



Ron Heath

LOUGHTON LIFE

February 2008

Town-wide edition

Parking problems

Do you have trouble parking? In particular, if you live near to the High Road or The Broadway, you probably face severe problems. LRA have been pressing the District Council to carry out full-scale Parking Reviews. However, the Conservatives are now in charge of the Council and have decided to put the Review of the roads near to the High Road on hold, and then possibly to consider a reduced area. LRA wants this Review to be completed in full, and as soon as possible, especially as half the work has already been done. Anything less would only push the problems into the adjacent roads. *(cont'd on page 2)*



Spare pair of hands?

If you can help LRA in April in the run-up to the Town & District Council elections we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Peter House on 8532 1275 or email him at p.house1@ntlworld.com

PUBLIC MEETING & AGM ON MARCH 11TH LICENSING LAWS – FREEDOM OR BURDEN?

Kim Tuckey (District Council) and Simon Fisher (Essex Police) will be talking about licensing and answering your questions at 8pm in the Wesley Hall, Loughton High Road (behind the Church), followed by refreshments and LRA's AGM.

Feeling collars!

What do the Police really do? LRA councillors have recently shadowed tours of duties with police officers from Loughton.

What we saw

Ken Angold-Stephens (Roding Ward's LRA District & Town Councillor) was out on Halloween Night, which he described as a real eye-opener. Peter House (Forest Ward's District Councillor) accompanied a series of arrests. I was out for A Day of Action in November. These were all successful operations with a fair number of arrests. We were all impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism and patience shown by the officers whom we shadowed.

As a retired Police Officer myself, I can assure any doubting Thomases that, contrary to popular opinion, the police officers of today are just as eager to "feel collars" as their counterparts during my period of service (the 60s to 90s). Clearly however they suffer from insufficient manpower to deal with all the tasks expected of them by our local community.

New commanders

Chief Inspector Ivor Harvey now commands the policing team across the whole of our district. We know from our work with Ivor in the past that he is a real hands-on police officer who always leads by example. At Loughton police station, Inspector Simon Werrett has replaced Denise Morrissey. Simon too is no stranger to Loughton as he has been based here as a Detective Sergeant managing the Robbery Team. *(cont'd on page 2)*

Loughton Residents Association - your Independent Community Association

Parking problems



Safety measures

The County Council's Highways dept are carrying out safety markings, mainly double yellow lines at vulnerable junctions, and placing parking restrictions on some roads.

Debden verges

Should Debden give up some of its verges for parking? In some places, such as Ladyfields and Ladyfields Close, residents have taken matters into their own hands (or wheels), resulting in churned up mud instead of grass. After representations from LRA Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens, the District Council's Housing dept have at last reviewed their priorities for carrying out parking improvements on Housing land. They are now actively looking at possible changes to verges, but their budget is tiny compared with the size of the problem.

The Broadway and Debden Station area

Since last year's work around The Broadway, parking for residents and shoppers has been a nightmare, now made even worse by the introduction of parking charges (despite LRA protests). LRA pressure has succeeded in getting the District Council to go ahead with a Review of parking in the roads around Debden Station and The Broadway. To back this up, LRA's Alderton ward team have been talking to residents and gathering their views.

Loughton Festival

This year's Loughton Festival (3rd-11th May) will be offering a programme of talks on local residents (such as George Granville Barker and Jacob Epstein) music, art and children's events. Programmes and tickets will be available in April. Meanwhile, the Festival needs sponsors, more local events run by local organisations, and people willing to help - contact Sue Taylor on 020 8508 2512 or info@loughtonfestival.org.uk.

Also, please contact Sue for details of the writing competition for children under the age of eleven.

Feeling collars! (cont'd)

Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs)

NAPs aim to have around a dozen local people meeting with local Police on a regular basis to highlight problems and to prioritise action by local agencies in addition, or as an alternative, to Police action. During 2007 the Debden and Loughton NAPs have met on an irregular basis; because of poor publicity and consequent limited public attendance, they have had limited success.

Community Consultative Groups

We are also concerned about the lack in the last 2 years of any public meetings of the Police & Community Consultative Group (PCCG) in our part of the District - the Western Divisional Police Commander and the Essex Police Authority come to these meetings, but not to the (now discontinued) Police Community Forums.

What's happening?

I am pressing the police Authority for a PCCG meeting, and Inspector Simon Werret is reviewing the NAP situation.

Police "fast-response" teams

The teams have moved back to Loughton - this means an additional 5 sergeants and 55 constables are now working out of Loughton police station providing 24 hour cover. This is good news for the community in Loughton because, although these officers are required to provide cover for the whole district, they will be seen more in the Loughton area.

Extra parking

The LRA became concerned about the already difficult parking situation at the police station and nearby - there was only a small amount of space available for the fast-response officers. LRA Cllr. Ken Angold-Stephens has negotiated extra parking for the police in a nearby car park, which will have no impact on shopper parking but will be a useful deterrent to anti-social behaviour there in the evenings.

Councillor Roger Pearce

(St John's Town Councillor and Chair of the former Loughton Police Community Forum)

If your figures add up...

.....we'd like to hear from you



LRA's long serving Treasurer, Tony Paddon, is looking to hand over the reins. We are looking for someone with book-keeping experience to work alongside Tony and then take over. For more information, please contact David Linnell on davidlinnell@tiscali.co.uk or 0208 508 2932.

New website address www.loughtonresidents.co.uk - coming soon

Whipps Cross - hopeful?

The London Boroughs tend to forget that Loughton residents use London hospitals. LRA County Councillor Chris Pond has been appointed to a Joint Committee of the 33 London boroughs and adjoining areas, investigating all NHS London proposals for changes. Chris has already spoken out effectively on several cross-border issues, so Loughton's voice is being heard!

NHS London has set up an independent review of the 'Fit for the Future' proposals that the Primary Care Trusts and Hospitals in the Outer NE London sector had put forward earlier. The reviewer, Prof. George Alberti, has backed the general direction of work so far.

There are three General Hospitals in the area. Prof Alberti agreed that Whipps Cross and Queens (Romford) Hospitals should continue to provide the full range of hospital services, and that King George's should be developed as a modern 'local' hospital. He strongly advocated that much more needs to be done to develop services for people in the community, so that only treatment which cannot be done locally would require hospital admission.

Public consultation is on hold until NHS London are satisfied that progress has been made.

Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) - new bid

PAH is applying to become a Foundation Trust. If successful, the hospital will still be part of the NHS and continue to provide the full range of services free at the time of need. The advantages hoped for include the ability to make more decisions locally, to manage capital budgets, and to reinvest the surplus, for example, in better patient care.

Residents of our district, Harlow and neighbouring districts are invited to volunteer to become 'Members' of the Foundation Trust, with the right to receive information, elect representatives and sit on a new Governing Council for the hospital. That Council will hold the Trust's Board to account for every aspect of running of the hospital.

For more details you can visit www.pah.nhs.uk. ring 0800 032 9006 or email ft@pah.nhs.uk.



Would you like to have a real impact on your area? We would like a couple more candidates for the elections in May. To find out more, contact Peter House on p.house1@ntlworld.com or 8532 1275.

Broadway buses

Why should anyone wanting to catch a 20 or 167 bus from The Broadway have to lug their shopping 400 yards to an unlit spot right at the end of Vere Road? LRA county councillor Chris Pond has been working hard behind the scenes to sort out this ridiculous situation.

Epping Forest District Council's improvements to Burton Road left the buses with nowhere to wait. Neither they nor Essex County Council could agree who should provide proper bus stops. Chris Pond managed to arrange a meeting with all concerned. As a result, buses will be allowed to wait on the concrete aprons of the garages in Burton Rd, and in due course the County Council will construct a half bus lay-by, and make Burton Road one way. Then buses can return to their old route and pick up at the Wimpy Bar as before. Which can't come soon enough!

Broadway regeneration

The District Council has started preliminary work on a new scheme covering The Broadway and the area from The Winston Churchill down to Debden station, hopefully with affordable housing and a supermarket. We will be monitoring the proposals.

Playground equipment

LRA Town Councillors have voted to provide the new equipment in the children's playground at the top of Colebrook Lane, including a new climbing wall and climbing frame.

LRA website & emails

We apologise to Members for the recent unavailability of our website and our email addresses. This was caused by Fasthosts, the firm that "hosts" the website. As they have failed to put things right, we are setting up the site under a slightly different name – www.loughtonresidents.co.uk (instead of www.loughtonresidents.com). New email addresses will also be available soon – in the meantime, our phone numbers are given on page 4.

Watch out for our new website - www.loughtonresidents.co.uk

Farmers' Markets

Suzanne Harper would like to find some-one to help organise our team and related matters for the Farmers Market once a month – all it needs is an hour or so on the phone and email. Please contact her on 020 8508 4770 or mail@candsharper.plus.com

Goodbye - and thank you!

We reluctantly say goodbye this spring to two stalwarts of LRA.

Tony Lee joined the Association in the early 1980s, and has served since then with great dedication in a number of roles. He organised the distribution system for Loughton Life and was a 'pioneer' councillor on the new Town Council in 1996. More recently, he served as district councillor for St Mary's ward. His particular interests were planning and the High Road - he served on the Town Centre Partnership from its inception. Tony and his wife Sylvie have now moved to Spain to live near to their son & his family. We wish them a very happy & healthy retirement.

Sheila Shillitto is a former chairman of LRA. She has given of her talents over many years, on and off LRA's Executive Committee. Until recently, Sheila laid out and illustrated Loughton Life, commissioning photographs and drawings for each issue. She created the Loughton 'Soundscape' - a CD guided walk around Loughton, with music, commentary and residents' recorded memories (Traps Hill Library holds copies for loan). Residents in the Roding ward will remember with gratitude her leadership in tackling Thames Water over their failing and neglected sewage system, which led to TW putting major improvements in place. Sheila is moving to Edinburgh where her daughter lives. Scotland's gain is Loughton's loss! (Dorothy Paddon).

Highwood Lane - a result

LRA complained to Epping Forest District Council about the conditions in a couple of the big blocks of flats in Oakwood Hill. We are pleased to report that the Council's Housing Management has responded positively - new security entry systems are going to be installed in several blocks.

LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE JAN 1st

Join LRA or renew your subscription.
 I enclose £4 for 2008.....
 I enclose a donation for LRA's work.....
 Name.....
 Address.....
postcode.....
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For a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope
 Please send to LRA Membership Secretary,
 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT.
 Queries: davidlinnell@tiscali.co.uk or 8508 2932
 All membership information is held by LRA for its own purposes and is not made available to any other body.

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN: vacant	
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	
Naoko Azur	8508 2962
Carol Davies	8508 4234
Ken Faulkner	8508 1215
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Charles MacKenzie	8508 2909
Carol Murray	8508 4892
June Willett	8508 6941
John Woods	8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8508 4729
LRA councillors	
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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
23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG	
Rose Brookes (T)	8502 5981
3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB	
Suzanne Harper (T)	8508 4770
23 Algers Road IG10 4NG	
Peter House (D)	8532 1275
10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP	
RODING WARD	
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T)	8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE	
Margaret Chalk (T)	8508 2226
49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ	
Richard Pennington (T)	8508 0807
51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH	
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2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH	
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