

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

The newsletter of Loughton Residents Association

February 2009
Member's edition



Government call for housing sites prompts green space concern

Around 200 suggestions from local residents, landowners and developers have been received by the District Council since it asked people to nominate potential sites for all types of future development, including housing, as part of a Government initiative.

You can see the list at:
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/news/2008/call_for_sites_list.asp

LRA is particularly concerned about the inclusion of Beech Farm (behind Hillcrest Rd), High Road, Loughton and land to North of Clays Lane, Loughton. LRA will be firm and forthright in defending our green spaces.



Be a local Councillor

You can have a say on what goes on locally, on behalf of residents. LRA has councillors on Essex County Council, Epping Forest District Council and Loughton Town Council. To find out more, talk to Chris Pond (020 8508 2361) or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Remember, LRA is Independent – we are focused on looking after Loughton for residents. We believe national political parties are divisive at the local level. If LRA is opposed to an issue or development, we try to offer sensible alternatives, and we strive to turn active proposals into reality.

New Year's Greetings to all LRA members...

....and thank you to all those who put so much effort into LRA and our town. A special thank you to the LRA volunteers who bring this newsletter to your home.

Christmas Farmers' Market

Loughton Residents Association raised £300 for St Clare Hospice at the Christmas Farmers' Market in early December. The sunny weather, mulled wine and mince pies all contributed to high spirits. LRA would like to thank Morrisons for providing the mince pies, Sainsburys for the mulled wine and Foster Plant Hire for the generator.

LRA always has a presence at Farmers Markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) – come along and meet your local councillors and LRA activists.

Michael Benbow

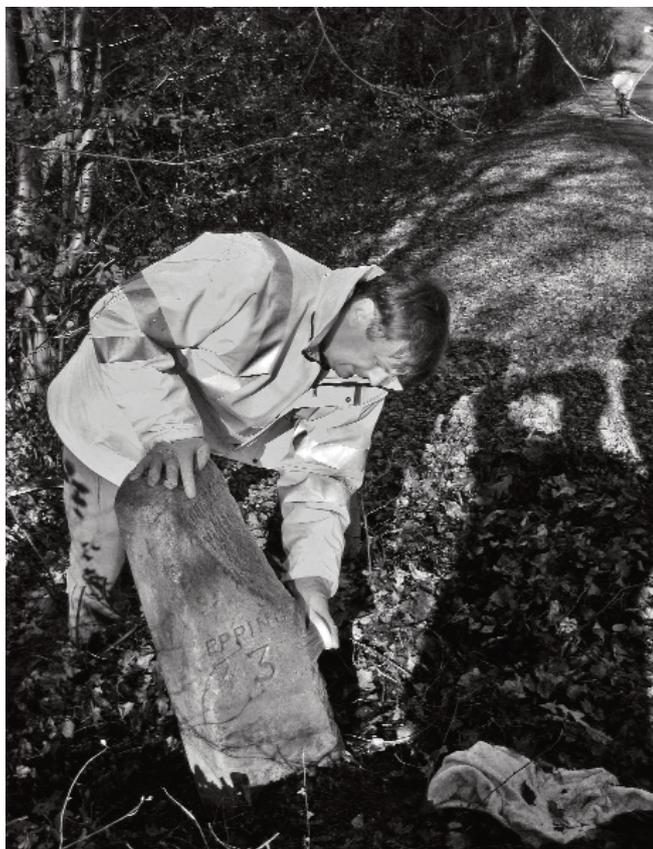
Driving forward transport strategy in the Forest

LRA has made its submission to Essex County Council's Epping Forest Transport Strategy consultation. LRA's chief concern is that the Forest should remain a wild and open environment rather than become a manicured parkland. Therefore we would welcome a reduction of traffic in the interior of the Forest, and the use of gateways and cattle-grids to remind drivers that they are entering a special area. However, we are very concerned that signage, fencing etc may destroy the open aspect of the Forest. Crossing points should be provided, particularly on the A104 Epping New Road and A121 because it needs to be clear that other Forest users have priority over traffic.

LRA voiced its objections to the proposed closure of Fairmead Road because this entry deep into the Forest is much appreciated by disabled/ people with walking difficulties. The car-parks are used by walking groups, such as Epping Forest District Council's "Lifewalks". We would be happy with any arrangement that left access available only to such groups. If the road were to be closed, an equivalent amount of parking would be needed, near to the tea-hut.

There is still time for individual responses as the original deadline of end of January has been extended to 20 February. You can get the questionnaire (and related documents) from 0845 603 7631 or www.essex.gov.uk/efts

www.loughtonresidents.co.uk



Christmas lights in Loughton High Road

In 2007 Loughton had no High Road lights at all. In 2008, the long-suffering Chairman of the High Road Town Centre Partnership (TCP), former Town Cllr Peter Sheen, spent hours trying to sort out the bureaucracy involved, which includes a requirement to have the lamp-posts strength-tested each year.

By the time he succeeded, it was too late to do anything but leave the choice of lights to the contractors. Eventually, the lights went up only two days before the turning-on ceremony. There were then some problems with the lights before Christmas.

We are grateful for Peter's dogged determination, and to the Town Council, who put up £4,000, and offered the same amount to The Broadway TCP. A few of the High Road traders contributed small amounts, and as in previous years the owner of the row of Brooklyn Parade shops funded the lights there. We hope that the usual small band will battle on in 2009 to arrange a better display next time.

Peter House

LRA in landmark clean-up

In December, LRA Town Councillors Caroline Pond, Stephen Pewsey and David Wixley, together with services manager Paul Hoy, joined me to wash and re-paint the town's three milestones and to clean off vegetation. I was pleased to see such a good turnout by our councillors despite the cold. It saves the Town a great deal to do the work ourselves.

These milestones date from the late 18th century. They were erected by the Epping and Ongar Turnpike Trust and measured the distance on the original course of the road from London to Newmarket as far as Epping. The mile between Buckhurst Hill and Spring Grove is 58 yards short as the road was lowered and diverted near Roebuck Green to make the gradients easier for horses.

Cllr Chris Pond

Broadway refurbishment

Essex County Council is closing The Broadway northeast bound (Vere Road to Willingale Road, until 16 March 2009; Torrington Drive to Burton Road, 16 March 2009 to 10 April 2009), and southwest bound (Burton Road to Torrington Drive, 13 April 2009 to 19 June 2009) for refurbishment work to be carried out - at last. The exact dates may vary because of weather conditions. Cllr Chris Pond has been trying to get a sensible system of diversions for bus routes during the work.

Fight for tree preservation on Epping Forest College main campus

Following LRA concerns about plans for trees at Epping Forest College, Chris Neilan, District Council Landscape Officer and Arboriculturist, tells us that there is a plan agreed after much argument to save as many trees as possible in the context of agreed road improvements. Specialist tree consultants were appointed to supervise the implementation of the plan.

Chris has confirmed that he has made a detailed Tree Preservation Order (TPO) survey of all the trees by the road, to give the best chance of saving as many as possible, and that the remaining trees along the road are TPO'd.

Unfortunately, the contractor made the access off the Rectory Lane slip road too wide, and therefore too close to the base of the two remaining pines, which are now unsafe. Given the location and priority of safety of public and students the college has been told that they need to be removed and replaced. The District Council has promised to prioritise getting the largest possible replacement, and LRA will continue to call for this until agreement is reached.

Pothole patrols

Essex County Council has launched “pothole patrols” equipped with the latest digital technology, including digital imaging equipment to deal with problem potholes. To report problems to Essex Highways, go to ehss.essexcc.gov.uk or ring 0845 603 7621

Look after your property

Immobilise (www.immobilise.com) is the world's largest FREE register of possession ownership details You can use Immobilise to register your valued possessions or company assets. All UK police forces use this register to trace owners of lost and stolen property, as do a huge range of recovery agencies and lost property offices including the Transport for London lost property office. As a direct result there are over 250 cases a week where property is returned or information is collected that assists the police in investigating criminal activity involving stolen goods.

Working hard on High Road works

LRA County Councillor Chris Pond has been battling to get County Highways action on a number of problem areas.

Firstly, to renew the pavement on the west side of the High Rd from the Drive to the Methodist Church, one of the worst in the town. The drainage and remedial kerbing works was done in January, but the form of surfacing used means that it will be a further six-eight weeks before that is tackled so as to avoid frosty weather.

Secondly to reset the unstable displaced kerbs throughout The Drive and at the junction with Woodland Rd.

Thirdly, at the junction of Habgood Road and The Drive, to renew the surface where there are two collapsed trenches, and install drop kerbs all round the junction to stop the continual displacement happening again, and to patch the potholes. This was started in December.

Fourthly, to include the Drive in a future year's scheme for renewal of the kerbs/footways.

Smart new approach

Thanks to LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens efforts, the District Council has cleared the rubbish and pruned the shrubs alongside the bus stops on Station Approach . It has also put in an access path, and rat traps by the fence. LRA will monitor this going forward to try to ensure that it does not get overgrown again, and will continue to press for replacement trees.

Travel news

The H1 bus service now only runs into Loughton from the north along the High Road. The return journey from Loughton Station goes up Alderton Hill.

Travel information sources:

Transport for London:

www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews/realtime/tube/default.html or ring 020 7222 1234

Essex:

www.essexcc.gov.uk/microsites/travel/default.htm or ring 08456 000110

National Rail:

www.nationalrail.co.uk or ring 08457 48 49 50

Buses (and other forms of transport):

www.transport.direct.info/ (no phone no. available)

Debden library re-opens in new premises

The current premises on The Broadway have now closed and will re-open on 3 February in a new building next to Epping Forest College on Borders Lane. There will be access to the College's café and toilets. Opening hours will be unchanged and an official opening ceremony is expected late February (date to be announced).



And speaking of 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 all of the markets. Contact david.linnell@loughton-residents.co.uk or 020 8508 2932 for further information.



The epic Epping Forest Christmas quiz answers

There was a good level of entries for this year's quiz! All the fully correct ones went into the hat, and the winners drawn out were John and Penny Draper. Congratulations (and a book token or bottle of fizz) to them, and a very Happy New Year to you all.

- 1 Weapons to get you up in the morning (4, 4) Wake Arms
- 2 They're still looking for this water (3, 4, 4) The Lost Pond
- 3 Beatty or Mitchell found on this slope (6, 4) Warren Hill
- 4 Top of the sands (4, 5) High Beach
- 5 Tree for a monarch (5, 3) Kings (or Royal) Oak
- 6 Watering-hole for merry men (3, 5, 4) The Robin Hood
- 7 London hotel bottles its own (9, 5) Connaught Water
- 8 Middle Eastern gent at home here (6, 5) Arabin House
- 9 Fruit of the forest, but nothing inside (9, 6) Woodberry (or more often Woodbury) Hollow – both were allowed
- 10 LRA under canvas (8, 4) Loughton Camp
- 11 Do they dance up here on May Day? (4, 4) Pole Hill
- 12 Good golf score if you go in here? (5, 4) Eagle Pond
- 13 The rabbit's own forest (6, 4) Warren Wood
- 14 End of the journey for the trains here? (6, 4) Buffer Land
- 15 Playroom for a little boy? (5, 7) Paul's Nursery
- 16 Head place of worship (3, 6) The Temple
- 17 Elected foresters go a-wooing here (9, 5) Verderers' Court
- 18 You get cut down to size here (7, 4) Lopping Hall
- 19 Not such a bright lot in a nearby town (6, 6) Epping Thicks
- 20and less than pretty in another (9, 5) Chingford Plain
- 21 Friar Tuck's own timber? (5, 4, 4) Great Monk Wood
- 22 An everyday peal (4, 6) Bell Common
- 23 Rank of the forest's senior policeman? (14) Superintendent
- 24 Below stairs (7, 7) Butlers Retreat
- 25 Clearly the home of the Civil Service (9, 5) Whitehall Plain
- 26 Dark descended on the forest? (8, 4) Knighton Wood
- 27 Scottish team came down our way (7, 4) Rangers Road
- 28 Sporting Bess was here (5, 10, 7, 5) Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge
- 29 City fathers (11, 2, 6) Corporation of London
- 30 Blonde liqueur, not highly-rated (8, 6) Fairmead Bottom

2009 subscriptions due

LRA depends upon its members so please renew your subscription for 2009 if you have not already done so.

I enclose £4 for 2009.....£4.....
 I enclose a donation for LRA's work.....£.....

Name.....
 Address.....
postcode.....
 Phone.....email.....

For a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Please send to LRA Membership Secretary,
 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT.

To check when you last paid, or for a Standing Order form:
 david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk or 020 8508 2932

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

LRA who's who

Email: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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 59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH
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 47 Roding Gardens IG10 3NH
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 2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH
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