



Ron Heath 2005

LOUGHTON LIFE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

High Road: Will it ever be finished?

Residents, shopkeepers and shoppers have all been frustrated at the traffic delays. Messages to contact@loughtonresidents.com express anger at the months of work and dissatisfaction with the results so far.

What has caused the delays? Mostly failure by the utilities (gas, electricity, phone etc) to turn up when needed. Previous delays were caused by lack of funding from the District Council, the need to consult traders and other organisations, changes in District Council staff, getting agreement from the County Highways department and the unexpected problems that always crop up on a long and complicated job like this one.

Residents have expressed concern with the quality of the paving and finishing. LRA Councillors are relaying problems to the Council Officers responsible, as soon as they are noticed.

LRA campaigned for improvement to the High Road and we thought we were getting somewhere ten years ago, when we carried out our own consultancy study, which was favourably received at a public exhibition. Since Loughton is the largest town in the Epping Forest District it is only right that the Town Centre is brought up to scratch.

Finally in 2004 the scheme was agreed but without any finance from the District Council. With Sainsbury's involvement the works got going, because they paid for it. Sainsbury's put in hand the works for Phase I (from Lincoln Hall to Barclays Bank) during 2005. Epping Forest District Council resolved to fund Phase II (up to The Drive).

Not all the proposals made in the LRA plan have been implemented, sometimes for cost or safety reasons. The focus groups, representatives from traders and organisations throughout Loughton have contributed to the detail and amendments to the final plan.

An astonishing aspect of this tale is that funding has still not been agreed to continue work past The Drive junction. LRA councillors are pressing for funds to be allocated, but the District Council is still dragging its heels.

What's in Loughton for young people?

A Public Meeting on
Thursday 26 October at 8pm
Methodist Hall, High Road, Loughton

The lack of youth facilities affects us all – young and old.
Find out more and have your say.

Organised by
Loughton Residents Association

Parking Relief for Residents?

Parking pressure on roads most vulnerable to commuters and shoppers may find some release in the next 12–18 months. Highway officers have agreed to a consultation, which LRA councillors, particularly Ken Angold-Stephens, have been pivotal in pressing for.

This is the biggest review ever undertaken by EFDC and therefore the most costly. For this reason it will not cover the whole of Loughton, but only

We Want Our Trees Back!

Join the fight to keep Loughton green.
Complete our tree survey inside.

roads within a certain radius of Station Road/Ollards Grove junction and Brooklyn Avenue junction.

We will keep you in the picture as the review is carried out, but in the meantime don't hesitate to ring your LRA District Councillor if you would like to make any suggestions.

For contact details see back page.

Debden Library LRA campaign continues

Debden residents deserve better library services. Essex County Council is prepared to spend a significant amount of your council tax money on new facilities, but it has seriously upset some local residents by its approach.

County have proposed a new library, very close to the position of the current one, but shared with the college and entered only through college premises. LRA councillors demanded a bus stop outside the library, so bus passengers won't have to cross the busy road. But County have refused to put an entrance by the new bus stop, separate from the college entrance. They have also resisted any separation of public and college library facilities. They have yet to say what library facilities they will provide while re-building takes place,

LRA's County Councillor Chris Pond is working hard to challenge County's decision. LRA Councillor Janet Woods has also been in touch with the County Libraries team. Both have stressed how high residents' feelings are running in Debden. LRA will press County to change their plans.

David Linnell

We Want Our Trees Back!

The shady 'boulevard' view of Loughton High Road is becoming a barren shopfronted urban site. Three trees on private property in front of the Centric Parade shops were felled by request of the shops' landlords when the enhancement works began and they are refusing to have them replaced.

These trees have always been part of the town centre plans, and LRA is determined to save our green-lined vista. A solution is to plant trees on highways land (rather than private) land, and LRA



Councillors are in discussion with council officers to get funds dedicated for this. **Join the fight to keep Loughton green. Complete our survey**

Who is to Blame for Crime in Loughton?

In the past the BNP has made headway in northern industrial towns, where jobs have disappeared, unemployment rates are high and councils are accused of favouring one minority group or another over the original white population. Their councillors have rarely lasted more than a few years in office in these towns, and so the party is looking elsewhere for support – to build a platform for national campaigns.

The BNP are now targeting areas they describe as 'white flight' – where they claim people have moved out of cities, especially London, to get away from the numbers of people from ethnic minorities who have settled over recent years. They

never mention reasons such as cleaner air, homes with gardens, rural views, good schools and better leisure facilities.

The problems we face as a community are not due to 'ethnic minorities' but to those individuals, of any and all backgrounds, who pursue crime or show no respect or consideration for others. We must face problems together – not in dividing our community by raising hostility towards one race, religion, or another. That way, even more problems lie.

Dorothy Paddon

Do you organise activities for young people in Loughton?

If so, LRA may help to publicise them. Contact: Diane Rhodes 8508 3284 or dianejrhodess@gmail.com

Broadway Threat

Residents complain to us that "real" shops are disappearing, to be replaced by cafes and restaurants. A vibrant and useful shopping centre needs the right mix of shops and services.

The District Local Plan states that no more than 20% of the shops in the High Road and The Broadway can be "non-retail". However, the District Council has failed to impose this limit, notably in the High Road, where the proportion is now nearer 30%.

The District Council suggested raising the limit to 30%. Despite LRA's protests, this has now been approved by a Government Inspector, and the 30% figure will go into the revised Local Plan, which could open up a drastic change in the Broadway. We will continue to fight to maintain the balance.

David Linnell, LRA Plans Group

College Closes Creche

Closure of the day nursery at Epping Forest College at the end of August – at very short notice – has thrown parents' plans for childcare into turmoil.

To try to resolve the issue, LRA Councillor Peter House hosted a meeting of parents and college representatives, including the Principal, David Butler, a governor, members of staff, and Councillor Stephen Murray. Despite the cogent arguments for retaining the nursery, the financial imperative drove the college's decision to close. However the Principal is now in no doubt of the impact the closure is having on the local community or their view of the college's action.

LRA LOUGHTON TREE SURVEY

Tell us about your local trees.

- There are trees near my home Yes No
- In the same or nearby roads Yes No
- I like having trees in my road: Yes No
- I'd like more trees in my road Yes No
- Trees give a pleasant outlook Yes No
- They attract birds and insects Yes No
- Trees enhance my road/area Yes No
- They give shade in summer Yes No
- I enjoy the seasonal changes Yes No
- Other tree benefits.....

Tree Problems

- Branches hanging too low Yes No
- Leaf/fruit fall on pavement Yes No
- Trees look uncared-for Yes No
- Base suckers spoil appearance Yes No
- Roots are damaging pavement Yes No
- Tree needs pruning Yes No
- Dead/felled trees not replaced Yes No
- New trees poorly planted Yes No
- New trees die from lack of water Yes No
- Other tree problems.....

My opinion of Loughton's trees is

.....
My favourite Loughton tree is (give location)

.....

Your Road

.....

Your Name

.....

*Please send to: Michael Benbow
28 Brook Road Loughton IG10 1BP*

*Or complete this survey online
www.loughtonresidents.com*

Dirty Streets

We can't remember a time when Loughton has looked so bad. As councillors, we get more calls about litter and the cleanliness of our streets than almost any other subject.

At times the system relies heavily on residents themselves having to complain before anything is done. There are three elements to the contract that are not working: Inspections are not thorough or frequent enough. Sweepers have no sense of pride in the areas of work and are not supervised. The Council does not monitor the contract. We should introduce performance measures.

A particular bone of contention is the traders who leave rubbish out overnight or for an entire weekend before a collection. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act gives additional powers to Councils, including requiring private landowners to clean up their properties.

A new waste contract is going out to tender next year. LRA Councillors are so concerned that street cleaning will be overlooked that I took the current District Council portfolio holder, Mary Sartin, on a tour of the litter zones of Loughton. As a result she and Council Officer David Marsh agree that Loughton sweeping is not up to the standard it should be. He will accompany Mary and myself around the hot-spots in order to come up with an action plan.

Ken Angold-Stephens



My Allotted Time

My father had an allotment and I'd always thought I'd like to grow my own vegetables but never had the time. Changing from full to part-time work gave me the opportunity I'd been looking for. A friend in LRA recommended the Old Potato Ground off Baldwin's Hill. It's so secluded we had to ask for directions to find it!

What a gem the space is. It's peaceful and high up with a wonderful view of Loughton and beyond. I love looking at what other people are doing and growing. I've had lots of useful advice and offers of plants and surplus vegetables. I'm now beginning to be able to return some of that support. I've met a whole new community that I didn't know existed. And we all love gardening at the site. The first piece of

advice I was given was to cover the weeds with old carpet which I dutifully did. I wanted to be organic, so I gradually rolled back the carpet digging and removing the perennial weeds as I went.

As well as the usual parsnips, potatoes, beetroot etc. (all delicious) I love growing vegetables with unusual names and shapes to amaze my family. The best part is picking something and coming home to cook it straight away. The taste is wonderful compared to supermarket food.

It's lovely working in the open air. It's my gym at a fraction of the cost. I do a mental workout as well as a physical one. I solve all my problems while I'm weeding and digging. We have some vacant plots. Why don't you come and join us?

Sheila Westbury

Sainsbury's pushing their luck

on opening and delivery hours

Deliveries: Sainsbury's asked the District Council to allow them to start making deliveries to their Station Road store at 4 am (currently 6 am) Monday-Saturday and at 7 am (currently 9 am) Sundays.

The LRA Plans Group let residents know about the application, asking them to consider:

(1) Deliveries from 4 am onwards (7 am on Sundays) are likely to cause disturbance to nearby residents during the hours when most people are asleep.

(2) All the roads leading to Sainsbury's store are residential, so earlier deliveries will also cause extra traffic noise for many more local residents.

(3) Staff would have to be present at the store by 4 am (7am on Sundays). As there is no public transport at these times, staff would have to arrive by car or motorcycle (or on foot or by bicycle).

Sainsbury's has made efforts to be a 'good neighbour'. This application is pushing the boundaries of that relationship. We hope it will be rejected.

Opening hours: Sainsbury's applied to the District Council to extend their opening hours to 7 am-10 pm Monday-Saturday. The LRA Plans Group sent residents a letter letting them know how the application might affect them. The Council officers recommended acceptance, but LRA and a number of residents objected. As a result, the application was turned down on the following grounds:

"The extension of hours will result in excessive noise and disturbance to residents of residential properties in Meadow Road at evening hours when background noise levels are lower. It will also result in staff parking in this road to an unacceptable level, inconveniencing occupiers of these residential properties."

Vandalism wastes money

Vandalism, graffiti and antisocial behaviour are on the increase in many parts of Loughton. This makes it a less pleasant place to live. But it also costs money – your rates, as it uses up the resources of council staff and police.

A report from the Town Council shows damage to children's playgrounds, in particular at Colebrook Lane, Felstead Road and Newmans Lane, costing almost £3000 to repair. A similar amount has been spent on damage on Roding Valley Recreation Ground. This £6000 means other projects have had to be dropped or postponed, and could even mean an increase in rates next year.

The Town Council and residents living near the playgrounds and the recreation ground have alerted the police, but the problem is proving impossible to solve.

LRA has worked hard to provide playgrounds and good recreational spaces for us all to enjoy. What can we do to stop this wanton destruction and misuse?

Sheila Shillitto

IN THE COMMUNITY

Mike Wardle

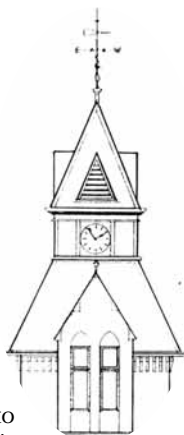
Many of you will have heard about the death of Mike Wardle, a founder-member of LRA. He was proud to represent Loughton on the district council from 1992 to 2002. Mike's 'networking' was one of the reasons he was a good councillor. There was little going on locally he did not know about. He was also a founder member of Loughton Town Council and was Town Mayor in 2005-06. Above all, he always strove to make Loughton a better place in which to live. We in LRA salute him.

Organising ability?
 Help with admin needed by harassed LRA Chairman. Please contact:
 Dianne Rhodes 8508 3284 or
 diannejrhodes@gmail.com

Lopping Hall Bell Rings

The Lopping Hall clock has been refurbished, and the striking bell restored, after 50 years silence. One of the reasons the bells ceased to operate in the 1950s was the disturbance to residents' sleep. Modern technology allows us to obviate that: the hours will now strike between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The trustees have financed the work themselves, but with a most welcome grant from the Essex Heritage Trust.



Chris Pond

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN	
Diane Rhodes 9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS	8508 3284
JOINT VICE CHAIRMEN	
David Linnell 20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN	8508 2932
Stephen Pewsey 59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	8508 5582
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	
Rod Barrett	8502 2085
James Dean	8281 7932
Ken Faulkner	8508 1215
Chris Harper	8508 4770
Peter House	8532 1275
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Charles MacKenzie	8508 2909
John Woods	8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS	
COUNTY: LOUGHTON (CENTRAL)	
Chris Pond (ECC & T) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361

DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCILS	
ALDERTON WARD	
Caroline Pond (T) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361

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

FOREST WARD	
Jack Benjamin (T) 23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG	8508 4765
Rose Brookes (T) 3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB	8502 5981
Suzanne Harper (T) 23 Algers Road IG10 4NG	8508 4770
Peter House (D) 10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP	8532 1275

RODING WARD	
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) 9 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE	8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ	8508 2226
Richard Pennington (T) 51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH	8508 0807
David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH	8418 9284

ST JOHN'S WARD	
John Markham (D) 77 Queens Road IG10 1RR	8508 1945
Roger Pearce (T) 32 Millsmead Way IG10 1LR	8281 1386
Caroline Pond (D) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361
Chris Pond (ECC & T) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361
Stephen Pewsey (T) 59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	8508 5582

ST MARY'S WARD	
Tony Lee (D) 33 Priory Road IG10 1AF	8508 76491
Brian Moore (T) 6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX	8508 7112
Janet Woods (T) 1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ	8508 1764

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AROUND THE TOWN

Drop into the Drive

After extensive pleas from LRA County Councillor Chris Pond, the County Highways department has at last undertaken to do something about the Drive, with its potholes, dandy traps, displaced kerbs, and broken signs. The trouble is, they haven't said exactly when. Chris will be pressing them to keep their promise.

Railing for Safety

We are pleased to see railings at last put in place to keep commuters and Roding Valley High School students safe from the traffic by the station. Thanks to David Linnell for driving this project.

The graffiti removal service is now back in action, so please report any graffiti to Beth Knight on 01992 564122 or bknight@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

Why become a member of LRA ?

The answer is what LRA can do for you and what you can do for LRA. As a member you get your views listened to and acted upon. You hear the latest ideas and information about Loughton and the area. You get support and help with any problems from a group of dedicated experienced residents.

There's strength in numbers. LRA as a group can be more effective than an individual. To be successful LRA needs you. We hope you have enjoyed Loughton Life – we value your views and your support.

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

- I enclose £4 for the period to December 2007
- I enclose a donation in support of LRA's work
- Please send a receipt. I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope
- wish to pay by Standing Order, please send a S.O.form

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

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