

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Edition



Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
For all residents in IG10 - Spring 2015
LRA is Independent and focuses on looking after Loughton. We have Cllrs on the County and District Councils, and hold the majority of the seats on Loughton Town Council.

Taking action on parking

Kiss and ride

The takeover of "kiss and ride" spaces at the car park near Loughton station for Sainsbury's collections angered many residents. LRA pointed out to Sainsbury's that the conditions laid down when the store was built prevent the use of this area for any other purpose, and after months of nagging by LRA, the posts have been removed.

Parking to the west of the High Road

County Cllrs Chris Pond (LRA, Loughton Central) and Valerie Metcalfe (Cons, Loughton South and Buckhurst Hill) have each submitted proposals, which together are for Residents Parking Zones (RPZs) covering Forest Road, Clifton Road, High Beech Road, Smarts Lane, Shaftesbury, Staples Road, The Drive and streets off. The more distant streets have been included to avoid them being swamped by displacement parking, which would be considerable. This is the first stage of a long process, which will involve getting residents' views. LRA will keep you informed.

Harwater estate

A resident reports that, after a long campaign by LRA Cllr Chris Pond, County Highways has finally mended and strengthened the verges at the bends at the bottom of Harwater Drive and Millsmead Way.

Parking near The Broadway

A Torrington Drive resident recently asked why there were no parking controls to stop the daily deluge of commuters' cars. LRA Cllr Chris Pond replied that LRA fully agrees about the harm caused by commuter parking. Torrington Drive will be part of the Broadway Parking Review area. Proposals were drawn up by the District Council seven years ago, and LRA continues to press them to put them into effect – hopefully in 2015/16. Banning parking for an hour can work where residents all have off-road parking. If they don't, as in Torrington Drive, the only way is to go for a permit system, which is the expected suggestion. LRA believes the Council has shamefully ignored the needs of people in Debden on parking for far too long.

Town Tree Talk - Thursday 16 April

Don't miss local tree expert Chris Neilan discussing Loughton's trees, which are vital to our town's street scene. He'll explain how the District Council protects and provides trees, and answer any questions.

Then refreshments will be available, followed by LRA's short AGM.

Doors open 7.45PM for 8PM start at Loughton Cricket Club, The Uplands (off Church Hill). Parking onsite and nearby.

Making a difference

Have you thought of standing as an LRA councillor? To find out what's involved please contact Cllr Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk Training is provided and you'd be working as part of a strong and experienced group. Alternatively you could consider joining LRA's Executive Committee, which gets involved in the local issues we take up. You're welcome to come along without commitment to see how this works.

Stay in the picture!

Join LRA now for £5 per household until the end of 2015! You will get extra newsletters and can receive our regular email local news and events bulletins. Members' support is vital as subscriptions pay costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses. Subscriptions for existing members are due in January.

To pay direct from a bank account or to set up a standing order, or to check if you've paid, ring 020 8508 2932 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

I enclose £5 till end-2015 £5

I enclose a donation for LRA's work £

Name

Address

Post code IG10 Phone.....

Email (if any)

I would like LRA's email local news bulletins 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.*

Join LRA now for Loughton news & events!

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.

Land and garages off Burton Road: local District Cllrs turned down an application from the East Thames Housing Group to build 52 affordable houses and flats with 27 parking spaces. LPG and Loughton Town Council had objected because the parking provision seemed wholly insufficient, amongst other things. The Conservative majority on the Council is still pressing for 52 homes on the site, and may try to avoid giving local Cllrs a full say on any proposals. LRA supports housing here and but hoped for a better outcome.

Proposed "Sainsbury's Local", Church Hill: The District Council turned down an application for flats and a Sainsbury's Local. The developers have appealed.

St Mary's Church – replacement of "Ignite Centre": The District Council has approved a new purpose-built building linked to the church.

20 Ollards Grove: The District Council has turned down a planning application for a change of use to an "Approved Premises" for convicted offenders.

Trevelyan House, Arewater Green: The District Council has turned down an application for ten houses crammed together, with inadequate access and parking.

20 Albion Hill: The District Council has turned down a garden-grabbing application for three houses at the bottom of an existing garden

Theydon Bois car-park: LPG is supporting the Theydon Bois Action Group in objecting to TfL's plans to enlarge the car park at Theydon Bois Tube station, affecting the green belt. The Central Line is already operating at or above capacity, and encouraging further drivers to use stations beyond Loughton will adversely affect commuters at Loughton and Debden stations and further into London.

Lincoln Hall, High Road: British Red Cross has decided to close and sell the Lincoln Hall (next to the Lincoln Almshouses, the former garage – now In-toto kitchens - and the Abbeyfield home (on which there is planning permission to demolish and a new building).

Local planning meetings

At present District Council planning meetings are held locally at Roding Valley High School. This is convenient for local residents who wish to attend and possibly to give their views. At a recent District Council meeting in Epping, a Chigwell Cllr (Cons) suggested that the Council should consider saving money by moving the meetings to the Council Offices in Epping. LRA will strongly oppose this proposal.



Councillor action

Oakwood Hill development site (near Longcroft Rise)
LRA Cllr David Wixley followed up the recent clearance of some trees from the site. The District Council's tree officer has checked from the agreed layout that that the right trees and shrubs were cut down. In due course there will be a landscape scheme which will show onsite planting, as well as some off-site.

High street-lights

A resident contacted LRA to say that about nine months ago new lamp standards were erected next to the existing posts in the High Road (between Algers Road and The Crescent) but have never been connected. He queried why the lights were being replaced when the existing street lights are still working.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond comments that most of the lamp-columns in the High Road are life-expired, need frequent bulb replacement, and have high-energy luminaires. They are also too weak to support hanging baskets, and some are corroding. County Highways has a county-wide replacement scheme. Replacements are particularly badly needed north of The Drive.

Chris has tackled the County Highways portfolio-holder about the replacement delays, which are blamed on inefficiency by UK Power Networks Ltd.

County Cllrs are also chasing up the non-removal of the stumps of old columns.

Church Hill – new zebra crossing

For years, LRA has been pressing for a safer crossing just south of the junction with Kings Green, opposite the cricket ground. At last, County Highways has said that it will use funds raised from nearby developments to install a crossing to replace the current pedestrian island. Work will start this Spring, for installation in 2015/16.

Baldwins Hill/Goldings Hill

A resident contacted us about the problem of exiting Baldwins Hill safely. LRA Cllr Chris Pond will see if the 30mph limit can be pushed a little further north. The alternative – a mini-roundabout – would apparently breach current County Council policy, which bans providing mini-roundabouts on A class priority roads such as Goldings Hill.

LRA's Cllrs

Council meetings do take up time. As well as actually going to the meetings, there are agenda papers to study and often points to follow up afterwards. Fortunately with 18 Town and 12 District Cllrs, LRA has a strong team that can prepare properly and can cover any absences.

But being an LRA Cllr is much more than just attending meetings. Residents bring us all sorts of queries and concerns, and we do our best to follow these up and report back. In the next few issues of the LRA Townwide newsletter we'll be looking at some of the individuals involved. Some sit on one Council and others on more than one, giving us strong links across what goes on in each one.

*David
Wixley*



David is a Roding Ward Town Cllr and a Fairmead Ward District Cllr. As well as the usual Cllr work (see above) he gets requests from residents on a wide range of issues, such as planning, fly-tipping, litter and dog-mess, trees, highways problems, playgrounds and (last but not least) parking. He finds it very satisfying to be able to help someone although sometimes it isn't always possible or it takes a very long time.

David can be seen out and about, checking on sites where there's a planning application in progress. He has helped to persuade the District Council to install jockey rails so as to protect a green area near residents' homes, and succeeded in getting two additional potential off-street parking schemes added to the Council's already very long list of schemes for extra parking.

David chairs the Town Council Recreation Committee. He is particularly pleased with the refurbishment of the tennis courts on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, the installation of the nearby Multi Use Games Area (a project which took almost nine years to achieve), and with arranging for Countrycare to plant 250 saplings on the Roding Valley Recreation ground and the Hillyfields Open Space, to hide graffiti on the back walls of garages there.

David represents the Town Council at meetings of the local Tree Wardens, local police meetings, the Debden Tenants Panel and meetings with other local councils. He's also a Governor at White Bridge Junior School.

Elections in Loughton

The General Election is scheduled for May 7. While there are no local elections in Loughton wards, District Council seats are up for election elsewhere.

*Caroline
Pond*



Caroline is a District and Town Councillor for St John's Ward and has been on the District Council since 2002. She was Loughton Town Mayor for 2011-12 and was Chairman of the District Council in 2007-08. She was the Epping Forest Cabinet member for Community Wellbeing 2004 to 2006. Now retired, she worked in the past as a librarian with three local authorities. She is a member of Loughton Methodist Church, Loughton & District Historical Society, and is a Duty Officer for Loughton Voluntary Care.

On the District Council her interests are planning, conservation, and waste management, the Town's heritage and the environment. This reflects most of the problems she is contacted about in the ward. There have recently been some contentious planning applications which could affect St John's residents. Caroline has always tried to protect the special nature of the three Conservation areas, the Forest edge and all of St John's. She is constantly vigilant about problems in the ward and in the town in general, to keep Loughton a good place to live.

She and husband Chris, also a Cllr, try to have a day off a week from council and community activities when they enjoy walks in London, Epping Forest and Essex.

Rubbish collection

Since the District Council changed the contractors who collect our waste, LRA has had a few reports of the collection teams leaving litter behind from the collections. They are meant to clear up as they go, so if you have any problems please contact the Council (01992 564608 or erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) so they can follow it up.

In April 2015, Biffa, the new District waste contractor, will start what are known as *one pass* collections. New collection vehicles with two separate compartments will collect both dry recyclables and glass containers every fortnight. From May, Biffa will deliver 100 clear recycling sacks every year to every Epping Forest household, enough for an average of two recycling sacks each fortnight. Residents needing more clear sacks will still be able to collect them from the usual outlets.

Meanwhile, in June a weekly collection service will start for small items of domestic waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), such as irons, kettles, toasters & audio equipment. You will be able to put out small WEEE in plastic bags alongside the mixed food and garden waste bin. Textiles and batteries will also be collected.

**Not getting LRA's local news bulletins by email?
Email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk**

Loughton Arts Centre

There are lots of talented artists in Loughton, both pictorial and sculpture. Come and see their work and perhaps buy a nice picture at the Loughton Arts Centre, in the High Road, next door to the Lopping Hall. All proceeds go towards the restoration of this Loughton landmark.

If you would like to volunteer to help steward the gallery ring Diane Rhodes on 07532 053194 or visit www.loughtonartscentre.org

Farmers' markets in Loughton

The LRA organises farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am–2pm) on Centric Parade, High Road - come and meet LRA Cllrs and volunteers.

LRA makes two stands available free for charities and other local voluntary organisations. To find out about free dates please contact contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Bob Wilmot 1932 -2015

It is with great regret that we report the death of Bob Wilmot. Bob was one of LRA's stalwarts from the very early days of the Association. He and Brenda came to live in Loughton in the 60s and lived in Staples Road. By profession he was a teacher/lecturer. Bob and Brenda were early members of LRA, and Bob was there at the beginning in 1981, canvassing for Howard Kleyn, the first LRA councillor. He co-edited the newsletter with John Woods for a while.

Bob was himself elected to the District Council for St John's Ward in 1988. In 1996, he retired, and stood instead for the newly formed Loughton Town Council, for which he personally had campaigned hard. Initially Council vice-chairman, it was expected that he would chair the Council in its second year; he would have been an unanimous choice, but he declined, taking on instead the chairmanship of the Planning Committee. He stood down in 2004, saying he was getting "too old", but continued to run the St John's Ward team and its elections for a few more years.

Anne Davidson

We have also learnt of the death after a short illness of Anne Davidson, former headteacher at Staples Road Infant School. Anne joined the School as headteacher in 1994 and remained in this position until she retired in 2010. The school flourished under her leadership. She was a warm and charismatic headteacher with a good sense of humour and was much loved and respected by pupils, parents and staff. Many families in Loughton will have fond memories of her.

Special Trees" project

Nominate your favourite trees in Loughton– those which have a personal connection for you. Tell the Town Council (020 8508 4200) why they matter so much. Help protect and enhance what is most valuable about our natural environment in the Town. <http://1drv.ms/184DfCN>

Missing?

Loughton Town Council wants residents to nominate names of soldiers who have not yet been honoured on the Kings Green War Memorial. Ring 020 8508 4200 or email contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

CONTACTING LRA

ENQUIRIES: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 8502 0552
ELECTIONS OFFICER Michael Benbow 8508 4457
LOUGHTON LIFE EDITOR Ian Allsop 8532 0053
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey 8508 5582
MINUTES SEC. Susan Creevy -
TREASURER Miriam Murphy 01992 815525

COMMITTEE

Eva Blasco	8923 0065	Peter House	8532 1275
Rose Brookes	8502 5981	Barry Johnston	8508 0843
Tessa Cochrane	8508 4148	Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Steve Eaton	8923 0065	Lance Leonard	8502 0771
Rebecca Fricker	8508 8369	David Linnell	8508 2932
Suzanne Harper	8508 4770	George Meltser	8502 3006

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

Chris Roberts (D) 107 Colson Road 07952 753081

Tracey Thomas (D&T) 110 Grosvenor Drive 07982 847215

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

Issue 270 © LRA 2015 Newsletter compilers: Ian Allsop, David Linnell, Gerarda Kendrick. Printed by F.A. May Stationery, 31 New Road, Chingford, London E4 9EU.

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

Join LRA now for Loughton news & events!