

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
December 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.



The cream of the crop!



After our problems in the summer, we now have the market full of stalls again, although we hope to further increase the proportion of produce stalls. The markets are now held on the *second* Sunday of each month, 9am–3pm, on the Centric Parade, High Road. There are two stalls each month occupied (free) by different local voluntary organisations. At the December market, instead of the LRA 2nd-hand bookstall, we'll have some of the Roding Players to entertain us. Come along to listen, and to talk to LRA's volunteers.

Broadway shopping



Draft Local Plan - next steps

The government is proposing that the number of housing units to be built in the District should go up from 514 a year to 921 a year – an impossible target!

The District Council can avoid this increase – for the time being - if it can submit its Plan for examination before March 31st 2018. It's therefore speeding up the process to make sure this happens – the key Council meeting will be on December 14th.

The Council say even 514 units a year would mean building on Loughton's open spaces – we know most residents are against this, as is LRA.

Follow what's happening in our regular email news bulletins or check out our website www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk (If you're not getting our regular email news and events bulletins email contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk).

See the draft Plan at <http://tinyurl.com/y85kpjrv>

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

With the eventual end of the Chigwell Lane roadworks, we hope that trade will return to The Broadway shops; there are lots of individual traders, including a baker's, a butcher's and a greengrocer's.

However, because commuters are parking in the shoppers' car park in Burton Road, LRA Cllrs have put forward various ideas to the District Council to prevent commuters monopolising what should be shopper parking.

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

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Rectory Lane traffic lights

Once the roadworks are over and drivers have got used to the new layout, Essex Highways will review the sequencing of the traffic lights to try to minimize queues building up. Unfortunately, because of the Christmas/ New Year break, this won't happen until January.

Highways have also identified a need for extra guard-rails to stop students from the College cutting dangerously across the Rectory Lane/ Borders Lane junction.

Resurfacing planned

In the period to end-March 2019, Essex Highways plan to resurface all or part of:

- A104 Epping New Road
- Clays Lane
- Englands Lane/Debden Lane/Loughton Lane/Theydon Green
- Debden Road/Debden Green

Parking near the High Road

Now that the Smarts Lane/ High Beech Road/ Forest Road Residents' Parking Zone is in force, commuters have been displaced to other nearby roads.



NEPP have a long list of parking schemes from across the county, so to get onto the NEPP list a majority of residents need to show that they're in favour of introducing restrictions.

We know that moves are already afoot in Nursery Road, Shaftesbury and Queens Road; if your road is badly affected too, please let us know us at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

Residents will have to wait till December to find out whether NEPP will be letting businesses in the zone have parking permits. NEPP, and LRA Cllr Chris Pond, have been surveying the number of empty spaces. We are concerned that the *Royal Oak* proposals would mean the loss of several roadside parking spaces.

There are an increasing number of flats above and behind the High Road shops. The Government's planning rules allow new blocks to be built there *without* parking spaces, or with fewer than usual, as there's "good" public transport.

Tenants and owners of High Road flats have no right to parking permits in other roads – something buyers should beware! The problem will get worse as, inevitably, more and more roads in Loughton become part of Residents' Parking Zones.

Bus 418

From January 1st, the commercial operator intends to discontinue route 418 to Epping. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has seen Essex transport supremo Ray Gooding to try to get it replaced.

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**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.

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

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. They have now applied for 4 flats and 6 houses on the site.



51 High Road – Spring Grove corner

A Planning Inspector has turned down the applicant's 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).

Englands Lane

An application for 5 houses on land next to Ripley View, which manages to avoid mentioning that this is Green Belt land.

Traps Hill Leisure Centre

An application for a two-storey extension to replace the front octagonal building, to provide a new fitness suite. We think the design would be out-of-keeping because of its overbearing frontage and roof design. We don't object in principle to an extension for a fitness suite, but we think it would be perfectly possible to design a much more sympathetic extension.

Highways & parking

Oakwood Hill estate

The District Council put forward proposals to convert a much-valued green space into parking for the vehicles from their new Oakwood Hill complex. Residents objected, and LRA Cllrs have persuaded the Council to carry out a thorough survey of the other available parking space nearby, which we think will prove more than adequate.

High Road lights

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked County Highways to review the lights' timings, which are causing long northbound queues on the High Road.

Alderton Hill drain

The drain at the bottom of the hill, by Roding Valley High School, blocked again recently, leaving a great pool across the pavement. It blocks where it drains into the nearby brook, and we have been fighting for years to get Highways to sort it out – we'll keep trying!

Who is it? LRA Cryptic Christmas Quiz 2017



It's that time again – and this year the LRA Christmas quiz features famous people throughout the centuries. Answers, mostly surnames only, include historical figures, actors, singers, writers, politicians and so on.

Completed quizzes by 5th Jan, please, to Les Harris, 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ, or by email to lesandsueharris@aol.com. Book token or fizz for the first correct answer out of the hat.

Happy quizzing – and a very Merry Christmas to you all.

1. I'd hang for this man (6)
2. Cigar-smoking insurance man? (9)
3. Sounds as if she should wed a French priest (5, 5)
4. D'ye know Ted? (7)
5. An Italian bird? (8, 11)
6. US President going naked (5)
7. Rattles his lance (11)
8. She may repair your roof (8)
9. Did he build religious nests? (7)
10. Blow your bugle! (5)
11. Half one for a hold (6)
12. The animals went two by two, but she stood alone (4, 2, 3)
13. Happy granite (9)
14. Put de' ball in (2, 6)
15. A single German beer mug (8)
16. What the!!!! (7)
17. Looks through his fingers (5)
18. Like a Virgin? Only in name (7)
19. Duke gets the boot (10)
20. A presidential English city (7)
21. Old currency ends with nothing (6)
22. Poet just foolin' around (6)
23. Did he study this Australian city? (6)
24. At the net he's mint! (6)
25. A Christmas song on a Scottish island? (5, 7)
26. Merry old soul goes after a mixed-up insect (3, 4, 4)
27. A singer from a wooded valley (5)
28. Moorland politician? (5)
29. Wickedness at the Royal Academy (7)
30. A fundamental captain? (4)

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

Loughton Leisure Centre, Traps Hill

Residents have been approaching LRA Cllr Rose Brookes about the closure of the crèche and the recent announcement that the café will close too, with long-serving employees losing their jobs.



The Council's Leisure Portfolio-holder has regretted the loss of the crèche during the planned re-building work at the Centre. She hopes that the loss of the crèche will be compensated by new extensive Under-5 activity sessions during the quieter afternoon periods, together with allowing parents with particularly young children in carrycots into certain exercise classes. However, these matters seem to have been poorly communicated to users, who are understandably very upset. See also *Planning & Licensing* (page 3).

Mind your own business!



Please don't leave your belongings unattended, and remember to lock up your property securely. What's special to you may also be desirable to somebody else!

Following County Highways surveying, which took place around Burney Drive, a theodolite was stolen from Pylres Lane. Coincidentally LRA Cllr Carol Davies spotted it, looking rather lonely and snapped it. just before it was stolen!

Street Pastors

The closure of Loughton's three former night-clubs has meant that there's no longer any need for the team of volunteers from local churches who used to patrol the streets in the early hours, to care, listen and help without judgment, but their efforts should not go unrecorded.

Burney Drive resurfacing



All credit to County Highways for finishing resurfacing part of Burney Drive ahead of schedule - but it had taken them 10 years to get round to doing it!

The job was originally asked for by an LRA Executive Committee member and the pressure was kept up by LRA Cllr Chris Pond.

When it re-opened, we had a number of complaints of parents ignoring the yellow lines and dropped kerbs, and Chris has asked NEPP to send some wardens down at school collection times.

York Hill green space restored

Thames Water, under pressure from the City of London and local residents and Cllrs, have now removed the concrete inspection pit covers they installed without permission in this Conservation Area, and the green space has been restored.

Church Hill crossing



Having finally succeeded in getting the crossing installed, LRA Cllr Chris Pond pressed for the connection of the new street-light installed nearby. Unfortunately, despite the obvious risks involved, County Highways had to wait for UK Power Networks to get round to doing this.