

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Edition

*Loughton Residents Association newsletter
for all residents in IG10
March 2013*



LRA planning locally

The District Council is formulating its Local Plan, which will shape development in the district over the next 20 years, working within the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. The Plan has to be judged 'sound' by an independent inspector, with solid evidence for the number of homes to be built and businesses to be developed, within the constraints of the local environment, which includes everything from water resources to transport and wildlife habitat. Central to this is public involvement and support for the proposals, as well as public improvement.

Various population projections have been made, implying the district needs between 6,400 and 11,200 new homes. These are critical to the amount of building land that has to be found, and LRA isn't satisfied that they are sufficiently up to date so will be pressing for further work. Results of the Issues and Options document have now been analysed. Next, the Council Planning team will develop preferred options, which will go out to public consultation in the late autumn.

In Loughton, development is limited by the Forest and the Roding flood plain. We need to be vigilant because our green spaces, notably in Debden, could come under threat - as they were a few years ago (and LRA stopped it). At the moment, urban open space is being excluded; LRA will try to ensure it remains so. Developments well beyond Loughton would affect us all. In particular, the Central Line could become even more seriously overloaded.

The aim is to put the final Plan to the inspector early in 2014. Once agreed it will be very hard to change so it is in YOUR interest to keep tabs on the next stages and to make your views known - LRA Cllrs will be heavily involved.

TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2013 PUBLIC MEETING & LRA AGM

Steve Wagstaff will talk about
North Weald Airfield in War and Peace

Doors open 7.45pm for 8pm start at Loughton Cricket Clubhouse. Entrance is in The Uplands (off Church Hill), where the road bends sharply. Parking onsite and nearby. Talk to be followed by refreshments and LRA's AGM.

County Elections 2 May 2013

LRA will soon be selecting candidates and may give electors in more parts of Loughton the choice of being represented by a truly INDEPENDENT local resident, whose first loyalty is to you, not a party whip. If you would like to help with deliveries or calling on residents please contact Michael Benbow (see back page for more contact details).

Loughton Festival

The 2013 Festival starts in March and needs lots of volunteers. The festival covers a wide range of areas including arts, family and community events, gardening, lectures, literary talks, walks, and music and performance. To help, or to find out more, go to www.loughtonfestival.org.uk or phone 020 8508 2512.

**All newsletters and regular email updates
£5 for 2013**

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. Details of some current cases are on LRA's website.

199 High Rd/2 Station Road (formerly Brown's Garage)

Nando's has applied for late night refreshment and alcohol licences for the left-hand unit. This already has planning permission for use as a restaurant and for a new shop-front, with tables and chairs outside. Following representations by the LRA Plans Group and others, Nando's agreed to close the external seating area at 11pm each night (rather than midnight) to avoid disturbance to nearby residents, and to keep the outside area clean (particularly at closing time). Nearby residents remain concerned about noise and parking.

Topps Tiles has applied for planning permission to have a shop in the right-hand unit. Brown's is still carrying out servicing and repair work at its workshop on the Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate.

Looking at local planning applications

Paper copies used to be available at the District Council desk in Loughton Library, but the service was quietly dropped. You can see them online at the library, and at the Loughton Town Council Offices 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane – near the junction with Church Hill/Goldings Hill (please email or ring 020 8508 4200 during office hours beforehand). The Town Council regrets that it cannot provide photocopies of plans although you can get them at the District Council's Civic Offices in Epping.

No change to Council Tax

For the fourth year the LRA-led Town Council has unanimously voted not to increase the council tax paid on a Band D property, although unlike the District and County Councils the Town Council receives no Government compensation for doing this. It has been able to achieve this while maintaining all the services currently provided for the town and taking forward all plans for the current year. It is very much aware that many Loughton families are struggling financially in the current economic climate and wanted to help with this. The Town Council continues to hold a prudent level of reserves to enable it to meet its commitments at any time, in line with a reserves policy adopted some years ago. *Cllr Jill Angold-Stephens*

Note: We expect the new Conservative Police Commissioner to increase his part of the Council Tax by 3.5%.

Councillor action

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has persuaded NCP to clean up the rubbish in the Sainsbury's car park, particularly adjacent to Great Eastern Path, which was looking a real mess.

He has persuaded the police to issue advice to all their officers in Essex that parking across a dropped kerb is an offence after an incident where police told a resident they had no powers if a car was not already on a drive.

Ken has persuaded Highways to place bollards across the paved area in front of the shops at the South View Road/Oakwood Hill junction to stop drivers cutting the corner by dangerously driving across the forecourts to dodge the traffic lights. Highways has also agreed to re-paint the double yellow lines on this corner which are largely obliterated although it is not known how soon that will happen.

Finally, Ken also helped a resident get her telephone restored after the gas board stopped BT getting access to the street cabinet to carry out a repair.

Catchments

When Great Woodcote Park (GWP – off the High Road towards Buckhurst Hill) was planned as a residential area, despite LRA and Town Council objections, it was put into the Priority Admission Area (Catchment) of the White Bridge Infant and Junior Schools in Greensted Road, about a two-mile walk or drive. When the County Council recently proposed to transfer GWP into the Staples Road School catchment area, LRA Cllr Sharon Weston delivered a letter to all the properties, adding the alternative of including GWP in the St John's (Buckhurst Hill) catchment. Sharon is collating the responses, and helping individual families.

Rubbish in the garden

LRA Cllr Tracey Thomas recently stepped in to contact the District Council housing department on behalf of a council tenant whose neighbour had piled up rubbish in the garden, creating a hazard for her dog. She has been promised that it will be cleared.

Town meeting

Hear the Essex Chief Constable talk about local policing and quiz your Town Cllrs at the Annual Town Meeting in the Murray Hall on Wednesday 20 March. Find out about the council's activities over the last year and its forthcoming plans. 7.30 for 8pm. Displays by local organisations. 020 8508 4200. www.loughton-tc.gov.uk

**Could you help further improve Loughton?
Contact us**

Parking problems

LRA Cllrs are discussing a number of parking schemes with the District Council and the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). The list of schemes has been put forward by NEPP itself, and is affected by where section 106 money (provided by developers on nearby building schemes) is available, and also the NEPP's "scoring" system. When a scheme is approved, it can still take a couple of years before yellow lines appear. LRA is also pressing for the long-delayed Broadway area parking scheme to go ahead as soon as possible.

When a scheme is announced for a particular road(s), LRA will let the residents know about it, as straightforwardly as possible, and get their views. The first one is likely to be York Hill and Pump Hill and streets off these, which should be consulted on this spring.

Schemes involving no parking between particular times (such as 2-3pm, Monday-Friday) can only be used where residents have off-road parking; otherwise Residents Parking Zones (RPZ) will be proposed. Residents have to pay for permits and can buy visitor permits, and part of the charges goes towards the cost of employing Civil Enforcement Officers to police the zones.

The NEPP has also taken over responsibility for on and off-street parking services in the Epping Forest District, dealing with all parking permits, season tickets, Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) and other applications. Civil Enforcement Officers will be on duty longer hours.

To report obstructions (drives or pavements blocked etc) call 01206 282316. For payments for Penalty Charge Notices use the automated telephone line on 01206 507 275 or pay at www.parkingpartnership.org. For further enquiries and applications see the website, call the enquiry line on 01206 282316 or 0845 045 1599, email parking@colchester.gov.uk, or write to Parking Partnership, PO Box 5575, Town Hall, Colchester CO1 1XQ.

Shedding light on the problem

A new system (CMS) will enable the County Council to control streetlights. The Conservative administration at Chelmsford has decided to switch off many lights at midnight. However, just because a streetlight is changed over to CMS it doesn't necessarily mean it will be switched off. In accordance with a process and criteria suggested some years ago by a County Council Committee (chaired by LRA Cllr Chris Pond), Loughton Town Council will be consulted about which lights should be turned off. LRA will keep its members informed of progress.



Rose garden

The rose garden in Roding Road is now sadly rather neglected. The LRA, together with St. Michaels Church (the landowner), has had a new plan and design drawn up by a landscape architect. It will require grant funding, which requires LRA to show that the public are fully supportive of the project, and we have been organising a petition. *Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens*

Highways action

Potholes in High Road between Loughton/Buckhurst Hill
Over Christmas an LRA member damaged the wheels of his car on a deep pothole near Warren Hill. LRA County Cllr Chris Pond took this up immediately with County Highways, supported by County Cllr Valerie Metcalfe. A few potholes remain on the southbound carriageway and further up the hill, but the worst holes, on the north-bound carriageway, have now been filled in. Residents in Great Woodcote Park are very pleased. However, it has suggested that it may be worth considering putting much of this part of the A121 forward for resurfacing, as the filling looks distinctly temporary.

The Drive

45 years on the Drive is now due for resurfacing, something that LRA County Cllr Chris Pond has been pressing for since 2006. The bottom section, from the High Road to the health centre, was done around 4 years ago, but it is understood the last time the rest of the road was resurfaced was in 1967.

Harwater estate

Chris Pond has also been following up the lack of reinstatement of the double-yellow lines after resurfacing. He is also chasing up the proposal for a yellow line on one side of the link between Goldings Hill and Sedley Rise/Millsmead).

Visit www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
for more information

More news about Loughton!

Join LRA now for £5 per household until the end of 2013! You will get extra newsletters and can receive our weekly email local news bulletin. Members' support is vital as subscriptions pay costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses. Subscriptions for existing members are due in January. To check if you've paid, or to pay direct from a bank account/standing order, ring 020 8508 2932 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

I enclose £5 till end-2013 £5
I enclose a donation for LRA's work £
Name
Address
Post code IG10
Phone.....
Email (if any)

I would like LRA's weekly email local news bulletin Y/N

Please complete and send to LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT. Membership information is held by LRA for its own purposes and is not made available to any other body.

Contacting the LRA

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ALDERTON WARD
Philip Abraham (T) 1 Lancaster Drive 8502 2925
Lance Leonard (D) 25 The Lindens 8502 0771
Tracey Thomas (D&T) 110 Grosvenor Drive 07508 193187

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 local councillors and LRA helpers. LRA has two stands at all markets available free for charities and voluntary organisations operating locally.

Spaces are available from April onwards (email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

Making a difference

Members can help LRA by standing as councillors for the Town or District Councils – although there are no Town or District Council elections locally this year, now's a good time to find out what's involved, and how you could make a difference, please contact Cllr Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Training is provided and you would be working as part of a strong and experienced group. Alternatively you could consider joining the Executive Committee, which gets involved in the local issues we take up – members are welcome to come along to see how this works, without commitment – just contact Chris.

BROADWAY WARD
Leon Girling (D&T) 95 Willingale Rd 8418 0076
Jennie Hart (D) 74 Queens Rd 8508 3661
John Mahoney (T) 299B High Rd 8508 9348
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**Farmers' Market -
first Sunday of each month**