

LOUGHTON LIFE



Site of Don's, junction of High Road/High Beech Road before demolition - Christine Brunn

Newsletter 210

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

As part of a propaganda campaign against LRA, Loughton Town Council and its councillors have recently come in for a great deal of unpleasant and unjustified criticism. It is now time to set the record straight.

Since 1996 LTC has consisted of Labour and LRA councillors. Labour were in a majority until 2000, since when the two have been even. Accusations of a coalition, however, are totally false. There is no coalition and never has been. Sometimes LRA can work with Labour and sometimes not.

Much has been made of the alleged excessive cost of the Town Council and the supposed extra council tax we are all paying in order to fund it. This is simply mud-slinging and ignores the fact that before LTC came into being these costs were already part of our council tax (the so-called 'Chigwell Urban District Special Rate'), but went into the general EFDC coffers rather than being specifically used for Loughton. In those days EFDC councillors from all over the District were able to vote on how to use the Special Rate. Instead, we now have a Loughton-based Town Council which

decides how the money should be spent.

Much of the LTC budget is spent on maintaining our open space - almost a fifth of the income is spent on the Roding Valley, a wonderful amenity for the whole town. In addition the Town Council maintains the Willingale Road playing fields, the cemetery, the town greens and allotment sites. A new cemetery site has been acquired and a further allotment site will shortly be taken over.

Loughton has long needed additional youth facilities and LTC ran a highly successful meeting with a wide range of people involved in youth provision, in order to identify the needs of young people. As a result the former United Reform Church in Borders Lane was considered as a possible site for a Centre. On the basis of a partnership with Conservative-controlled Essex County Council, LTC raised a loan to buy the site. Unfortunately, bureaucracy and procrastination by the County Council have led to delays and slow progress, but things are at last moving.

LTC's Planning Committee scrutinises

some 400 planning applications every year and sends recommendations to the District Council. Because the councillors all live in Loughton, they focus closely on the effects that plans would have on the town and its residents.

The Town Council can and does speak for Loughton, and its high standards were recognised last year by the government, when LTC became only the seventh in the country to be awarded Quality Council status - an indication that recent accusations of profligacy and poor management are unfounded.

From the Editor's chair

GENERAL MEETING – CENTRAL LINE

The speaker at our Spring General Meeting will be Jeff Ellis, General Manager of the Central Line. He will talk about the present and future of the Line and will also answer questions. All are welcome to this part of the meeting, including non-members.

The second half will be devoted to LRA matters, including adoption of candidates for the Local Elections in June.

The meeting is on Wednesday 7 April at 8.00pm in Lopping Hall.

PLEASE BE AWARE that any suggestion that LRA councillors are part of any coalition with any political party or parties, on any council, is TOTALLY UNTRUE.

12 FARMERS MARKETS IN 2004 - 1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH



Gateway in Forest Way
- Jill Harris

COUNTING THE COST

This is the time of year when councils draw up their budgets for the 12 months from April. This sets the amount and quality of services that can be provided, and the council tax to be levied. The district council collects the tax for Essex County Council (the major part of the total tax), for itself, and for the parish or town council in each area.

Once again, the expected level of government grant for many councils in the South of England including Epping Forest District Council - is only at or around inflation level, in spite of the additional duties placed upon these councils, and the additional costs they are having to meet.

If the council tax increase for EFDC is to be kept to below 5% - which is everyone's aim then savings must be found. The services that councils don't have to provide by law are therefore in the viewfinder. Cabinet and scrutiny committees are debating which services should be reduced or if possible, more economically provided. Leisure services swimming pools, sports centres, arts activities and the museum all discretionary, are most at risk. Grants to voluntary organisations, particularly the Citizens Advice Bureaux in Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping, are also likely to be reduced. How much do our members value these services and how should costs be split, between charges to users (where charges can be made), and the council (that is, the council taxpayer)? Let one of the LRA officers or your ward councillors know what you think.

Dorothy Paddon

REVIEW OF WANSELL COLLEGE

Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, is a lovely place to spend a day or a weekend on a course. Essex County Council, which owns the College, is reviewing whether it is the most suitable building for residential adult education, how much it would cost to bring it up to an appropriate standard, and what alternatives exist for delivering residential adult education in Essex.

Wansfell has two basic problems: it needs substantial investment to bring the accommodation up to modern-day standard, and it is currently not attracting sufficient training courses from businesses during the week - this has led to a budget deficit for the past three years, which has had to be funded by the County Council. All funding for Adult Education now comes from the Learning and Skills Council, who do not

support learners accommodation costs, so Wansfell has to charge the full cost of accommodation to those who come on its courses.

Between now and March 2004, Wansfell's Governors and staff will be trying to develop a sound 10-15 year business case for continuing to deliver residential adult education at Wansfell, setting out the curriculum to be delivered and the accommodation needed to support it. Make no mistake the alternatives will include closure. If any members have practical ideas for attracting new weekday training business to Wansfell, please let me know, and I will pass them on. In the meantime, please support the College's program www.wansfellcollege.net or 01992 813027 for details.

Cllr David Linnell

STANSTED EXPANSION PLANS CRITICISED

Essex County Council have described plans for a new runway at Stansted as 'unwanted and unworkable'. Whilst Loughton is unlikely to be affected by additional Stansted air traffic overhead as we are under the outer approach route to Heathrow, there will be other environmental impacts affecting Loughton. The land occupied by Stansted would increase by

an additional 7 sq km of rural Essex resulting in the demolition of over 100 properties, 29 of which are listed. Noise pollution would increase dramatically for those living close to the airport. The additional runway will bring increase in passenger

capacity from 25m to a potential 80m per year, increasing airport road traffic from a current 40,000 daily car journeys to a potential 170,000. A knock-on effect of this would undoubtedly be to increase the number of journeys on the M11, M25 and A-roads surrounding the Loughton area as well as increasing the levels of pollution. ECC claim that the method used to predict expansion for Stansted has been abandoned by other transport forecasters. If, for example, this method were to be used to estimate road building, new roads would be required at the rate of 15% expansion per decade - currently estimated at an additional 36,000 miles of new roads over the next 10 years. With a current transport infrastructure budget deficit of £3.3 billion, we have to ask how this could be funded?

Nick Hull

TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

In December the public consultation on the High Road proposals took place and nearly 2,000 people made many positive comments. Parking was the most controversial topic.

A Councillor Advisory Group will collate the responses and the final recommendations will go to the Council's March Cabinet meeting.

Sainsbury's will fund the first phase covering the south end. EFDC has yet to allocate funds to phases two and three, covering the middle and north, but the capital programme has £900,000, which is not earmarked to any centre, even though Loughton is the last remaining town to be upgraded.

LRA Councillors are examining all future capital income to see if any can be allocated to complete the scheme.

Diane Rhodes



Suzanne serves while Alison sings

HOT MULLED WINE AND PIES

LRA Chairman Chris Harper said, The December Farmers' Market in Loughton High Road became an impromptu Christmas party. The Roding Players orchestra and the choir of St. Mary's Church played and sang carols while LRA volunteers served hot mulled wine and mince pies to passing shoppers. Safeway's generously donated the wine and pies and enthusiastic LRA volunteers collected money for Haven House Children's Hospice in Woodford. £271.86 was raised at what is now becoming a festive tradition on the first Sunday in December. In 2004 there will be 12 Loughton Farmers Markets on the first Sunday of every month, the first was on the 4th January, the next will be on 7th March from 9.00 until 2.00 pm.

LRA ON THE WEB

LRA is taking a giant step into the technical age by setting up its own website.

Two years ago we decided we needed a means of reaching a wider audience with greater participation, to get urgent items of news to the membership, and to explain LRA and its aims, purposes and organisation.

The website and Loughton Life will compliment each other, as the website will offer fuller information on all aspects of LRA's work, current and historic, with more frequent updates of information and greater detail.

The site has been developed by Nick Hull, Sheila Shillitto and Cathy Jennings over the last six months and is in five sections How We Work; In LRA; In Local Government; In the Community and Contact Us, which between them give an overall view of LRA, its past, current and future policies and activities.

When live the site will be updated frequently, so please visit regularly as apart from news updates, there will be online surveys on Loughton matters, and you will be able to contact Councillors, LRA officers and Loughton Life. We will also welcome your comments on the site. *John Woods*

LIFE IN LOUGHTON 1926-1946

Even if you were not around that long ago, the recently published Loughton and District Historical Society book by Peter Woodhouse on this period is a must read. Anyone living in Loughton will be fascinated by the delightfully described vignettes of that time.

Peter Woodhouse came to Loughton with his family in the mid-20s from inner London when the village was thrust into a period of rapid growth and development. Loughton however never really totally became a typical suburb, especially the parts adjacent to the forest.

In his book, Peter remembers nostalgically Mr Roddick the milkman in his bowler hat, whose horse helped itself to anything it fancied in the garden, while the milk was being delivered. The milk came from the Roddicks's farm at Lippetts Hill near the Owl Pub. The cows grazed in the forest and in the school holidays Peter was hired to round them up for the afternoon milking.

There was Mr Grimsley the butcher in Smarts Lane who will be remembered by many. Meat was delivered to Peter's mother regularly by a boy on a bike so that she never had to visit the shop.

The book is full of such reminiscences about places and people many readers will remember or at least have been told of. Even if you've only

LRA MEETS OUR NEW INSPECTOR

LRA Chairman Chris Harper, Cllrs Roger Pearce and David Linnell met Inspector Piers Quinnell, recently appointed as Loughton's senior police officer. The meeting was to welcome Insp Quinnell, to outline LRA's role in the community, and to discuss matters of common concern.

Among the points discussed were:

- The current police activity in combating anti-social behaviour in Loughton;
- Crimestoppers; a call for Neighbourhood Watch volunteers (the problem is one of getting co-ordinators in place to kick-start Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and of obtaining funding from EFDC); the works to be carried out on the Police station in the Autumn;
- Funding for CCTV.

Insp Quinnell is working with the Transport Police on joint operations to prevent further problems at Underground Stations

Insp Quinnell will be giving us his ideas and an update on policing in Loughton in our next issue.

recently moved to Loughton, you will thoroughly enjoy being transported back to that lost era where life was, at least simpler than it is today.

Available at Loughton bookshop at £5. *Joy Gordon*

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRESS

There has been substantial, but invisible progress on the Centre following Essex County's agreement to go ahead with their part of the joint project. A list of the required facilities has been drawn up, which will give the Youth Centre about 1/3rd of the space, the Town Council just over half, and the remainder would be joint access. The Town Council area may include a hall, kitchen, bar and toilets. A number of architects have shown an interest in the project, and some will be asked to present their ideas to a joint LTC/ECC panel. The old United Reform Church building still remains boarded up, as it is usually cheaper to demolish and build in one sequence, rather than demolish and wait. In the meantime, measures have been taken to reduce the possibility of vandalism. *Suzanne Harper*

ANSWERS TO LRA CHRISTMAS QUIZ.

Happy New Year and many thanks to those of you who diligently sent in your entries to the LRA Quiz. In spite of complaints that it was harder this year, several all-correct entries went into the hat. First out were Ruth and Ann Webb, who should by now have enjoyed their winner's champagne!

1- Flounder; 2 Cod; 3 Shark; 4 Perch; 5 Sole; 6 Oyster; 7 Carp; 8 Smelt; 9 Bass; 10 Mackerel; 11 Brisling; 12 Scallop; 13 Trout; 14 Sprat; 15 Tench; 16 Herring; 17 Dogfish; 18 Plaice; 19 Ray; 20 Skate; 21 Mussel; 22 - Elver; 23 Pike; 24 Whales; 25 Bream; 26 Octopus; 27 Whiting; 28 Crocodile; 29 Prawn; 30 Ling; 31 Seal; 32 Shrimp; 33 Brill; 34 Squid; 35 Crab; 36 Sardines; 37 Limpet; 38 Frog; 39 Alligator; 40 Newt.

YOUR COUNCILLORS AT WORK

High Road: County Cllr David Linnell and District Cllrs Peter House and Ken Faulkner are still having problems with the new layout south of the Old Station Road roundabout, where the bus shelter has not been installed in the correct position. Illegal parking by taxis will be dealt with in the short term by traffic wardens, and in the longer term by bollards on both sides of the road.

Borders Lane: after many months of pressure by County Cllr David Linnell, Laing Homes are completing the work needed to install a footpath between the Synagogue and Traps Hill. When the footpath is in place, this will still be an area that needs more help for pedestrians, and we will continue to press the Council for further measures.

Footpath re-opens: after a long-drawn-out legal process, the blocked path which runs between Queens Road and Church Hill has been added to the Definitive Map as a footpath. District Cllr John Markham has already ensured that the gate has been removed and the path reopened.

Ollards Grove/Station Road Junction: Congestion continues to be a problem at this junction, caused by traffic backing up from the lights either side of the junction with drivers entering the junction before it is clear. After representations from LRA the Council painted a keep clear sign on the road, but this is only visible to traffic coming from Buckhurst Hill. We will be following this up with the highways department.

Bouquets for the District Council: A deep pothole re-opened at the end of Eleven Acre Rise in early January, and another appeared in the High Road opposite Standard Green. However, calls from LRA to the District Council resulted in speedy repairs.

In our last issue, we noted that District Cllrs Caroline Pond and Peter House had compiled a list of urgently needed repairs in the High Road, which had been passed to the District Council for action. EFDC responded quickly, and three council officers walked through the High Road with Caroline and Peter before Christmas. All the defects were noted for action within the next few weeks. EFDC is also looking to see if some maintenance works can be carried out on the tarmaced areas near Brooklyn Parade and Safeway's in the Spring to ensure that they are safe for pedestrians.

LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 1ST JANUARY

Your subscription helps to pay the printing costs of the monthly newsletter. Your views and support are important to us.

LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton IG10 3QT

- Please enrol/renew my household as a member of LRA
- I enclose £4 for membership until December 31st 2004
- I enclose a donation in support of LRA's work
- Please send a receipt, I enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Name:

Address:

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Telephone:

E Mail:

All membership information is held by LRA for its own records and is not made available to any other body.

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman	
Chris Harper	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
Vice Chairman	
Diane Rhodes	9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS 020 8508 3284
Hon Secretary	
Carol Murray	20 Queens Road IG10 1RS 020 8508 4892
Treasurer	
Tony Paddon	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
Press Officer	
Michael Benbow	28 Brook Road IG10 1BP 020 8508 4457
Membership Secretary	
Juliet Pollard	14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 020 8502 0552
Committee	
Ken Angold-Stephens	89 Lower Park Road, IG10 4NE 020 8281 0674
Jack Benjamin	23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG 020 8508 4765
Rose Brookes	3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB 020 8502 5981
Jan Clow	101 Avondale Drive IG10 3DQ 020 8505 4187
James Dean	69 Colebrook Lane IG10 2HN 020 8281 7932
Ron Heath	46 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW 020 8508 3458
Jan Kinrade,	28 Hillyfields, IG10 2JS 020 8532 0488
Brian Moore	6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 7112
Sheila Shillitto	11 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2900
John Woods	1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ 020 8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8 The Greens Close IG10 1QE 020 8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS (County, District & Town)

County Councillor St Mary's Division

David Linnell	20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2932
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Roding Ward

Larry Ford (T)	47 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH 020 8508 4344
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St John's Ward

Kay Ellis (T)	31 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 6018
John Markham (D)	77 Queen's Road IG10 1RR 020 8508 1945
Roger Pearce (T)	32 Millsmead Way IG10 1LR 020 8281 1386
Caroline Pond (D)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Chris Pond (T)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Bob Wilmot (T)	50 Baldwins Hill IG10 1SF 020 8508 1987

St Mary's Ward

Tony Lee (D&T)	33 Priory Road IG10 1AF 020 8508 7649
Pam Meadows (T)	98 Roding Road IG10 3EJ 020 8508 4136
Dorothy Paddon (D)	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
Mike Wardle (T)	61 The Drive IG10 1HG 020 8508 2771

Forest Ward

Ken Faulkner (D)	'Briar Patch', Park Hill IG10 4ES 020 8508 1215
Suzanne Harper (T)	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
Les Harris (T)	32 Upper Park IG10 4EQ 020 8508 1333
Peter House (D)	10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP 020 8532 1275
Judith Woodman (T)	164 Forest Road IG10 1EG 020 8502 0785

February 2004

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