



The High Road and Lopping Hall, by Peter House.

LOUGHTON LIFE

MARCH 2005

Residents Deplore BNP's Hate Mail

LRA represents all residents who believe in improving the community and treating each other fairly and generously.

We are hearing complaints from residents that they are receiving 'hate' literature from the BNP, disguised as political and election leaflets.

These residents are right to be worried. Make no mistake, the BNP's aim is for NATIONAL power and they are using local politics only as a stepping-stone. They have no real interest in the unglamorous responsibilities of local councils, taking little part in the day-to-day work

which you expect of your councillors.

Their technique is to cherry-pick subjects that they know will get emotions going and, having succeeded, will care little about the consequences. They depend on your acceptance of their misleading message.

Most political parties understand the possible problems of race relations and are taking serious steps to keep it under control. There can be tensions between sections of the community, and differences in skin colour and religious belief are often used as an excuse for violence, especially among the young. The BNP will blow on this small spark until it bursts into flame and then you have a fire, which will consume innocent people.

The BNP's policy is one of creating fear, which leads to hatred. It is the tactic of the bully throughout history.

LRA represents a moderate, considered view that takes into account all reasonable concerns about our community.

LRA Counts at County Hall

The County Council elections will be on May 5th. Why does LRA have County Councillors? Chelmsford can seem along way away from the day-to-day concerns of Loughton residents. But the County Council is responsible for key areas that affect us locally – Highways, Environment, Social Services and Education – and has a hand in many others. Overall, it is responsible for over 80% of your Council Tax bill.

LRA councillors are different from councillors who represent national political parties. LRA councillors are elected because they are truly independent and care passionately about what is happening locally. Being an LRA councillor, taking an independent line and trying to look after Loughton's interests is sometimes satisfying, sometimes frustrating. But we do care, and we do get things done.

What can an LRA County Councillor do? I can take up individual issues and try to sort them out – this means talking to County

officers and other local Councillors on matters such as traffic calming, road crossings, problems with County council services or finding a school governor.

I argue for Loughton when plans are being made for the future – on housing numbers, Green Belt, waste disposal, school term dates and a whole host of other topics. Most of this goes on quietly behind the scenes – we avoid the public yah boo politics that the national parties indulge in.

Another important aspect is to act as an information channel about what's going on and what's planned for the future at County Hall – this helps to make LRA and its District and Town Councillors more effective.

We would like to hear from you if you are interested in helping us in the run-up to the election – please contact me for further information. And please support us by voting LRA on May 5th.

David Linnell, County Councillor
020 8508 2932

**Meet your
LRA councillors
at
the Farmers Market
Loughton High Road
1st Sunday each month**

Loughton Residents Association

www.loughtonresidents.com

LRA



CAMROD's David Hebday, June Nice and Colin Clow at the new Roding Road pumping station.

Sweet Smell of Success

Roding residents are celebrating. It all started in June 2001, when some residents of Avondale and Southern Drives and adjacent roads found their gardens and roads littered with sewage debris following a heavy rainstorm.

After Thames Water did a minimal clear up, Jan Clow invited local councillors, and LRA Chairman at the time, Sheila Shillitto, to her house where 23 residents gathered to tell their stories. Later, over cups of tea in Jan's kitchen, a pressure group was formed,

Expect a Cleaner Station Approach

The disgusting state of the area around Loughton Station has been a problem ever since the refurbishment of Station Approach and the opening of Sainsbury's. The verges have not been cleaned and the area has become a health hazard.

The problem apparently arose over confusion about responsibility for Station Approach, which involved the District Council, Sainsbury's, London Underground and Metronet.

LRA Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens took up the issue with all the authorities. As a result gates are being cut into the railway fence so Metronet's staff can reach the embankments, which will now be cleaned on a monthly basis.

The District Council has played its part by agreeing to clean all of Station Approach including the verges behind the bus stops even though it has not been officially adopted.

The Campaign to Renew Our Drains – CAMROD, led by Jan Clow and David Hobday. LRA and Councillors offered full support.

The residents and LRA wrote to Thames Water and Ofwat, but received only stalling-action replies. More action followed. CAMROD and LRA and local councillors gathered signatures for a petition, which was sent to the German company that owns Thames Water. Jan and Sheila went door to door and learned that some residents had been complaining to Thames Water about sewage overflow for up to ten years.

Dorothy Paddon, then a District Councillor and member of the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee, suggested bringing Thames Water before the Council to address the problems. In 2002 Thames Water representatives sat in the Council chamber facing hard questioning, and a large audience of disgruntled residents. They finally instigated a survey of the area, which confirmed that a new pumping station was needed.

The work started in 2003. Now, we are delighted to report a happy ending for a determined group of residents: the new pumping station is built, the area landscaped, and the corner of Avondale Drive and Roding Road is a much pleasanter place to look at and to smell.

Local people had given £1500 towards a fighting fund and over more cups of tea in Jan's kitchen, a cheque was handed over to Haven House Childrens Hospice.

Sheila Shillitto

Too Many Houses for Local Environment

LRA is submitting objections to the draft East of England Regional Plan (2001-2021), which proposes 11,000 new homes in the Epping Forest district. LRA supports the County Council's opposition to the excessive growth proposals of the Plan.

LRA further objects to loss of Green Belt land, and the excessive numbers of new houses proposed locally - of which between 60-70% are unlikely to be 'affordable'. We are raising concerns about pressures on transport, community facilities and on water supply. Pressure on the green belt will increase to accommodate new housing and business sites around Harlow and on North Weald Airfield.

The Plan predicts a large increase in the numbers of jobs available in Essex, arguing that more residents will work nearer home. But if these jobs don't materialise, there will be increased pressure on road and rail transport from those commuting to London.

Congestion and increased air pollution from traffic will threaten our quality of life, and the condition of Epping Forest itself. The Region's own Environmental Report criticises aspects of the plan as 'unsustainable', residents will see a real decline in their quality of life if it is adopted as it stands.

Dorothy Paddon

Nowhere to go, Nothing to do

Young people in Loughton complain there is nothing for them to do.

But we wondered if there might be activities out there that they don't know about.

So LRA is putting together a list of all the activities and clubs for young people in Loughton. To ensure that the information is in a format that young people will access, our aim is to work with a local secondary school so that the data can be put on a website that can be run by and for young people.

If you run a club or activity for young people, or if you know somebody that does, please get in touch with me on janet.woods@loughtonresidents.com or ring on 020 8508 1764 for further details.

Janet Woods

Oakwood Hill Action

Residents' complaints about antisocial behaviour on the Oakwood Hill estate are being listened to and acted upon. We are now pleased to be able to report that as a result of LRA's intervention, there has been progress.

ASBOs have been taken out on a number of youths, cases of criminal damage and underage drinking are being investigated.

The County Youth Service workers will be making regular visits starting in March.

The Police are also looking to install a CCTV system that would cover the majority of the estate.

There will be an 'environmental day'

Objecting to a Planning Proposal

Sometimes people want to object to a planning proposal that affects them or their property. But they don't know how to go about it.

There is a strict time limit on making objections. If you have a planning problem, act quickly, contact your councillors as soon as possible, mobilise local opinion and write your own letter of objection or support to EFDC within the time limit. Don't forget that planning applications are decided on planning grounds, so your objection must be based on planning criteria.

Here is a brief step-by-step guide:

Objectors to applications (as well as promoters) have a limited right to be heard at both the Town Council and the District Council Planning Committees. If you wish to speak at either of the meetings, phone 020 8508 4200 (LTC) and/or 01992 564000 (EFDC) as soon as you hear of the proposal.

Let your Ward Councillor know of the grounds for your concern (see names and contact details on back page of this issue).

Write your own letter of objection to the District Council (EFDC) within the time limit.

If others agree with you, get them to write.

Write to Loughton Town Council – they also scrutinise planning applications and send comments to EFDC.

For further information, see our website loughtonresidents.com/LRA/ilg-plan.html. If you need help, please ring me (020 8508 2932).

David Linnell

probably in April-May, where all the agencies will get together to have a big clean-up of the estate, including the removal of abandoned cars, and a cleanup of graffiti by youths serving probation orders.

Despite the BNP's claims to have solved the problem by a "sensible and friendly chat" with the local youths, the police plan should provide a better solution, as long as residents tell the police who is causing the damage and problems, so that prosecutions can follow. A permanent solution will require the concerted efforts of a number of bodies, and LRA will continue to assist in this.

WANTED

More people to help us with Loughton Life deliveries.

Could you deliver in your road a few times a year?

Call John Woods

on 020 8508 1764 or

e-mail

loughtonlife@loughtonresidents.com

Leisure Centres – Trust or Private?

Under Government rules, the District Council has to pass over control of Leisure Centres to a private company or a suitable trust, or ratepayers will face higher bills, but after much discussion, the council still has not been able to reach a decision. LRA takes this matter very seriously, and wants to ensure that the centres are not only transferred to the right organisation, but that the public receives an even better service as a result.

The council was given a strictly limited set of options, and only one company's tender complied with the Council's terms. LRA councillors were unconvinced and did not like the lack of choice offered and voted against it. The council was split 50/50 and on a casting vote, the matter was referred back to the Council's Cabinet for reconsideration.

LRA has always favoured the option of a separate trust, which could raise more money for inward investment through tax. We hope this option will now be looked at, and there may be other options. Party political dogma regarding privatisation should not be allowed to exclude fair consideration of other options.

It's Clear: Bags for Recycling

Clear plastic sacks are used for textiles and cans, which are preferably to be kept in carrier bags and then put in the clear sack. Extra clear plastic sacks for doorstep collection of paper etc can be obtained from the Traps Hill EFDC Information centre, free of charge.

EFDC Special Collections are available only through South Herts Waste Management. Call free phone 0800 781 9676.

Charges for the collection of bulky items are 1-3 items £22.00, 4-7 £27.00, 7-10 £37.00, 10-15 £45.00.

Come and hear Town Manager

Shona Pollock, Loughton and Buckhurst Hill's new Town Centre Manager, will address the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 26 April at Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, High Road, giving us her impressions of our town and experiences encountered during her first year in this very important job.

Everyone is welcome to hear what the Town Council has been doing, and some of its plans for the future.

LRA Town Councillors will be present in strength and will be available to discuss any matters raised by residents.

Road Repairs Merge

From 1 April, EFDC highways staff transfer to County Council employment, working alongside ECC staff in Great Dunmow and providing a single point of contact for the public.

In addition the county's roads will be split into two categories: "County routes", for which ECC will take decisions, and "local roads", where decision-making will be by EFDC.

Benefits are meant to include a better service to the public, better use of resources, consistent delivery and clearer boundaries of responsibilities.

In the meantime, don't just grouse about highway defects, go to www.essexcc.gov.uk, click on "Report a highway defect" and follow the links - it covers all forms of highway problems.

Around the Town

Alleyways and Byways

Emergency services and others find unnamed alleys confusing. In one case, a long-awaited lamppost ended in the wrong pathway! The District Council has agreed that the Town Council may name alleyways in Loughton, subject to some conditions. Local historian and town mayor Chris Pond has prepared a list of suitable names of local significance for consideration.

Offer to High Road Owners

Owners and tenants of properties in the High Road have been invited to have their land to be incorporated in the enhancement scheme, at no cost to themselves, so the scheme can be as comprehensive as possible.

Borders Lane Crossing

A puffin crossing is proposed in Borders Lane near its junction with Newmans Lane. LRA County Cllr David Linnell has been assured that the work will be carried out in summer 2005.

Harwater Parking Breach

The District Council is taking steps against Motorgroup (on the corner of Harwater Drive) who are still breaching their agreed planning condition by using parking spaces intended for flat

residents and staff to display vehicles for commercial sale. LRA Town Cllr Roger Pearce and District Cllr Caroline Pond are supporting the residents' rights, and are on the case.

Dark or Dirty?

If your street needs sweeping or a streetlight is out, report it to the District Council Highways on 01992 564608.

Cemetery Survey

The Town Council has submitted a planning application to the District Council for the new cemetery in Debden Lane. The next step is for the Environment Agency to get surveys done, to take into account the watercourses near the site.

To Ring the Police...

For 'non-999' calls or for information, residents should telephone 020 8502 3881 and ask for 'Loughton Police Station'.

Debden Estate

Sue Taylor asks that anyone who remembers the estate being built, whether or not they lived there, should contact her on 020 8508 2512, to help build up a history of the early days of the estate.

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	
CHAIRMAN Peter House 10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP	8532 1275
VICE CHAIRMAN Diane Rhodes 9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS	8508 3284
HON SECRETARY Carol Murray 20 Queens Road IG10 1RS	8508 4892
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LRA COUNCILLORS	
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DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCILLORS Alderton Ward Caroline Pond (T) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361
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FOREST WARD Jack Benjamin (T) 23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG Rose Brookes (T) 3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB Ken Faulkner (D) 'Briar Patch' Park Hill IG10 4ES Suzanne Harper (T) 23 Algers Road IG10 4NG	8508 4765 8502 5981 8508 1215 8508 4770
RODING WARD Ken Angold-Stephens (D/T) 89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ Richard Pennington (T) 51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH	8281 0674 8508 2226 8508 0807 8418 9284
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ST MARY'S WARD Mitch Cohen (D) 16 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW Tony Lee (D) 33 Priory Road IG10 1AF Brian Moore (T) 6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX Mike Wardle (T) 61 The Drive IG10 1HG Janet Woods (T) 1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ	8502 1533 8508 7649 8508 7112 8508 2771 8508 1764
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LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS

We hope you have enjoyed Loughton Life – we value your views and your support for our work, and hope you will renew your subscription. If you want to check whether you have paid for 2004, please ring 8508 2932.

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

- I enclose £4 for 2005
- 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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