

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Autumn Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
For all residents in IG10 - September 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.

Loughton needs you!

Help look after Loughton! We're looking for someone to become a Cllr. Join our experienced team; we're the second largest group on the District Council. Please contact Chris Pond or David Linnell - details on page 2

Langston Road retail park

Shops have been opening and by the time you read this we hope the roadworks will be over – we now wait with concern to see whether shops on The Broadway and the High Road suffer as a result.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the District Council to provide a bus service, but they have refused to do so. We think this is silly and misguided. A commercial operator might do it, but will inevitably want to see whether the retail park is successful in attracting customers.



Jessel Green

Threatened green spaces

In July the District Council produced a report on its public consultation on the draft Local Plan (see <http://tinyurl.com/y8qv8vta>). We think this was particularly poor in bringing out YOUR concerns.

Thanks to the work of LRA and other local groups, the Loughton proposals received more comments than any other town in the District.

The Plan threatens building on Debden green spaces and the Traps Hill car-park and many more sites in our area, despite the Council having been told repeatedly by residents and LRA Cllrs that this is unthinkable, and in direct conflict with what the Plan is meant to achieve for the Town.

Subsequently, new site submissions by land-owners, and proposed changes to sites previously submitted, mean that the Council has to consider or re-consider another 169 sites.

The Council will publish a revised version of the draft Plan early in 2018, and will invite comments in relation to the 'soundness' and 'legal compliance' of the Plan.

The Plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination-in-Public; if it still contains the sites mentioned above, we will have to consider challenging the whole Plan at this final stage.



KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOUGHTON!

We deliver this newsletter, *Loughton Life*,
to all Loughton residents twice a year.

Members get more newsletters

and can receive our regular local news and events emails

JOIN NOW FOR ONLY £5 TILL END-2018

Send your name, address details & phone number with a £5 cheque payable to Loughton Residents Association (no cash by post please) to: LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton IG10 3QT

or transfer £5 to our bank account (40 30 25; 31348078) with your postcode and house number as the reference (so we can identify you) and email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk with your name & phone no.

Please say whether you'd like to receive our email local news & events newsletters.

We are Independent of any national political party.

We listen to residents' views and concerns and take action in support.

We have Councillors on the Town, District & County Councils.

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

Farmers' markets



For reasons beyond our control, we've had to change the firm which organises the markets, and have had to change the dates to the *second* Sunday of each month, 9am–2pm, on the Centric Parade, High Road. Come and buy from the stalls and our 2nd-hand bookstall, and talk to LRA's volunteers. There are two stalls each month occupied (free) by different local organisations.

Crossword solution

The solution for the crossword in the summer members-only edition will be given in the next (pre-Xmas) members' edition of Loughton Life.

High Road Highway repairs

Pressure from LRA Cllr Chris Pond on County Highways, after an accident in which a resident tripped and fell badly outside 202 High Road, led to Highways promising repairs. We are pleased to report that the uneven flagstones have now been dealt with.

New Church Hill crossing

LRA Cllr Caroline Pond has been pressing for a proper pedestrian crossing since 2003 because of the volume of traffic and the number of pedestrians using the former traffic island, including children on their way to/from school.

It was all finally agreed by County Highways a couple of years ago, but they have only now got around to carrying out the installation.

Please offer me a seat

TfL has launched a free "Please offer me a seat" badge and card. This aims to alert fellow customers on Public Transport that you're in need of a seat as you are less able to stand. Go to <https://tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility/please-offer-me-a-seat> or call TfL Customer Services on 0343 222 1234 to apply for a card.



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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.

Among recent new cases are two which LPG thinks would be over-developments of the sites and out-of-character,

60 Traps Hill

A proposal to build a large block of flats, which we think would also be a dangerous precedent.

13-15A Alderton Hill

Proposals to build two blocks of large retirement homes.

The LPG objected to all the applications below ("Council" = District Council)

2 Connaught Avenue

The Council turned down yet another application for an out-of-character block of flats. The developers already have permission to enlarge the existing house and have applied to make it even bigger, possibly in advance of another application for flats.

Royal Oak appeal

The applicants lost their appeal against the Council's refusal of the proposed conversion and the extension of existing building to flats. We expect a new application.

51 High Road

There's an appeal against the Council's rejection of yet another application for a block of flats to replace this building (classed as a non-designated heritage asset).

56 Tycehurst Hill

The Council have turned down an application for a block of flats as out-of-character and an unsuitable precedent.

113 Church Hill

The Council has given permission for a block of 10 flats, with inadequate parking.

LuXe, High Road

Following a licence review, the premises now have a licence to operate as a gastro-pub, closing at 11.30pm.

The exterior has been restored, but rather unsatisfactorily.



Vivaldi, 236 High Road

Following objections by the LRA Plans Group and others to a licensing application for opening until 00.30am on Saturdays and Sundays, reduced hours were agreed.

Nu-Bar

It is understood the premises have reverted to the freeholder – we await events.

LRA Plans Group

Planning applications near where you live? Help us keep an eye on what's proposed. We operate by email. To join in, email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Highways & parking

Residents' Parking schemes

For the last ten years, LRA has been battling to get parking schemes proposed for the most over-parked areas of Loughton, so that residents can decide on them. Ones for The Broadway (Phase 1) and Smarts Lane/Forest Road area are finally underway; we know that they won't please everybody, but should improve parking for residents.

The permit charges go towards the cost of setting up the schemes, and employing the traffic wardens. If you think that a particular area isn't being visited often enough, contact NEPP (01206 282316; parking@colchester.gov.uk) and let us know if nothing happens.

Broadway Parking area

The Residents' Parking Zone (RPZ) is now in operation and residents are finding parking much easier. LRA Cllrs Chris Pond and Leon Girling had asked NEPP to include double yellow lines on the relevant parts of The Broadway and these are already having an effect!

The Pay & Display area on the Rectory Lane service road is meant to provide some commuter parking, and also better access for residents to the clinic etc.

NEPP will be looking to see where there's "displacement parking", to be dealt with in next year's Phase 2 of the scheme (which will stretch roughly over the area within 15 minutes' walk of Debden station).; we will be pressing them to get on with this as soon as possible.

Double yellow lines

LRA Cllr Chris Roberts got the lines on the corner of Colson Road and Honeycroft advanced from The Broadway RPZ Phase 2 into Phase 1 because of the accidents there.

Other junctions, such as Bushfields/Colson Road, will be looked at in Phase 2.

Double yellow lines have been painted on the Earls Path-Forest Road - Smarts Lane - Shaftesbury crossroads after safety concerns first submitted by LRA in 2008.

Off-street parking

If you have problems parking outside your house, you may want to consider dropping the kerb and parking in your front or rear garden, space permitting. To do this you need to apply for permission first.

When parking, please be considerate of other people and remember that parking in front of a dropped kerb is illegal and may inconvenience residents.

You can find full information on off-street garden parking, with how to apply and the conditions that must be met, at <http://tinyurl.com/y83ls667> & <http://tinyurl.com/y79dkwhd>

Fraud and cyber crime

Report crime to Action Fraud and receive a police crime reference number. http://actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
0300 123 2040

or



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

Meet LRA Cllrs **Bob Jennings**

St John's Ward District Cllr

Bob was born in Ilford and studied at Loughton College, before working in the professional theatre, in both London's West End and the provinces. He then studied Amenity Horticulture at Writtle Agricultural College.



He lives in York Hill with his wife Judy (who is not only a Town Councillor and former Mayor of Loughton, but also a District Councillor); he was Chairman of the Hills Amenity Society in 1992/93.

Bob has over 25 years' experience in a wide variety of local and central government roles. He is keen to improve the quality of the public realm; he managed Natural England's Green Arc campaign, and chaired the City of London Corporation's Epping Forest Grazing Review.

Since retiring, Bob has volunteered with the Loughton Arts Centre and the Epping Forest District Museum. He has also gained an Honours Degree in History from the Open University and led guided tours of the First World War battlefields around Ypres in Belgium. In 2015 Bob was appointed as a member of the Local Government Association. Last year he served on its Improvement and Innovation Board, and has recently been appointed Deputy Chair of the People and Places Board.

Bob is keen to continue using his skills and experience for the long-term benefit of residents by ensuring Loughton, and particularly St. John's ward, retains its special character by balancing the demand for built development against the need to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Travellers move on

We understand that a group of travellers arrived on Hillyfields open space (part of the Forest) and departed a short while after, thanks to the bund, a large group of forest constables plus tractor, and a police unit.

Details of the works to finish creating a ditch and bund around the lower boundary of this site are in the course of completion by the City of London.

Loughton Town Council

A reminder that the Council has moved!



New contact details are Loughton Library and Town Hall, Traps Hill.

0208 508 4200

contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

Meet LRA Cllrs **Roger Baldwin**

Forest Ward District Cllr

Roger has lived in the area most of his life and is passionate about preserving Loughton as a pleasant place to live and protecting the heritage of the town.

He is a secondary school teacher and for the past 15 years he has taught mathematics and economics, latterly as a supply teacher.

He is married, with two young daughters, and his interests are history, education and business.

He serves on the neighbourhood and communities committees in the district and is concerned about the provision of social housing, the protection of urban open spaces and development through the emerging local plan.



Oakwood Hill estate



Some years ago, LRA obtained a commitment (now £200,000) from the District Council to improve the poor condition of the estate, and in particular to repair the footpaths.

We are delighted that the District & County Councils have now decided to go ahead with resurfacing.

Residents will be consulted and work will be carried out in 2018.

Stan Goodwin

We are very sorry to report the death of ex-Cllr Stan Goodwin, who contributed much to the Town.

Independent Cllr Stephen Murray said: "Stan was a wonderful family man, a loving husband and father. To many of us in the local community he was a beacon of hope, support and the source of many acts of kindness". (Photo: Epping Forest Guardian)

