

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter  
For all residents in IG10 - Autumn 2015

*LRA is Independent & 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.*



The Golden Lion (see page 2)

## Acting for Loughton

LRA Cllrs take up issues on behalf of local residents.

We have been busy over the summer, trying to sort out some of the disastrous launch problems of the new waste management service (some of which are still rumbling on), making sure our streets are cleared of litter and that fly-tips are removed as soon as possible.

(For refuse collection problems, please contact 01992 564608 or email [erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:erefuse@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)).

In addition we have been dealing with numerous residents' problems related to housing and benefits issues.

There have been lots of planning applications (some are covered on page 2). We look at these very carefully - when appropriate we alert local residents to key applications near them (the only local party to do so).

Here are some examples of our Cllrs in action.

### *The new local Sixth Forms*

Since 2008, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been pressing at County Hall for sixth forms in local schools\*. Local County Cllr Valerie Metcalfe, as deputy to the county's education chief, was then in a good position to move this project on. The new sixth forms have now opened, at last!

\*Roding Valley High School, Debden Park High School, St John's School (Epping) & King Harold Business & Enterprise Academy (Waltham Abbey)

### *Drugs problem*

A resident called LRA about ongoing problems and disturbance caused by a neighbouring tenant who was taking drugs. LRA Cllr Tracey Thomas visited the resident and then spoke to the District Council's Safer Communities team.

It will go to court to evict the tenant but as this can take some time it will also try to use a new law to restrict use of the flat to only the tenant, which should end noisy parties.

Tracey will be available to help if problems recur.

### *Lady Mary's path (Borders Lane – Rectory Lane)/*

### *Lucton's field (Borders Lane, opposite the College)*

LRA Cllrs Chris Roberts and Ken Angold-Stephens are following up the poor condition of the path (fly-tipping, damaged fences) and the field (rubbish dumped) with Loughton Town Council and the College respectively.

## Making a difference

Have you thought of standing as an LRA Cllr on the Town or District Councils?

LRA Cllrs form the majority on the Town Council and are the second largest group on the District Council. Training is provided and you would be working as part of a strong and experienced group.

To find out what is involved please contact Cllr Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 or send an email to [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## License to worry

LRA shares residents' concerns about the number of premises with late-night alcohol licences, in some instances for very long hours, or which want to extend the hours of existing licences in Loughton. Unfortunately, the District Council, which grants these licences, is very constrained by the law, which tends to favour applicants.

Unless there is evidence of breaches of at least one of the four licensing conditions (prevention of crime & public disorder, protection of public safety, prevention of public nuisance or protection of children from harm), an application must be granted. Clearly if it is a new licence there is no evidence. However, should one of those conditions be breached after granting a licence then that licence can be reviewed, and if the evidence is strong enough the licence can be revoked or amended.

So if you experience problems, please report them - please don't leave it to some-one else!

- **Noise:** ring the District Council Environmental Health team (01992 564000, 24 hours), **not** the Police
- **Anti-social behaviour**, such as drunk and disorderly intimidation etc, ring 101 and get a crime number
- **Criminal activity**, such as a threat to life/safety (an emergency situation) - ring 999;

Keep a log of what happens; it may seem a waste of time initially but it helps to build up a body of evidence that can lead to a successful review.

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## 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.

### *Golden Lion*

Application to replace the Borders Lane pub (see picture on the front page) and 10 & 12 Newmans Lane with two blocks totalling 30 flats (is enough off-road parking included?). The LPG have delivered a letter to nearby residents advising them how to make their views known.

### *Bridge House, Roding Road*

Yet another application to replace the old caretaker's house with a wholly out-of-character three storey block of flats.

### *Epping Forest Shopping Park, Langston Road*

The Conservative-dominated District Council has approved spending over £30m of council-taxpayers' money to buy out the interest of Polofind Ltd in this development, and to build the Shopping Park and let the units prior to its opening. LRA is concerned that the Council has no relevant experience in this sort of project, and that the risks are high.

Related Highways works (due to start later this year or early next year) will see Chigwell Lane widened to three lanes up to Borders Lane and linked traffic lights and crossings, which should ease the continual traffic jams here - however, LRA remains concerned that in the short-term these roadworks will cause traffic delays and chaos.

### *Sir Winston Churchill site*

Action by LRA Cllr Chris Pond has led to a significant improvement in the appearance of the hoardings.

It appears that local developer Higgins have acquired the site.

### *Church Hill service station*

The new owners applied to the District Council to amend the licence to sell alcohol and hot drinks all night. A group of residents, the LPG and Loughton Town Council objected (fearing overnight disturbances) and attended the meeting, encouraged by an objection from the police.

At the last minute the police withdrew their objection and the application was approved. LRA wants nearby residents to report any problems (see front page) - if there is a significant volume of complaints then the licence can be reviewed.

### *Carlton, 38 Chigwell Lane*

The District Council has turned down an application for this café to be open 7am-midnight all week. The LPG had objected to the extended hours because of concerns about the effect on nearby residents, parking on the grass verges and the potential effect on traders in The Broadway.

### *Burton Road development*

LRA and other Cllrs were extremely concerned by the way in which the District Council has ridden rough-shod over the interests of local residents on a controversial plan to build 51 council houses and flats on Burton Road, which runs parallel to The Broadway. So they insisted the final decision should go to a special meeting of the Full Council.

Nobody objected to a much-needed housing development, but local councillors and residents argued what was proposed was just too intensive and would overshadow properties in Torrington Drive. The development was approved, but none of the Cllrs representing Loughton spoke for the proposal, or voted in favour (the Council split largely on party lines).



### *Fifteen, York Hill*

LRA has been following up complaints from residents about parking on double yellow lines near the club on Friday and Saturday nights, and disturbances in the surrounding area.

### *258 High Road (next to the Methodist Church)*

The District Council have turned down a second application to add an additional floor to provide nine apartments.

### *Sainsbury's Local, Church Hill*

The contractors for the new Sainsbury's development have agreed to replace the Town Council's concrete and timber bench as this needs to be moved from its current location along from the Plume of Feathers public house to provide site access.

Also, following LRA's complaints about mud on the roadway, the District Council contacted the developers and has confirmed that wheel washing equipment is now on site.

### *Royal Oak Public House*

Essex County Council has approved a Public Right Of Way through the site, and a formal legal order putting this into effect has been made. Our congratulations to those local residents who took up this issue.

### *Former tennis courts, corner Alderton Hill & Roding Road*

The District Council have approved McCarthy & Stone's planning application for 38 retirement apartments.

**Join now to get LRA's local news & events emails**

# Meet LRA Cllrs

## Judy Jennings

### *Fairmead Ward Town Cllr and Town Mayor*

In Fairmead, it is still the three Ps that dominate Cllr time - parking, (dog) poo and potholes. There is no magic solution to any of them at present, though Judy and her fellow cllrs have been working hard on solutions. She is also very active in following up reports of the fly-tipping which has been occurring recently.

Since being elected as Town Mayor last May, Judy has attended over 20 events. These have ranged from a City of London Dinner, large council-run events, official invitations from other town councils, work with local schools and AGMs of local organisations. This has given her a fascinating insight into the life of the local community and a chance to meet residents from all walks of life, and has enabled her to learn about the many interesting and valuable activities that go on in Loughton.



In her role as representative of the Town Council she hopes that the attendance of the Mayor acknowledges the importance of these events and shows how greatly the Town Council values the residents of Loughton. It wishes to support all who generously give up their time to serve the local community.

In addition to her role as Town Mayor, Judy works as a supply teacher in local schools teaching primary age children, and as an invigilator for secondary school children sitting their GCSE and A level exams. She enjoys playing the trumpet in the Roding Players orchestra and the cornet in the Harlow Brass Band. A keen animal lover, Judy has two cats, Jac and Ffion, whose names allude to her Welsh roots. She also walks dogs when she gets the chance, which helps her to unwind and get some exercise in the lovely surroundings of the forest.

Judy is married to Councillor Bob Jennings who represents St. John's Ward on the District Council.

## Carol Davis

### *Fairmead Ward Town Cllr and Deputy Town Mayor*

Carol has been a Town Cllr for eight years, being elected twice. With a young family, she was initially elected after leading the campaign and petitioning against the closure of the children's nursery at Epping Forest College. Always keenly interested in the provision of amenities for families and the quality of life of local people, she is also the current Loughton Town Deputy Mayor.

On the Town Council her responsibilities also include the role of Deputy Chairman of the Planning and Licensing

Committee and being a member of the Environment and Heritage Committee. A long-term resident, Carol is acutely aware of the unique nature of the local area. She is ever mindful of the problems in Loughton and Fairmead Ward in particular, and residents have contacted her about issues ranging from fly-tipping and parking to contentious planning applications.



She's keen that any change or development is managed sensitively and in the best interests of the environment and local community, so that our town can continue to be a good place to live.

A trained textile designer, Carol is also an experienced senior school educator and advertising copywriter.

She enjoys cycling, cooking, travelling and spending time with her family and friends.

## Highways patrol

### *Dangerous junction: Alderton Hill/ Alderton Hall Road*

Following an accident at this junction, a resident asked whether a mirror could be installed. LRA Cllr Chris Pond replied that the Council won't install mirrors (not approved by the Department of Transport). However, he agrees the junction is hazardous and has asked for a safety audit.

### *The "Hills" lorry ban*

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has secured an order to convert the Hills roads into a statutory - rather than advisory - lorry ban, so offenders (including foreign artics) can be prosecuted.

### *Bulls Head Pond*

In March LRA County Cllr Chris Pond asked the Highways dept. to do something about the railings in front of the pond, which were in a terrible state and a poor advert for the town. They have now been painted.

### *Crater in The Drive*

In July LRA reported to County Highways a dangerous deep one-foot-wide hole in The Drive near the High Road junction. While, for once, it was repaired within 24 hours, it has now reappeared and LRA has reported it again.

### *Repairs to Burney Drive*

LRA Cllr David Wixley followed up residents' problems with the County Council, who said that additional funding has now been allocated for repairs to the whole of the road.

### *Church Lane resurfacing*

Church Lane has just been done - overnight to avoid traffic disruption and because of the nearby school & nursery. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has followed up a complaint that some residents weren't forewarned about night working.

More at [www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk](http://www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk)

# Stay in the picture!

Join LRA now for £5 per household until the end of 2016! You will get extra newsletters and can receive our regular email local news and events bulletins.

Members' support is vital as it pays costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses.

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](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

I enclose £5 till end-2016 ..... £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.*

Subscriptions for existing members are due in January.

# Goldings Hill Post Office

The post office is to be moved to the off-licence at 11 Englands Lane, with the agreement of the existing postmaster, subject to a public consultation (email [comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk) - now open, closes October 21<sup>st</sup>). If agreed, it will happen around Christmas 2015.

The new PO will have extended hours of 9am – 9pm Monday-Friday, 9am – 8pm Saturday and mid-day – 6pm.

# Farmers' markets

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

LRA makes two stands available free for charities and other local voluntary organisations (to find out about free dates please email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)).

# Loughton Arts Centre

The Loughton Arts Centre, next door to the Lopping Hall in the High Road, will be displaying a range of products of local crafts-persons from November 30<sup>th</sup> till Christmas Eve.

Look out too for their regular arts displays.

## CONTACTING LRA ENQUIRIES: [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) 8508 2932

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John Mahoney (T) Lopping Hall 189 High Rd 07909 517145  
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Sharon Weston (D&T) 58 York Hill 8502 0713

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ST MARY'S WARD

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Newsletter 272 © LRA 2015 Compilers: Ian Allsop & David Linnell. Printed by FA May Stationery 31 New Road London E4 9EU  
Promoted by and on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association of 20 Eleven Acre Rise Loughton IG10 1AN

**More at [www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk](http://www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk)**