

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

June 2008  
Member's edition



## LRA Wins the Day

We are very grateful for all the support we received on May 1st. Our candidates stood in six Loughton wards (not including Broadway ward) for 21 District and Town Council seats.

### Clear majorities – BNP beaten

We won clear majorities in five of the six wards, and received high support in the sixth (although our two excellent District candidates did not win in Forest ward, both received a large share of the vote, and our 3 Town Council candidates in Forest ward were all elected). We 'unseated' two BNP District Councillors.

### Residents' confidence in LRA

As always, it was a pleasure to meet so many residents on their doorsteps while we were out canvassing. The results show that residents have confidence in an independent local association committed to serving Loughton and tackling local issues, rather than national parties pursuing national goals.

### Contact your councillor

We now have 6 District Councillors and 14 Town Councillors – contact details are on the back page as usual, and there are more details on [www.loughtonresidents.co.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.co.uk). Our councillors will continue to justify your confidence in us, by listening to your concerns and by working on your behalf

## Broadway bus stops

Thanks to the efforts of LRA Councillor Chris Pond, the bus stop in Vere Road should eventually be returned to its original location, making life much easier for many local residents.



## Help wanted

Do you know anyone who could help LRA by keeping our books and preparing our accounts? We need someone to work alongside our present Treasurer, and then take over from him. Please contact David Linnell on 020 8508 2932 or [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## Traps Hill Health Centre

Plans are currently underway for a new GP-led health centre in Loughton, spread across the current Traps Hill surgery and the first floor of the building that houses the Whipps Cross annexe in Old Station Road.

### What's planned

The PCT wants the new service to provide pre-booked GP appointments and walk-in services for registered and non-registered patients, from 8 am to 8 pm, and at weekends. The core GP practice would operate at the Traps Hill site, with services outside usual surgery hours for registered and non-registered patients in the Old Station Road building (as far as we know, the current Whipps Cross services will continue here as well).

### Your views wanted

Our local Primary Care Trust (PCT) wants to hear your views (replies are needed by July 9th). They have issued a rather vague and muddled consultation document, which raised fears among local residents that the Traps Hill clinic might create problems by providing other services, and to be open all hours, generating more parking problems and noise. The PCT also arranged two public meetings, for 27 May and 9 June. The PCT didn't publicise these well, so our volunteers went round delivering letters to nearby residents about them - sorry we could not cover everybody.

### More information

For further information about the proposals, you can visit [www.westsexpct.nhs.uk/pubs/gpconsultation.php](http://www.westsexpct.nhs.uk/pubs/gpconsultation.php), or ring 01992 902010.

### Other services

At first it looked as though the new surgery might be a "polyclinic". These can include other services such as dentistry, podiatry, physiotherapy and community mental health support along with services for which patients have previously had to travel to hospital, such as outpatient clinics and minor surgery, according to local need. However, this now looks unlikely. But the PCT does also hope that other surgeries in Loughton will offer longer hours and wider services.

## Verges and Greenswards

We are all familiar with our grass verges and green swards being churned up by people who park their vehicles all over them. It is easy to heap blame. The fact remains however, that we do not have enough parking spaces for the number of vehicles on our roads. This is particularly true of our estates, which were built long before car ownership was as extensive as it is today.

### Past (lack of) action

In the past the District Council has set aside a small sum of money each year to provide parking schemes to alleviate the problem in the most congested roads. As the schemes can be very expensive, this only funds a couple a year and barely makes an impression on the long list of roads that need attention.

### New opportunity

This year there is a one-off sum of money available to tackle several more schemes than usual, if the Council is so minded. The Council will not pursue parking enforcement until these schemes are complete. Also there is the possibility of relaxing the strict 6-metre maximum rule for crossovers over green verges, so that more people can park in their front gardens.

### LRA concerns

The LRA fully supports spending the maximum available budget on as many schemes as possible. We have some concerns about relaxing the 6-metre rule - we would not rule out some form of flexibility on a case-by-case basis. Equally we're concerned about lack of enforcement; blatantly bad or dangerous parking, and blatant abuse of the greensward, should be tackled. Our estates were generally built with open spaces for all to enjoy and few people would want to lose them. So we have to do our best to accommodate vehicles in a way that minimises damage and keeps our roads safe.

Ken Angold-Stephens

## Station Approach trees

Its now 5 years since Sainsbury's and London Underground Ltd (LUL) revamped Loughton's Station Approach as part of the Sainsbury's store development. Surprisingly, the County Council Highways Department has not been able to take over responsibility for the area as planned, because Sainsbury's and LUL still have things to put right. In particular, Sainsbury's have so far not fulfilled their promise to replace the two missing trees by the bus-stops. We are chasing up those involved.

## "Seniors" on Buses

Good news! LRA County Councillor Chris Pond has successfully persuaded the District Council to reverse their very unpopular decision of cutting concessionary bus pass travel. So now thanks to LRA, if you are over 60, you will



be able to travel free after 09.00 (instead of from 09.30 as the Council wanted) – apply for your pass at the District Council desk in Traps Hill Library.

### Another change

On most routes you will now be asked for your destination and given a ticket (free).

## Youngsters on buses

From 1 June, all 11-16 year olds must carry a youth Oyster card to travel free on routes 20/167/397/549 or any London bus. Forms for these can be obtained from Post Offices in Greater London (the nearest are Woodford Green and Station Road Chingford). LRA Councillor Chris Pond has asked London Buses to make the forms available in Post Offices in Loughton and Debden.

### Cards can be confiscated

One advantage is that young people who commit a nuisance or disturbance on our buses can have their card confiscated. This should improve behaviour, particularly on route 167, about which LRA have received dozens of complaints.

**STOP PRESS:** The cards are now available at the Post Office in The Broadway.

## The End of an Era

The Oakfield Press has closed – unless you literally read every word of Loughton Life, you may wonder what this is to do with LRA? For almost twenty years, Oakfield has been the printer of Loughton Life and LRA's election material. Only those involved in the production of LRA's publications will fully appreciate the loss – a highly professional business which treated amateur editors with patience, good humour and understanding. Oakfield served LRA well and we greatly regret their passing.

John Woods.

## Crime in Debden

Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens recently attended a Debden Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting with the Police. They reported very low levels of crime in April, mostly related to motor vehicles. There were six incidents of theft from cars and five of criminal damage to cars (this may have been direct action by residents at odds with commuters parking in their roads). Only one or two other incidents of crime were reported.

## Traffic going too fast

We are very concerned about traffic speeding on some Debden roads. A petition was sent to the traffic police on this issue last December but nothing was done. But we have now been promised action - Hillyfields, Vere Road and Ibbotson Path were all to be targeted with the speed gun during May.

## Town Centre Manager

Epping Forest District Council will shortly start recruiting a Town Centre Manager, covering Loughton and probably the District's other major towns. LRA think that there is a real need for someone to take on this role and follow up matters such as graffiti, damaged street furniture and the provision of Christmas lights etc.

## Youth Club

The proposed youth club at Debden Park School will be opening in September.

## Fox-cubs



Not everyone welcomes foxes in their gardens. But if you come across any injured or poorly fox, contact National Fox Welfare Society 135 Higham Road Rushden, Northants, NN10 6DS. 01933 411 996. EMERGENCY 0777 818 3954. You can also email them at [natfox@ntlworld.com](mailto:natfox@ntlworld.com), visit their Website [www.nfws.org.uk](http://www.nfws.org.uk) and Ebay shop <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Fox-Shop>.

## What a load of rubbish!

There are a number of areas of private land in Loughton that have become litter traps.

### Loughton Station

Perhaps the worst is the area near the bus stops at Loughton station. LRA Councillor Ken Angold Stephens has been trying to get London Underground Ltd to tidy up but, although the vegetation has been cut back, the litter is now just more visible. It's hoped that more regular clean ups will follow.

### The Drive

The Drive, behind the shops, is another problem area. Here residents and Councillors have been trying to get the District Council to use their power to issue clean-up notices to the owners. However, the land is unregistered so it has been difficult to find who to contact. Now, finally, the owners have been identified and their Managing Agents will clean up the land. The Council – and LRA- will monitor the situation.

### What you can do!

If you notice a badly littered area, contact the District Council. If it's part of a street, they can do something about it. If not, it's more difficult, but contact your LRA councillor, who will try to get action.

## Christmas Lights?

The absence of Christmas lights in the High Road annoyed many people in 2007. Previously, lights were funded by traders and grants from Loughton Town Council. Should the Town Council fund the lot? That could mean 50p per head per year on the Council Tax, and as much again for The Broadway when that's enhanced. What do you think? Send your email to [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) or call your LRA Town Councillor.

## Watch out for Wardens!

Some drivers still seem unaware that double-yellow lines mean no parking at ANY time. District Council traffic wardens are out and about in Loughton High Road on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings - be warned!

## Do you love trees?

If so, why not become a Tree warden? You needn't be an expert. Wardens are local people appointed by the Town Council to record and take part in projects relating to our trees. If you genuinely care for trees and the environment the Town Council want to hear from you. For more info, an "action pack" and basic training contact Melinda Barham on 01992 564120. New wardens are wanted now!

**New website address - [www.loughtonresidents.co.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.co.uk)**

## Bike Trouble

Following residents' complaints, barriers have been fitted to stop motorcyclists roaring along the "Great Eastern" footpath between Loughton station and Highland Avenue. LRA have asked the District Council to consider putting another barrier across the start of the section that leads from Roding Gardens to the Station.

## Vehicle Crossovers

A rogue trader has installed a number of vehicle crossovers in Colebrook Lane and Grosvenor Drive to a very poor standard. Workmen pretending to be approved council contractors offered crossovers for a fixed cash fee. It could prove costly for householders to put right, should the Council decide to take enforcement action. Please be suspicious of anyone offering similar services door-to-door; if in doubt, check with the District Council.

## Graffiti success story

Graffiti appeared on a green box near me, owned by British Telecommunications Plc and I made a few calls to get it removed. The one which finally worked was to call 0800 800 151+8+2 (damage to BT property). I gave them the green box address and recorded their Fault Ref. Number. The box was re-painted 11 days later.

### Graffiti on a green box near you?

Look at the box to see who owns it, then consult the District Council to find out who to contact about it, at [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/community/crime\\_reduction](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/community/crime_reduction) Michael Benbow

## Stray Dogs

If you find a stray dog, please don't contact the Police – the job is now the responsibility of the District Council. However they do not have facilities to collect/keep dogs out of office hours, so if you find a dog you will have to take it in until the animal warden can come and collect it. Please contact your LRA Councillor if there are problems with the new Council service.

## Recycling batteries

The District Council have decided not to continue their pilot battery recycling scheme, but are looking at other ways to recycle batteries - and textiles - in the future. For now, if you visit Harlow, there's a dry battery recycling bank at the Ecco shop (round the corner in the arcade by the Harvey Centre).  
Caroline Pond

## Who's Who

CHAIRMAN: vacant	
VICE CHAIRMAN David Linnell	8508 2932
20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN	
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey	8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	
MINUTES SECRETARY June Willett	8508 6941
153 Smarts Lane IG10 4BP	
TREASURER Tony Paddon	8508 2238
12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX	
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow	8508 4457
28 Brook Road IG10 1BP	
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard	
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT	8502 0552
COMMITTEE	
Naoko Azur	8508 2962
Ken Faulkner	8508 1215
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Charles MacKenzie	8508 2909
David White	8325 5006
Janet Woods	8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8508 4729
<b>LRA councillors</b>	
COUNTY: Loughton (Central)	
Chris Pond 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361
DISTRICT (D) AND TOWN (T) COUNCILS	
ALDERTON WARD	
Rose Brookes (D&T)	8502 5981
3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB	
FAIRMEAD WARD	
Carol Davies (T)	8508 4234
13 Colebrook Gardens IG10 2HS	
David Wixley (D)	8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH	
FOREST WARD	
Jill Angold-Stephens (T)	8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE	
Suzanne Harper (T)	8508 4770
23 Algers Road IG10 4NG	
Peter House (T)	8532 1275
10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP	
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	
David Wixley (T)	8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH	
ST JOHN'S WARD	
John Markham (D)	8508 1945
77 Queens Road IG10 1RR	
Stephen Pewsey (T)	8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	
Caroline Pond (D&T)	8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	
Chris Pond (T)	8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	
ST MARY'S WARD	
Rod Barrett (D&T)	8502 2085
162 Forest Road IG10 1EG	
Lucette Howe	8508 3719
19 Sparelease Hill IG10 1BS	
Roy Thomson	8502 3786
8 Brooklyn Court High Road IG10 1AQ 1AN	

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Newsletter compilers: Carol Davies, Asier Odriozola, Chris Pond, David Linnell. Website Editor: Cathy Jennings; Webmaster: Martin Judd. Promoted by and on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association, of 20 Eleven Acre Rise Loughton IG10  
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### LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS: HAVE YOU PAID FOR 2008?

To check, or for a Standing Order form, please ring 020 8508 2932 or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)