

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

*The newsletter of
Loughton Residents Association
December 2008
Member's edition*



Green spaces fight goes on

When five of the green spaces on the Debden Estate were threatened with being put on a list of sites for possible housing developments, LRA took fast and effective action at an Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Overview & Scrutiny (O & S) Committee meeting. Following LRA's intervention, the Council has changed course. It now intends to develop an overall housing development plan for the District. The criteria and individual site assessments will come later. This is a temporary victory for residents and for LRA, but we are preparing for a long fight.

Village green preservation - How YOU can help!



Since last Spring, LRA Town Councillors have been working with the Loughton Town Council (LTC) to go through the complex processes needed to register six green spaces in Loughton/Debden as "village greens". We have already had some excellent support from residents - can YOU help prove that one or more of these green areas has been used for "informal recreation" for at least the last twenty years? See www.loughtonresidents.co.uk or write to me (address on page 4).

David Linnell

Festive cheer at farmers' market

Get into the Christmas spirit with Loughton Residents Association by joining us between 9am and 1pm at the farmers' market, High Road, Loughton on Sunday December 7th. There will be music and carol singers, with song sheets so that everyone can join in, plus delicious FREE mince pies and warming FREE mulled wine.

This is the last farmers' market before Christmas so it will also be a good opportunity to buy a few last minute Christmas gifts, purchase your Christmas wreath and stock up your freezer ready for the big day. As always LRA Councillors will be at the market to meet local residents and to answer your questions on local matters, and there will be a collection in aid of St Clare's Hospice. This market is always the highlight of the year and we hope that you can join us.

Sharon Cannaby

Olympic victory for Loughton Residents Association

LRA acted quickly when we became aware of a proposal to put traffic lights on the right-turn arm of the slip-road leaving the M11 on Chigwell Lane. Cllr Chris Pond contacted the County Highways Department. And I went along to the EFDC planning meeting to speak against the proposal. LRA Cllrs Rod Barrett and John Markham opposed this aspect of the application, and we are grateful to the other Councillors on the Committee, particularly to Cllr M Cohen, for deciding to postpone a decision while things were sorted out.

The Olympic Delivery Agency (ODA) want to construct a Logistics Centre – a compound to make security checks on HGVs going to the Olympic sites in Stratford - at a site either side of the M11 to the south of the Loughton junction. We had no objection to this idea in itself. But we strongly objected to the proposal to bring up to 20 lorries an hour up the M11 northbound so that they can cross over to the southbound carriageway at junction 5 by crossing Chigwell Lane and go back down to the entrance to the Olympic site. The Chigwell Lane/Langston Road/Oakwood Hill junction is already subject to long queues at peak periods, and this would make matters worse.

In the light of our comments regarding this aspect of the proposal, the ODA has agreed that the M11 Logistics Centre will only process vehicles which are travelling to the Olympic Park site from the north (ie. approaching on the southbound carriageway). This will negate the need for any use of junction 5. The ODA proposes to control the flow and route of vehicles so as to prevent the use of junction 5 by ensuring any vehicles required to approach from the south are booked to another Logistics Centre at Barking, which is already being created.

LRA still has some unease about the effect on the Oakwood estate of the long hours mooted for construction of the compound but the fact that concerns raised about traffic lights at junction 5 have been heeded is very positive. You can view the webcast of the original meeting at: www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local_democracy/Webcasts_Meetings.asp

David Linnell

www.loughtonresidents.co.uk



Brooklyn Parade

Improving Brooklyn Parade

Cllrs Chris Pond, Rod Barrett and Ken Angold-Stephens met the Area Highway Manager, David Forkin, and engineer, Adrian McWhinnie, to discuss plans for the northern end of the High Road. Funds are available, and have to be spent by 31st March 2009, for sorting out the congestion caused by the 5th phase of the Brooklyn/Drive/A121 traffic lights (near Morrisons).

This will involve changes to Brooklyn Parade, including replacing the hypericums and dead trees. Fewer parking spaces would be lost than in the previous proposals for this area, and the consensus was that this loss would be more than compensated for by the improved traffic flow and minimising of congestion.

Cllr Chris Pond

Clear marking action

Keep Clear markings have finally been repainted at the junctions of the High Road with Traps Hill and Old Station Road/Ollards Grove. To report danger areas go to www.essex.gov.uk or call 0845 603 7622.

Broadway vision

At LRA's October public meeting, John Preston of the District Council and Steve Walker of Urban Practitioners talked about the long-term proposals for improving access to Debden Station, replacing the current supermarket and garage, and building more housing (with extra parking for residents). Residents expressed their concerns about the spread of concrete, and the prospect of higher buildings. LRA will be watching future proposals and consulting residents on them.

Cllr Caroline Pond

Success in the playground

LTC has been successful in its Communities Initiatives Fund (CIF) bid for £9,200 for playground equipment for Newmans Lane. The judging panel was impressed with the quality of the application. Encouraged to comment on applications local to our own areas, I pointed out that the playground served a (relatively) deprived area, that LTC had a long-term programme of refurbishing all its playgrounds rather than trying to do it all in one go, apparently demonstrating fiscal prudence, and that we had already funded a considerable element of the refurbishment out of the precept. We listened to local voices by installing traditional swings, and tried to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act by installing an access-friendly pendulum swing too. All of that must have hit the right buttons as we were one of only two bids to get the full amount.

Cllr Stephen Pewsey



Call to action

LRA acts on a number of the perennial problems that affect our local environment. You can help too.

Preserved trees

If you have any concerns about whether any trees have preserved status, particularly if tree-felling is about to start, please get in touch with Chris Neilan at EFDC (01992 564000) and with a LRA District Councillor (see page 4).

Pot-holes and other highway problems

Go to www.essex.gov.uk and click on the Report a Problem link, or write to West Area Office, Warwick House, 1 Roydon Road, Harlow CM19 5DX.

If possible, please send a copy to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk, or to David Linnell by post (address on page 4).

Fly-tipping

If you see anything suspicious, please take relevant details (number-plate, description) and report it immediately to 020 8532 1010.

Street cleaning

EFDC's Environmental Services Dept. has said it will respond to any resident's complaints of street litter problems. Residents can call 01992 564608 to request a crew to clean the street.

Dead trees on public land

Email lcarter@eppingforestdc.gov.uk to ask if it's on the list for replacement.*

Missing road-name signs

Email llinton@eppingforestdc.gov.uk with details.*

*If you don't have email, please write to Epping Forest District Council, Civic Offices, High St, Epping CM16 4BZ.

A waste collection

LRA has been instrumental in positive action in a number of waste-related blackspots, while we have concerns about EFDC plans for the collection of green waste and food waste

High Road pile-up

Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has received assurance from EFDC that the problem of waste build up on Loughton High Road will be investigated and monitored.

Traders in Loughton High Road use private contractors to remove their rubbish and many of the traders do not have rear vehicle access to their properties. As a result they pile their rubbish sacks on the pavement in the evening for collection the following day. This leads to an unsightly mess throughout the High Road during the now quite busy evening trading times. The worst times are at the weekend when rubbish is left out on a Friday afternoon and remains there until Monday morning. During the weekend it often gets broken into by cats or urban foxes or simply kicked around by anti-social people and can be spread across the pavements or even the highway itself.

One resolution may be to enforce a condition that waste can only be put out on the day of collection. If that means the contractor has to come later in the morning or the shopkeeper has to come into work earlier so be it.

Meanwhile Cllr Rod Barrett arranged a site meeting with officers from EFDC's Environmental Health and Waste Management teams and has successfully got the rubbish/litter cleared from both sides of the top end of The Drive ie. land to the rear of Boots and Haarts, and land to the rear of Jennings, the hairdressers and the Italian coffee shop.

In the second area mentioned he has arranged for wheelie-bins to be provided for the flats above the shops. Previously, rubbish from the flats had just been dumped in black plastic bags.

Rod has also persuaded Jennings to obtain a lock-up bin which is now in position and which keeps the rubbish from spilling over onto the land. He visited the Olive Tree Italian restaurant to ask that they keep the back and front of their premises free from litter and found the manager there to most helpful and keen to do so.

EFDC's Waste Management department has agreed to now regularly clear litter from the two alleyways between Clifton Road and the High Road

As well as targetting other problem areas including Brooklyn Avenue and Brooklyn Path, LRA will continue to check that the commitments to keep the above areas clear and clean are met.

Loughton Station Precinct

Following intensive enquiries by Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens, Essex Highways Department has confirmed that EFDC had adopted Station Approach in June 2006 after an apparent lack of co-ordination between the council, Transport for London and Sainsbury's for sorting it out. Since then maintenance has officially been the responsibility of the council. However, the relevant bodies had not been informed of the change in responsibility until Ken's intervention raised the issue. As a result, a Certification of Completion has been issued and there is now no obstacle to EFDC carrying out work on the border alongside the bus stops/playing field in order clean up the area. EFDC should also be managing the shrub beds within the precinct.

Green waste and food waste

Reading between the lines of a recent survey in the Forester, it would seem that the collection of unlimited amounts of green waste is costing council tax payers more than was originally expected. EFDC is considering alternatives, one of which involves weekly wheelie-bin collection for kitchen waste (unwrapped) and garden waste together or food waste could be collected weekly in a closable box about 18" x 9" x 9". LRA concerns are that these extra bins would need regular cleaning, and would add more street clutter. LRA Cllr Rod Barrett has been keeping a close eye on the proposals. LRA believes that: nobody should be forced to have an extra wheelie-bin (flats, terrace cottages etc have nowhere to put them). If extra wheelie-bins for kitchen and/or garden waste are to be supplied they should be given free of charge. To reduce costs, we would very reluctantly agree to extra green waste bags being charged for AFTER an initial delivery of 30 free bags to each household per year. Additionally, the possibility of a combined system (wheelie-bins for those who want them, bags for those who don't, with charges as above) should be investigated.

Bus news

Free bus passes

LRA Cllr Chris Pond's success in bringing the start time for EFDC bus passes forward from 9.30 to 9am has borne further fruit. From Monday October 6, over-60s and other groups entitled to concessionary travel, such as those with disabilities, are able to travel free on buses across Essex from 9am. Previously in some parts of Essex free travel did not start until after 9.30am. Free travel has also been extended from 11pm to midnight. Passes can be used seven days a week, including bank holidays.

Shopper bus services

There are now two bus routes connecting Loughton and Debden with Lakeside. These are the 55L and the 575 (Saturdays only). The timetables for these have recently changed, so if you want to use them, call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 to find out the times and details of where they pick up from.

An epic Epping Forest Christmas quiz

It's Christmas quiz time again, and one for which you'll need to know your forest, or have a large-scale map or forest guide handy). Send your answers to lesandsueharis@aol.co.uk or by post to 32 Upper Park, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EQ by 5th January.

Bottle of fizz or a book token for the winner.

- 1 Weapons to get you up in the morning (4, 4)
- 2 They're still looking for this water (3, 4, 4)
- 3 Beatty or Mitchell found on this slope (6, 4)
- 4 Top of the sands (4, 5)
- 5 Tree for a monarch (5, 3)
- 6 Popular watering-hole for merry men (3, 5, 4)
- 7 London hotel bottles its own (9, 5)
- 8 Middle Eastern gentleman at home here (6, 5)
- 9 Fruit of the forest, but nothing inside (9, 6)
- 10 LRA under canvas (8, 4)
- 11 Do they dance up here on May Day? (4, 4)
- 12 Good golf score if you go in here? (5, 4)
- 13 The rabbit's own forest (6, 4)
- 14 End of the journey for the trains here? (6, 4)
- 15 Playroom for a little boy? (5, 7)
- 16 Head place of worship (3, 6)
- 17 The elected foresters go a-wooing here (9, 5)
- 18 You get cut down to size here (7, 4)
- 19 Not such a bright lot in a nearby town.... (6, 6)
- 20and less than pretty in another (9, 5)
- 21 Could be Friar Tuck's own timber (5, 4, 4)
- 22 An everyday peal (4, 6)
- 23 Rank of the forest's senior policeman? (14)
- 24 Below stairs (7, 7)
- 25 It's clearly the home of the Civil Service (9, 5)
- 26 Sounds as if dark descended on the forest (8, 4)
- 27 Scottish team came down our way (7, 4)
- 28 Sporting Bess was here (5, 10, 7, 5)
- 29 The city fathers (11, 2, 6)
- 30 Blonde liqueur, though not highly-rated (8, 6)



Calling all bookworms

Could you help the LRA by sorting and storing second-hand books for each monthly farmers' market? We continue to receive new books and have a dozen "trays" at any one time – the sale of which helps pay for our display boards. Any that don't sell are donated to Oxfam so you'll be doing your bit for charity too. You would need to have storage space for the books but there is no obligation to attend every market. Contact david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk or 020 8508 2932.



2009 subscriptions

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PAY NOW FOR 2009? Please send £4, with your name, address, phone number and email address (if any) to the Membership Secretary (address above). To check your position, or for a Standing Order form, ring 020 8508 2932 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

LRA who's who

Email: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey			8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH			
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47 Roding Gardens IG10 3NH			
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David Wixley (D)			8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH			
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