

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

The newsletter of Loughton Residents Association

September 2009
Townwide edition



LRA District Councillors David Wixley Ken Angold-Stephens, and Rose Brookes with Peter Sparks of the Debden Traders Association

Putting the record straight

There has been a lot of misleading information circulated recently about a number of issues in the Debden area. LRA would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight. LRA is non-party political and non-sectarian, and is open to all regardless of race, religion, age, gender or sexual orientation. We quietly get on with trying to get things done for Loughton, and think party politics have no place in local government.

Murray Hall

Murray Hall is owned and run by Loughton Town Council, for the use of ALL in the local community. Current users include two Christian groups, the E15 Acting School, dance classes, a Muslim prayer group, dentistry class, karate club and the English Speaking Union. Neither the Town Council nor the District Council run youth clubs there, as most are run by voluntary organisations these days, although the Town Council would welcome more bookings for these activities.

Broadway refurbishment

The work on The Broadway was agreed by an all-party Cabinet at the District Council, and taken forward by the Conservative administration when it took over. Major problems arose when misinformation from the gas company meant the original design had to be scrapped and replaced. Traders were involved in the focus groups, and nearly all think it is a big improvement.

Green spaces

When the District Council put forward a list of green sites in Loughton as possible building sites, it was LRA councillors who did all the research, collected the petition, and led and won the debate at the District Council that got them taken off. It was LRA that helped provide the Town Council with the names of local people who would support a move to register these areas as village greens, which it is now pursuing actively.

Lucton's Field

It was LRA who kept up pressure on Epping Forest College to install a gate to Lucton's Field to avoid it being used by travellers. We are now pressing for proper fencing either side.

Debden parking

It was LRA that collected the petition over Debden parking and it was LRA that fought, and won, to get the scheme reinstated when Conservatives on the District Council scrapped the plans. We share local residents' frustration that it is taking so long to get to consultation (see page 4), and will keep up the pressure.

LRA action secures benefits for Broadway traders

LRA Councillors have been trying to persuade the District Council Conservatives to give traders on The Broadway a discount on their rent (they have already had a rates discount) following disruption caused by the recent refurbishment, which coincided with the recession. At a recent District Council meeting, LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens led a "call-in" on the Council's decision not to defer rent for the traders. A call-in is a procedure which requires a decision to be reconsidered. LRA arguments were persuasive, and at the time of going to press the Council are now considering a 20 per cent rebate for eight months. While we must emphasise this is not a final decision as not all the sums have been done, we believe that the principle of a rebate has been accepted.

PUBLIC MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 19th

The Future of Loughton's Town Centres
Come and have your say
Main Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, High Rd
(entrance round the back of the church, limited
parking, Traps Hill car-park nearby)

Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start followed by refreshments.

Second wheelie bin

By now you should have had your garden and food waste green-topped bin (unless you live in a flat or have opted out). LRA was wary of this idea, but reluctantly agreed to it because the cost of the old degradable garden waste sacks was vetoed by the District Council's auditors. A few older residents have said the full wheelie bin is too heavy for them to move, and we know they can be weighty, depending on what goes in it. If so, do register with the District Council to have it collected from the house rather than the boundary. Don't forget you can wrap food waste in newspaper before you put the food in the bin, which should cut down on flies, and don't fill your bin so that the lid doesn't close as that will just attract them. Keep your LRA councillors informed of any problems and we will pass them on.

**For more information about LRA or Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**



Debden Day

This year's Debden Day was a huge success, a remarkable achievement considering the economic climate. Many commented that it was the best Debden Day ever. The entertainment, based on an Oliver theme, went on for most of the day and was very professional. There were also stalls, a popular ferris wheel and bouncy castles. Guest of honour was local soldier Sapper Jake Luton who was presented with a certificate for his bravery in Afghanistan where he had cleared seven mines on his own in temperatures of around 40 degrees over a period of 11 hours and potentially saved the lives of several colleagues. Debden Day is a fun community event where politics has no place. It was a pity that one political party tried to use it for campaigning, which nearly marred what was otherwise a great day. Thanks are due to Dave Stannard, Chairman of The Broadway town centre partnership, and his team, mostly local traders, who put in so much effort.

Ken Angold-Stephens

County watch

After considerable pressure from LRA County Councillor Chris Pond, all Debden buses should return to their old routes stopping by the Wimpy Bar in October. The possible axing of school journeys on Route 804 has been raised. Chris is asking for an additional journey on 167 to travel via West Hatch School to replace it if necessary. And thanks in part to Chris' pressure on the Highways department, the panda crossing near Epping Forest College, is now finally working. Chris is also chairing the county scrutiny committee into the proposed midnight switch off of street lighting. He continues to press for parking restrictions in Traps Hill at every opportunity.

Me a councillor? Why not?

Next May several Loughton seats on Epping Forest District Council come up for election. If you have thought about becoming a local councillor and dismissed the idea because too much time and effort is involved please think again. Under current arrangements there are six or so full council meetings a year, and councillors also serve on committees. LRA is keen to hear from you, whichever Loughton ward you live in, and particularly if you live in or near Broadway ward, as this ward desperately needs a sane LRA presence. You would join our experienced councillors - sensible and interested people from all walks of life - who give the equivalent of three to five days a month (mostly evenings) to help represent their locality, plus time following up problems. If you are interested please contact Chris Pond, David Linnell or Chris Harper now (see list on back page for contact details).

Planning matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications for Loughton. Where appropriate, we put in an objection, and/or let local residents know so that they can give their views too. We also look at new legislation and are very concerned about moves to take "minor" changes out of the normal processes, which will mean that local residents, and the Plans Group, will have no chance to see them in advance, and make comments. Recent cases include:

Royal Oak, Forest Road. Concerns were raised by a proposal to apply for a street trading licence for the seafood stall, which could have resulted in disturbance for local residents. In fact, no application has been made, and the stall remains in the garden of the pub, predominately serving customers rather than passing trade.

Cakes & Shakes 246b High Rd. LRA warned nearby residents, and have put in an objection, about an application to the District Council for a late-night refreshment licence until 2am. We also contacted District Council Planning Enforcement, who have let the shop know they need to make a planning application for change of use from retail.

36 Sparelease Hill. We objected to an application for a replacement dwelling because the proposal is out-of-character with its neighbours, but it has been approved.

13 Eleven Acre Rise. We objected to an amended application for a 4-storey, 6-bedroom house because it would be excessively dominant, and out of character with its surroundings. The application was withdrawn, but a revised one has been submitted, which we will monitor.

6 Albion Hill. There were local concerns about this application to use the house as classrooms. We had a discussion with the owner, and are happy that it has been approved, subject to a new legal agreement, within six months, confirming no increase in the number of pupils.

Rear of 31 Church Hill (fronting Carroll Hill). We objected to the proposal for a new house as too large and too tight on the plot. The application was rejected but a new one has been submitted, which we will monitor.
David Linnell

Clearing out old books?

LRA urgently needs a fresh supply of second hand books to sell at its stall at the monthly farmers' market. To arrange collection please contact Sharon Cannaby (see list on back page for details).

What could you do online?

Want to use a computer and the internet but don't know how? Save time, hassle and money by getting online at Loughton or Debden Library. You could then visit LRA's website to keep up with Loughton issues (see below).

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Volunteering time

Loughton Voluntary Care

LVC is sponsored by Churches Together in Loughton with financial support from the District Council. It aims to help local people who have no-one else to turn to with transport, shopping, befriending and the occasional odd job. Last year it was called upon 1,500 times. The main demand is for transport, to take and escort the elderly frail to their appointments at GP surgeries, local clinics and hospitals. Can YOU help? All drivers get a mileage allowance and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. For more information, ring the Duty Officer on 020 8508 6114

Make a difference day

The Town Council is pleased to support this year's Make a Difference Day, the UK's biggest day of volunteering, on Saturday 31 October. Why not join councillors and volunteers at the Willingale Road open space next to the allotment plots to help prepare the site as a nature reserve. Epping Forest Countrycare will be leading the activities and providing tools and equipment so if you have a spare few hours, please contact Paul Hoy at the council by phone or visit www.loughton-tc.gov.uk If you have another idea for a project that might be suitable for a group of volunteers (from 5 – 50 people) to undertake, ring Allie at the Volunteer Centre Epping Forest on 01992 564256 or visit www.csv.org.uk/ for more details of how you can take action this year and make a difference in your community.

Keeping Loughton looking good

Conservation Areas

The Town Council, with considerable LRA input, has decided to put forward some new areas to the District Council for designation; The Broadway, The Uplands/Carroll Hill/Church Lane/ East side of Church Hill, Ollards-Connaught area, The Avenue/Algers/Lower Park, Debden Green Hamlet, and Albion Hill.

Station Approach

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has finally achieved success in getting London Underground to take responsibility for the remaining shrub bed, by the Indian takeaway in the station precinct. Essex Highways has adopted the remainder which will be maintained by the District Council. This was the last piece of the jigsaw and it has taken over two years of painstaking negotiations with LUL, Essex County Council and Sainsbury's to resolve all the outstanding issues.

High Rd litter

LRA, in particular Cllr Rod Barrett, continues to put pressure on the District Council and local traders to keep the High Rd tidy.



Sports news

Outdoor gym for Loughton?

At the beginning of the year the Town Council received an approach from the Sports Development Department of the District Council about installing an outdoor gym on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. This will cost around £20,000 and will be financed by a grant which the District Council could obtain. An outdoor gym consists of exercise equipment similar to that found in a conventional gym but robust enough to cope with outdoor conditions. Outdoor gyms originated in China but there are now a growing number in this country. LRA Councillors Ken and Jill Angold-Stephens, Suzanne Harper, Roy Thomson, David Wixley and independent Councillor Stephen Murray have undertaken fact-finding visits to see those installed at South Park, Ilford and Harold Wood Park, Romford.

The benefits of outdoor gyms is that they are free and accessible, and can be used on a casual basis or as part of a more structured fitness programme either by individuals or sports clubs. There is also an unexpected social benefit in that they provide a meeting point where it is easy for people to strike up conversations with other users. They are suitable for a wide range of age groups and are claimed to divert youngsters from anti-social behaviour. From my investigations vandalism of the equipment seems rare. A possible location has been identified as the mound near the tennis courts. A public consultation event is planned for October at St Michaels Church, Roding Road. The date is not yet known but watch out for publicity or contact Loughton Town Council on 020 8508 4200.



LRA Councillor Caroline Pond at an outdoor gym

Free football coaching

Debden Sports Club, in conjunction with Epping Forest District Council and the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, is running its popular and successful FREE football coaching sessions provided by qualified F.A. Coaches. The sessions are open to both boys and girls aged 11-16 and will start on Wednesdays commencing 4th November 6.30-8pm. at Debden Sports Club, Chigwell Lane, Loughton. For further information contact James Carstairs at the District Council on 01992 564567 or see Stan Goodwin at the club on Wednesday training nights from 4th November. No need to book, just turn up.

David Wixley

Family show at Murray Hall

In partnership with Essex on Tour, the Town Council is delighted to present the high-octane improvised comedy show Professor Bumm's Story Machine by the Black Sheep Theatre Company on Sunday 25 October at 3pm. Suitable for all the family, ages 6+. Tickets £4.50 or £7 family (adult & child) from Loughton Town Council office.

Debden parking review

At last after a long struggle and after much pressure from the LRA the public consultation on the parking proposals for the Debden area near to the station is due to commence in October (at the time of going to press). The roads were surveyed earlier in the year but due to pressure of work the County Highways Department were unable to undertake the consultation process any earlier. The LRA has been constantly putting Highways under pressure to ensure that there is no further slippage. The process is that proposals have to be put to residents for their comments either by individual letters or by notices fixed to the lamp posts and in the local paper. Residents are given a period to respond, usually three weeks, and their views analysed. Provided the majority agree, the proposals go to the County legal department for the necessary traffic orders to be made. The orders then, by law, have to be advertised in the press again, and contractors appointed to do the work. Even being optimistic, this could take nine months. If anyone is willing to deliver an LRA letter to residents in their road then please contact David Linnell (see opposite for contact details).

Ken Angold-Stephens

LINKs comes to Loughton

West Essex Locality Group of Essex & Southend LINKs looks forward to meeting local residents on 13th October from 5pm to 7pm at the Murray Hall, Borders Lane. The guest speaker will be John Mackinnon, Senior Operational Manager for Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing (ECC) West Essex, talking about " Personal Budgets for Social Care". This is your opportunity to hear more and ask questions about this and about local NHS services. Refreshments provided

Monthly farmers' market

LRA organises the farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Rd. Come along and meet your local councillors and LRA activists. Bring any spare books for our second-hand book stall or buy some to take home. The October market will have a charity stall for the Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society while November will feature Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Essex Association for the Blind.

Want to join LRA?

Join NOW and get membership until 31 December 2010. Members get extra newsletters each year and can opt to receive our weekly email local news bulletins. There is no pressure to do more, unless you want to! To join, send your name, address, phone number and email address (if any) plus £5 (no cash by post please) to LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton IG10 3QT.

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

CHAIRMAN: vacant	
VICE CHAIRMAN David Linnell	
20 Eleven Acre Rise	8508 2932
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey	8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	
MINUTES SEC. Sharon Cannaby	8532 0050
47 Roding Gardens IG10 3NH	
TREASURER John Duffield	8281 0676
64 Spring Grove IG10 4QE	
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow	8508 4457
28 Brook Road IG10 1BP	
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard	
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT	8502 0552
INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR Ian Allsop	
134 Valley Hill IG10 3AU	8532 0053
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Jack Benjamin	8508 4765
Chris Harper	8508 4770
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Tony Paddon	8508 2238
Bela Yorke	8508 4729
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Rose Brookes (D&T)	8502 5981
3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB	
FAIRMEAD WARD	
Carol Davies (T)	8508 4234
13 Colebrook Gardens IG10 2HS	
David Wixley (D)	8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH	
FOREST WARD	
Jill Angold-Stephens (T)	8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE	
Suzanne Harper (T)	8508 4770
23 Algernon Road IG10 4NG	
Peter House (T)	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	
David Wixley (T)	8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road IG10 2QH	
ST JOHN'S WARD	
John Markham (D)	8508 1945
77 Queens Road IG10 1RR	
Stephen Pewsey (T)	8508 5582
59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	
Caroline Pond (D&T)	8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	
Chris Pond (T)	8508 2361
7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	
ST MARY'S WARD	
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Issue 241 © LRA 2009

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Promoted by and on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association, of 20 Eleven Acre Rise Loughton IG10 1AN

Printed by Sema Printing Co Ltd. 81 Grove Road, London, E17 9BU

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