

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

Loughton Residents Association newsletter
December 2013



Sir Winston Churchill Public House, Debden

Churchill's latest fight

The LRA Plans Group has strongly objected to an application by a developer and the District Council to demolish the Sir Winston Churchill pub and nearby garages on the corner of The Broadway and Rectory Lane. It is proposed they be replaced with a mixed use development, including shops, a restaurant and a pub or bar on the ground floor and 64 residential units above, plus 64 car parking spaces and a service yard.

Even allowing for this being a gateway feature, this seven-storey proposal is grossly out of scale with anything else in the town. The road layout onto Rectory Lane is wholly unacceptable. It is hard to see the need for extra retail space here now. LRA is also concerned that there may not be a suitable replacement for the current pub, and there's no affordable housing component.

Only 64 parking spaces is under half the normal requirement for this number of flats (141 spaces), and there should be 66 spaces for the shops. The Central Line is already operating at or above capacity, and so does not provide a suitable public transport alternative.

The LRA Plans Group circulated a letter to residents about the development and we are very grateful to those who helped with deliveries, and to the residents who responded with comments. For a copy of the objections please email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk. The proposal is set to go to the District Council Development Control Committee on December 11 at 7.30pm in Epping. Members of the public can watch the meeting at the Council offices, or live online on the Council website.



Proposed development

Highways (in)action

The County Council provides local Highways panels with a budget for new schemes, but has been very slow to carry out what has been agreed within the Epping Forest district. It now proposes to re-allocate the funds to other jobs in Chelmsford, Colchester, Basildon and Harlow. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has made a strong objection to this.

Bridge on Roding Lane, Buckhurst Hill

Local County Cllrs Chris Pond (with the County Cllrs for the adjoining areas) has made strong protests to County Highways about the delays. Highways has fully accepted that the team have not communicated with stakeholders well on this and other projects and have apologised for not informing Cllrs and residents of the delays to this programme of works in a more proactive manner.

Junction of Roding Road and Oakwood Hill

After reports of drivers circumventing the traffic lights at the junction by driving across the forecourt between South View Road and Roding Road LRA Cllrs David Wixley and Ken Angold-Stephens have been working with local Cllrs Stephen Murray and Valerie Metcalfe to get bollards installed, to which County Highways have agreed.

Alderton Hill drain

Six months after a new blockage was reported outside Roding Valley High School County Highways have said that this is now on its job list and have recognised that the problem is the where the pipe empties into the brook. Last time the drain was blocked it took LRA over 2 years to get to this point!

New M11 junction?

Essex County Council are planning to create a junction 7a from the M11 north of Harlow to ease daily congestion. We will let you know when we have more details.

Visit www.LoughtonResidents.co.uk
for more information

Lights out latest (mid-Nov)

The County Council has failed to give the Town Council a map of which areas would be affected by the proposed switch off of street lighting. Astonishingly, after questioning by LRA Cllr Chris Pond the County Council Cabinet member responsible is reported as saying that they “are now compiling the maps”, which suggests that it is being poorly managed at County Hall, as these should have been available weeks ago. Chris will be sitting on a special panel at Chelmsford to look into the process.

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group (LPG) 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.

Sainsbury’s, Debden: LRA has had confirmation that when the empty shops are removed and a larger car-park created, Sainsbury’s will put enforcement measures in place to stop commuters parking there.

Loughton Baptist Church: The church in the High Road has planning permission for an extension, and is trying to get permission to build a new manse at the rear of the church. The local paper has reported that work was carried out to exhume 25 bodies from graves to make way for the extension.

Royal Oak: The District Council have approved a retrospective application by the pub in Forest Road for the driveway gates to their private car park. It says that the gate is open during the day, although kept shut, and is only fixed closed at night.

Mezosphere: Despite many letters of objection from residents, the new Turkish restaurant at 112-120 High Road has obtained permission to sell alcohol until midnight, from Monday until Saturday. The owner has said that the restaurant will not sell alcohol to anybody who is not eating there, and that it will be a family-friendly environment.

Rear of Diggins Court, High Road: The District Council has (unusually) refused to renew earlier planning permission for this three-story block of flats development because the applicant has failed to provide a legal agreement to contribute to town centre enhancements in the vicinity.

Loughton Foodbank needs your support

Loughton Foodbank is now in receipt of over a ton of donations from the generous people of Loughton and Epping Forest since being opened in June 2013. However, it is looking for further help and your support can help stop local people going hungry. Loughton Foodbank is open on Wednesdays between 10:45 - 11:45 at St Mary’s Church on the High Road and on Saturdays between 14:00 - 16:00 at the Restore Community Centre on The Broadway. For enquiries please contact 07402 032 313 or email info@loughton.foodbank.org.uk or visit www.loughton.foodbank.org.uk.

Emilie Buckner

We were all saddened to hear of the death in a road accident in Oakwood Hill of Emilie Buckner, of Alderton Hall Lane, while taking her dog for a morning walk. She was hit by a van, and unfortunately died soon afterwards. Emilie was well known in Loughton, through such activities as the U3A and the Historical Society, of which she had been membership secretary and treasurer. She was a Loughton Life deliverer for LRA in Alderton Ward and we and the ward team will miss her very much.

Traps Hill finger-post

Some idiots keep turning the arms but LRA understands that if the fingers are fixed more firmly to the column there is a strong possibility that if (when) a vehicle hits them again the fingers will actually break off. The Town Council is trying to get the post moved away from the junction, but that will take time. In the meantime, it will schedule a weekly visit to reset the arms on this and the Forest Road sign. LRA has helped reach a sensible short-term solution and hopefully we can reach a long-term one too.

Epping Forest College

Five years ago Epping Forest College, which has around 4,000 students, was on the verge of financial meltdown and judged inadequate by Ofsted. Jeannie Wright was among a group of experts called in to devise a rescue plan and she was only expected to spend three months at the college. Now she is finally leaving after five years, having turned the college’s fortunes around, with Ofsted praising its leadership and progress made.

Make your £5 count

Members’ support is vital to LRA. Subscriptions pay costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses. Subscriptions for 2014 are due in January. It would be a great help if you could pay now. Please send with the following details to LRA Membership Sec, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT (no cash by post).

I enclose £5 annual subscription £5
I enclose a donation for LRA’s work £
Name
Address
Post code IG10 Phone
Email (if any)

Membership information is held by LRA for its own purposes and is not made available to any other body. To check if you’ve paid for 2013 or to pay by standing order call 020 8508 2932 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

**For more about planning
Visit www.LoughtonResidents.co.uk**

Councillor action

High Road – tree outside the Halifax

In 2011 LRA reported to the District Council that this tree was dying, and needed to be replaced. LRA Cllrs Caroline Pond and Chris Harper pursued this many times with the District and County Councils, as the tree is on land that (should) belong to County Highways and so the District Council should replace it. LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens was able to establish that it sits in no-man's land, and not in the ownership of anyone, because of an administrative error many years ago.

LRA is delighted to report that it looks as if the District Council will finally replace the tree, as this will be cheaper than sorting out the ownership - and then still having to replace it. Hopefully a victory for LRA persistence and for common-sense at the Council (for which LRA is grateful), but LRA will keep up the pressure till the new tree appears.

Broadway flats

LRA Cllr Jennie Hart approached District Council Housing about its plans to remove the mullioned windows in the Broadway flats and replace them with a single sheet of glass. As a result, Housing has found a contractor to try to take out the old broken individual 'mullions' and insert new glass blocks.

Tree problem solved

A resident who is a District Council tenant contacted LRA Cllr Tracey Thomas because the Council was refusing to remove a tree which he felt had become dangerous (it had dealt with similar problems in the past). Following Tracey's intervention, the Council has inspected the tree and promised to take action.

Fly-tipping

LRA Cllr David Wixley was recently contacted by a resident about fly-tipping in Pyrles Lane. David contacted the District Council to get it cleared up. If you see any fly-tipping, please report it on 01992 564608 – it helps if you can supply a vehicle registration and details, but please avoid any confrontations.

Festive quiz - TV and radio

It just wouldn't be Christmas without you and your families putting on your festive thinking caps and grappling with the LRA Christmas Quiz. This year it's about television and radio programmes, past and present. Answers please by 5th January to 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ, or by email to lesandsueharris@aol.com. Book token or fizz to the first correct answer out of the hat.

- 1) Final seasonal drink (4, 2, 3, 6, 4)
- 2) Saturday wedding? (5, 2, 3, 3)
- 3) The best dad (3, 2, 3, 4)
- 4) Rural rasp (11)
- 5) Under starter's orders (5, 6, 2)
- 6) Dark china (3, 5)
- 7) A wide, religious building (11)
- 8) Is that the correct cost? (3, 5, 2, 5)

- 9) Best dress? (3, 4)
- 10) Eggheads loyalty (3, 6, 5)
- 11) A burial measure (3, 4, 2, 3, 5)
- 12) Looking N, S, E and W (6, 2, 4)
- 13) Not a bunch of amateurs (3, 13)
- 14) Captured (3, 8)
- 15) A fine existence (3, 4, 4)
- 16) Conquer the cook (10)
- 17) Cabbage whites (11)
- 18) In one's road (4, 4, 3)
- 19) Dark blue bird (3, 4, 4)
- 20) A thousand sit here? (10)
- 21) Virtuous study (1, 4, 4)
- 22) Trevor's street? (7, 3)
- 23) Never closed (4, 3, 5)
- 24) Bowmen (3, 7)
- 25) Encircle an instrument (5, 3, 4)
- 26) Leisure for staff (7, 8)
- 27) A wide vista (8)
- 28) A jumping timepiece (11)
- 29) They have influence (3, 10)
- 30) Crowning way (10, 6)



Memorial garden

Memorial garden

After many years of dogged fundraising, local ward Cllr. Ken Angold-Stephens obtained over £26,000 of grant funding to renovate the almost derelict rose garden in Roding Road - now re-named Loughton Memorial Garden.

It has been designed by Cllr. Jennie Hart, a professional garden designer, who generously gave her time freely to the project. It will be wildlife friendly with sensory features and disabled access.

LRA is proud of what has been achieved and a formal opening is planned in the Spring once the plants have become more established.

A recent attempt to steal one of the new benches was thwarted by a vigilant local resident and a member of the District Council staff – our thanks to them both. Those involved are urgently looking for better ways of securing the benches.

Please be vigilant and report any incidents (999 for emergencies; 101 otherwise).

Two markets in December see
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 titled "News Bulletins please" to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Making a difference

Members can help LRA by standing as councillors for the Town or District Councils. 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.

Eating out locally?

Look out for the green and black food hygiene rating stickers displayed on windows and doors. "0" means urgent improvement needed; "5" means very good. If you can't see a sticker, then ask staff or check online at www.food.gov.uk/ratings

Contacting the LRA

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. Gerry Meredith	8508 8654
TREASURER Miriam Murphy	01992 530221

COMMITTEE

Jack Benjamin	8508 4765	Peter House	8532 1275
Eva Blasco	8923 0065	Barry Johnston	8508 0843
Rose Brookes	8502 5981	Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Steve Eaton	8923 0065	David Linnell	8508 2932
Rebecca Fricker	8508 8369	George Meltser	8502 3006
Chris Harper	8508 4770	Bela Yorke	8508 4729
Suzanne Harper	8508 4770		

LRA COUNCILLORS

(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)

Chris Pond 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361

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

Extra farmers' market for Christmas

As well as the LRA organised farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Road, there will be an extra Christmas market on December 15th, but without the usual LRA stall.

At the time of going to press we do not know whether or not there will be a market on January 5th but we will include the information in local news email bulletins for those members who have opted for these.

You can come and meet LRA Cllrs and representatives at the 2014 markets, where LRA has two stands available free for charities and other local voluntary organisations. To find out about spaces contact contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Telephone scam warning

If you know any-one who might be caught out by this heartless scam, please warn them. Thieves call claiming your bank account has been infiltrated by fraudsters, and asking their victims to draw out large amounts of cash to help an investigation or for safe-keeping.

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

FAIRMEAD WARD

Tessa Cochrane (D) 16 Shaftesbury 8508 4148

Carol Davies (T) 13 Colebrook Gardens 8508 4234

Judy Jennings (T) 94 York Hill 8508 1861

David Wixley (D) 2 Copper Beech Ct, Goldings Rd 8418 9284

FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Rd 8281 0674

Trevor Downing (T) 207 Smarts Lane 8508 8877

Sharon Weston (T) 58 York Hill 8502 0713

RODING WARD

Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) 89 Lower Park Rd 8281 0674

Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Rd 8508 2226

David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Ct, Goldings Rd 8418 9284

ST JOHN'S WARD

John Markham (D) 77 Queens Rd 8508 1945

Stephen Pewsey (T) 59 Wroths Path 8508 5582

Caroline Pond (D&T) 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361

Chris Pond (T) 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361

ST MARY'S WARD

Philip Beales (T) 65 Harwater Drive 8418 0459

Richard Cohen (D) 61 Traps Hill 8502 3242

Imogen Lawrence (T) 3 Staples Rd 8508 9570

Harvey Mann (D&T) 20 The Heights 07584 125 211

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

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Become a Councillor –
contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk