councillors will take up points raised in the survey with the officers responsible.

LITTER

Please give the name of your road & today's date

Tick the words which best match your view:

Today, my road has:

- No litter
- Very little litter
- Quite a lot of litter
- A great deal of litter

Have you ever phoned the Council ** to report litter/rubbish in or near your road?
Yes No

- Was it cleared:
- Within one or two days
 - Within a week or so
 - Only months later
 - Never

Name another place you visit often (to shop, travel, for leisure)..... Is it:

- Often very badly littered
- Sometimes badly littered
- Mostly quite clean
- Usually very clean

Please add any other comments on litter: Send a separate sheet if not enough space.

Return to Michael Benbow or your nearest councillor/committee member (see list on P4)

** To ask for street sweeping or rubbish collection, ring – 01992 564608.

Changing Loughton, laying our ghosts to rest

Having lived in Loughton for what can only be described as a short period of time – especially when compared with residents who may have lived here all their lives– it is difficult to fathom the magnitude of change that has apparently swept through the area. Consequently, it becomes almost impossible, from a single personal perspective, to assess whether these developments or alterations are intrinsic to our new way of life, or solely detrimental to a previous or continued existence.

As a 'young resident,' who probably lacks sufficient knowledge on the town's history and culture to consider herself an established member of its society, my perception of change in this context, is quite different.

During my stay in Loughton, perhaps the most striking metamorphosis which has transpired, has been the 'welcoming' of political extremists into the corridors of local government offices. The mere fact they were elected by members of our community, remains undoubtedly, the most shocking aspect.

It never dawned on me, somewhat naively, that certain sectors of Loughton's community would place

issues of ethnicity at the cornerstone of their daily lives. There were no warning signs from disgruntled residents to indicate feelings of contempt or mistrust. For how many more centuries are we going to allow issues of skin pigmentation, religious conviction and cultural diversity to destroy the fabric of our society? If as human beings we consider ourselves to be truly civilized and progressive, is it not time to leave our ghosts behind?

Jhana Ruth Arnold

Last Orders

What time does your local close? (and what time do you retire?)

Would you like local pubs to be open later? Or are you worried about increased noise and disturbance late at night?

All licensed premises had to reapply for their licenses last summer. Since government guidelines only required the notice of the terms of license to be at premises and in the press, local residents may have been caught out – and suddenly they find their neighbourhood pub open 'all hours'. Unfortunately, the new laws say that

Missing Your Job ?

If you have been concerned about a flu vaccination waiting list at your local GP surgery, the problem has been solved. There appeared to be a shortage of supply, due to a much greater demand countrywide. But Kay Ellis has confirmed that the local Primary Care Trust now has ample stocks and these are being distributed to all local surgeries. The flu vaccination is not effective against avian flu, but it gives good protection against the normal winter virus infection.

only people living near the pub, and bodies such as the police and fire authority, could register their support or objections. This excluded LRA and local Councillors (although we can give advice and guidance).

Local residents have been reporting their concerns to us, and LRA is carefully monitoring the local paper for announcements about proposed licensing hour changes. We will let local residents know in time to make an objection or express support. Objections must be about crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety or the protection of children.

As an example of what can happen, The Last Post has put in a planning application for a change to the conditions placed on them when they originally applied for planning permission to change the premises from a Post Office to a pub.

Allowing for 'drinking-up' time the last drinkers will not be leaving the Last Post until 1.30a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. We are concerned that these conditions could also 'spread' to the Forest Road pubs.

In this case, since it is a planning application, LRA can and will object. Local residents need to speak up about proposed changes.

Please let us know of any problems you experience or anticipate. Contact David Linnell, 8508 2932 or e-mail davidlinnell@tiscali.co.uk

The Roding Players Play On

"If music be the food of love..." then everyone should get involved with the Roding Players Orchestra!

Established almost thirteen years ago, the Roding Players is an orchestral group serving the musical community in Loughton and the surrounding areas.

Led by Miles Harwood, their jocular but sometimes brutally honest conductor ("still horribly out of tune, violins!"), the group are currently rehearsing a selection of light orchestral pieces and Christmas carols, in preparation for a concert at Debden Park High School on December 10th.

However, it's not all about concerts. The Roding Players also hold community workshops and Ensemble training days during the year where individual orchestra sections demonstrate their talent. Some of their wind players will be performing at the December Loughton Farmer's Market.

And the group certainly are talented! Even to the untrained ear, the harmonies sound beautifully balanced and the crescendos demand attention. Although mistakes are made throughout rehearsal, this disciplined group listen to the instruction of their conductor and quickly right their



wrongs to produce a spectacular sound.

Although already about 40 strong, the Roding Players are actively seeking new members. In particular, the group would love to hear from players of string and brass instruments. There is no audition policy but it is necessary to be able to sightread music and play to a good standard.

Anyone interested should feel free to attend a rehearsal, held on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 in the canteen of Roding Valley High School. (For information, telephone Miles Harwood on 020 8505 4329.)

Victoria Close

Wanted

David Linnell would appreciate some help in looking at local planning applications – no planning background is necessary. Call David on 8508 2932

Interested in Loughton and local concerns ? LRA needs you. please contact Peter House 8532 1275

Around the Town

Harwater Parking Fine

A result for two year's persistence by LRA's St. John's councillors was achieved when Motorgroup (on the corner of Goldings Hill & Harwater Drive) were recently found guilty at Harlow Court of not complying with their Breach of a previously agreed Planning Condition that they do not display any vehicles for sale in the parking area (at the rear of 2 Goldings Hill) and that they retain part of the area clear for the residents of the flats.

They were fined £700, with £700 costs. As a result of this conviction, EFDC's Planning Enforcement will now have to keep a regular check on the situation. To assist them in this task, your local LRA councillors (Caroline Pond and Roger Pearce) ask that local residents report any suspect breaches to EFDC 01992 564000.

Borders Lane Refuse

When LRA members met residents in Borders Lane in October, we were told that refuse sacks had not been collected from the flats there for three weeks. LRA called EFDC next day and received an apology to residents from the council and a promise of better performance and inspection at this location. We would like to hear from residents if these promises are being kept.

Talk to Caroline Pond or Rose Brookes

Cleaning Colson and Deepdene Roads

Our request for daily sweeping to be extended some distance down Colson Road and Deepdene Road has been accepted. This is a busy area and not all 'fast food' customers seem to care about keeping it tidy.

To request cleaning Tel. 01992 564608 or email Hbruty@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

THE LRA 'ROUND BRITAIN' QUIZ

This year's Christmas Quiz takes you to places all around the coast of Britain (or within a mile or so of it). Usual rules and usual prizes: answers to Les Harris, 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ by letter or e-mail (lharrisloughton@aol.com) by January 7th 2006. First fully correct answer out of the hat will receive a book token or a bottle of fizz. Enjoy the Quiz. Good luck

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

1. A swimming sentry (9)
2. Don't give up the art class! (8)
3. Metal plater (6)
4. Poirot's friend (8)
5. A simple tune (3)
6. Pit top (8)
7. Fast forest (9)
8. Dark water (9)
9. Shuffle first, then.. (4)
10. A gentle stroll (5)
11. You do this to strawberries (4)
12. Make a mark on the town (11)
13. At your convenience (4)
14. Not a place for Henry Ford (6)
15. Trade in salt water (6)
16. Restful retreat (10)
17. Cat's claw?(10)
18. One for Bonfire Night (6)
19. The pub is finished (6)
20. Final resting place (9)
21. Recut Yale (7)
22. Oil or water? (5-4-3-3)
23. Part of a candle (4)
24. A royal cordial (4, 5)
25. Amphibious Cortina (7)
26. Churchman was formerly a sailor (8)
27. A place to swim (5)
28. Quick lunch here? (8)
29. Mind out! (7)
30. Sabbath child is bonny and.. (5)

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN Peter House 10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP	8532 1275
VICE CHAIRMAN Diane Rhodes 9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS	8508 3284
MINUTES SECRETARY Carol Murray 20 Queens Road IG10 1RS	8508 4892
TREASURER Tony Paddon 12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX	8508 2238
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow 28 Brook Road IG10 1BP	8508 4457
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard 14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT	8502 0552
COMMITTEE James Dean Chris Harper Les Harris Ron Heath Kevin Latchford David Linnell John Woods Bela Yorke	8281 7932 8508 4770 8508 1333 8508 3458 8502 4568 8508 2932 8508 1764 8508 4729

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LOUGHTON (CENTRAL)

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7 Staples Road IG10 1HP

DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

ALDERTON WARD

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7 Staples Road IG10 1HP

FAIRMEAD WARD

Bill Lattimore (T) 8502 1901
29 Harvey Gardens IG10 2AD

FOREST WARD

Jack Benjamin (T) 8508 4765
23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG
Rose Brookes (T) 8502 5981
3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB
Ken Faulkner (D) 8508 1215
'Briar Patch' Park Hill IG10 4ES
Suzanne Harper (T) 8508 4770
23 Algers Road IG10 4NG

RODING WARD

Ken Angold-Stephens (D/T) 8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE
Margaret Chalk (T) 8508 2226
49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ
Richard Pennington (T) 8508 0807
51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH
David Wixley (T) 8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH

ST JOHN'S WARD

John Markham (D) 8508 1945
77 Queens Road IG10 1RR
Roger Pearce (T) 8281 1386
32 Millsmead Way IG10 1LR
Caroline Pond (D) 8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP
Chris Pond (ECC & T) 8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP
Stephen Pewsey (T) 8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH

ST MARY'S WARD

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16 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW
Tony Lee (D) 8508 7649
33 Priors Road IG10 1AF
Brian Moore (T) 8508 7112
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