

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

The newsletter of Loughton Residents Association

November 2009
Member's edition

Wheelie helping out

LRA District councillors have been busy taking residents' calls and e-mails about the new system for green and food waste. Concerns include lids not fitting properly, difficulty of moving bins when full, extra bins for people with large gardens, bins not being returned to front gardens or boundary walls when emptied, smaller or no bins required, pointlessness of such a large bin for a small amount of food waste in the winter, unsightly bins in front gardens, bins where there are no pavements, and purchased food waste bags splitting. LRA Cllr Caroline Pond also successfully intervened when a local resident's green waste bin was wrongly swapped for a caddy – the District Council has now put things right.

Advice has been given on the new policy.

- People can ask to opt out of the garden scheme and have a kerbside caddy for food waste only
- Smaller bins can be provided
- The waste collectors have been asked to put bins back properly
- Assisted collection schemes are available for people who find it difficult to get their waste to the front of their properties
- An extra green bin can be requested.

If you still have a problem then get in touch with the District Council on 01992 564193. If they don't solve the problem, then get in touch with us at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Stand up for Loughton

On 10 December LRA will be putting up its first-ever candidate in Broadway ward, for a by-election caused by the ill-health of the current BNP town councillor. We wish our candidate, Katie Nicholson, the best of fortune.

Next May we will be putting up candidates for District Council seats in all seven Loughton wards. If you'd like to know more about being an LRA candidate, please contact Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 or contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.



Church Hill car park

The shopping news

Supermarket threat?

Local residents are very concerned about the District Council's plan to sell off the old car-park on Church Hill opposite Sedley Rise for a small supermarket and flats. An earlier attempt to find a developer to build just flats failed. A supermarket here could have a devastating effect on the other nearby shops, particularly the Post Office. LRA pressed for some public parking here, while recognising that anti-social behaviour in the old one had been a serious problem. We know there is pressure on local parking. LRA would prefer the council to wait for an upturn in the economy to enable them to develop flats alone. A letter has been written by LRA and delivered to houses in the surrounding area updating them on developments.

David Linnell

What would you like on the High Road?

Some years ago LRA asked residents what shops they would like to see on the High Road. Suggestions included a greengrocers, fishmongers, specialist grocery store and an Argos and Mothercare. In the meantime, instead, we seem to have ended up with more clothes retailers, many more coffee shops, chemists and opticians, and nowhere to buy electrical goods. When LRA invited suggestions at the Farmers' market a few months ago some of the age old suggestions resurfaced. And it is clear that people also really do miss a variety shop like Woolworth's. What would you like to see, and use, on the High Rd? Let us know at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Broadway improvements

The Broadway in Debden is now fully back in business, and looking a lot better. The traders there have been having a tough time recently, and would welcome your custom. How many other shopping areas are there where small real local shops outnumber the big chains and supermarkets?

**For more information about LRA or Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**



Parking concerns

Traps Hill

Thanks to pressure from LRA Cllr Chris Pond, public consultation on waiting restrictions along Traps Hill will begin in late November 2009. Chris has been pressing the County Council to put double-yellow lines down one side of Traps Hill, which currently becomes effectively one-way on weekdays. We are hopeful that the process will soon be underway but, as local residents need to be consulted and complex legal procedures followed, it won't be quick.

Loughton Broadway parking review

At last after a long struggle and much pressure from the LRA, the informal public consultation on the parking proposals for the Debden area near to the station is underway. The roads were surveyed earlier in the year but due to pressure of work the County Highways Department were unable to undertake the consultation process any earlier. LRA has been constantly putting Highways under pressure to ensure that there is no further slippage.

The County have sent letters to all those in the roads covered, setting out the proposals for comments. Residents had until 23 October to respond, and their views will now be analysed and considered. The final proposals then go to the cabinet member and councillors, and to the County legal department for the necessary traffic orders to be made. Even being optimistic this could take nine months or more.

LRA delivered letters to all the residents affected, and to some in nearby roads, encouraging them to make their views known. The Council has stressed that this is an area-wide review of parking restrictions and asked residents to consider the effect on their own circumstances, and how nearby roads may be affected. Obviously, any scheme like this cannot please every-one, and will have to be a compromise between the interests of all those who use the local roads and want to park there. However, many residents have told us the present situation is intolerable. For queries about the review please call the Loughton Broadway Parking Review Team on 0845 603 7621.

Planning matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications for Loughton. Where appropriate, we put in an objection, and/or let local residents know about them proposal so that they can give their views too. We also look at new legislation and are very concerned about moves to take "minor" changes out of the normal processes, which will mean that local residents, and the Plans Group, will have no chance to see them in advance, and make comments. **If you are concerned about a planning application, phone or email David Linnell asap.** Recent cases include:

Cakes & Shakes, 246b High Road

The District Council Licensing Sub-Committee has approved a late-night refreshment licence till 11pm (Sunday to Wednesday) and 12.30am (Thursday – Saturday). Cake & Shakes reduced the proposed opening hours from 10am -2am, 7 days a week following representations from LRA Cllr Roy Thomson and LRA vice-chairman David Linnell, who both spoke at the committee meeting. The owners are submitting a planning application for a change of use from retail, which the LRA Plans Group will oppose.

Former Woolworths, High Road

The District Council have approved an application to add an extra storey (to match surrounding buildings). It hopes this may help the shop to reopen.

15 The Crescent

Following objections from neighbours and the LRA Plans Group, the District Council turned down an application to demolish an existing bungalow and erect of a pair of semi detached houses.

15 Carroll Hill

Following objections from neighbours and the LRA Plans Group, the District Council turned down an application to build a block of eight flats on the site.

276 High Road

On appeal, despite LRA Plan Group's opposition, the Inspector has approved a change of use from Class A2 (Financial and Professional Services) to Class A5 (Hot Food Takeaway). This will become a Domino Pizza outlet and 75% of its trade will be home deliveries by up to four cars.

David Linnell

Outdoor gym consultation event

A consultation event regarding plans to build an outdoor gym will now be held at St Michael's Church, Roding Road on Saturday 23 January from 2-4pm.

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Action points

High Road potholes

Thanks to continued pressure from LRA, the potholes outside the shops near Morrisons should soon be repaired.

Brook Road – new development

Cllr Caroline Pond has been dealing with a resident's concerns about two gates erected from the new houses in St Mary's Close and crossing the green area owned by the District Council. This has involved numerous e mails.

Bus H1 withdrawal

Service H1 is operated on a commercial basis by Imperial Buses. Imperial have notified the County Council that they intend to discontinue the service from 19 December 2009. The service operates between Loughton and Harlow, but it does serve St Margaret's Hospital direct from Loughton and Debden areas. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has taken up the question of alternative provision, particularly for students and hospital users. Please send any comments to ECC at charm.hobbs@essex.gov.uk copied to Chris Pond CllrCPond_essexcc@hotmail.com, please.

Routes 20 and 167

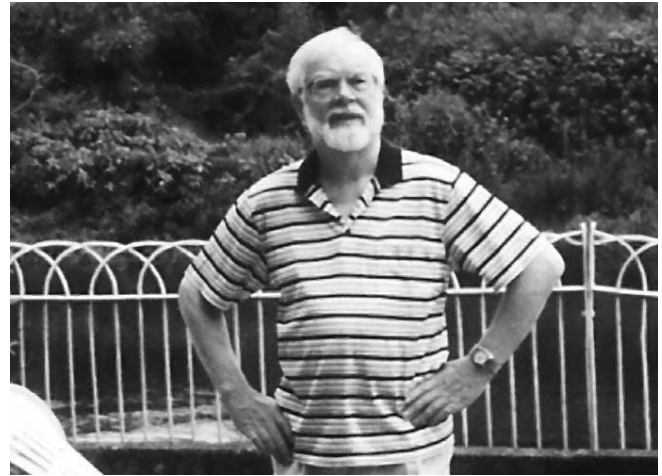
These have finally reverted to their old route at the Broadway. Seemingly only a little thing, this has taken LRA Cllr Chris Pond two years of hard slog and several hundred emails and phone calls. The bus shelter for the side of the garage has arrived and we are now waiting for the Highways dept contractor to erect it.

Lucton's Field

Following discussion between LRA and Epping Forest College about our concerns that travellers might try to enter the field from Borders Lane, the college have constructed an earth barrier (much less unsightly than fencing). Construction had to wait for the half-term holiday.

Christmas farmers' market

LRA organises the farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am-2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Rd. Come along and meet your local councillors and LRA activists. The Christmas market is being held on 6 December and as well as mince pies and carols, there will be a collection for Haven House Children's Hospice. And a big thank you to everyone who responded to the call for books and donated reading material for sale at LRA's stall at the market.



In memoriam – Tony Paddon

We are very sorry to report the death of Tony Paddon, who will be much missed. Tony was a member of the LRA Executive Committee, and was LRA's Treasurer from 1996 to 2008. He was also on the directorate advisory panel at Woodcroft School, and was a governor at Oak View School. His family (Dorothy, Tom and Monika) have sent us their thanks for all the kind messages, flowers and donations to the British Heart Foundation that were received from LRA friends.

Help wanted

Loughton Life

Volunteers are required six times a year, to collect copies of Loughton Life, split them into separate rounds and deliver the bundles to the deliverers, in a couple of Loughton wards.

Can you help, please (you don't have to live in the ward concerned)? If so, or if you would like to know more, please contact david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk or 020 8508 2932. LRA keeps its costs down through its network of volunteers, to whom we are very grateful.

Display boards

From next February LRA will need someone to collect the LRA display boards for each farmers' market (first Sunday of the month) at 8am on Sunday, or on the Saturday, and to return them to storage after 2pm. This requires a large hatchback or a van. A substitute is available for occasional absences. If you know someone who could help please contact david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk, or ring 020 8508 2932 with any queries.

Free home security check

Residents considering making improvements to their security can ask for a home visit by emailing safercommunities@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or phoning Epping Forest District Council on 01992 564608.

Eat, drink and be merry – Cryptic Christmas quiz

Now an integral part of Christmas, here is another chance to keep those brain cells active over the festive period. This year the answers feature a wide range of things to eat and drink. For example, “Looking pale in SW (7, 5)” is “Cornish pasty”. Please send completed answers to Les Harris, 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ or by email to lesandsueharris@aol.com by January 5th. The first correct answer out of the hat wins fizz or a book token. The answers will be published in the January Loughton Life. Have a very good Christmas!

1. A fruity daughter (10)
2. Sounds as if the matador got dressed up (5)
3. This drink can knock you out (5)
4. Half of West Ham strip for this wine (6)
5. A dessert or a veg dish? It's the latter (5-7)
6. Flies along a section of the mountain? (9)
7. Father's wee dram? (7)
8. Sounds like Kenny's hat (10)
9. An insignificant dessert (6)
10. A steak from the pub (11)
11. Is this US state hot or cold? (5, 6)
12. Little branches (8)
13. County's warm dish (10, 6)
14. Gain for Mr Flynn (11)
15. Belgian offshoots (7, 7)
16. Cows to the power of three (5, 4)
17. Wine you can pawn (4)
18. In need of cash (10)
19. Salad veg with a sore throat gets cheeky (11, 5)
20. Humped animal takes a river for this sweet (7)
21. A German citizen fond of pork? (9)
22. Off the old blocks? (5)
23. For a seaside picnic? (8)
24. Country gets the seasonal bird (6)
25. Often a feature of boxers' ears (11)
26. Gather a flower? (10)
27. How this dish should be cooked? (8, 4)
28. Rubbish! (5)
29. Cash for father (8)
30. A glorious complaint (5)

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