

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

*The newsletter of Loughton Residents Association*

June 2010  
Members' edition

## LRA's success in District Council elections

The District Elections in May saw all six LRA candidates standing elected. LRA now has ten representatives on Epping Forest District Council, giving it the second highest presence of any group. LRA is very grateful to all the people who helped by organising the campaign, delivering our material, knocking on residents' doors and/or by sitting outside Polling Stations. Huge thanks also go to all those who voted LRA. Campaigning on issues that matter to Loughton residents played a major part in this success.



*I soon realised the special qualities of our town and its people. WE have one important thing in common - We ALL care about our town.*

**Lance Leonard – Alderton**

*Most people work hard and I believe in fairness and equality. I want to ensure Broadway residents are supported.*

**Jennie Hart - Broadway**



*How lucky we are to have open spaces and the Forest, where I walk every day - but also to be so close to London by train for work.*

**Tessa Cochrane - Fairmead**

*Loughton is a great place to live. I want to protect what we value about it and work on aspects which need improvement.*

**Colin Finn - Forest**



*My special interest is preserving the Green Belt and I have voted against attempts to encroach on it.*

**John Markham – St John's**

*If you're independent, you will have more time and energy to help the practical everyday concerns of people whose vote you seek.*

**Richard Cohen – St Mary's**



## Nature Reserve and recreation ground

There has been a huge rise in fly-tipping, criminal damage, fires and general anti-social behaviour on Roding Valley nature reserve and the recreation ground this year. It is deterring some residents from going into the areas and enjoying the wonderful open spaces we have on our doorstep as well as costing taxpayers a great deal of money to put right. A particular problem is dog faeces which makes parts of the fields most unpleasant for anyone using the fields for recreational purposes, especially children when it becomes a health hazard.

LRA Councillors have set up an urgent meeting with stakeholders, including the Town Council, the Essex Wildlife Trust which manages the Reserve, the District Council and the police to come up with an action plan to tackle this anti-social behaviour but part of it will certainly be to try to devise ways of persuading the public to behave in a more responsible way and to crack down on youths who are causing so much damage.

*Ken Angold-Stephens*

## The College

The latest Ofsted report on Epping Forest College has commented on the remarkable turnaround that has taken place in the last year. More local students are now making it their college of choice and a zero tolerance attitude to anti-social behaviour has led to a massive reduction in the problems once associated with a minority of students. Signs are that this improvement will continue. Great credit is due to the new Principal who has made sweeping changes to the management of the college in order to improve academic standards. The College is still deeply in debt and it has some way to go but it is on a distinctly upward curve and this is showing in the results they are now achieving. There should now be no reason for our young people to look outside of Loughton for their skills training if the appropriate course is offered at the College. LRA has had regular meetings with the College and it was due to LRA that the access on Borders Lane was gated, and a ditch dug to stop trespassers.

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## Key LRA appointments

LRA Town and District Cllr David Wixley has been appointed as the new Mayor of Loughton. LRA Town and District Cllr Caroline Pond will be his deputy. David describes his new role as a great honour particularly as he has lived in Loughton since 1949. He joined the town council in 2004 and has served as Chairman of the Recreation Committee and the Planning and Licensing Committee. (INSERT PIC)

Outgoing Mayor, LRA District and Town Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens thanked councillors and officers for their support during his term of office. He referred to the team effort which helped ensure the success of numerous council events this year including the Annual Civic Service and the inaugural Mayor's Fun Run held on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, which raised over £640 for the Dream Factory charity.

Meanwhile, Ken has been elected as the new vice-chairman of Epping Forest District Council.

## Whipps Cross Hospital Review

The new Government has laid down new conditions for making changes in the Health Service. The NHS team reviewing provision in NE London will be meeting in July to make sure that they meet these conditions, to revise them if necessary and to set out a new timetable. So far, services at Whipps Cross have been protected, with closures planned elsewhere. LRA Cllr Chris Pond will continue to ensure that account is taken of Loughton residents' needs.

## Traps Hill parking

LRA County Cllr Chris Pond has been pressing the County Highways department to provide double-yellow lines down one side of Traps Hill, as the present two-sided parking causes delays and road-rage, and is very dangerous for drivers coming out of the surgery car-park. After many promises and postponements, he is optimistic that work will finally now start, with the first step being consultation with residents at the end of June. There is then a long-winded procedure laid down by government – the earliest the yellow lines might actually appear is end-October. LRA will keep up the pressure.

## Planning & licensing matters

LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton, and objects to (or supports) some cases. Some recent cases looked at include:

**122 High Road:** the District Council approved a change of use from Retail to Cafe. *LRA Plans Group objected because of the number of food outlets already on the High Road.*

**151-159 Crown House, High Road:** the applicants have withdrawn their application to convert offices into student accommodation (75 studio flats and associated facilities). LRA Plans Group objected to the application, as Residents Associations elsewhere warned of very poor experiences with such developments.

**Minx Bar, High Road:** Harlow Magistrates Court adjourned a preliminary hearing of their appeal against the District Council's decision to reduce early-morning opening hours. On behalf of local residents, LRA supported the police in the initial review of the bar's licence, which led to the reduction in opening hours. We are trying to find out what is happening at this site currently.

**Debden Pool & Snooker Bar, Torrington Drive:** the District Council approved its application for an alcohol licence and early-morning opening. On behalf of local residents, LRA asked for the requested hours (open till 5am, alcohol on sale till 4am, 7 nights a week) to be limited to midnight (or 12.30am at the latest) but the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee compromised at 3am and 2am respectively.

**4 Monkchester Close:** the District Council turned down an application to fell an oak tree.

**Goldings Church, England's Lane:** The District Council turned down an application by the church for a single storey rear extension to form a drop-in centre, office and meeting rooms because of the lack of any information about how the trees on the site would be protected. LRA Plans Group shared these concerns.

**1 The Uplands:** Demolition work is starting on what used to be the Montessori nursery building. LRA Plans Group, and local residents, fought to prevent flats on this key site on the corner of the cricket field. We successfully defeated a proposal for one large block, but although a revised scheme for two smaller blocks was turned down by the District Council it was approved on appeal.

*David Linnell*

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## Return of Green Spaces battle

Two years ago LRA won a major victory at District Council when we forced the Council to back down on proposals to build on many of the green spaces in Debden. We were warned at the time that although it conceded that the plan was ill-thought through as it only considered housing land in Debden and not the rest of the district, the issue would return when plans to assess all available land in the district were brought forward.

It is likely to come back this year and we will be monitoring exactly what is proposed for the whole district very carefully with a view to protecting the green spaces in Debden while recognising the very severe shortage of affordable homes in the district. A survey of the entire district is expected to identify potential housing sites including vacant and derelict land, private sector land availability, surplus public sector land and land currently in non-residential use that may be suitable for housing, additional housing opportunities in established residential areas and large scale re-development and re-design of existing residential areas.

It is the two latter criteria that concern us over not only the green spaces in Debden but the development opportunities around The Broadway which were put forward by consultants a year or so ago. Unlike last time, all potential sites will be assessed against strict criteria. LRA will monitor the situation and keep you informed as these proposals go forward. We are also waiting to see what effect the abolition of housebuilding targets by the new coalition government will have on this issue.

*Ken Angold-Stephens*

## Broadway regeneration

Some strange stories have been circulating about LRA's position on the Broadway Regeneration Project. The consultancy work was started by the administration on the District Council. There had been no lobbying by LRA. Since the results of that work were badly understood by the public, we organised a public meeting about this in Mannock Drive Church so that residents could put their views to the consultants, and to the Director of Planning, John Preston. LRA cllrs have been careful not to make any specific comments about parts of the proposals so as not to jeopardise LRA's position when any application comes to planning committees. LRA has made general comments, and individual LRA members have expressed concerns. LRA has generally supported improvements to the transport interchange at Debden Station, but are extremely doubtful about any high rise development on the petrol station site. If the BP site is to be redeveloped then a replacement filling station nearby is a necessity. But LRA does not want to see the Esso garage in Church Hill massively expanded.



## Local history quiz

Chris and Caroline Pond are sorting out LRA archives before depositing them in the Essex Record Office. Founder Committee member, Bob Stevenson, of Woodland Rd, gave them the print above, taken for LRA's initial publicity push. It is of Brown's Engineering (formerly the Albion Granaries) whose demolition for the erection of the Presto (now Morrison's) supermarket was the prime reason for the foundation of the LRA in late 1980.

Who, they wonder, were the couple arguing about the price of a ride-on mower, and who is the lady with the stylish handbag? And the door to the right of the arch is marked "Committee Room". What committee was that? Anyone with the answers, please call Chris on 020 8508 2361.

## Parking review parked?

After all the time, money and effort put into reviewing how people who live near Debden Station and can't park in commuter-clogged streets near their homes might be helped, the Conservative cabinet at the District Council in Epping discussed on 7 June whether they would abandon the whole process. Because the earlier schemes near Epping and Buckhurst Hill stations were messed up, these have cost much more than expected. Therefore some of the cabinet wanted to save money by allowing Colson Rd, Ladyfields, Chigwell Lane, Torrington Drive etc to continue to be inundated with commuter cars. To cancel all the schemes now would write-off over £200,000 of taxpayers' money that has already been spent.

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens hammered home how strongly the people of Debden feel on this issue. Any decision was deferred, so at the time of writing it is still uncertain how things will turn out. However, relief seems a long way off. LRA will continue to fight on this issue.

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## Help and volunteers needed

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 david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk to find out more.

## Monthly farmers' market

LRA organises the farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Rd. Come and meet your local councillors and LRA activists.

## Free lessons for non-swimmers

Sessions at Loughton Leisure Centre are available for both teenagers and adults, the latter with an instructor specially trained in helping nervous beginners. Call the Leisure Centre on 01992 564573 or email maureenbennett@slm-ltd.co.uk

## LRA who's who

Email: [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

CHAIRMAN David Linnell 20 Eleven Acre Rise	8508 2932
VICE CHAIRMAN vacant	
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INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR Ian Allsop 134 Valley Hill	8532 0053
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Chris Harper	8508 4770
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Bela Yorke	8508 4729

### LRA councillors

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)  
Chris Pond 7 Staples Road 8508 2361

### DISTRICT (D) AND TOWN (T) COUNCILS

ALDERTON WARD  
Rose Brookes (D&T) 8502 5981  
3 Lower Park Road  
Lance Leonard (D) 8502 0771  
25 The Lindens

BROADWAY WARD  
Jennie Hart (D) 8508 3661  
74 Queens Road  
Katie Nicholson (T) 07904 069998

## Broadway Action

At its last meeting, the Broadway Neighbourhood Action Panel discussed the issue of bogus callers and artifice (or trick) burglaries. A police operation has significantly reduced the level of artifice burglaries over the winter months, and will be reintroduced if the recent increase in burglaries continues.

## Tube station staff presence

Following residents' concern recently about proposals to close ticket-offices at Loughton and Debden stations for part of the day, LRA took this up with Transport for London (TfL), who replied that they are proposing to reduce some of their ticket office opening hours because customer usage of the ticket offices has significantly declined, following the success of the Oyster card. Only one in 20 journeys now starts with a visit to the ticket office. They will still have staff on all stations at all times in visible areas where they can provide support and assistance to customers.

FAIRMEAD WARD  
Tessa Cochrane (D) 8508 4148  
16 Shaftesbury  
Carol Davies (T) 8508 4234  
13 Colebrook Gardens  
David Wixley (D) 8418 9284  
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road

FOREST WARD  
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Colin Finn (D) 8508 5577  
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23 Algers Road  
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52 Baldwins Hill

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49 Southview Road  
David Wixley (T) 8418 9284  
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