

the LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

Members' Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
February 2018

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.

Annual talk & AGM Policing Loughton!

Please come along to hear from our Police District Commander, Chief Inspector Lewis Basford, and ask your questions. Starts 8pm on Monday March 19th; followed by refreshments and our brief AGM. All are welcome. Loughton Cricket Clubhouse (entrance in The Uplands, off Church Hill; some parking available).



Please subscribe now

We are very grateful for our members' support. Your copy of Loughton Life should come with a letter confirming that you've already paid for 2018 or asking you to renew your membership (only £5 a year). If this applies to you, you can help us greatly by doing so now. LRA is run by volunteers and we keep our costs to the minimum. We depend upon volunteers and membership to produce these newsletters and run our campaigns.



Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday March 14th

Find out what your Town Council has achieved and its plans for the future, and raise your concerns during the public question time.

Local organisations' displays. Voluntary sector speakers.

Light refreshments after the meeting provide the ideal opportunity to speak to your local councillor.

Murray Hall, Borders Lane from 7.30pm



Photo courtesy of marksoanes.com

Draft Local Plan

On December 14th, despite strong opposition from LRA Cllrs and others, the Conservative majority on the District Council forced through the approval of the draft Local Plan. LRA Cllrs put forward an amendment to exclude from development under the Plan all public urban open space (such as Jessel Green), but this was defeated.

Following pressure from LRA, the Council had dropped Traps Hill car-park from the list of developments, and Rochford Green had also been omitted. However, half of Jessel Green, Luctons Field and the car-parks at Loughton & Debden stations, are still on the list, and the County Council wants to redevelop the Traps Hill Library building to provide housing, a library and other facilities.

What next?

The *SaveJesselGreen* group organised a rally (see picture) and a petition to be sent to the District Council; LRA and Loughton Town Council have also sent in objections.

In Autumn 2018 there will be a formal hearing on the Plan in front of a Planning Inspector, and we expect to give evidence at the hearing. The District Council aims to deliver the development of 11,400 new homes in the remaining 15 year plan period. The Inspector will want to see a rolling 5-year land supply capable of meeting the identified housing need.

Furthermore, in order to meet the housing targets required by national policy, the Council will have to demonstrate that it can achieve a dramatic improvement in the number of new homes brought forward annually.

The annualised average requirement for new housing in the district is approximately 518. However, over the past years only 150 – 220 dwellings per annum have been delivered, leaving the Council with a significant shortfall of approximately 1,500 dwellings for the years 2011 – 2017. This shortfall must also be delivered in the Plan period.

We will let members know what's happening in these newsletters, in our email news bulletins and on our website.

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Farmers' markets



After our problems in the summer, the market is now back in proper operation, although we hope to increase further 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.

Each month we make two stalls available (free) to different local voluntary organisations.

Come along to browse LRA's second-hand book stall and to talk to our volunteers.

Number 418 Bus Service



Following pressure from LRA Cllr Chris Pond, the County Council and Galleon Travel have agreed to provide a service January - March (extendable by mutual agreement).

In order to provide the service with just one bus, the new weekday service will be similar to the current Saturday service. This means some timing changes, and there'll be one fewer morning peak-period journey from Loughton to Harlow (from two return journeys to one).

Evening journeys and Sunday journeys numbered 418B will be unchanged.

Number 20 Bus Service

This has been unreliable, with buses frequently being turned at Loughton station. The route is currently being retendered under TfL's rolling programme. Chris Pond asked Essex County Council to check the details, and was told it will continue to follow its existing route to Debden. We'll be keeping a close eye on the situation.

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& at www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

Policing Awards in our community

In November 2017, LRA Cllrs Carol Davies and Philip Abraham attended the Epping Forest community forum at a ceremony at The Warren.

It was interesting and moving to learn the background around each award and served as a good reminder of the brave and invaluable work our police do every day.

Answers to LRA's Christmas Quiz 2017

We received a pleasing response to this year's quiz, with a good number of correct answers. Well done all who entered. First out of the hat were Chris and Ken Faulkner, who will receive a £15 book token!

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

Note: if you can't remember the questions, or you're just intrigued, you can find them in our December issue (along with previous issues of *Loughton Life*) at www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk

Landmark Building

(Former Winston Churchill PH).

The District Council is still negotiating with potential tenants of the ground-floor retail space to provide a public house, restaurant, coffee shop and a Co-op food-store. Progress has been slower than anticipated.

Pay more for more police?

More than 5,000 people recently completed a survey.

Investing in more policing – 66% said that in general they would be prepared to invest more in policing to help improve the service provided.

Lifting the cap on the policing element of the Council Tax – 65% said that if the Government agreed to it, they would be prepared to see the cap lifted so that more Council Tax could be raised and made available for policing in Essex.

Pay more: 75% of those who gave a view said they were prepared to contribute an additional £10 or more a year to invest in policing. Another 16% were prepared to pay £5 a year more.

Separately, the District Council decided to discuss with Essex Police the options and implications of the Council funding two police officers, to improve levels of policing in the District and, as a short term measure, to appoint Parkguard security company to provide regular uniformed patrolling of the District, January – March 2018,

Loughton Leisure Centre

The Centre is now run for the District Council by Places for People (P4P). They plan to completely refurbish the pool Changing Village to benefit users, particularly users with disabilities, at a cost to the Council of £324,000.

The work will be done at the same time as the building of the new Health and Fitness centre, which will inevitably cause some disruptions to pool users (although no closures are planned).



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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.

"Council" = District Council"

60 Traps Hill and 13-15A Alderton Hill.

LPG is very concerned about planning applications for blocks of flats at the top of Traps Hill (7 flats where the road is at its narrowest) and near the bottom of Alderton Hill - 106 retirement flats, 4-6 storeys (the latter will be decided just after we go to press - see our website for the result). Volunteers kindly delivered our letters to residents to tell them how they could comment on the proposals.

56 Tycehurst Hill

The applicant has appealed against the Council's refusal of a block of flats in this area of large single-occupation housing. **Note:** LPG is not against flats as such, but these blocks would be out-of-character in their surroundings and anyway would be over-developments of the sites.

256 High Road

A proposal to build up to 6 storeys of 30 flats on the former Royal Mail Delivery Office site was turned down by the Council because of the potential impact on nearby residents and the Methodist Church.

The developers have now come back with a revised proposal for up to 5 storeys of 29 retirement flats. The LPG remains concerned about the impact on residents in Habgood Road

Royal Oak development

The Council has approved the revised plans, after a long debate in the planning committee. The approval was subject to asking for no resident parking permits, a higher fence, proper marking out of the public footpath through the site and preservation off-site of the inn sign as a town sign. The new application had been carefully designed by the developer to get over the reasons given by the Planning Inspector for refusing the earlier application. Under the national planning laws, had the Council turned down the revised application, the developer would have been pretty sure of winning an appeal, with costs against the Council (that is, at the expense of Council tax payers).



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

Off-street parking for The Broadway

Local Cllrs and Broadway traders have expressed concerns over commuter and worker parking and the impact it is having on the small businesses. In order to make an informed decision, the Council commissioned an external consultancy firm to carry out surveys on The Broadway Car Parks. Once their report is received officers will be able to make recommendations for further action.

In particular, officers are working on proposals to submit a planning application next year to create more parking spaces by demolishing a walled area and some garages in Vere Road, creating about 30 more spaces.

Alderton Hill drain

On November 9th we reported the notorious drain near the Brook Road junction was blocked again, a situation which has in the past taken months if not years for County Highways to sort out.

This time, we are very pleased that they have not only acknowledged the past problems, but promised to take action in late January (weather permitting) after the pre and post-holiday period ban on non-emergency work involving traffic controls (needed for safety reasons).



Parking

A resident queried how residents in Priory Road and Churchfields could get parking restrictions to deal with the pressure from commuters parking there.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond replied that if residents wanted a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), they would have to prepare a petition to NEPP, to be supported by about 70% of residents. Broadly, NEPP will look at the situation and may suggest a daytime "no parking" period where residents all have off-road parking available or, if not, a CPZ.

Compulsory smart water-metering

In March-May 2018, compulsory smart water-metering for properties currently without water meters is coming to Loughton. Existing meters won't be replaced until the end of their useful lives.

LRA news & events bulletins

If you don't receive our regular email bulletins, and would like to, let us know at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk In between the email bulletins, we send out urgent items on Twitter and Facebook: www.twitter.com/loughtonra and www.facebook.com/loughtonresidents