

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' edition

*The newsletter of
Loughton Residents Association
December 2011*

Working for Loughton

Clifton Road

Following a complaint from a local resident, LRA Cllrs Lance Leonard and Caroline & Chris Pond investigated the screen to the roof-top car-park 20ft up above the former Co-op store. It contains metal panels, some of which had come loose and blown down. There was also a badly broken window. The area was being used as a skateboard park by groups of young people, who also met there to smoke and drink. After this was reported to the relevant Council Officers the building owners have been contacted and asked to sort out the security of the site. The police have been asked to keep an eye on the area, and LRA will continue to do so to ensure suitable action is taken.

Seats in the bus shelters outside Loughton Station

LRA has been trying to get the seats reinstated after they were vandalised three years ago. LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens' efforts mean replacements are due to be installed this month.

Potholes

LRA Cllr Lucette Howe has helped get County Highways to repair some potholes in Tycehurst Hill. Please keep reporting problems at www.essex.gov.uk or 0845 603 7631, and inform us of any particularly bad cases, especially if they're not fixed after being reported.

Roding Valley lake

Once he was sure that the lake had been refilled adequately, pressure by LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens' has led to the disabled fishing platforms being re-opened.

Longcroft Rise

LRA Cllr Lance Leonard followed up a complaint from a resident about all-night noise from a generator. After some detective work he managed to contact the company responsible and establish that the temporary generator would be quickly replaced.

Taxi rank on Brooklyn Parade?

This suggestion (plus ranks elsewhere in the district) appeared on the agenda of a recent District Council Committee meeting, and caused concern because of the potential loss of five parking spaces for customers. LRA Cllrs David Wixley and Lance Leonard have been assured that, if firm proposals are made, consultation with residents and shopkeepers will take place first.



On Broadway

The Broadway shopping area is looking attractive after the LRA persuaded the Council to replace the plants in the central reservation which had suffered through pedestrians taking short cuts. A dead tree has been replaced, bollards straightened and paving repaired. Winter hanging baskets provided by the Town Council are in place and looking very colourful. Traders as in most high streets are affected by the economic climate, but in difficult times it can help to be enterprising and to look at ways to improve trade. For example, I have had conversations with a number of traders and the Cafe Bengal in the Broadway now opens most lunchtimes, offering special deals. If the council's proposal for a 'Shop Local' website takes off, it would be an advertising opportunity for all local shops but there is no indication yet as to when this will begin.

Cllr Jennie Hart

Could you help make a difference?

We are looking for LRA supporters to stand as candidates in Loughton wards next May for the Town Council and the District Council. To find out what's involved, and how you could make a difference locally, contact Cllr Chris Pond or David Linnell (see back page for contact details). Training is provided, and you would be working as part of a strong and experienced group.

Highways news

Essex County Council has selected Ringway Jacobs Limited as its preferred bidder to form one of the largest integrated highways partnerships in the UK, intended to deliver significant savings while providing an improved level of service for residents. The contract starts on 1 April 2012 and will run for 10 years, with the option to extend for a further period of up to five years. In the meantime, things may well get worse as existing staff leave and are not replaced.

Could you help make a difference? See above

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton; we consult residents and/or support - or object to - individual applications as appropriate. Full details of all current cases are available on LRA's website.

Approved by the District Council

Loughton Golf Centre, Clays Lane: The District Council has approved a change of use of part of the clubhouse to a restaurant for both golfers and non-golfers. The LRA Plans Group had objected because Clay's Lane is a narrow and historic green lane already subject to too much traffic.

Rejected by the District Council

182 Roding Road: An application to replace the existing house and garage with a block of five one-bedroom flats has been turned down. The LRA Plans Group had objected because the block would be an intrusive and over-dominant feature in the street scene, and detrimental to the way the area looks, particularly on the edge of Green Belt land.

16 Grasmere Close: The LRA Plans Group opposed this application for a new building in what is currently garden adjacent to the property, which it felt was too big and did not fit into the street scene in this cul-de-sac. The District Council Planning Committee agreed (against the advice of the planning officers). A new application has now been submitted.

Commuter car park: the LRA Plans Group (and others) recently objected to a planning application to build a 179 space commuter car park on Green Belt land off Abridge Road, Theydon Bois, because of the effect it would have on Loughton's train commuters. Although it was been turned down the applicant has appealed, and there will be a public hearing.

Lawlors Property Services, 165 High Road: An application for three externally illuminated hanging signs and one non-illuminated hoarding sign was rejected because they would detract from the appearance of the building and set a possible precedent for other inappropriate signs to be erected at upper floor level.

In progress

Pyrles Lane: The District Council is considering the possibility of housing on its nursery site between the houses on Hillyfields and Pyrles Lane. It has already received a petition opposing the proposals from nearby residents. The LRA Plans Group will look at any planning application very carefully.



Parking issues

Obstructions on verges

There are many verges in Loughton that have been disfigured by unsuitable or thoughtless parking. Where possible LRA presses for suitable arrangements to meet parking needs and protect verges, but in the current financial conditions it is very hard to get councils to act on these cases. Some residents have taken matters into their own hands, and have placed obstructions on the verges outside their properties. If you require a copy of the guidelines on when such obstructions are permitted email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk (these do not apply to verges on District Council housing land).

Parking in your front garden

The District Council has reminded residents that should they wish to hard-surface their front garden, planning permission may be required. If in doubt, please check first by ringing 01992 564000 or consult the *Guidance on the Permeable Surfacing of Front Gardens* at www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pavingfrontgardens

You also need planning permission to create a new, or extend the width of an existing, dropped kerb to your property if the driveway will go onto a classified road. Essex County Council must separately agree to the crossing, even if you do not need planning permission. Phone 0845 603 7621 for a form.

The LRA Plans Group appreciates the problems residents have in finding space to park in Loughton. We look at each case on its merits, but would not normally oppose a planning application for hard-surfacing as long as it is limited to the minimum amount of paving needed.

Late-night venues

If you see anti-social behaviour, especially in the lead up to Christmas, please report it to the police at the time. If you think the noise unreasonable, complain at the time to the 24-hour District Council online service www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/council_services/environmental_health/noise.asp or phone 01992 564000.

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

Books, books, books

Cryptic Christmas quiz

As a way of keeping those brain cells ticking over during the Christmas period, this year's answers feature well-known books, both classic and modern. Answers to Les and Sue Harris, 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ, or by email to lesandsueharris@aol.com, by January 6th, please. First correct answer out of the hat wins fizz or a book token. Season's greetings!

1. A story of London and Paris (1, 4, 2, 3, 6)
2. Someone we both know (3, 6, 6)
3. Around 15th/16th of 3rd month (11)
4. This bird isn't long lasting (3, 7, 5)
5. Grinning folk (6'1, 6)
6. Precious digit (10)
7. Clue to a painter (3, 2, 5, 4)
8. Conflict and calm (3, 3, 5)
9. Foreign officer's lady (3, 6, 10'1, 5)
10. A prescient epic tale (3, 7, 4)
11. Two syllables that sound like a higher degree (4)
12. A sin and bias (5, 3, 9)
13. Puzzling thing? (6)
14. Twenty seven years ago (4)
15. Weather-exposed residence (5, 5)
16. Blow through the trees (4, 2, 3, 7)
17. Fatality on the river (5, 2, 3, 4)
18. Saintry kitchen utensil (5, 3)
19. Male offspring and liaisons (4, 3, 6)
20. Sounds like a song for a plain girl (4, 4)
21. Planet with a tanner? (3, 4, 3, 8)
22. Grass for a herbal drink? (3, 8, 4)
23. Half a biscuit and a dance (6, 5)
24. 24 hours (3, 3)
25. Unforgiving ocean (3, 5, 3)
26. Small ladies (6, 5)
27. Cross-making fruit (3, 6, 2, 5)
28. Tome from the rain forest?? (3, 6, 4)
29. Male trio go sailing (5, 3, 2, 1, 4)
30. Seasonal song (1, 9, 5)

Disposal of Christmas trees

The District Council will once again collecting real Christmas trees for recycling. Remove the tree from the pot, take off all decorations and tinsel. Shake off any sprayed on or artificial snow. Place your tree by your food and garden bin on collection days in January. Please saw in half trees in excess of 6 feet.



Threat to conkers

You may have noticed how diseased local horse chestnut trees look from mid-summer onwards. The main cause is a tiny moth called *Cameraria* which lays its eggs on the trees, where they hatch into leaf-mining caterpillars. These cause brown spots on leaves in summer, followed by white lines, as the caterpillars tunnel through leaves, eating the soft tissues. By August damaged leaves begin to fall. The trees are so far surviving this attack but sometimes have fewer and smaller conkers. Leaf miner can weaken trees which may then succumb to bleeding canker indicated by blackish liquid oozing from cracks in the bark. Branches may then die, or even whole trees. There is no cure so far for leaf miner or bleeding canker, but gathering and burning fallen leaves is advised. Even so, sadly horse chestnut trees may not be such a feature of the Loughton landscape in future.

Cllr Jennie Hart

Bus service changes

There have been recent instances of new or revised bus services being commercially provided in Loughton with little or no publicity and much confusion. For example, the 19A service from Harlow to Loughton, which started "shadowing" Essex County Council route 541, was altered to a direct Loughton-Epping-Harlow route via A121/B1393 and then seemed to cease altogether.

Some of these services do not appear in timetable booklets, cannot be researched on Traveline, and have little or no roadside publicity. LRA Cllr Chris Pond is following this up through the Town Council.

Following an enquiry from a resident, Chris has also established that the bus operator of the X5 service Harlow - Romford via Loughton has moved its depot and consequently changed the timetable but did not update the timetables at all bus stops. For the new timetable : www.twhbusandcoachservices.co.uk/documents/X5timetable.pdf

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

Get more from LRA!

Every year, LRA volunteers deliver two editions of *Loughton Life* to every household in Loughton. LRA members get extra newsletters, like this one.

Did you know members can receive a weekly email local news bulletin? Just send an email headed "News Bulletins please" to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

If you've asked us to send you the News Bulletins but you're not receiving them, please check your "Junk email" folder, as some programmes divert bulk mailings to this folder. If that's not the problem, please let us know.

Members' support for our work is vital as subscriptions pay costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses.

Member's subscriptions are £5 a year for 2012, and are due in January. There will be a reminder included with the next newsletter.

If you'd like to pay by regular annual Standing Order, please contact the Membership Secretary (details below).

LRA is non-party political and non-sectarian, and is open to all. We are entirely independent of any national, regional or local political party.

LRA who's who

ALL ENQUIRIES: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow 8508 4457
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 8502 0552
INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR Ian Allsop 8532 0053
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey 8508 5582
MINUTES SEC. Imogen Lawrence 8508 9570
TREASURER Miriam Murphy 01992 530221

COMMITTEE

Jack Benjamin 8508 4765
Rebecca Fricker 8508 8369
Leon Girling 8418 0076
Barry Johnston 8508 0843
Kevin Latchford 8502 4568
Tasha Lattimore 07949 826891
David Linnell 8508 2932
Ann Obeney 8502 3604
Bela Yorke 8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS

(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)

Chris Pond 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361

ALDERTON WARD

Rose Brookes (D&T) 3 Lower Park Road 8502 5981
Lance Leonard (D) 25 The Lindens 8502 0771

Want to help?

If you would like to help LRA by becoming a local councillor, getting involved in what we do, or by spending an hour occasionally delivering newsletters near where you live, please contact David Linnell or Chris Pond (phone numbers below or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

Monthly farmers' market

LRA organises the farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Rd. Come and meet your local councillors and LRA helpers. For December's market LRA has arranged carols and mince pies.

As the first Sunday of 2012 falls on New Year's Day, there will be no market in January.

LRA has two stands at all markets available free for charities and other voluntary organisations operating locally. Spaces are available for February and May onwards (contact david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

Could you put up an A4 laminated poster to let people know about the Farmers Markets, please? They can go on a fence or tree, or we can supply a post. Contact 020 8508 2932 or david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk

BROADWAY WARD

Jennie Hart (D) 74 Queens Road 8508 3661
Katie Nicholson (T) 07904 069998

FAIRMEAD WARD

Tessa Cochrane (D) 16 Shaftesbury 8508 4148
Carol Davies (T) 13 Colebrook Gardens 8508 4234
David Wixley (D) 2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Rd 8418 9284

FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Road 8281 0674
Colin Finn (D) 16 Church Close 8508 5577
Suzanne Harper (T) 23 Algers Road 8508 4770
Peter House (T) 52 Baldwins Hill 8532 1275

RODING WARD

Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) 89 Lower Park Road 8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road 8508 2226
David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Rd 8418 9284

ST JOHN'S WARD

John Markham (D) 77 Queens Road 8508 1945
Stephen Pewsey (T) 59 Wroths Path 8508 5582
Caroline Pond (D&T) 7 Staples Road 8508 2361
Chris Pond (T) 7 Staples Road 8508 2361

ST MARY'S WARD

Richard Cohen (D) 61 Traps Hill 8502 3242
Chris Harper (T) 23 Algers Road 8508 4770
Lucette Howe (T) 19 Sparelease Hill 8508 3719
Tracey Thomas (T) 110 Grosvenor Drive 07508 193187

Issue 253

© LRA 2011 Newsletter compilers: Ian Allsop, David Linnell,

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

**LRA's Farmers' Markets, High Rd,
first Sunday each month**

**(Note: no market
in January)**