

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

The newsletter of Loughton Residents Association

December 2010
Member's edition

Langston Rd update

Negotiations are now taking place with the owner of the adjacent site about how the Langston Road development site might be developed as a small retail park. LRA knows that several large stores have shown an interest in coming to the site but the negotiations have to remain confidential, even from Cllrs, at the moment in order not to prejudice business confidentiality.

The Epping Forest Youth Council has surveyed young people in the District who came out strongly in favour of a cinema but as things stand at present we understand there has been no developer interest in providing one on this site.

LRA has been assured that issues around traffic management in Chigwell Lane and surrounding roads are being taken very seriously. However, we are very concerned about the green spaces in Rectory Lane, which residents value highly. The traffic problems stem from the bottlenecks at the junctions with The Broadway and Borders Lane. We have also been assured that there will not be any unfair competition with traders in The Broadway and the provision of better access from Langston Road to The Broadway will be considered.

Work is continuing to relocate current activities on the site, including the Council garage and the Sita waste management operations, the former to the Oakwood Hill industrial estate, and the latter to North Weald, at least temporarily. The development of this site has the potential to bring in a substantial income stream to the District Council at a time when government cuts are going to impact all councils very severely and it also has the potential to create employment in the area. But LRA will be vigilant to try to ensure that the impacts on The Broadway shopping parade are positive overall, in particular ensuring that there are no food outlets on the Langston Road site.

The District Council is also looking at other assets it owns to maximise income. In Loughton these include the Nursery site (behind Pyrles Lane), Church Hill car park, and parts of The Broadway. LRA will look carefully at all these proposals.

Epping Forest District Council has always been a prudent council, has reasonable reserves, and is as well positioned as it can be to face government cuts.



Making a clean sweep

It's an uphill struggle keeping the High Road as free as possible from mess and litter. The long-standing SITA resident sweeper has been off ill recently, but both he and his temporary replacement do a good job with the routine mess left by the public. What annoys Loughton people most, however, are the private places, those not on highway land and so not cleared by SITA, where litter builds up, as well as flyposting and graffiti.

LRA Cllr Caroline Pond has for over two years been trying to persuade the District Council environment officers to take action on these private areas, and at the Loughton Waste Stakeholders' meeting in October, the three LRA Cllrs present made their views known to the portfolio holder Mary Sartin. The environment officers are well aware of the issue, and have been trying to persuade the landowners to clean up their areas. If there is no improvement LRA will ask the Council to issue formal notices on these matters. Surely shopkeepers should in any case take a pride in their premises' appearance.

On flyposting, Cllr Stephen Pewsey is always removing illegal posters, as does the Highways Enforcement Officer, with whom LRA Cllr Chris Pond had a walk through the town recently. Flyposting is an offence and it's a recognised fact that if one poster is allowed to remain, it will soon multiply.

Get rid of graffiti!

Please do report graffiti when you see it. To find out how, see www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/community/crime_reduction/graffiti_removal.asp or phone 01992 564000.

Reporting road defects

You can report damage to (or other) grass verge problems; vegetation problems; damaged or incorrect signs; drainage problems; highway or road lining defects; kerb, path or footway or pot hole defects; street furniture defects; and third party accident claims. Call 0845 603 7621, or go to www.essexcc.gov.uk

**For more information about LRA & Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton and is currently objecting to:

Clays Lane: Another proposal to use land on the corner with England's Lane for a golf teaching practice facility. LRA believes this unsuitable on Clay's Lane.

Morrison's: Proposals to open, and to sell alcohol, 6am-11pm, and on Good Friday and Christmas Day. LRA is concerned about the effect on nearby residents.

Rectory Lane: A proposal for a street-trading van on the corner of old Rectory Lane and Borders Lane, already a very busy spot in the rush hour.

Theydon Bois: A proposal to put a large car-park on green belt land next to the station, which would add to commuting to Theydon, and worsen the overcrowding on Central Line trains for residents who use Loughton and Debden stations.

LRA has successfully opposed a proposed two-bedroom one-and-a-half-storey detached dwelling in the rear gardens of 94, and part rear garden of 92 Roding Road. LRA is pleased that the new government has set its face against "garden-grabbing" planning applications.

The District Council has put forward proposals to provide parking bays in Hillcroft and Colebrook Gardens, which come directly from efforts by LRA Cllrs Ken Angold-Stephens and David Wixley to get council funds allocated for such changes. As some Hillcroft residents have concerns, we have delivered a letter to each household encouraging them to make comments.

David Linnell

Fire precautions

There has been some positive news for residents of maisonettes and flats in the Debden area of Loughton. The District Council has put on hold the requirement for residents to remove carpets from communal areas of their buildings while it investigates the possibility of installing smoke alarms. As a result of six people losing their lives in a fire in a block of flats in Camberwell, Essex Fire Authority advised the Council that all belongings, including carpets, curtains, push-chairs, shopping trolleys, pictures and plants should be removed from the communal areas.

Many residents have been particularly angry about the ruling that carpets must be removed and LRA Cllrs have been very active on their behalf. While it seems sensible that bulky items not be kept in communal areas, many residents have made great efforts to transform the dreary entrances and landings with their concrete floors and stairs. And concrete stairs and floors may be a far greater hazard in wet or icy weather, especially to the elderly. In the meantime, existing carpets can stay, fire-retardant curtains may be hung, but all other items must go.

Jennie Hart



On the buses

Bus stop outside Loughton Library (southbound)

Following complaints from residents of cars parked so as to make it impossible for infirm people to leave buses at this stop, LRA County Cllr Chris Pond has again raised this with County Highways. Work to prevent parking here is "on the list", but funds have run out. They hope money may become available early in 2011 but in the present financial climate these things are very uncertain. Chris has also asked again for the restriction to be 7am-7pm every day, not just weekdays, because of the well-known problem in Traps Hill on Sundays. However, it is hoped that the procedures involved should take less time than getting the yellow lines, once funds are available.

Bus shelter in Torrington Drive

LRA County Cllr Chris Pond has been chasing County Highways department for months about this missing shelter. They say it has required further investigation and design to ensure that the replacement is manufactured to take full account of the gradient and relative narrowness of the footway. Delivery of the new shelter is now expected by mid-December.

H1 bus route

LRA County Cllr Chris Pond presented a petition at the full county council meeting on in October asking it to continue the direct Loughton-Epping bus route H1, and to engage in discussions with commercial bus operators to reintroduce the Monday-Friday service lost earlier this year. The petition was drawn up, and signatures collected, by Shannon Toms, a 15 year old Roding Valley High School pupil.

The future of Loughton

Do you want to protect the green open spaces of our district? Are new houses, jobs or schools more important to you? See www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/planningourfuture. The closing date for submissions is 7 January with the second round of more detailed consultation scheduled for summer 2011. Please send a copy to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

**For more information about LRA or Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**

Know your rivers quiz

To keep those brain cells active over the Christmas period, the answers to this year's quiz feature British rivers. For example, 'Follows ABC (3)' would be 'Dee'. Answers to Les and Sue Harris, 32 Upper Park, Loughton IG10 4EQ, or by email to lesandsueharris@aol.com, by January 5th, please. First correct answer out of the hat wins a bottle of fizz or a book token.

1. What? Where? When? How?.....?? (3)
2. Sounds more like atmosphere than water (4)
3. Site in France is attractive (8)
4. What a joker! (4)
5. One for the Bard (4)
6. You'll get here if you count from one to ten (6)
7. This river gets things under control (6)
8. Just missed a bronze medal (5)
9. Shirt gets torn in this river (5)
10. Some erosion here? (4)
11. Fork in the river? No, just part of one (4)
12. Sounds as if this river just gradually seeps out (4)
13. Where Adam and Eve fished? (4)
14. Is there a quay along its banks? (6)
15. Found in a cornfield (3)
16. Almost halfway there (6)
17. A gangly footballer (6)
18. Would George have written about this river? (6)
19. This river will rise..... (4)
20.and this one run fast (5)
21. Sounds as if Mr Livingstone dined here (6)
22. Found in a car's engine (3)
23. Bird of peace (4)
24. It's a dark one! (10)
25. What a horse does (4)
26. Makes you think of ice cream (5)
27. The river for a meadow (3)
28. Ship of the desert – or a watery alternative (5)
29. Does it get your vote? (3)
30. One might score a bulls-eye (4)

Using empty homes

There are about 600 privately-owned long-term-empty properties in Epping Forest District, which could provide a much needed housing resource. Funding of up to £50,000 is available for a property needing significant repairs. In cases where an owner is uncooperative or unwilling to consider any of the options available, the Council has enforcement powers. To find out more call Paul Callaghan on 01992 564706 or see www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/news/2010/empty_homes_back_into_use.asp



Farmers' markets

LRA's Farmers' Market has run for eight years. Please come along on the first Sunday of each month, 9am-2pm in the High Road. For a flavour of what's available, did you know that:

- Sally Chapman's eggs are laid by 1,002 free range chickens.
- Dick Thompson grows vegetables and flowers on 150 acres.
- Andy and Helen Davies get pork from their 227 sows.
- Martin Balcombe prepares fish and cheese in his smokehouse.
- Jack and Anne Barnard grew around 5,420 plants last year.
- David Fisher made Cox's apple juice from 100 tons of fruit.
- Vince Lanza used 36 tons of compost growing his pot plants.
- Jenny Hicks handcrafts about 5,000 greetings cards a year.
- Alan and Angela Bungey make cheese from their 128 goats.
- David Fishman is an expert on British speciality cheeses.
- John Stafford-Allen is skilled at growing fresh herb plants.
- Philip and Sue Robinson provide beef from their 330 Aberdeen Angus cattle and 2 bulls.

LRA is there too March - December. See our display, talk to us about problems and visit our second-hand bookstall.

Conservation areas

The District Council has drafted "Character Appraisals" for Loughton's three local conservation areas (York Hill, Baldwins Hill and Staples Road). LRA Cllrs attended a public consultation meeting in September, and the LRA Plans Group has welcomed the drafts and suggested several changes. The Council Conservation Officers will come up with a final draft to be put to the Council for adoption in 2011.

LRA's Farmers' Markets, High Rd, first Sunday each month
(check the LRA website at end-December to see whether there will be a market on 2nd January 2011)

Get more from LRA!

Every year, LRA volunteers deliver two editions of Loughton Life to every household in Loughton. LRA members get extra newsletters, like this one. Did you know members can receive a weekly email local news bulletin? Just send an email titled "News Bulletins please" to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

If you've asked us to send you the News Bulletins but you're not receiving them, please check your "Junk email" folder, as some programmes divert bulk mailings to this folder. If that's not the problem, please let us know.

Members' support for our work is vital as subscriptions pay costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses. Member's subscriptions are £5 a year for 2011, and are due in January.

LRA who's who

Email: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

CHAIRMAN David Linnell
20 Eleven Acre Rise 8508 2932
VICE CHAIRMAN vacant
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey 8508 5582
59 Wroths Path
MINUTES SEC. Imogen Lawrence 8532 0050
3 Staples Road
TREASURER Miriam Murphy 01992 530221
21 Graylands, Theydon Bois
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow 8508 4457
28 Brook Road
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard
14 The Hawthorns 8502 0552
INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR Ian Allsop
134 Valley Hill 8532 0053
COMMITTEE
Jack Benjamin 8508 4765
Rebecca Fricker 8508 8369
Chris Harper 8508 4770
Barry Johnston 8508 0843
Kevin Latchford 8502 4568
Ann Obeney 8502 3604
Bela Yorke 8508 4729

LRA councillors

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)
Chris Pond 7 Staples Road 8508 2361

DISTRICT (D) AND TOWN (T) COUNCILS

ALDERTON WARD
Rose Brookes (D&T) 8502 5981
3 Lower Park Road
Lance Leonard (D) 8502 0771
25 The Lindens

BROADWAY WARD
Jennie Hart (D) 8508 3661
74 Queens Road
Katie Nicholson (T) 07904 069998

Have your say in LRA

LRA is run by a group of ordinary residents. We meet on the first Monday evening of each month (except August) in the Methodist Church, High Road. As members, you are very welcome to come along to these meetings and to join in. For more details contact David Linnell on 020 8508 2932 or david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Want to help?

If you would like to help LRA by becoming a local councillor, by just getting involved in what we do, or by spending an hour occasionally delivering our newsletters near where you live, please contact David Linnell or Chris Pond (phone numbers below, or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

FAIRMEAD WARD
Tessa Cochrane (D) 8508 4148
16 Shaftesbury
Carol Davies (T) 8508 4234
13 Colebrook Gardens
David Wixley (D) 8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road

FOREST WARD
Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road
Colin Finn (D) 8508 5577
16 Church Close
Suzanne Harper (T) 8508 4770
23 Algers Road
Peter House (T) 8532 1275
52 Baldwins Hill

RODING WARD
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) 8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road
Margaret Chalk (T) 8508 2226
49 Southview Road
David Wixley (T) 8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court, Goldings Road

ST JOHN'S WARD
John Markham (D) 8508 1945
77 Queens Road
Stephen Pewsey (T) 8508 5582
59 Wroths Path
Caroline Pond (D&T) 8508 2361
7 Staples Road
Chris Pond (T) 8508 2361
7 Staples Road

ST MARY'S WARD
Richard Cohen (D) 8502 3242
61 Traps Hill
Lucette Howe (T) 8508 3719
19 Sparelease Hill
Tracey Thomas (T) 07508 193187
110 Grosvenor Drive

Issue 246 © LRA 2010 Newsletter compilers: Ian Allsop, David Linnell, Asier Odriozola Promoted by and on behalf of Independent Loughton Residents Association, of 20 Eleven Acre Rise Loughton IG10 1AN. Printed by Sema Printing Co Ltd. 81 Grove Road, London, E17 9BU

**For more information about LRA & Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**