



LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

St John's Ward Newsletter Spring 2009

No Adverts on Roundabouts

Your two St John's Ward district councillors, Caroline Pond and John Markham, spoke strongly against having advertisements on the two roundabouts in the Forest, at the Robin Hood and Wake Arms. Apart from the environmental concerns, said Caroline, a moment's distraction to a driver on the A121 and A104, both very dangerous roads, could have fatal results. The District Development Committee unanimously **threw out** these misguided proposals, which came direct from the Epping Forest DC Tory administration.

Bus Garage Green – keep it as a green!

The LRA has led the way for the protection of greens in Loughton which might be susceptible to development, many on the Debden Estate. One in our ward is the green between Church Hill and Maple Gate opposite Homebase. Did you/do you remember people walking, playing, or relaxing on the green before 1988? If so please call 8508-2361.

Conservation Area Character Appraisals

LRA councillors Chris Pond and Steve Pewsey have been working with the Hills Amenity Society on character appraisals for the York Hill and Staples Rd Conservation areas. We need help with the Baldwin's Hill CA. Can you help? If so call Steve on 8508-5582. The appraisals will be out for public consultation later in 2009.

Concessionary fares

If you are over 60 you can get a free bus pass valid throughout England – apply at the EFDC information desk in the Library. You can also use it in Essex from 0900 rather than 0930, thanks to a campaign started by LRA councillor Chris Pond. We are investigating whether some concession on the *Underground* could be negotiated, but in the interim, buy an Oyster Card. Off peak, you can get to any Tube or Overground station in Zone 2 for £1.10 single.

County Council matters

County Councillor Chris Pond has been trying to secure gritting of many of our hilly roads – the people who control the budget in Chelmsford do not seem to think we have hills here. But so far he has been met with blank refusals. The Town Council has however provided salt/grit bins in many hilly parts of Loughton, which were very well used in the February snow and frost. There has been some progress on road and footpath defects, but it can be a struggle. It took 418 emails to get the kerbs in the Drive sorted out, and if you use Morrison's, the battle to get the pavements resurfaced there started in 2003! By April this year we hope it will be done.

Parking

Complaints about illegal and thoughtless parking continue. A batch of requests for restrictions are on the table, including near the Harwater Drive/A121 junction, and Traps Hill opposite the Library. Unfortunately there has been a big staff turnover in the Harlow Highways office, which has meant the whole process has been slow. Your councillors are pursuing these issues with determination, however.

Planning Queens Road/ Church Hill

Councillor Markham has been helping residents about their concerns on developments in the space between Queens Road and Church Hill. In March a planning application was submitted for 6 fenced parking spaces and the District Council required the garage that had been started in a separate development to be removed within 10 days. LRA have submitted a strong objection to the **block of flats** application in Church Hill that went to Appeal in February, and delivered letters to local residents asking them to object too. The Inspector will visit the site, and will eventually write to every-one who objected with his decision.

Chris and Caroline Pond, John Markham, and Stephen Pewsey

Printed by Repro 96, 96 High Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4HT.

Promoted by & on behalf of Loughton Residents Association, 20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN