



Ron Heath 2006

LOUGHTON LIFE

MARCH 2007

Trying Our Patients

Whipps Cross Hospital Cuts

The Review of NHS hospitals in NE Outer London will lead to the scaling down of services at either Whipps Cross, Leytonstone, or at King George's, Ilford – or worse, at both.

The review began last autumn without any representative from our area. We 'blew the whistle' on this, and the Primary Care Trust, District Council and Town Council are now involved in the discussions.

We collected signatures for the local Guardian's petition, and over 1500 Loughton people queued up to sign. At our prompting the district council and town council have joined the fight.

If the A&E department at either Whipps or King George's is axed, the burden on the one remaining will be intense, and access (especially for non-ambulance cases) will become very difficult.

Increased travel distances and poor public transport will limit access to hospital care for residents in the south of our district.

We have a high proportion of elderly people, and a degree of deprivation in some areas, and not all households use a car.

Long-term NHS planning in the NE Outer London sector appears remarkably inconsistent. Witness the recent costly development of the new Queens hospital at Romford and the expansion of facilities at King George's and Whipps Cross which are now facing retrenchment.

Whatever your views, please express them, by making full use of the consultation opportunity when it begins. LRA will do all possible to assist.

Send your views to Dorothy Paddon, dpaddon@swessex.u-net.com or telephone 8508 2238

Broadway Bedlam !

Disruption was anticipated during The Broadway Enhancement scheme works, but unexpected problems have caused extra work and delay. Work on the Vere Road car park has left few parking spaces, while commuters almost fill both car parks by 7am, and delivery lorries were unable to gain access to shops.

Traders seriously predict that some will be out of business before the refurbishment is completed.

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens and Dave Stannard, chairman of The Broadway Town Centre Partnership, have asked for the Broadway Focus Group to be reconvened urgently. They have urged the Councils to speed up the traffic orders to ensure that commuters do not use the car parks.

Traders must be consulted and the work monitored better by the District and County councils in future.

Save your local hospital

Concerned about the future of your hospital services ?

Find out the current thinking by the decision makers

And let them know if you think they've got it wrong !

**7.45 pm Thursday 29th March 2007
Wesley Hall, rear of Methodist Church,
in the High Road**

Public Meeting and LRA AGM



On the Double...

Anyone pulling out of a side road into the mainstream, will understand the danger caused by parking close to junctions.

To prevent parking on corners and on problem areas on roads throughout the town, the County Council will be publishing orders proposing a series of double yellow line restrictions. These should help to avoid collisions and aid traffic flow, an improvement needed in Loughton.

MP's Discuss Whipps Future

If services are reduced at Whipps Cross Hospital, the residents in the south of our district will suffer the most. Loughton Residents Association presented a list of their concerns to the review body. MPs debated the reorganisation of our local hospitals, and were sent this dossier as background. Imagine our astonishment when LRA was quoted by leading MPs in Parliament.

Closure of Whipps Cross services (whether A & E or in-patient wards) would mean many more of us travelling to Harlow. Yet the two main health authorities (London and Essex) appear not to be talking to each other, and future plans for Princess Alexandra Hospital are unclear. In their heated debate, MPs were highly critical of the way in which the Fit for the Future review is being conducted.

Festival Time

The Loughton Festival takes place on the weekend of Saturday 31 March and Sunday 1 April 2007.

Local authors and historians have been invited to give talks. There will be sessions on creative writing, poetry and local book groups as well as a literary forest walk. Venues include Loughton Methodist Church, Loughton Library, Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, and High Beech Church.

LRA will be selling second-hand books on Saturday afternoon, 31 March. Meet us in the Methodist Church Wesley hall with other community stalls.

For tickets or to offer help, contact Sue Taylor on 020 8508 2512 or info@loughtonfestival.org.uk.

Childrens' Centre at Alderton

Plans to build a new centre at Alderton Infant and Junior Schools site include a crèche and nursery for up to 44 children which is much needed following the closure of the Epping Forest College creche. The centre will also provide family support, a base for childminders, links with educational providers and health advice including a school nurse.

LRA District Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens is a member of the panel that is working on the new plan. He is working hard with colleagues to ensure that the project will be beneficial to the local area.

LRA fully shares residents' concerns about possible difficulties with this development – extra traffic, obstruction, and disturbance.

Chris Pond, LRA County Councillor,

Building Traffic in Staples Road

Staples Road School is to get a new hall and canteen building, and at last the building is starting. The construction process, which will take a year, will entail numerous lorry movements every day.

Since July 2005 LRA's County Councillor, Chris Pond has been in discussion with the County Council to ensure that this project goes smoothly for residents and people using the school. He and others told the Area Highways department about dangers involved in Staples Road and at the York Hill crossroads. Highways planned some new controls to regulate parking in the area.

In a case of badly joined up government, less than two weeks before work was due to start, Cllr Pond found out that County Hall had not told Area Highways the works were about to start! The Area Highways Office in Harlow has been short-staffed since it was set up last year. Cllr Pond has been pressing the County Council's Head Office Highways team to sort it out. By the time you read this, things will be underway – for



better or worse – and we will be following this up to prevent this sort of thing happening again.

Celebrating 25 Years of LRA

LRA has been in Loughton for 25 years. Before that, we had no central source for information about what was happening to our town.

Some of those who started LRA gathered with current members at the new Murray Hall for a celebration dinner, to reflect on how the town has changed over the years.

Among others, the following successful LRA 'projects' were highlighted: Monitoring all Loughton planning developments, saving and building the Leisure Centre, the children's playground, Farmers' Market, Parish/Town Council, High Road and Broadway townscape improvements.

It was a pleasure to meet the people who had kicked off these ideas.

Seeing red about yellow lines

We sympathise with residents who are confused about what is being done about the parking situation in Loughton. Our hopes that matters would be under way by now were dashed, because of feet dragging at the District Council (EFDC). However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, although it's only a glimmer.

LRA Councillors, led by Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens, have played a major part in identifying the worst-affected roads off the High Road. They have continually pressed the EFDC to get started on the Review, and have finally received confirmation that the traffic engineers have been told to start work.

The Review may result in more radical changes including, where appropriate, residents' parking permits.

In the Broadway, LRA Cllrs Chris and Caroline Pond have pushed for a Review of parking in the surrounding roads to identify roads affected by displacement and commuters parking when the new pay and display parking controls come into force.

LRA Plans group will write to residents in any of these roads where there is concern over the proposals and press for a full public consultation.

Editorial Help Wanted

Would you enjoy being part of a team that edits Loughton Life?

A whole range of skills is welcome: writing, editing, graphics, photos, design and layout in Quark Xpress, Illustrator or Pagemaker.

Telephone David 0208 508 2932
david.linnell@loughtonresidents.com

College Field Plans to Park

As part of their plans to bring Epping Forest College up to date, the college plans to have a temporary car park in the playing field on the opposite side on Borders Lane, with an entrance from Borders Lane. This would stop students and staff trying to park on the surrounding roads.

LRA contacted every household round the college field. Their only concerns were that they would be able to carry on walking on the field, and that the extra traffic would not use the gate onto Colson Road. We confirmed this, and will make sure that the use as a car-park finishes when work on the College is completed. We also successfully demanded that the car-park would be

properly surfaced, that it will only be used by staff and students, and that the site will be securely locked at night from joy-riding motorbikes or cars.

We are puzzled why the 4 BNP District Councillors on the planning committee voted against the plan. Would they be happy for all the local roads to become clogged up with parked vehicles?

Hang on!

LRA rails against Bureaucracy

When the Leisure Centre opened, elderly and disabled residents who use the teaching pool for therapy were dismayed to find no rails along the side of the pool. The reason given was that due to safety reasons it was not possible to fit a permanent rail.

LRA Cllr. Tony Lee and Dorothy Paddon have pursued this issue for two years, and we are pleased to report success for their efforts. From Derek Macnab, Head of Leisure Services:

We have issued an Order today to install permanent stainless steel handrails on either side of the Teaching Pool at Loughton Leisure Centre which I hope will be of assistance to those people with reduced mobility or strength in their hands. The rails should be installed in the next 4 weeks.

What a Waste

LRA Councillor Peter House is a member of the panel at the District Council who are sorting out the chaos left when the waste contractor went into receivership last year. To make matters worse, the introduction of wheelie bins had started and what with changes to re-cycling schedules it all became very confusing. The panel's job is to advise the Cabinet member and they will be keeping a close eye on the selection of a new contractor and the large increases in costs caused by the Conservatives' promises.

Where's Your Pooper Scoop ?

A local resident has written to us in disgust at the manners of some dog owners. Getting out of her car in the dark, she didn't notice that she had stepped into dog excrement, and proceeded to distribute it throughout her home. She placed a polite notice outside her house asking for the dog's owner to kindly not let it mess there. Friends and neighbours fully supported her actions. After three days, they found the sign torn from the tree and urinated on, and a bag of dog faeces in their front garden. 'Try explaining that to the kids.'



Recycling *circa 1942*



Rod to Rescue

A disabled Forest Road resident had problems managing a wheelie bin so asked LRA Councillor Rod Barrett for help. Rod looked at wheelie bin regulations and got the Council to agree that the resident could use a black plastic sack for collection fortnightly. If you need help with a problem like this, call Rod, 8502 2085.

For more topics about Loughton or to read previous articles in Loughton Life go to www.loughtonresidents.com

Entertainers Raise a Smile

For the past 40 years, Occomore have performed solos, duets, comedy sketches, dances, even juggling acts, to keep their audience entertained and to raise much needed funds for others.

Accompanied on the piano, and dressed in appropriate costume, this local troupe of enthusiastic entertainers keeps the magic of variety performance alive.

Occomore will go wherever they are needed. They have performed in



Loughton, Harlow, Theydon Bois, Walthamstow, and Chingford.

'We welcome new audiences and new members, male, female, young or old. We meet once a week at St. John's Church Hall, Church Lane, Loughton. Tuesday evenings 7:30-10:00'.

Contact Bett Clark on 8504 2950. She will even tell you how they chose the name.

Jhana Arnold

Slippery Slopes

Loughton, unusually for Essex, has several very steep hills in residential areas. In these areas residents are trapped at times of heavy/frozen snow. LRA put in a plea for the worst of these to be included in gritting when nearby main roads are done.

The Town Council grit bins are excellent but require energetic residents to use and can't cover wider areas.

County Council grit vehicles have been fitted with Global Positioning Technology to help track the vehicle movements and other sophisticated technology capable of confirming where and when salting has taken place.

Therefore, when County get the usual complaints that the roads were not salted they will be able to check if it has been done.

Around the Town

Keep Libraries Mobile

The County Council proposed cutting all mobile library stops within two miles of a static library. This arbitrary decision would have prevented many disabled people and those in areas with no public transport, having access to the library service. LRA Councillor Chris Pond spoke against this, and secured special permission to address the Cabinet to oppose it. After a consultation, cabinet agreed to every case being looked at on its merits. A victory for commonsense and LRA taking a county-wide view.

Play Brass?

If there are any adult brass musicians who would be interested in a local ensemble, please get in touch so that we can set something up.

Bob Stevenson on 020 8508 6859
bobshirl@waitrose.com.



New Trees in High Road

As a result of LRA's campaign, new trees will be planted along the High Road. Work should start shortly.

ANSWERS TO THE LRA QUIZ 2006

Fewer all-correct answers this year, so special congratulations to the 'first-out-of-the-hat' winner, Helen Rogers, who has received book tokens. And all comments about difficulty will be taken into account in setting 2007's quiz – we promise!

1. To the woods! **Vienna**. 2. Loved by Helen of Troy **Paris**. 3. Sounds like a place to wander **Rome**. 4. At the edge of water, must be in France! **Bordeaux**.
5. On the Magic Roundabout **Florence**. 6. A bounder and his mum **Rotterdam**.
7. This place takes the biscuit! **Nice**. 8. An island for a colonial statesman? **Rhodes**
9. Maybe not your favourite vegetable **Brussels**. 10. Where a Welshman may be knighted? **Dublin**. 11. Sounds almost like an old-time dance **Val(lette)**. 12. Mother sets out to sea **Marseilles**. 13. Your abode in a village just outside Chelmsford? **Stockholm**.
14. Irving or Isaiah? **Berlin**. 15. Evergreen trees abound on this island **Cyprus**. 16. Tin town? **Cannes**. 17. A double dose of this city would sound sweet **Bonn**. 18. A perfumed place? **Cologne**. 19. The bottle's stopped here **Cork**. 20. Her father was frank **Nancy**. 21. A divided town? **Split**. 22. May be among those who've nice memories of this city **Venice**. 23. Father Christmas 'n the German **Santander**. 24. Sounds as if there is a lot of paper here **R(h)eims**. 25. Where you pay homage to the Belgian king **Liege**. 26. Indefinite, definite – two aspects **Athens**. 27. I'm between two containers in this City **Vatican City**. 28. Troubled? Argue quietly for this place **Prague**. 29. They must organise excursions here **Tours or Turin**. 30. Your home? No, my family's place **Arhus**.

Join LRA or renew your membership

We value our members, as their views and support are the backbone of LRA. Anyone who wishes to make Loughton a better place to live is welcome to join us.

There's strength in numbers. LRA as a group can be more effective than an individual. To be successful LRA needs you.

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

- Please enrol/renew my household as a member of LRA
- I enclose £4 subscription to December 2007
- I enclose a donation in support of LRA's work
- Please send a receipt. I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope
- I wish to pay by Standing Order, please send a S.O. form

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

This form may be printed out from our website www.loughtonresidents.com or you may pay at the LRA stand at Loughton Farmers Market.

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

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