

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Edition

*The newsletter of
Loughton Residents Association
September 2012*



Planning ahead

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is now in force. In order to be able to protect our local environment, Epping Forest District Council is required by Government to set out its planning policy for the district for the next 20 years. It must look for sites for up to 12,000 new dwellings, plan expansion of commercial premises, make sure that services such as transport are expanded in order to cope with the pressures of extra population, ensure that drainage and water supplies are able to handle the extra demand and require the various health provisions to scale up in line with the additional use that will arise. LRA will be working very hard to make sure that the new Local Plan is correct (it's very hard to change it later, and developers will pore over it looking for loopholes) AND will be checking – and campaigning if necessary – to make sure none of Loughton's green bits (or Tube car parks) gets zoned for development. LRA will be robust in presenting residents' views on issues. LRA believes that more of Loughton needs to be protected by conservation area controls and fully supports the five put forward by Loughton Town Council in 2009-10. Additionally, the evidence gathered by the Town Council (triggered initially by LRA) to support the proposed protection of various green sites in the town as village greens now has a dual purpose as it can be submitted as evidence for the new Local Plan.

High Streets

LRA will also be examining the proposals of The Portas Review, an independent review into the future of UK's high street, particularly to try to make sure that proposals to free up planning in areas with serious problems do not lead to the destruction of relatively successful shopping areas such as the High Road and The Broadway.

To make your views known talk to an LRA Cllr (see back page for contact details), get a questionnaire by ringing the District Council on 01992 564000 or visit www.eppingforest.gov.uk and navigate to 'Local Plan'.

LRA Public Meeting

A short public meeting will be held on November 5th at 7.45pm in the Church Hall, Methodist Church, High Rd, Loughton, before the monthly executive meeting. No speaker or formal business - just an opportunity for residents to raise any concerns. For any queries please contact us at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or ring or ring one of your local LRA Cllrs - see back page for contact details.

Loughton-wide coverage

The May elections to Epping Forest District Council and Loughton Town Council proved a tremendous success for LRA with 24 out of 25 candidates successful. Across the seven wards LRA candidates received an impressive 16,297 votes. LRA would like to thank everyone who supported it throughout the campaign, particularly the 92 volunteers that canvassed and delivered leaflets, and the voters themselves.

Help look after Loughton

Join LRA now for £5 per household until the end of 2013! You will get extra newsletters and can receive our weekly email local news bulletin. Members' support is vital as subscriptions pay costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses. Subscriptions for existing members are due in January. To check if you've paid, or to pay direct from a bank account/standing order, ring 020 8508 2932 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

I enclose £5 till end-2013 £5
I enclose a donation for LRA's work £
Name
Address
Post code IG10 Phone
Email (if any)
I would like LRA's weekly email local news bulletin Y/N Please complete & send to LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT. Membership information is held by LRA for its own purposes and is not made available to any other body.

Join Loughton's Residents Association NOW!
Details Above

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. Details of some current cases are on LRA's website.

Phone masts in Loughton: Last year Vodafone/O2 applied for seven phone masts in Loughton. The LRA Plans Group consulted nearby residents. Six applications were turned down by the Council; one has been approved on appeal, but we have heard nothing more on the others.

High Road/Church Hill: LRA Cllr Chris Pond is following up how the County Council intends to use the planning contribution of £40,000 it received in May 2010 from the developers 1 Church Hill. A zebra crossing was requested some years ago, but may not now be thought necessary.

District Council Developments: The Council is working on design options for Council grounds maintenance, plant nursery, and vehicle service sections to be relocated to Oakwood Hill. It has also decided against relocating the District's refuse contractor from Langston Road Depot to North Weald Airfield and is considering alternative sites.

The Council has now published an outline planning application for Pyrles Lane Nursery site – a contentious development. Stobart Properties has recently appointed new agents and are considering options for the existing Sainsbury's store on Torrington Drive, but not a larger development which would have included the BP petrol station. A local developer has entered into an option agreement with Spirit Pub Group and discussions are taking place regarding redevelopment of the Winston Churchill Public House.

Broadway news

It's very helpful to have newly-elected Cllr Leon Girling in the ward and we are working together on Broadway issues with Town Cllr John Mahoney. Residents are still waiting for news that the Broadway Parking Review is going to be implemented, and plans to continue the Broadway regeneration are underway. I have recently dealt with a number of concerns. One resident whose housing benefit had been underpaid needed help through the system. Another, in arrears, was being asked to pay back more each week than he could afford causing considerable stress. Lack of housing for rent continues to be a problem and there are many families on the waiting list. Unrepaired road surfaces, often damaged by buses, are in line to be dealt with by the County Council. Finally, a shopper was shocked to be wheel-clamped after parking behind the Winston Churchill pub he did not see the signs so beware! Clamping on private land is banned from 1 October but swingeing fines are likely to replace it. *Cllr Jennie Hart.*



Licensing fights

FIFTEEN (formerly the *Wheatsheaf*) on York Hill and *Whites* (formerly *White Bull Brasserie*) on the High Road recently applied to extend their licences to open later and for music. LRA Plans Group informed nearby residents and gave them the information needed to put in an objection. LRA offered to speak on their behalf and encouraged those who contacted us to go along to the licensing hearings. The LRA Plans Group also put in formal objections on its own behalf and on behalf of objectors who asked it to do so.

There were relatively few objections to the *Whites* application to stay open till 2am on Friday and Saturday evenings, and no evidence that would have enabled the Council to reject it. However, for *FIFTEEN* there were over 20 objectors, and 10 attended the hearing, including LRA's David Linnell and Cllr Caroline Pond. The number of objections, and LRA's and others' presence, led directly to *FIFTEEN*'s extended hours being reduced from what it requested (alcohol sales till 1am, closing at 1.30am on Fridays/Saturdays) to alcohol sales till midnight and closing at 12.30am.

The LRA Plans Group will be following up both these licensing approvals with letters to nearby residents. If there are problems, evidence will be needed in order for LRA to request a review. Please report any excess noise/anti-social behaviour from these and other premises to the Council's neighbourhood team on 01992 564000, and keep a diary of reports. Also, report incidents to the Police and get an incident number when you ring.

Report it

For parking enforcement (whether with or without yellow lines), seats, bins, street signs, and missing road names email parking@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or ring the District Council on 01992 564462. For missing or dead street trees ring 01992 564000 or email TFradd@eppingforestdc.gov.uk. Email saferrcommunities@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or contact County Highways as below to report fly-posting.

For highways problems (potholes, vegetation, fly-posting and much more) go to www.essex.gov.uk and click on "Report it", or ring 0845 6037631.

Visit www.loughtonresidents.co.uk for
more information

Highways action

Fairmead Rd

After continual lobbying by Chris Pond and fellow local County Cllrs, Chelmsford cabinet member Derrick Louis has announced Fairmead Road from the tea hut to the car park will remain open. The rest of the road will be closed.

Station Approach

It is unclear where priority lies for turning traffic, because the road markings are almost invisible as they have not been renewed since the area was remodelled in 2003. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked County Highways repaint them.

Storm drains

The wet weather over the summer has once again shown how many drains are blocked. LRA has been trying to get some action from County Highways. LRA would like to give them a list of all the Loughton drains that need clearing, so please send your candidates, with a precise description of the location, to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Potholes

After four months' nagging from LRA Cllr Chris Pond and others, Highways have finally repaired the big potholes outside The Last Post (High Road) and 31 The Drive.

High Road waste bins

For some time LRA has been concerned about the deteriorating condition of the waste bins in the High Road. The District Council has not maintained them properly and they need repairing or replacing. LRA Cllrs are investigating.

A nasty surprise next April?

For the last 20 years, people on small incomes have been entitled to Council Tax Benefit (CTB), a nationally agreed and organised scheme that means, for example, a pensioner on income support pays nothing towards the council tax bill. The government, however, has passed the whole benefit over to local authorities to administer, at the same time deducting 10% from the grant. If you are a pensioner there will be no change as your benefit will be ring-fenced. Therefore many of the cuts will fall on CTB claimants of working age. It is quite likely that each household in this category may eventually have to pay an extra £200 a year. The alternative is that the District Council makes cuts elsewhere or raises council tax for everyone, which it is unlikely to do. Up to 1,000 local residents may well be seriously affected.

LRA-controlled Loughton Town Council has for some years kept CT bills low by very careful expenditure control but may in the future need to take some difficult decisions.

Cllr Chris Pond



Recreational pursuits

Following the recent vandalism to the Roding Valley tennis courts, the contractor has undertaken to reinstate the damaged fencing at no cost to the Town Council. The Council will replace the damaged basketball hoops with a sturdier design. The courts are now very popular so please help the Council keep them in good order by reporting anyone who misuses them on 020 8508 4200.

Loughton Town Council is looking into ways of dealing with reported problems of nuisance and potentially dangerous dogs and the increase in dog fouling on the Recreation Ground and other local open spaces.

Policing Loughton

Following an approach by LRA about reports of youngsters in cars racing round the car parks by Loughton station the police will be keeping an eye on these areas. Following similar LRA and police action a few years ago, police confiscated a vehicle and the problem suddenly stopped! If you see disturbances here, or elsewhere, please report them to the police and inform LRA at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

CCTV in Loughton

LRA Cllr Caroline Pond has been looking into the local CCTV provision. The District Council has confirmed that it will soon complete the Broadway CCTV Project. It will then look at developing a project plan for Loughton High Road to refurbish the CCTV existing system, linking this to the Debden Broadway wireless network, and if the system can be extended further up the High Road.

Valley Hill shops

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens followed up complaints from residents about groups of young people gathering around the Valley Hill shops from late afternoon onwards, and a possible connection with anti-social behaviour including arson behind the shops and around the alleyways. The Beat Officer for the area has confirmed that some youths were arrested for arson, with one charged and convicted and another in the pipeline.

**All Loughton Life editions and weekly email updates
for just £5 a year!**

Asbestos in properties

Asbestos may be found in any property built or refurbished before 2000. Barry Johnston, an LRA committee member, found that a District Council workman had inadvertently disturbed asbestos in a neighbour's kitchen, and took the matter up with the Council, as did LRA Cllrs. LRA is pleased to find that plans are well-advanced to issue all 6,500 Council properties with folders containing key information, including the Asbestos Register entry, the gas safety certificate, the latest electrical test certificate and the location of the mains water stop-cock.

Asbestos may be found in any property built or refurbished before 2000. Do you know whether your property has any? See www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/ for likely places. Asbestos materials are generally safe if not disturbed but the fibres are dangerous if drilled into or removed. If in doubt don't take any risks – contact a qualified surveyor.

Contacting the LRA

ALL ENQUIRIES: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow 8508 4457
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 8502 0552
INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR Ian Allsop 8532 0053
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey 8508 5582
MINUTES SEC. Gerry Meredith 8508 8654
TREASURER Miriam Murphy 01992 530221

COMMITTEE
Jack Benjamin 8508 4765
Rose Brookes 8502 5981
Rebecca Fricker 8508 8369
Chris Harper 8508 4770
Suzanne Harper 8520 4770
Peter House 8532 1275
Barry Johnston 8508 0843
Kevin Latchford 8502 4568
David Linnell 8508 2932
Bela Yorke 8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS
(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)

Chris Pond 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361
ALDERTON WARD
Philip Abraham (T) 1 Lancaster Drive 8502 2925
Lance Leonard (D) 25 The Lindens 8502 0771
Tracey Thomas (D&T) 110 Grosvenor Drive 07508 193187

Monthly farmers' market

LRA organises the farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Rd. Come and meet LRA Cllrs and representatives. LRA has two stands at all markets available free for charities and other local voluntary organisations. Spaces are available from January 2013 onwards.

Want to help?

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

BROADWAY WARD
Leon Girling (D&T) 95 Willingale Road 8418 0076
Jennie Hart (D) 74 Queens Road 8508 3661
John Mahoney (T) 299B High Road 8508 9348

FAIRMEAD WARD
Tessa Cochrane (D) 16 Shaftesbury 8508 4148
Carol Davies (T) 13 Colebrook Gardens 8508 4234
Judy Jennings (T) 94 York Hill 8508 1861
David Wixley (D) 2 Copper Beech Court, Goldings Road 8418 9284

FOREST WARD
Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Road 8281 0674
Trevor Downing (T) 207 Smarts Lane 8508 8877
Colin Finn (D) 16 Church Close 8508 5577
Sharon Weston (T) 58 York Hill 8502 0713

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

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

ST MARY'S WARD
Philip Beales (T) 65 Harwater Drive 8418 0459
Richard Cohen (D) 61 Traps Hill 8502 3242
Imogen Lawrence (T) 3 Staples Road 8508 9570
Harvey Mann (D&T) 20 The Heights 07584 125 211

Issue 257 © LRA 2012 Newsletter compilers: Ian Allsop, David Linnell, Gerarda Cashman.
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.

**LRA's Farmers' Markets, High Road,
first Sunday of each month**