

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
For all residents in IG10 - June 2016

LRA is independent & focuses on looking after Loughton. We have Cllrs on the County and District Councils, and hold 20 out of 22 of the seats on Loughton Town Council.

Contact us at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk



for contributing to our
Election success!

Election success for LRA

The recent elections to Epping Forest District Council and Loughton Town Council proved to be a tremendous success for LRA – we won in every seat we stood in. All 20 LRA candidates for the Town Council got in. On the District Council we won in 8 seats. With our 5 continuing Cllrs we remain the biggest group on the District Council other than the Conservatives (35 Cllrs); Amy Beales is now the youngest Cllr on this Council! There are also 3 Independents (including Stephen Murray), 3 Lib Dems, 2 Greens and 2 UKIP. See the back page for a full list of LRA's current Cllrs.

LRA would like to thank all of those who supported us throughout the campaign, particularly those who canvassed residents and/or delivered leaflets - & especially the voters.

And thanks to past stalwarts

Thanks go to long-serving member of Loughton Town Council, Margaret Chalk, who retired in May. She had been an LRA Cllr for Roding Ward since 2004.

Our thanks also go to retiring LRA Cllrs Harvey Mann (District Cllr for St Mary's ward), Sharon Weston (District & Town Cllr for Forest ward, and Town Mayor for 2014-15), Tracey Thomas (District & Town Cllr for Alderton ward,) and Imogen Lawrence (Town Cllr for St Mary's ward).

Willow Cottage

Unfortunately this charming house and garden (Curtis Mill Green, between Abridge & Ongar) is now on the market, so happy years of open afternoons and amateur dramatic performances are coming to an end.

For its history see <https://willowcottagetheatre.org/>

Want to help?

If you would like to help LRA by becoming a local councillor, getting involved in what we do, or by spending an hour occasionally delivering newsletters near where you live, please contact David Linnell or Chris Pond - email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or phone (numbers on back page).

New Town Mayor



At a recent meeting of the Town Council, LRA Cllr Judy Jennings handed over the mayoral chain to LRA Cllr Carol Davies. Carol's Deputy Mayor will be Cllr Philip Abraham (pictured with Carol). Judy attended 68 official engagements during the year, raised money for her chosen charities, and had done much to promote the town and the work of the Council. You can get a flavour of the role from the reports online for full Town Council meetings (www.loughton-tc.gov.uk).

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens

We are very sorry to tell you that one of our most active and long-standing Cllrs, Ken Angold-Stephens, died in April. As well as his council involvement, Ken had been heavily involved in helping to run LRA, and was a Staples Road school Governor. He will be much missed.

Much of Ken's work at the Councils took place behind the scenes. His most visible achievement - and one he was rightly very proud of - is the memorial garden on Roding Road. Ken tenaciously did all the fund-raising, the project management and a fair amount of the planting.



Keep up-to-date with LRA's email news & events bulletins

Planning & licensing

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. Here are notes on some recent cases:



Morrisons (High Road) have applied to extend their delivery times to 6am – 10pm 7 days a week. A similar application some years ago was turned down, and there has been no significant change in circumstances since then. Morrisons have provided a voluminous report to show that neighbours won't be disturbed; however, LPG view the report as seriously flawed and have objected to the change.

E15 Acting School (Rectory Lane) have applied to demolish modern extensions, and put up a replacement building. This is a Grade II listed building and, although LPG is not in principle against a change, we don't believe these plans are acceptable.

Loughton Hall, Rectory Lane:

A two-storey extension and other changes were turned down because they would harm the historical and architectural character of the Hall, and the setting of the listed St. Nicholas Church and church wall. LPG was also concerned about the effect on local parking provision.



Land to the rear of 25 Staples Road (at the top of The Drive, next to the footpath): Turned down because it would be out-of-character in this Conservation Area, would result in the loss of trees, had no provision for landscaping or off-street car-parking and would adversely affect neighbours. Residents, and the LPG, had objected, and we were concerned that approval would be a precedent for a development on the other side of the footpath and on other attractive green sites.

Molens, High Road: Applications for a rear extension and an outbuilding at the rear have been turned down. These are two of a sequence of applications where a difficult balance needs to be struck between the interests of the business and of the nearby residents.

20 Ollards Grove: LRA Cllr Trevor Downing is following up the state of the site, which has again suffered fly-tipping.

Solving neighbour problems

Some residents complained to the District Council about serious problems with their neighbours, and asked LRA Cllr Caroline Pond for help. She liaised with the Council, who investigated the ownership and occupation of the properties concerned. As a result the group of young men who were causing many of the problems have now moved out.

LuXe & Nu-Bar – hope at last!

These late-night High Road venues attract people from across London and Essex. Residents living nearby have been subjected to noise, disturbance and vandalism for far too long. (The licensing rules are set by national governments – effectively, unless the police make objections, Cllrs have little option but to grant premises licences, although they can impose some limited restrictions).

Recently, following yet another violent incident, the police demanded a review of Nu-Bar's licence. LRA's David Linnell attended the hearing in Epping and spoke on behalf of residents. The outcome was that Nu-Bar were closed till they abided by new licensing hours (serving alcohol to cease at midnight; closure by 12.30am) and extra conditions.



They have now re-opened.

Last year the District Council took action against LuXe because they don't have planning permission to operate as a "nightclub" – LuXe appealed and lost. We are awaiting the Council's next move. In the meantime, LuXe's leaseholder has advertised for someone to take over the lease. The first flyer we saw suggested "nightclub" as a possible use – LRA took swift action to correct future ads. It's possible that it may become a restaurant.



www.guardian-series.co.uk

Could we finally see an end to late-night mayhem? The situation may have changed by the time you read this, but we will keep trying.

Protecting family services

Essex County Council (ECC) recently conducted a public consultation on proposed changes to its family services, affecting families with children aged 0-19. Cllr Leon Girling, who has 3 young children, has been campaigning for their plans to be reconsidered.

The consultation was poorly planned and executed. The majority of people were expected to complete the consultation through an online survey, so local libraries weren't given enough paper copies for families to complete. Parent consultation events were planned; initially ECC failed to arrange an event in Epping Forest District – eventually they did so but gave people very little notice, so it was poorly attended. An online petition requesting ECC to stop closing our children centres got 9,800+ signatures.

LRA Cllrs Leon Girling, David Wixley and Judy Jennings attended stakeholder consultations. Leon explained how the proposals would impact Loughton families, and worked with the Town Clerk to draft the Town Council's response to the consultation. Leon also spoke passionately at the District Council Overview & Scrutiny committee in April, where Mr Chris Martin, ECC Children's Commissioner, presented their proposals and answered members' questions (view the meeting at <http://tinyurl.com/z68pg4m>). Leon is meeting Essex officers to establish how parents' consultation responses will influence ECC's plans.

Highways and parking

Proposed road changes Chigwell Lane (Langston Road – Borders Lane)

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has objected to the detailed changes proposed by the County Council as part of the Langston Road retail park project - he thinks waiting restrictions are also needed in Colson Road and that anti-rat-running measures are needed in Westall Road/ Ibbetson Path.

“Meet & greet” warning

The limited-time waiting area at Loughton Station is part of NCP's main car-park and waiting is free for up to 20 minutes. Drivers have told us they're getting NCP fines for staying under 20 minutes, and we are investigating. Challenge any errors and let us know at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk If you have signed up for automatic parking payments, please check your bills carefully.



Vehicles apparently abandoned

Residents have asked LRA Cllrs for help in two recent cases. What you can do if you think a vehicle's been abandoned:

- on a council housing estate (including estate roads), report it to the housing department
- not on a council housing estate, report it to the District Council.

If you're not satisfied with the response, contact your local Cllr (see back page) or contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Hilltop Close

LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up residents' complaints with County Highways, who have now said that Hilltop Close will be included in a major programme of works to address numerous issues in the area, hopefully by end-June.

Forest Road area parking scheme

Loughton Forest Parking report the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) as saying: "The proposal for the roads will be devised towards the end of this year, once our approved work for this year has been completed, with the proposal advertised, subject to the availability of funding, in spring 2017." [LRA has been pressing for a parking scheme, and hope that a satisfactory scheme can be developed.]

Potholes in The Drive

County Highways had refused to repair the numerous potholes in the High Road shopping area and in The Drive. LRA Cllr Chris Pond intervened, and got agreement to temporary repairs in The Drive – they refuse to repair the High Road, including the crater opposite The Drive.

Torrington Drive & Gardens

The District Council has put in a planning application for 56 off-street parking facilities in Torrington Drive. LRA has been battling since 2008 to get the District Council to get on with a parking scheme – a Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) - for the roads round The Broadway; this is finally underway. We understand that, because of saturation by

commuters, Torrington Drive and Torrington Gardens will have priority for an RPZ this autumn, covering just these two roads, ahead of proposals for other roads in the area. We have written to residents.

Pay & Display

The following High Road service roads have become Pay & Display:

- both halves of Brooklyn Parade.
- the parade opposite, north of the Methodist Church.

This should help shoppers find spaces, and also help these shops attract customers.



The Broadway – action on reckless parking

Over the last few months LRA Cllr Leon Girling has been campaigning at Epping Forest District Council to have double yellow lines installed along the shopping area of The Broadway (where there are no marked parking bays).

Motorists have been irresponsibly mounting the pavements to park their vehicles, conflicting with pedestrians as they do so. Leon persuaded NEPP to impose a temporary No Waiting order, which will also prevent parking on the areas behind the marked parking bays. He has asked for sufficient parking enforcement.

Our thanks to the District Council Portfolio Holder for Safer Greener Transport (Cllr Gary Waller) for supporting Leon's campaign.



Bus route 418

(Loughton-Debden-Abridge-Theydon-Epping-Harlow)

This has been re-routed to omit both The Broadway and the Abridge council estate. LRA Cllr Chris Pond is checking what route is registered with the Traffic Commissioners. This route (formerly County Council contracted service 541) used to run Newman's Lane - Rectory Lane - The Broadway - Burton Road, but its new commercial operators seem to be using 36ft long buses, which it appears cannot safely use The Broadway or Abridge 541 routing. Unfortunately, this decision cannot be challenged by Cllrs.

St Mary's Church

(201 High Road)

Work on the new Hope Centre building will start soon; they hope to open in April 2017.



Litter bin

LRA Cllr David Wixley followed up a request from residents for a litter bin in Brook Road, near where the ice-cream van stops. The District Council's contractor will install one next time they're working in the area.

To get LRA's news emails - contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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 email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Town Council Grants

Loughton Town Council has given:

- Friends of Epping Forest: £581 for a nest box camera & laptop
- Grow Garden Project: £5,421 for fencing for new community allotment (Pyrles Lane)
- Loughton Arts Centre: £650 for prizes for an art competition.

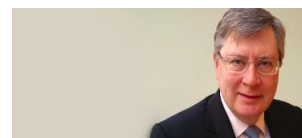
More from LRA

For the latest news from LRA visit us on Facebook and Twitter. We've refreshed our website so please take a look.

- www.facebook.com/loughtonresidents
- www.twitter.com/loughtonra
- www.loughtonresidents.org.uk

Police & Crime Commissioner

The new Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex is Roger Hirst. His aims for the County and how to contact his office can be found at <http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/>



Drug-taking

LRA Cllr Bob Jennings was approached by Baldwin's Hill residents about youths apparently taking drugs on the edge of the Forest. The police ask residents to report such incidents (wherever they occur) and to keep a diary listing the times and dates of any such gatherings, together with any other useful information such as the numbers involved, car registration etc., in order to better inform and focus the Police's response.

Graffiti, Nursery Road

LRA Cllr Caroline Pond has been in touch with Loughton Town Council, who have now removed the graffiti from the back of a bench.

CONTACTING LRA: ENQUIRIES: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932
Membership: Juliet Pollard 14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 8502 0552

ELECTIONS OFFICER Michael Benbow	8508 4457	FOREST WARD		
LOUGHTON LIFE EDITOR Eva Blasco	8923 0065	Jill Angold-Stephens (T) Lower Park Road		8281 0674
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey	8279 1858	Roger Baldwin (D) Burney Drive		8508 8479
MINUTES SEC. Susan Creevy	-	Amy Beales (T) Harwater Drive		07507 341956
TREASURER Miriam Murphy	01992 815525	Tessa Cochrane (T) Shaftesbury		8508 4148
COUNCILLORS		Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane		8508 8877
(D = District Council; T = Town Council)		RODING WARD		
COUNTY: Loughton (Central)		Rose Brookes (D&T) Lower Park Road		8502 5981
Chris Pond Staples Road	8508 2361	Mark Dalton (T) Highland Avenue		07719 736901
ALDERTON WARD		David Wixley (T) Copper Beech Ct Goldings Rd		8418 9284
Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive	8502 2925	ST JOHN'S WARD		
Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Road	8279 0053	Bob Jennings (D) York Hill		8508 1861
Adam Omer (T) Station Road	07904 919701	Stephen Pewsey (T) Wroths Path		8279 1858
Michael Stubbings (T) Greenfields	07766 480522	Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Road		8508 2361
BROADWAY WARD		Chris Pond (T) Staples Road		8508 2361
Leon Girling (D&T) Willingale Road	8418 0076	ST MARY'S WARD		
John Mahoney (T) Lopping Hall High Rd	07909 517145	Philip Beales (T) Harwater Drive		8418 0459
Stella Murphy (T) High View Close	8508 2794	Barbara Cohen (T) Traps Hill		07957 141197
Chris Pond (D) Staples Road	8508 2361	Judy Jennings (D&T) York Hill		8508 1861
FAIRMEAD WARD		Howard Kauffman (D) Church Lane		8508 1098
Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens	07817 230372	COMMITTEE		
Kevin Latchford (T) Colebrook Gardens	85024568	Eva Blasco	8923 0065	Lance Leonard 8502 0771
Louise Mead (D) -	07746 875952	Steve Eaton	8923 0065	David Linnell 8508 2932
David Wixley (D) Copper Beech Ct Goldings Rd	8418 9284	Rebecca Fricker	8508 8369	George Meltser 8502 3006

Newsletter 276 © LRA 2016 Compilers: Eva Blasco & 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

Get in touch with us at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk