



Ron Heath

LOUGHTON LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2007

LRA do well in Alderton by-election

LRA Town Councillor Rose Brookes came a close second to the BNP by a mere 26 votes. We look forward to winning this seat next May.

The Alderton ward has not been well looked after in recent years by the BNP. Terry Farr, the BNP District Councillor whose resignation caused the by-election, lives in Waltham Abbey, was not aware of problems in the area and was absent from two-thirds of the meetings he was expected to attend. The BNP's replacement candidate lives in Upshire.

District Councillors look after the everyday matters which affect us locally - District Councillors have no say on policies such as immigration, the European Community and the Iraq War – those are matters for national government.

We are delighted that so many Alderton voters want a local voice on their local concerns.

Could YOU make a difference?

Next May, LRA will be looking for candidates to stand in Loughton wards for the Town Council and the District Council, as some of our existing councillors have said they want to retire – some after more than a decade working for you. To find out what's involved, and how you could make a difference locally, contact Cllr Peter House now (8532 1275)



Tuesday 23rd October Public Meeting: Loughton Buses

You can't drive faster than buses on local congested roads!
Experts from Essex County Council and London Buses will explain how you can save time, stress and parking on some journeys.

Find out more and have your say
7.45 pm Wesley Hall,
behind the Methodist Church, High Road,
Loughton

Find out more about Loughton & LRA at www.loughtonresidents.com
Your Independent Community Association



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Alderton Hall Lane

You may have heard some misinformation from the BNP about this Sure Start Centre in Alderton Hall Lane, which is due to be completed by this time next year. It will provide a whole range of children's services, plus a 44-place nursery.

LRA welcomed a centre in principle. We talked to residents and to the existing schools about what was proposed. The residents, and LRA, were very concerned about the proposed positioning of the centre at a point in Alderton Hall Lane which is already overloaded with traffic and parking.

Chris Pond, our County Councillor, investigated whether other sites were available – they weren't. The centre had to be built on ECC land and it had to be in the Alderton area. He then fought hard to get the new building moved to the foot of the hill, with a separate entrance, so that the traffic would be better spread – that too was turned down by the County Council because it would cost more.

Planning applications are approved or turned down on the basis of planning law and not, unfortunately, on the basis of the degree of local disquiet. Realistically, there were no valid planning reasons for the scheme to be rejected, other than the parking and traffic issues, and LRA put in a strong written objection on these grounds.

Cllr Pond went to the relevant Committee meeting in Chelmsford on May 25, as did a group of residents, - he spoke forcibly about residents' concerns on traffic and parking.

LRA also demanded that, if the scheme was approved, the Council should carry out a proper traffic survey and then act on the results in order to protect local residents. We are pressing the County Highways staff for a meeting to discuss just this, and for consultation with local residents about possible ways to reduce the problems.

Earls Path Action Group

The Earls Path Action Group will be asking for residents' views on restricting traffic in Earls Path, in order to relieve traffic congestion in the area between the High Road and the Forest. For more info contact Trevor Downing at action_group@hotmail.co.uk

Residents' parking

LRA has been pressing the District Council to protect residents' parking across Loughton. In some roads we see excessive and inconsiderate parking, especially by commuters using Loughton and Debden Stations and by some of the workers in nearby commercial premises. LRA has already fought for a parking review of roads off the High Road; we are pressing for results.

LRA Councillors Caroline & Chris Pond realised that life will get much worse for residents living near the Broadway when the District Council brings in parking charges and restrictions there. LRA has successfully demanded a Council parking survey of the area within 500 yards of the station and this has been agreed. It is not yet funded or started, but we are pressing the Council to speed things up.

We are also demanding that residents be consulted during the review. When it is done, we will push for action to be taken on the results, and for protection for residents in nearby roads where non-resident parking might otherwise increase. The aim is to prevent commuters clogging up roads by parking there all day while they travel into London. This is an unfair burden on residents and must be stopped.

There is already unofficial parking on the verges in Borders Lane, where residents have great difficulties in parking. LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has been exploring the possibility of tidying matters up by eventually providing proper parking bays.

Hanging baskets

LRA Cllrs Chris Pond and Stephen Pewsey have been trying to bring some colour into our lives, by arranging hanging baskets for some of the lamp-posts in the High Road (and, we hope, eventually, on The Broadway). Look out for the new High Road baskets this winter. The only thing that's holding things up now is an unseemly lack of will on behalf of the County and the District, where the technicality of who actually owns the lamp-posts is still being questioned.

Stroll with Loughton Life

LRA depends upon a group of volunteers to get copies of Loughton Life through your door. If you could spare an hour once every six weeks or so, at a time that suits you, please ring David Linnell on 020 8508 2932 or email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.org.

Make the most of Loughton Youth Service.

This is run by Essex County Council at 106 Borders Lane, Loughton, next to Murray Hall and opposite the Epping Forest college development site. It is open to 13 – 19 year olds.

It includes a Smoothie Bar, the “Connexions” service, workshops on independent living, Trips, Dance Mats, Food Nights, a Video Project, and healthy living. More information & opening times - 0208 502 8850.

Policing the pubs

Some residents are suffering from badly-behaved people late in the evening when Loughton’s drinking venues close. LRA has been alerting local residents to applications for later drinking hours at venues such as the Royal Oak and the Last Post. LRA councillors and committee members have responded to residents’ concerns. Our thanks to all the residents who took the trouble to respond – with your help we were successful in getting applications rejected.

If you suffer any pub-related problems of offensive behaviour, damage to property or noise, please contact the Licensing Unit, EFDC, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping, Essex CM 16 4BZ. Be specific about what happened and when. If possible identify which pub the miscreants came from (we appreciate that this is not always possible). Please let David Linnell have a copy at david.linnell@loughtonresidents.com.

For emergencies, ring 999 (ask for a crime report number). For noise nuisance ring the Council straight-away on 01992 564 000 (24-hour service).

Graffiti removal

Are you offended or annoyed by graffiti near where you live? The District Council aim to remove non-offensive graffiti from their own property within 7 working days (3 days for offensive graffiti). We are encouraging them to work with other local property-owners (such as the phone companies who own cable boxes, which are such a target for daubers). We want to get graffiti removed quickly (this tends to help stop new graffiti appearing). You can help by reporting graffiti (with an exact location) on www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk or 01992 564 272.

Note that the police do take action on local graffiti “artists” – in the first half of this year, they made 15 arrests for criminal damage/graffiti which has resulted in one charge, five cautions, 5 final warnings, 6 reprimands and one offender still on bail.

Veteran trees

Epping Forest district has a very high proportion of all the veteran trees of England. In Loughton, many veteran trees follow old field boundaries – and these are now frequently at the bottom of people’s gardens.

Let us know if you think you have an ancient tree in your garden: any maiden tree (tall straight trunk) over 10ft in circumference; any pollard (lots of branches springing from the trunk 7 or 8ft above the ground); very old fruit trees; slow-growing and smaller species; unusual trees, such as wild service, and the Staples Road crab that carries a fine crop of mistletoe.

Please send a digital photograph of the tree to us at Loughton_ponds@hotmail.com; otherwise, call David Wixley, Charles Mackenzie, or Chris Pond (see contact panel, page 4). In either case, we’ll make an appointment to look at suitable trees, and will add them to www.favouritetrees.org



The Broadway

The gas grid company told the District Council that the gas main which runs along the centre of The Broadway was well below the surface. However, it was actually very near the surface, which completely destroyed the plans to enhance this shopping street, which were well advanced and fully funded. Work has been postponed while the Council draw up revised plans which will retain the central barrier and two-way traffic.

LRA’s main concern is to ensure that the money allocated to The Broadway is spent in improving the appearance of this vital shopping centre, so that it remains an attractive place for shoppers and traders.

More Recycling

You can now recycle virtually all of your waste. The District Council have done so well that they are now second (to our neighbours, Uttlesford) in the Essex recycling league table. Keep it up, LRA members - because ultimately climate change is in your hands.

EFDC have rather quietly told you that you can now recycle more plastic items in the clear dry recyclables sacks. Cllr Peter House has checked specifically and has been told this includes tubs for margarine, ice cream and yoghurt, all plastic bags, including supermarket type bags, polythene magazine wrappers (if it stretches, it's polythene) and plastic bottle tops. All this, of course, is additional to the usual paper, cardboard and tin cans, and the blue-box bottle/glass collections!

Still forbidden are vacuum-formed and polystyrene fruit/meat trays and their film covering, tetrapaks, cling film, polystyrene packaging, clear rigid plastic and see-through packaging and bubble wrap. Textiles and toys can be given to the Council's approved collector, 'Texbac' who leave sacks and collect four times a year.

Cat owners - Cllr Chris Pond has found out from the Council that you can now put into your white plastic garden wastesacks spent cat litter of all sorts (having removed any droppings first, please!).

Tetrapak drinks boxes (fruit juice, wine, etc - look for the little tetrapak trademark) can now be rinsed out, and put in the special tetrapak container at Sainsbury's, by the recycling bins).

Loughton Hall

Despite valiant efforts by LRA Cllr Peter House, Epping Forest College seem to be determined to sell the Hall for a carehome. In July, the District Council were asked to release the covenant which restricts its use to education, community, and NHS purposes.

Peter secured a delay whilst other outcomes were considered, including an alternative, equally large bid for a music academy, with possible community involvement. Unfortunately, as the College are not accountable to any local body, their decision cannot be countered and so Loughton will lose access to this wonderful asset.

Station Approach

The area in front of Loughton Station is often a disgrace to the town. Since Sainsbury's was built it has not been clear who is responsible for keeping it clean. LRA has been working hard to get regular cleaning, and to get the missing trees replaced.

**Find out more about
Loughton and LRA on
www.loughtonresidents.com**

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51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH	
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59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	
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Can you help LRA? Please contact Chris Harper, David Linnell, or any of the above.....