

Loughton Residents' Association LOUGHTON LIFE

June 2007



Bus on new route 541-
photo, Peter House

Bus Changes

It's all change for Loughton's buses!

Commercial bus operator Arriva decided to withdraw its Epping - Theydon - Abridge - Romford service, which has had a knock-on effect of altering the bus service in Loughton.

In an effort to mitigate this effect, Cllr Chris Pond has had several meetings, resulting in partial success.

The number 10 was replaced by a new route; the number 541 Buckhurst Hill - Loughton Stn - Traps Hill - Newmans Lane - Rectory Lane - Abridge - Theydon - Epping St Margaret's Hospital. This runs hourly, and includes a basic evening and Sunday service. This resulted, however, in a 50% reduction in the daytime service for Newmans Lane. ECC argue that their guidelines do not allow for a 30 minute service through estates such as this area of St Mary's ward.

We called for a hail and ride scheme to be adopted throughout the estate, for the new number 541, 542 and 543, but without success.

The new 542 and 543 routes replace the Oakwood and Bushfields services 214 and 215 on a like for like basis. They will be recognised as circular routes and will not 'terminate' at Debden or Loughton stations.

The H1 service to Harlow will run to Harlow Hospital (the result of LRA's lobbying) and then on to Harlow Tesco, Edinburgh Way. This is to replace another Harlow service that has also been axed by its operator. It is experimental for six months, so do use it!

So there have been some gains as well as some losses. The hospitals will have a better service, while Newmans Lane will see its service halved, although the better evening service is perhaps part compensation. A few Loughton residents will also miss the Abridge - Passingford Bridge service, leaving this section totally without a bus.

All these changes took effect during May 2007.

Full circle in The Broadway

Because of the unexpected positioning of the gas main under the central reservation, the District Council has had to redesign the “enhancement” scheme. It will now feature 2-way traffic. The gas main problem came about because the National Grid Gas supplied wrong information. Although the waste of money, time and effort is very frustrating, we have been assured that the new scheme will cost less and that the cash left over will be spent on improving other aspects of The Broadway.

The district council intend that parking charges will be imposed on parking in The Broadway and the nearby car parks. This is the same as the rest of the District. Local traders are also fed up with commuters’ vehicles sitting all day in the Burton Rd car park, whilst intending shoppers cannot find a space.

The CCTV in The Broadway is now working and has resulted in a number of arrests, but “shop-jumping” from roof to roof, the latest craze, is still happening. People are also setting fire to rubbish, daubing graffiti, and causing other problems. The District Council with other agencies (the police, the “enhancement” consultants, the fire service etc.) are looking at ways of improving security, LRA has asked for CCTV coverage of the Vere Road pathway.

Youth Issues

The problems in the High Road and round Loughton and Debden stations have spread to the fields near the River Roding. Some of the problems are due to gangs of young people from outside Loughton, but sadly some are due to our own youngsters. Parents can help by making sure they know what their children are up to. LRA is working with the Police to try to ensure that sufficient resources are available to deal with problems as they arise.

A particular problem arose on Monday 14 May, the last day before study leave for Roding Valley High School children. About 200 teenagers, not all from RVHS, and of course, not all even 16, congregated on Staples Hill all afternoon and evening. A public spirited local resident recovered several bin bags full of vodka bottles, lager cans, condoms, etc. LRA has written to the school, the police, and forest authorities to try to prevent a recurrence next year.

Highways condition report

ECC is injecting an extra £15m a year for three years from 2005/06 to improve the condition of highways in Essex. They are trying to identify and mend roads which are in poor condition, before the surface deteriorates really badly, and also to improve the planning of jobs. However, there is still a colossal backlog of repairs.

You can report problems by telephoning 0845 603 7621 or at www.essexcc.gov.uk – and please let a member of your LRA ward team know if nothing happens. LRA councillors are in touch with highways on an almost daily basis. Six local roads are due for complete repair this financial year.

Loughton Hall

We hope that Loughton Hall may be kept in community use, rather than becoming a retirement home. One possibility being supported by LRA Councillors is a 'Cultural hub' involving Epping Forest College, a music academy and the E15 acting school.

Alderton Children's Centre

Residents in Alderton Hall Lane are very concerned about the potential impact of this new Centre on local traffic and parking. LRA welcomes the provision of more and better facilities for young children, but wants the County Council to carry out a traffic survey – and to carry out whatever it recommends – before the Centre is completed.

The proposals were considered by the Development Committee at Chelmsford on 25 May; county councillor Chris Pond attended and spoke (in favour of the centre but asking for proper measures to protect residents). However, the Committee refused to carry out traffic measures before the centre is built. The LRA committee will be looking at what to do next.

Town Centre hanging baskets

LRA Councillor Stephen Pewsey, and others, have been pressing the Town Council to make a start on providing hanging baskets in the High Road (and later in The Broadway). One major problem is how to maintain the baskets in hot weather once they are put up. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that we

may see some more colour in part of the High Road this Autumn and winter. The Town Council will be looking for sponsorship and for a contractor prepared to water the baskets in summer.

NHS review

We are waiting to hear more about the plans for Whipps Cross Hospital. We hope to be able to let members know when there are some firm proposals, in the Autumn. County councillor Chris Pond is Loughton's voice on the special panel set up to examine these proposals (called Fit for the Future).

West Essex PCT has produced a consultative document about its plans for GP surgeries and hospital services in our own area, and LRA's "NHS-watcher" (Dorothy Paddon) has responded on our behalf.

High Road Trees

- why are we waiting?

Unfortunately, there are still some administrative obstacles holding up the planting of the replacement trees in Centric Parade. This latest delay is due to complex legal issues of land ownership and control. . LRA will continue to press for action.

Police - back on the Beat

We have recently seen the return to Loughton of proper neighbourhood policing teams. The new teams are keen to forge closer links with public, and to gain their co-operation and support. They are setting up monthly meetings with people representing various local bodies (such as Neighbourhood Watch groups and LRA). These discussions will 'feed' into a higher-level meeting. There will also be an annual public meeting.

POLICE Contact Numbers: please ring 999 for an emergency, 01279 641212 for non-urgent matters and 07968 354021 for the Neighbourhood policing team.

Street Signs

You can report missing or damaged street name signs, hopefully for swift replacement, by informing EFDC on 01992-564000, or by email llinton@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

Loughton Festival needs YOU

The next Loughton Festival is planned for April 2008, but volunteers to lend a hand are needed now. If you could spare some time to help with fundraising, publicity etc., please contact Sue Taylor at outerlondon@aol.com

Howzat Cricket Festival

The first of July is this year's "Howzat!" Cricket Festival. It will take place on the Cricket Ground, and will feature cricket and jazz from about noon until evening.

Cleaning Station Approach

Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has been pressing the District Council to do something about the appalling state of Station Approach. As a result, in April they carried out a thorough clean up of the Loughton Station Approach. They are now starting negotiations with London Underground Ltd in the hope of finding a solution. A whole lorry-load of rubbish was removed, including two dead trees – which we are trying to get replaced.

Women at the top

LRA Councillor Caroline Pond was elected chairman of the EFDC on 17 May, the fourth woman to chair the council – and two have been from the LRA! Caroline has chosen the League of Friends of St Margaret's Hospital as her main charity.

For Loughton Town Council, LRA councillor **Suzanne Harper** became Town Mayor, following Janet Woods, on 16 May. This job has been held by women five times in 12 years. Suzanne has chaired the Council before, in 2001-02.

Pevsner's Buildings of England

The new Essex volume is now available and includes 11 pages on Loughton! It is edited by James Bettley, and costs £29.95 -- published by Yale University Press.

Essex Bus Passes

Over-60s should apply to EFDC for a free travel pass valid for travel without payment on any bus within Essex, or one that starts or finishes its journey in the

county. Even if you generally drive, try it! Passes are valid after 0900 Mon-Fri, and any time on other days. As from 1st April 2008 they will be valid throughout England. They are not valid on the Central Line (but you can buy an oyster card).

Did you know?

Loughton had one of the first by-passes in the country when the Epping New Road was opened in 1833. It wasn't volume of traffic, but the effect of the steep hills on horses...

The gradients at Buckhurst Hill and Goldings Hill had separate cut-offs for the same reason.

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN: Chris Harper	8508 4770
23 Algers Road IG10 4NG	
VICE CHAIRMAN David Linnell	8508 2932
20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN	
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey	8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	
MINUTES SECRETARY Carol Murray	8508 4892
20 Queens Road IG10 1RS	
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	
Carol Davies	8508 4234
Ken Faulkner	8508 1215
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Charles MacKenzie	8508 2909
Carol Murray	8508 4892
John Woods	8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8508 4729

LRA councillors

COUNTY: Loughton (Central) Chris Pond	
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361

www.loughtonresidents.com

DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCILS

ALDERTON WARD

Caroline Pond (T)	8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	

FAIRMEAD WARD

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

FOREST WARD

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

Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T)	8281 0674
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89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE	
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Margaret Chalk (T)	8508 2226
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49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ	
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Richard Pennington (T)	8508 0807
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51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH	
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David Wixley (T)	8418 9284
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2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH	
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ST JOHN'S WARD

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

Rod Barrett (T)	8502 2085
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162 Forest Road IG10 1EG	
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Tony Lee (D)	8508 7649
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33 Priory Road IG10 1AF	
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Brian Moore (T)	8508 7112
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6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX	
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Janet Woods (T)	8508 1764
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1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ	
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**Can you help LRA? Writers, deliverers, committee members all wanted!
Please contact Chris Harper, David Linnell, or any of the above.....**