

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

Townwide Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
For all residents in IG10 - Spring 2017

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.

Draft Local Plan

In our last Townwide issue we told you about the Public Consultation on the Conservative-led District Council's draft Local Plan. The Plan talks about building housing on Jessel and Rochford Greens, on the car-parks at Traps Hill and Loughton's stations, and on other open areas in the Town. All this is leading up to a formal hearing in front of an Inspector late this year or early next year. Unless the Council makes significant changes to their draft, LRA will go to the hearing and contest the Council's plans; we'll keep residents in the picture as things develop. You can find out more by joining LRA and getting extra newsletters and our email news bulletins.

Not a blind alley!

After eight years of nagging by LRA County Cllr Chris Pond, Jackson's Alley, which runs from the side of Superdrug in the High Rd to Clifton Rd, has finally been resurfaced. Despite a helpful response to Chris's first email in Spring 2009, and regular follow-ups, nothing was done, and the surface deteriorated; there were potholes, protruding ironwork, and freezing water run-off. In the summer of 2016, a resident of Waltham Abbey tripped on the degraded surface and sustained nasty injuries.

Last December Chris raised the issue at a Full County Council meeting, and got the incredible reply from Conservative Highways boss Cllr Johnson that the footway had been assessed and did not meet the case for intervention! This was amazing as well as unhelpful. There is now a court case pending and the resident is being supported by Chris and her own County Cllr.

Highways finally repaired the footway on 7 February. *If you sustain a fall because of a highway defect, you can claim against the Council. See <http://tinyurl.com/hgquesth>*

We think that the Conservative administration at Chelmsford has wilfully ignored thousands of highways defects to save money - a great pity that innocent pedestrians (and sometimes motorists) have had to suffer injury and vehicle-damage as a result.



Jessel Green

Public Meeting & LRA's AGM All welcome

8pm Tuesday March 21st 2017

There's a lot going on locally! We'll answer your questions and give a briefing on the draft Local Plan (we hope to have new information to hand).

Then we'll have refreshments and LRA's AGM.

Doors open 7.45 for 8pm start at
Loughton Club, 5 Station Road, Loughton IG10 4NX

Broadway parking review

LRA's nine-year fight to get parking controls is nearly over! NEPP are expected to advertise proposals for the most urgent areas soon; phase 2 should follow within a year. We'll keep residents posted.

Stay in the picture!

Join LRA now for £5 per household! You'll get extra newsletters. You can receive our regular email bulletins of local news and events.

I enclose £5

I enclose a donation for LRA's work £

Name

Address

Post code IG10 Phone.....

Email (if any)

I would like LRA's email bulletins Y / N

Send to LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT.

Subscriptions pay our 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

LRA's membership information is not shared with anyone

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

Farmers' markets



Do you know a local charity or voluntary organisation which would like a free stall one month at the LRA's Farmers Market on Centric Parade, High Road; they are held on the first Sunday of each month?

We have spaces available from July onwards. If you're interested, please email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Can you help please?

We need a few more people to spend around an hour each delivering our *Loughton Life* newsletters several times a year. If you can help, or for more details, please contact david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk or 020 8508 2932).

Nu Bar

Nu Bar has been closed by the police, and its alcohol license temporarily suspended, pending a full hearing.

Loughton Festival Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to deliver programmes in April. If you can help, please email loughtonfestival@aol.com

Snapchat

Essex Police are now using Snapchat in an effort to connect with younger members of the community. It will be used to support campaigns, cover live events and deliver key messages using the username 'essexpoliceuk'.

citizenAID for emergencies

This free app is designed to guide the public to react safely & effectively in unfamiliar situations. Download it from *Google Play* or the *Apple App* store.

CONTACTING LRA: Enquiries: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932

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D = District Council; T = Town Council		RODING WARD	
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Chris Pond Staples Road	8508 2361	Mark Dalton (T) Highland Avenue	07719 736901
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Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive	8502 2925	ST JOHN'S WARD	
Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Rd	8279 0053	Bob Jennings (D) York Hill	8508 1861
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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)	07713 444712	ST MARY'S WARD	
John Mahoney (T) High Rd	07909 517145	Philip Beales (T) Harwater Drive	8418 0459
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		David Linnell	8508 2932
		Harvey Mann	07584 125211
		George Meltser	8502 3006
		Sharon Weston	8502 0713

**We're on Twitter (@LoughtonRA) & at
www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents**

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:

Connaught Avenue

The last application for flats on this site is still awaiting an appeal decision; it was refused by the District Council (EFDC) because flats would be out-of-character and the block would be too bulky and too close to the side boundaries. There is a new application to enlarge the existing building, for use as a single dwelling, and in particular to widen it closer to the side boundaries. This has given rise to concerns that, if approved by EFDC, it may undermine EFDC's reasons for turning down the block of flats. LRA Plans Group has delivered a letter to nearby residents and supported objections.

Block of flats on land to the rear of 268-278 High Road (next to Methodist Church)

Amends a previously-approved block: there are concerns about loss of parking, the effect on access to rear of Methodist Church, and the effect on houses at the rear.

Molens café 209D High Road

Application for rear conservatory with folding doors: we have concerns about customer use of the garden because of the very significant effect this would have on residents in the houses behind, which have very short gardens.

55 Tycehurst Hill

Extension and conversion of existing house to form three 2-bedroom dwellings with off-street parking. It would be wholly out-of-character to have flats here, and could set a precedent for Tycehurst and Sparelease. Proposed parking in front garden wholly inadequate and out-of-character as no room for any landscaping; also results in loss of on-street parking. LRA Plans Group has delivered a letter to nearby residents and supported objections.

Planning - have your say!

To join the LRA Plans Group (we work by email only) and be consulted by email on significant local plans, please email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Forest Rd & Smarts Ln Parking

LRA Cllr Chris Pond recently obtained an update from NEPP about their promised proposals. They say that plans are in the process of being devised and local enquiries arranged to ascertain the exact extent (days and time duration) of any parking restrictions to ensure that the least number of residential objections are received when they advertise their proposal at the end of March/beginning of April. NEPP will contact residents in due course.

When we know the details, we'll also let you know our views, and ask for your opinions.

Highways & parking

High Road closure

Sometime in the next 18 months, the High Road will be closed for resurfacing between the Rectory Lane roundabout and Buckhurst Hill, probably overnight, at weekends or for a day at a time. When we know dates we'll put them out on Twitter and Facebook.

Colson Road closure

The road may be closed at the junction with Chigwell Lane until June 30th. There will be a diversion via Ladyfields or Colson Road, Borders Lane and Chigwell Lane while the widening of Chigwell Lane continues.



One-way by the old Post Office, The Broadway

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has persuaded Highways to reinstate one of the *No Entry* signs, which hopefully will stop the hazards caused by drivers turning in from The Broadway.

Central strip, The Broadway

The Broadway Town Centre Partnership is concerned about the poor state of the flower beds. LRA favours surfacing them over, but leaving spaces for some flower beds.

167 bus route

Since TfL decided to terminate the route at Loughton Station from March 11th, and no longer serve Loughton Station to Debden, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been chasing the Conservative-led County Council to act on its earlier promise to provide some sort of replacement service beyond the Station. As we go to press we've heard nothing, but we'll let LRA members know if they come up with anything. The 20 and 397 bus routes remain unchanged.

Ready steady...

On 1st April, *Places for People* will take over the running of Loughton Leisure Centre, Traps Hill, and all the other Epping Forest Leisure Centres from *Everyone Active*, on a twenty year contract from the District Council. They have exciting plans to expand the Loughton Centre (subject to the usual planning application process), including a redevelopment of the octagon side of the building for a two storey dance / fitness studio and enlarged gym. As usual, prices will increase in line with RPI on 1st April, but the Council will have to be consulted on any future increases. LRA Cllr Rose Brookes represents residents on the Loughton Leisure forum and raises issues on behalf of users - contact her on vietrose02@aol.com Epping Forest Swimming Club have requested new starting blocks; Rose will ask the new contractor to replace the old starting blocks, and will keep on battling on improving the cleanliness of the changing village.



E-mail LRA at - contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Chris keeps up the good work



LRA is delighted that County Cllr Chris Pond will be standing again at this year's County elections in May. Cllrs spend a certain amount of time in full council and regular committee meetings, but of course they also get involved in a wide variety of other matters.

We can't list more than a handful of Chris's activities:

- Lots of parking & yellow line issues (including The Broadway Parking Review)
- Recycling – there's a new County facility that recycles a further 10% of residual waste
- Street Lighting – he helped persuade County to keep streetlights on till 1am and back on at 5am
- Sorting out flooding issues
- Representing residents in schools admissions crises
- Health - Chris fights Loughton's corner on a joint scrutiny committee with our neighbours in London, on Whipps Cross hospital in particular
- Buses - as a member of the Essex bus board, he took prompt action when County dropped their bus subsidy to TfL, and is still fighting to replace the 167 north of Loughton station.

Chris has missed only one Full Council meeting in his whole 12 years. He leads a group of 3 other Independent councillors to press for common-sense policies.

He takes up residents' problems promptly, and nags till they are sorted - often an uphill struggle! He reckons to send a thousand or more emails to County each year, many on Highways/ transport-related issues!

Chris is also a Cllr on the District and Town Councils, and this is a great help in co-ordinating LRA's activities across the three Councils.

Chris's County Division covers St John's, St Marys, Alderton and Fairmead wards. There are also County Cllrs for Buckhurst Hill & Loughton South, and Loughton Broadway & Chigwell.

LRA takes up residents' problems across the Town and works with other Cllrs where appropriate. We are non-political and an LRA strength is having so many councillors in every District and Town Council ward. LRA Cllrs represent residents on those councils with great dedication.

What does "County" do?

We think it's essential to have an LRA County Cllr looking after Loughton's interests at Chelmsford!

Essex County Council takes 72% of your Council Tax to look after these aspects of daily life:

Education

- Most schools
- Special education
- Nursery, Adult and Community
- Youth service.



Staples Road School

Heritage and culture

Planning

- Strategic planning
- Mineral and waste planning
- Highway development control
- Historic buildings.

Economic Development and Enterprise

Personal Social Services

- Securing provision for the elderly, children and those with disabilities.

Emergency Planning

Transport

- Public transport
- Highways and footpaths
- Street lighting
- Traffic management
- On and off-street car parking enforcement.

Council Tax 2017-18

Do you know how your council tax is shared between Police, Fire and Rescue Service, District Council, and Town and Parish Councils?

To find out, and to see what each council is proposing for 2017-18, visit <http://tinyurl.com/j5hcp63>

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Promoted by and on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents

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LRA is independent and focuses on looking after Loughton