

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Newsletter

## Townwide Spring Edition

For all residents in IG10: Spring 2020

Loughton Residents Association is independent  
and focuses on looking after Loughton.

We have Cllrs on the County & District Councils, and  
hold 20 out of the 22 Loughton Town Council seats.



## Saving our greens

This year LRA, the Town Council and residents working together, have saved three green areas around the town:

- Jessel Green, which the Planning Inspector, Louise Philips, has advised (ordered) the District Council to remove from the allocated sites in their Local Plan
- Marlescroft Green, which the District Council wanted to turn into a staff car park
- Loughton Cricket Ground, whose long-term future was in doubt because the lease would have run out in about 5 years.

Jessel Green (Colebrook Lane/Jessel Drive) was a major victory. LRA and the Town Council worked together on the funding of specialist and legal advice, spending large sums from reserves, and with Save Jessel Green (SJG), who so effectively marshalled public opinion. A great deal of work by LRA's David Linnell and Chris Pond, and SJG's Mark Hickey and Neil Bartlett, briefing legal and planning reps, and attendance at the Examination in Public was involved. But when we learned that the Inspector had withdrawn the site, there was great rejoicing, and we reckoned all the hard work well worthwhile.

Marlescroft Green, the recreational space behind the Oakwood Hill estate, was the subject of a wholly unsustainable planning application by the District Council to convert it into a staff car park. LRA Cllrs Chris and Debbie Roberts, along with local residents, piled the pressure on the District Council to show that this application went against every indicator of greenness, and in the end it was "pulled" a week or so before the Committee was due to sit. (Continued on page 2)

## Local Elections

LRA will be fighting for all the vacant Loughton seats on the District Council on 7 May, and all but one on the Town Council.

If you can help LRA and our town by delivering leaflets near your road, talking to your neighbours, filling a Cllr vacancy, or encouraging all to vote, then please let us know.

LRA works only because of tremendous public support. We try to do whatever we can for Loughton. We're all volunteers, so if you have a little time to spare, please do contact us by phone, (either on 020 8508 2361 or 020 8508 4457), or at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

Have you registered to vote? If you'll be unable to get to your polling station on an election day, you can apply to the District Council to vote by post or proxy. Applications must be received at least 11 working days before the election.

## Local Plan

Things have gone very quiet on this. The District Council are desperately trying to find a way round the air quality issue (a "mitigation strategy"). Meanwhile, according to reports in the press, Epping Forest District has the worst Air Quality (AQ) for particulates of any district in Essex. Particulates come not only from exhausts, but tyre and brake emissions from motor vehicles too. This can be seen in practice in the condition of roadside structures, signs, and vegetation in the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) near the roads through the Forest, many of which are covered in blackish slime.

The Town Council has suggested that any new housing within a mile of the SAC is bound to increase car ownership and use, and thus exacerbate the AQ issue; they say it would therefore be unsound for the District Council to grant planning permissions. Some 80% of bus mileage in Loughton near the Forest is now run by hybrid electric vehicles, and the Town Council has asked Essex to make a bid to the Government's Electric Bus Town initiative to help reduce the emissions problem further.

## The Broadway Post Office

McColl's shop in Pyrles Lane will close on Friday 17 April and The Broadway shop will close on Friday 23 October.

As a result, the Post Office (P.O.) currently in the McColl's store in The Broadway will lose its premises. A petition to save the Post Office has been set up and has over 300 signatures. The Post Office will be looking for another shop in the Broadway area to take on running the P.O. service.



### Stay in the picture!

**Join LRA now for £5 per household till end-2020!**  
You'll get extra newsletters. You can receive our regular email bulletins of local news.

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 news bulletins Y / N

Send to LRA Membership Secretary,  
112 Jessel Drive, IG10 2EQ

If you'd like more information, please email  
membership@loughtonresidents.co.uk  
or ring 020 8508 2932

We don't share our membership information.

## Our thanks to all the residents who support LRA

## Our Farmers' Markets



Come along to LRA's Farmers' Market on Sunday 8 March, on Centric Parade, High Road. The market is held from 9am to 3pm, opposite The Last Post. Residents have been delighted that this regular event gives them the opportunity to meet up. There are two stalls available each month for local charities; if you're interested in booking, you can email [ppiercejp@gmail.com](mailto:ppiercejp@gmail.com) to check availability.

## Save Our Libraries Essex

Last month, hundreds of protesters across the county turned out for a day of action against County Council plans to run 25 libraries by volunteers. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been a constant critic of the Council's proposals, which would affect Debden Library and would also mean demolition and re-provision on a smaller scale of Loughton Library, Traps Hill.

## Safe disposal of knives

Cllr Carol Davies recently came across these dodgy but lethal 70's knives in a kitchen drawer and was concerned about disposing of them safely, so called the police on 101 for advice. She was advised that they can be dropped into the KNIFE BOX situated outside Harlow Police Station. We advise people to do the same to help to maintain safer streets in the District.



(Continued from page 1) **Saving our greens**

The cricket ground at the corner of Traps Hill and Church Hill was not under immediate threat, as the Club is a thriving one. The Town Council, and in particular Recreation chairman, LRA Cllr David Wixley, had been in discussions for some five years. Transfer of the freehold (with a long lease to the Cricket Club) of the ground to the Town Council occurred just before Christmas, and since then, negotiations have been going on to try to make it a Field in Trust, so that it can *never* be built on. Greens and openness are what set Loughton apart from the run of suburbs, and their importance in assuring the physical and mental well-being of Loughton residents is immense.

## Bowled over

South Loughton Cricket Club has run junior teams since the 1960s but the 2019 season saw the club's youngsters achieve their greatest feat. In front of a large crowd of supporters at the County Ground, Chelmsford, the under-12 team comfortably defeated Shenfield CC in the final of the Essex-wide Brian Taylor Trophy. Their reward is to represent Essex in next year's ECB National Under-13 Championship. In what was a highly successful season all round, the phenomenal achievement of the under-12s exceeded all expectations.



## Oh deer!

LRA Cllr David Wixley reports that at around 8.40pm one January evening, he spotted a Muntjac deer in Goldings Road walking along the far side pavement, roughly opposite numbers 66/68; he wonders if this is a first for Goldings Road?

## Bee hotels

Loughton Town Council looks after a number of sites in the town. The Council will be installing six 'bee hotels' in locations that offer suitable bee and insect friendly habitats: Loughton Cemetery, Murray Hall, Roding Valley Recreation Ground, Willingale Road Playing Field and Willingale Road Allotments.

## CONTACTING LRA

<b>D=District</b>	<b>Enquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk">contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk</a>	<b>8508 2361</b>
<b>T=Town</b>	<b>Membership:</b> Josephine Gilbert, 112 Jessel Drive, IG10 2EQ	<b>07922 048758</b>
<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>FAIRMEAD WARD</b>	<b>ST MARY'S WARD</b>
<b>ALDERTON WARD</b>	Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens 07817 230372	Barbara Cohen (T) Traps Hill 07957 141197
Adam Omer (T) 07904 919701	David Wixley (D) Goldings Road 8418 9284	Howard Kauffman (D) Church Lane 8508 1098
Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Road 8279 0053	Kevin Latchford (T) Colebrook Gardens 8502 4568	Judy Jennings (D&T) York Hill 8508 1861
Mick Stubbings (T) Greenfields 07766 480522	Louise Mead (D) 07746 875952	<b>COUNTY: Loughton (Central)</b>
Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive 8502 2925	<b>FOREST WARD</b>	Chris Pond Staples Road 8508 2361
<b>BROADWAY WARD</b>	Amy Beales (D) Harwater Drive 07507 341956	<b>COMMITTEE</b>
Chris Pond (D) Staples Road 8508 2361	Jill Angold-Stephens (T) Lower Park Road 8281 0674	Anne Harriman 8502 1779
Jayna Jogia (T) The Drive 07983 713389	Roger Baldwin (D) Burney Drive 8281 5488	Chidi Nweke 07403 489455
John Mahoney (T) High Road 07909 517145	Tessa Cochrane (T) Shaftesbury 3643 7492	John Walker 07779338868
Michael Owen (D) Baldwins Hill 07467 430145	Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane 8508 8877	Judith Walker 07855 265835
Stella Murphy (T) High View Close 8508 2794	<b>RODING WARD</b>	Juliet Pollard 8502 0552
<b>ST JOHN'S WARD</b>	David Wixley (T) Goldings Road 8418 9284	Lance Leonard 8502 0771
Bob Jennings (D) York Hill 8508 1861	Mark Dalton (T) Highland Avenue 07719 736901	Mark Hickey 07774 682299
Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Road 8508 2361	Rose Brookes (D&T) Lower Park Road 8502 5981	Michael Benbow 8508 4457
Chris Pond (T) Staples Road 8508 2361	<b>LOUGHTON LIFE EDITOR</b> Eva Blasco 8923 0065	Steve Eaton 8923 0065
<b>SECRETARY</b> Jill Angold-Stephens 8281 0674	<b>MINUTES SECRETARY</b> Susan Creevy	<i>*Dial 020 before numbers beginning with 8</i>
<b>TREASURER</b> Miriam Murphy 01992 815525		

**LRA councillors are Independent and non-political**

## Planning & licensing

The LRA Plans Group (LRAPG) looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town, and takes action where appropriate. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. It works entirely separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees.

Read more about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information using the application and licensing numbers provided, and how you can comment at <https://tinyurl.com/LRAPPlanning> Where there are residents in flats above licensed premises, for example on the High Road, The Broadway or nearby, the LRAPG objects to late-night licensing applications.

### *McDonald's, 202 High Road (was Pak Choi)*

McDonalds are going ahead with their High Road store and have put in a planning application to change the use of the store from a restaurant to a takeaway. A decision from the District Council is imminent.

LRAPG continues to object given the focus on a takeaway service, a late closing time and the risk of additional litter in the surrounding area. In addition to the potential impact on the High Road, we are concerned about Jackson's Alley and Clifton Road which may suffer from delivery vehicles late at night and litter. *Application Number EPF/2162/19 (The date for comments has passed.)*

### *273 High Road (was Daniel Footwear)*

A planning application has been made for a change of use from the existing retail to a nail salon.

LRAPG has objected as this will be a loss of A1 retail space. No marketing information has been submitted to demonstrate the unit can no longer be let for retail purposes. *Application Number EPF/0028/20 (The date for comments has passed.)*

### *76 Algiers Road, appeal dismissed*

The applicant appealed against the District Council's refusal of an application to replace the current house with a block of three 1-bedroom and three 2-bedroom flats. The appeal had objections from LRAPG and 60 residents and has been dismissed. *Application Number EPF/2881/18 (Appeal dismissed)*

## Lake forms in Staples Road

In the prolonged heavy rain before Christmas, a lake formed where the road dips in front of Staples Road School. It was about a quarter acre in extent and up to a foot deep. A couple of cars got stranded in it and had to be pushed out.



The cause of this was a collapsed culvert, where run-off from the Forest, which is effectively a small seasonal stream, is diverted under the school buildings to the ditch that runs along the backs of the gardens, and eventually debouches into the main storm-water drain in The Drive.

This was an instance where the county and district authorities, and voluntary action, were effective. The lake was passable dry-shod on Christmas Day.

On 7 to 10 February, Essex Highways, using a huge machine, replaced the collapsed pipe and drainage chamber so that the lake should not return. The gang thought the pipe had been there since the school was built on green (and probably very muddy) fields in 1888.

## Epping Forest College Middle Site, Borders Lane

Fairview Homes wishes to build three blocks of flats:

- 139 flats (the draft Local Plan states 111)
- 3 buildings, 3 to 5 storeys high
- 250 bedrooms in total
- 125 ground level parking spaces, under a roof with grass on top
- A one-bedroom flat = 1 to 2 people and 1 to 2 cars
- half a car park space per bedroom.



If permission is granted on this site, it may set a precedent for development on Lucton's Field opposite the College, and future building densities around our town.

Objections are needed from 300 to 400 households in order to influence the District Council planning committee of 15 Cllrs, 12 of them representing other towns. This is the committee which granted permission for Landmark House. Although the District Council's first consultation's expiry date has passed, if you email soon, your views will be considered.

In order to object, please send an e-mail to [appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:appcomment@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) with your views expressed in 5 or 6 bullet points. Residents should use their own words, send only one e-mail per household, and include their names and address.

It helps if the email subject states "EPF/2905/19: Objection", and please copy your email comments to us at [applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:applications@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## New Lidl store, 140 Church Hill

We hear on the grapevine that the now-closed Homebase store may reopen as Lidl a bit later than expected as apparently roof replacement, rather than stripping/patching, has been necessary. Lidl have been advertising for staff as "opening Feb 2020", but we gather a delay may now be involved.

Lidl have put in a planning application to increase the delivery hours they're allowed, and nearby residents are concerned. We await a decision from the District Council.

There are persistent rumours about McDonalds taking on the Homebase site; we've seen no evidence for this.

## Baldwins Hill Pond

LRA Cllrs Judy Jennings, Roger Baldwin, Caroline Pond and Chris Pond attend the District Council liaison committee with the Epping Forest Conservators. At the February meeting, the City of London reported that extensive works will probably be needed to the pond to make it safe, as the dam is becoming unstable. This may involve making a temporary one-way road between Baldwins Hill and the Epping New Road to allow access for machinery. This would be along Clay Ride which starts at 2 Baldwins Hill. Consultants have been appointed to advise, and a decision is expected later this year. LRA will be concerned to keep disturbance to residents to a minimum, and damage to the SAC as low as possible.

**Email LRA at [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)**

## Meet LRA Cllr Rose Brookes

*Roding Ward Town Cllr*

Cllr Rose Brookes represents Loughton Roding ward on the Town and District Council, sharing it with the longest serving local Cllr, Independent Cllr Stephen Murray. Rose previously represented Alderton ward, and after a break returned to both Councils in 2016.



Although Rose's roots are firmly in Nottinghamshire, she settled in Loughton to teach in a local primary school after working in both China and Ireland. After about twenty years in education, she followed her passion for art and history and moved into museum work. For the past eighteen years, the reward for the daily commute on the Central Line has been the pleasure of working at the National Portrait Gallery.

Rose joined and is active in LRA because she wanted to become more involved in her local community.

She believes that one of the main roles of a local Cllr is to help all residents with their concerns. These may include housing issues, navigating Council bureaucracy or tackling antisocial behaviour.

As a qualified teacher of swimming, Rose is ideally placed to be a member of the Loughton Leisure Centre Customer Forum and the Leisure Contract Monitoring Board. She successfully led the lobbying for the centre to open on Bank Holidays.



Rose has recently returned to cycling again and can often be seen around the town on her infamous blue bicycle.

## Staples Road school parking

Cllr Judy Jennings first started looking into the problems of parking at drop-off and pick-up times in Staples Road in 2018 and we're afraid the problem has escalated since then, causing traffic jams, pollution, congestion, and several near accidents involving children and vehicles.

Judy was very concerned and contacted several different bodies including the police, the Highways authority, the North Essex Parking Partnership and the City of London.

It was suggested the school and Staples Road should be made a 3PR (3 Parking Rules) parking zone.

Judy set up a meeting with Jane Harvey, the Head of Staples Road School, and Emma Day of 3PR in February 2019 and it was agreed to go ahead with the scheme.

There was a delay when the District Council at first didn't agree to the use of Traps Hill car park but, after Judy wrote to the Council, it was agreed that parents could use 30 car parking spaces for 45 minutes at pick-up and drop-off times.

This should remove vehicles from outside the school gates and encourage active travel. The school will receive extra parking enforcement to encourage considerate parking.

There will be tokens, medals and certificates for children who walk, scoot or cycle into the 3PR zone

We are hoping that this scheme will go ahead as soon as possible, and that parents will be given plenty of information about the initiative.

## Meet LRA Cllr Michael Owen

*Broadway Ward Town Cllr*

Michael is a District Cllr for Loughton Broadway, having been elected in May 2018, and he is up for re-election in 2020. Michael represents the LRA at the Council as a member of the Area Plans South Planning Committee, Stronger Council Select Committee and full Council. This year Michael has been working with the Council and the Broadway Town Partnership to try and help the local traders on the Broadway as well as supporting the effort to 'Save Jessel Green'.



Michael is married with 2 young step-children who attend Staples Road Primary School, and a 2-year-old son in nursery. He grew up in Surrey and, upon graduation in 2002, started a career in finance, moving to Central London where he spent the next 13 years before moving full time to Loughton in 2015. Michael is currently the Head of Foreign Exchange sales at a bank in the city, and in his spare time he enjoys numerous sports including golf, cycling, football and martial arts. When not working or on council duty, he is currently busy studying for his CFA exams, and hoping to become a Chartered Financial Analyst.

## Swimming pool hours

Places Leisure, who run the District Council's Leisure Centres on behalf of the Council, made major changes to the swimming pool contract in September 2019. Residents contacted Cllr Rose Brookes when the two-hour hydrotherapy session on Wednesday morning had been reduced to one hour. This session is specifically reserved for users with long term health issues or injuries. Rose asked the Leisure Contract Partnership Board to consider this issue. In early January, the manager agreed to open the learner pool thirty minutes earlier so the session is now one hour and thirty minutes long.



## Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday March 14

Murray Hall, Borders Lane from 7.30pm  
Hear what your Town Council has achieved  
and its plans for the future.

Raise your concerns during the public question time.

Local organisations' displays.

Voluntary sector speakers.

Chat to your Town Councillor over a cup of tea.

Visit our website [www.loughtonresidents.org.uk](http://www.loughtonresidents.org.uk)

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