

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

February 2015

## Keeping Loughton flowing

We hope that a faulty drain on Alderton Hill, which LRA has been pressing for action on for 15 years, has finally been properly fixed. County Highways carried out repairs just before Christmas to the drain alongside Roding Valley High School. The problem is not the drain itself, but the way in which its outflow into the brook regularly gets blocked, meaning passers-by get drenched. The contractors explained that a tree root had blocked the drain on the school side near Loughton Brook so a new pipe has been routed past the obstruction. LRA would welcome reports, especially after heavy rain, as to whether they have solved the problem this time.

## Please support LRA

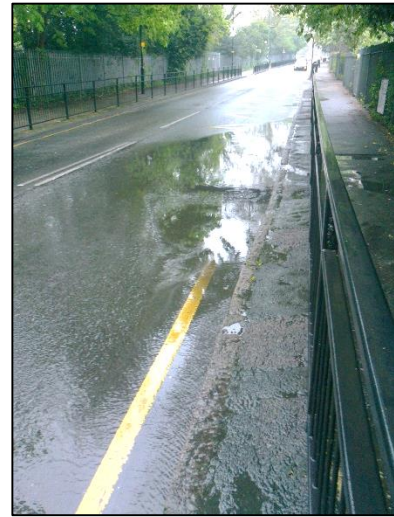
We are very grateful for our members' support. Your copy of Loughton Life should enclose a letter asking you to renew your membership (only £5 a year) or confirming that you've already paid for 2015. LRA is run by volunteers and we keep our costs to the minimum. We depend upon our volunteers and your membership to produce these newsletters and run our campaigns. You can help us greatly by renewing now.

To check if you've paid, or to pay by standing order or bank transfer, email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) or call 020 8508 2932. Membership information is held by LRA for its own purposes & not made available to any other body.

## What's happening?

As well as these printed newsletters, we send out regular email bulletins to members about what's happening in Loughton, and about local events. If you don't already get these and would like to try them, just email us at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk). If any of your friends and neighbours would be interested in trying our email bulletins, just email us.

*We are very sorry to have to report the deaths of Alice Excel (Shaftesbury) and Dennis Jones (Borders Lane). Both were stalwart LRA supporters and newsletter deliverers for many years.*



## Councillor action

Fly-tipping in the garage unit in Lushes Road/ Chequers Road was reported by a resident last in September. When nothing happened he spoke to LRA at the December Farmers Market and LRA Cllr Chris Roberts has taken the matter up with the District Council.

Meanwhile trying to get the damaged tree outside the Halifax in the High Road replaced is proving a real challenge. For historic reasons, this little patch of land belongs to no-one, and the District Council knew this when they planted the current tree early in 2013. LRA has been pressing them to replace it, so far without success. The best solution is for County Highways to formally "adopt" the land but that is likely to take a very long time.

## Council Tax 2015-2016

LRA expects the County, District and Town Councils to hold their Council Tax precepts unchanged. However, the Essex Police & Crime Commissioner expects to increase the amount that goes to the Police.

## Forest news

A popular tea hut in Epping Forest is to remain in family hands after a successful community campaign. The City of London Corporation has announced that the Hill Wood hut, which was put out to tender in June, would continue to be run by Bradley Melton, whose family has run the business for 84 years. A petition started by tea-hut regular Paul Morris attracted 9,000 signatures.

Meanwhile the City of London plans to install 21 distinctive welcome signs across the Forest, to welcome visitors, and reminding drivers to be more aware of the forest environment and be alert of visitors, grazing cattle and other wildlife. At most of the locations, the new sign would be a straight swap for an existing sign.

**Members' newsletters and local news by email  
£5 for 2015 – have you paid for 2015, please?**

## Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group (LPG) looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. It works separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees.



*Royal Oak, 148 Forest Road:* LPG let nearby residents know about Higgins Group's application to build nine terraced houses. After objections the application has been withdrawn and we await a new application. Essex County Council is considering an application from local residents to designate the path between Smarts Lane and Forest Road as a *Byway Open to all Traffic*. Has the way been enjoyed by the public for a full twenty year period? Did the landowner take any steps to challenge continued public use? If you can help email contact [@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

*Land and garages off Burton Road:* Cllrs on the District Council planning committee turned down an application from the Council & East Thames Housing Group to build 52 affordable houses and flats with only 27 parking spaces, because among other things the parking provision seemed wholly insufficient. LRA is very much in favour of affordable housing on this site, but LRA Cllrs had made it clear throughout earlier discussions within Council that any proposal must provide a suitable long-term quality of life for the tenants, and not significantly adversely affect other nearby residents. Planning is often a question of striking a balance between conflicting interests, and LPG looks forward to welcoming a more acceptable proposal.

*20 Ollards Grove:* LPG informed nearby residents about a planning application to use the house for serious offenders under supervision (an Approved Premises). After objections from LPG and many residents, the District Council has turned down the application.

*Trevelyan House, Arewater Green:* LPG has objected to a planning proposal to replace the current three properties with ten new houses, accessed from Monkchester Close, and has let nearby residents know about the proposal. The site also borders the Loughton Potato Ground and Whitakers Charity Almshouses (listed Grade II).

*LuXe, 126 High Road:* last year the District Council realised that LuXe did not have planning permission to operate as a night-club, and took enforcement action. LuXe has now

appealed. The level of disturbance caused over the years by noise may well be a factor in determining the appeal – if you've had problems please send details to [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

*Church Hill car-park:* developers who want to put up a three-storey block of flats, with a *Sainsbury's Local*, have appealed against the District Council's refusal of permission. LPG supports the Council's decision.

*2 Connaught Avenue:* after the District Council turned down an application for a three-storey block of nine flats on the corner of Connaught Avenue and Ollards Grove, the developers put in for a very slightly smaller but equally out-of-character block of eight flats. Concerned residents, the Town Council and LPG objected and we understand the Council have turned it down. Unfortunately County Highways has given the developer permission to erect a hoarding round the site, partly blocking the pavement.

## Parking matters

The District Council can use housing money to improve the amount of off-street parking on housing land if there are still Council tenants in the road. The latest list of possible schemes is at <http://1drv.ms/148Fu76> (the key to the 7 questions is at the bottom of the list). Work at Ladyfields Close is imminent; Paley Gardens is among the next three schemes being considered. Schemes completed in the last few years in the area are Collard Green, Barfields Gardens, Colebrook Gardens and Hillcroft. If you have any questions regarding the off-street parking programme contact Haydn Thorpe, Housing Assets Manager (01992 564162 or email [hthorpe@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:hthorpe@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)).

### *Baldwin's Hill*

Some inconsiderate drivers are parking right across the pavement all day, forcing people to walk into the road. After pressure from the LRA the police have agreed to sticker vehicles that park on the pavement (in principle throughout Loughton), without leaving room for pedestrians with a double buggy, with a warning that their vehicle number is now on a database. If caught a second time they will be prosecuted.

### *Blue badges*

A resident asked us about the County Council's refusal to renew her blue badge. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has advised her to appeal. Note: the government are tightening up on who is eligible for a blue badge.

### *Commuter parking*

We receive many complaints about this problem, particularly in the areas round Debden station and Smarts Lane/Forest Road. LRA Cllr Howard Kauffman has recently been following up complaints from residents in Sparelease Hill but, given the large number of requests already in the North Essex Parking Partnership's (NEPP) pipeline across the County, there is no prospect of speedy action.

Visit [www.loughtonresidents.org.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.org.uk)  
for more information

## Festive quiz answers

A good entry this year – and the winners, first out of the hat, were John and Anne Campbell, who will receive a book token.

1. Animals for wet weather? (8) *Reindeer*
2. Could you pick a mink or a musquash from this? (3,4) *Fir Tree*
3. They're here and now (8) *Presents*
4. Was this its country of origin? (6) *Turkey*
5. A silly bird? (5) *Goose*
6. Great Fire of London started on this lane? (7) *Pudding*
7. Belong to King, Thatcher and Vorderman (6) *Carols*
8. A darling fruit? (10) *Clementine*
9. False ache? (9) *Champagne*
10. Seasonal sort don't need suspenders (9) *Stockings*
11. Section of a mountain (9) *Partridge*
12. US soldier with a higher degree - there were three (4) *Magi*
13. They're not political at this time of year (7) *Parties*
14. Prickly, as sacred gather around student (5) *Holly*
15. Creepy – and sounds like two letters, not three (3) *Ivy*
16. More of a game than attacks on the teapot (8) *Charades*
17. Not transport to kill – though sounds like it (6) *Sleigh*
18. Play them or send them (5) *Cards*
19. The patriarch of the season (6, 9) *Father Christmas*
20. Quite mad! (8) *Crackers*
21. Neat and tidy (6) *Spruce*
22. EC growth? (8, 6) *Brussels Sprout*
23. Left to a sailor (4) *Port*
24. Copy someone's homework (4) *Crib*
25. ....and Demons, according to Dan Brown (6) *Angels*
26. Animal innards? Prettier than that when on the tree! (6) *Lights*
27. Their animals flocked around them (9) *Shepherds*
28. High Street newsagents (5, 6) *Paper Chains*
29. A crowd at 24.00h (8,4) *Midnight Mass*
30. 2015 – we sincerely hope (1,5,3,4) *A Happy New Year*

## Streetlamps

Following requests from residents, LRA Cllr Chris Pond continues to chase Essex County Council about missing or faulty street lights, including two faulty clusters in the High Road which leave dark areas at important road junctions. He is also still waiting to hear why the conservation area lamp outside 8 Kings Green has not been replaced. However, after 2 years the lamp outside 65 Staples Road no longer burns all day as well as at night. Chris has also raised the missing streetlamp (and other lamp replacements) with the Deputy County portfolio holder for Highways and at a Local Councils meeting. Problems arise where the County Council has to get the electricity company to do this, and the company seems to lack a sense of urgency on such matters. Meanwhile, new lamp-post has finally been installed in Harwater Drive/ Millsmead Drive (lower end) but again we await the electrical connection.

## Highways

### *Harwater estate*

We have had enquiries from residents about getting a bollard on the verge at the corner of Harwater Drive (to the left by the flats), which has been churned up by the refuse collection lorry. LRA Cllr Chris Pond says that the engineers have refused to install cast metal bell bollards, but he does have a scheme in this year's budget for hardening the corners (as the engineers say the dustcart cannot get round without mounting the corner). He is trying to find out exactly when this will be done.

### *Staples Road "heave"*

Last month, after much chasing by LRA Cllr Chris Pond, County Highways sorted out the problem which was causing so many dislodged exhausts.

### *High Road north of the traffic lights*

LRA has been pressing for maintenance work here ever since the District Council vetoed funding for enhancement work. Recently LRA Cllr Chris Pond took up the cudgels again with County Highways about the poor state of the pavements on the west side, which results in large puddles forming near the entrance to Morrison's shop and at the busy bus stop and pedestrian crossing. He also raised the poor condition of the street lighting. The columns are deemed too old and weak to support flower baskets (which the Town Council provide elsewhere along the High Road) or Christmas decorations, which we believe adversely affects the trading performance of the shops. Chris is hopeful something may be done by April - LRA will keep up the pressure.

### *Chester Road*

This is a busy thoroughfare with up to 14 buses per hour, plus school coaches. Residents have been complaining that the concrete sections of the road are breaking up and setting off excessive vibrations in some of the houses. Although each individual road defect doesn't meet the County Highways repair criteria, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked them to consider reconstructing the road (as has happened in the last ten years in similar circumstances in Hillyfields, Jessel Drive, and Burney Drive).

### *Potholes*

After LRA pressure, potholes in High Beech Road, Borders Lane, Brook Road and Warren Hill have now been repaired on what it is hoped will be a permanent basis.

## Historic Loughton

The Town Council plans to commemorate Joan Littlewood and Margaret Bury-Walker with heritage plaques at the entrance to the East 15 Acting School, and will soon announce the arrangements for a short ceremony to mark the unveiling. The historic milestones at the junction with Spring Grove, outside 12-mile Cottage, Church Hill and near Goldings Pond will be cleared of plants, cleaned and repainted by a party of Town Cllrs.

**Not getting LRA's local news bulletins by email?  
Email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**



## Quality Council

Congratulations to LRA-led Loughton Town Council, which was among the very first councils in the country to receive the Quality Gold Award, in recognition of the breadth and value of the services it offers, its community work, and excellent administration.

## School bulge

Roding Valley High School plan to increase by one form entry from 240 to 270 pupils per year from September 2018. The extra numbers are needed to cope with a bulge in numbers at its feeder schools.

## Farmers' market

Despite the bad weather £158.71 was collected for St Clare Hospice at the December market. Thanks to all who contributed, to those who held the collecting-tins, to *Sainsbury's* for providing the mince-pies, to members of *The Roding Players* for the music and to *Terry Tew* for the loan of the CD-player. There will be a market on Sunday 1 February without the LRA stall. However, we will be back on Sunday 1 March.

## Recycling shredded paper

A resident noticed that the new waste contractors are saying that shredded paper shouldn't go in the clear recycling bags, but should be taken to a recycling centre or used for compost (mixed with green waste, this works well). LRA has checked with the District Council, who say shredded paper *can* go in the recycling bags,

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(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

Chris Roberts (D) 107 Colson Road

07952 753081

Tracey Thomas (D&T) 110 Grosvenor Drive

07930 418615

### BROADWAY WARD

Leon Girling (D&T) 95 Willingale Road

8418 0076

John Mahoney (T) Lopping Hall, 189 High Road

07909 517145

Chris Pond (D) 7 Staples Rd

8508 2361

### FAIRMEAD WARD

Carol Davies (T) 13 Colebrook Gardens

8508 4234

Judy Jennings (T) 94 York Hill

8508 1861

Louise Mead (D) 22 Lower Road

07547 264561

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

8418 9284

### FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Road

8281 0674

Trevor Downing (T) 207 Smarts Lane

8508 8877

Sharon Weston (D&T) 58 York Hill

8502 0713

### RODING WARD

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

8281 0674

Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road

8508 2226

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

8418 9284

### ST JOHN'S WARD

Bob Jennings (D) 94 York Hill

8508 1861

Stephen Pewsey (T) 30 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

Philip Beales (T) 65 Harwater Drive

8418 0459

Howard Kauffman (D) 42 Church Lane

8508 1098

Imogen Lawrence (T) 3 Staples Rd

8502 3395

Harvey Mann (D&T) 20 The Heights

07584 125211

**Members' newsletters and local news by email  
£5 for 2015 – have you paid for 2015, please?**