

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

Loughton Residents Association newsletter
June 2013



Chris Pond

County Council election success

On 2 May, Chris Pond successfully retained his Essex County Council place (Loughton Central) with an impressive 61% of the votes cast, the biggest % majority in Essex. Chris has been LRA County Cllr for Loughton Central since 2005 and serves on the Place and Standards Committees at Chelmsford. He has represented St John's Ward on Loughton Town Council since 1996 and has been Town Mayor three times.

For the first time LRA also proposed candidates in two other seats. In Loughton South & Buckhurst Hill, Sharon Weston creditably came second with nearly a quarter of the vote. In Chigwell & Loughton Broadway, the Conservatives held the seat while LRA's Leon Girling came third with 11% of the vote.

There has been an LRA County Cllr for Loughton Central (or its earlier equivalent) for 32 years. But proposing a candidate in the other two divisions is obviously much more difficult for a local group based in, and looking after, Loughton. Nevertheless, at County level most of the problems faced by Loughton residents are also faced by those in Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell. Therefore, it was felt that these people, particularly Loughton residents, should have the opportunity to elect a local, independent, non-political candidate.

LRA is very grateful to all those who helped during the campaign, by standing as candidates, delivering leaflets, knocking on doors – and by voting for LRA.

LRA in the Broadway

LRA Cllr Jennie Hart has been pressing the District Council to tidy up and improve The Broadway. There will be new planting in the flower borders in Brickclamps Path this Autumn. The pavement near the BP garage has finally been repaired while the communal waste bins for the flats above the Broadway shops now have clear labels indicating what should be put in them.

Local plan consultation latest

The District Council received 5,255 responses to the recent consultation on the local plan. LRA would like to thank all those who contacted them and put in responses. During the next phase, Council staff will review all the evidence, working with District Cllrs to produce a first draft of the local plan called 'Preferred Options'. This will contain proposals for policies to meet future population, housing and development growth and it will again go out to public consultation.

Recreation Ground

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. Also a concern is the unauthorised use of the Recreation Ground and its facilities by an increasing number of groups for regular coaching/training sessions without permission from the Town Council. Problems experienced included additional wear and tear on the football pitches, the blocking of emergency access gates and inconsiderate parking in neighbouring residential roads.

At a recent of the Town Council's Recreation Committee meeting it was reported that bank erosion on the River Roding is giving rise to concerns and ideas are being considered for inclusion in the Roding Action Plan. Options are also being considered for improvements to Charlie Moules Bridge.

Parking and the Central Line

The District Council's Highways portfolio holder, Gary Waller, is reported to be looking at the possibility of increasing the capacity of one of Epping's car parks by constructing an additional deck above ground level. This would ease congestion in Epping but would add pressure on Loughton commuters. This is firmly against LRA policy and LRA Cllrs will be investigating.

**All newsletters and regular email updates
£5 for 2013**

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group (LPG) 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.

Pyrles Lane: Thanks to strong opposition from residents, LPG and LRA Cllrs, the Plans South committee of District Cllrs has turned down proposals for a housing development on the Council (plant) Nursery site on Pyrles Lane, which is owned by the Council.

Oakwood Hill site: The Pyrles Lane development proposals mean that the Conservative-led District Council wants to develop a site on Oakwood Hill for a plant nursery and MOT testing area. Before consideration of the application, the Council started to chop down most of the trees and shrubs on the site. LRA – and local residents - immediately protested but were unable to prevent it. The Council then withdrew its planning application! LRA Cllrs have now reported the Council to its own Environment Team for the large amounts of litter they have allowed to be dumped on the site. Disgraceful!

95 High Road: A proposed three storey rear extension, including basement and loft conversion, was turned down by the District Council after LPG and the Town Council objected.

Over-developments: LPG is objecting to proposed over-developments in the High Road, Stonards Hill, Ashley Grove and Albion Hill.

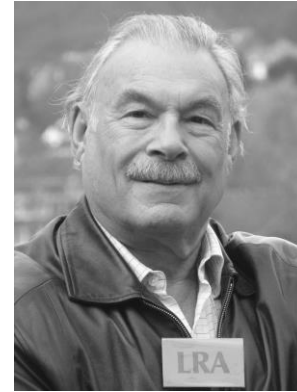
Morrisons Supermarket: They want deliveries between 6am and 7am, Monday to Saturday. LPG and residents have objected.

Former Loughton Sports Centre: LRA Cllrs are working to keep the footpath between Borders Lane and Rectory Lane open during and after building work on a new care home.

Licensed premises - Cumulative Impact Policy: The District Council can introduce a policy that allows it to take into account, when considering an application for new or revised alcohol licences, the number of other licensed premises in the area. LRA Plans Group sees such a policy as essential to stop any further spread of late-night drinking establishments in residential areas. There is a lot of work involved in introducing such a policy and the Council's Licensing Committee has decided that it is not practical to impose this on licensing officers at present. It will be reconsidered at the end of the year or early next year.

Councillor action

Action by LRA Cllr Harvey Mann resulted in police proceedings over disturbances to neighbours caused by a Loughton resident already subject to anti-social behaviour orders. The man has now been jailed for six ASBO breaches.



Harvey Mann

Harvey has also been chasing up the poor state of the High Road pavements where the problems lie on private land (owned by the shops, particularly those outside Morrisons). The County Council Highways Dept has written to the shops involved, asking them to put things right.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond reported a grave trip hazard near the pedestrian crossing at 255 High Road to the County Council (ECC) on 7 May. It was repaired on 14 May, but not before a woman with a pram had taken a nasty tumble. Meanwhile, an LRA member who recently reported tripping on a defective pavement to the County Council was later called by a claims firm suggesting she claim for the accident. Chris has had this investigated, and ECC say the relevant details were not accessed or passed on. However, should you be approached by a claims firm after you have spoken to the Council, please let Chris know ASAP.

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has investigated a complaint from the neighbours of an empty house. The District Council are now in touch with the owner, who has expressed an interest in the offer of a grant in return for allowing the Council to put a family on the waiting list into the house for three years. He has been advised to deal with a squirrel infestation and to clean up the front garden. If you know of a property that's been empty for some time let LRA know.

A determined group led by Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has raised around £24,000 to create a Memorial Garden on the neglected rose garden site in Roding Road. While still slightly short of funds, work is due to get under way with completion by the end of June. Two benches have been donated by local residents in memory of family members but there is space for a further four if anyone would like to add their tribute.

**Could you help further improve Loughton?
Contact us**

Parking problems

Forest Road area

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has raised, with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), the possibility of giving Forest Road residents the chance to consider proposals for a residents parking scheme, which he feels should have priority over other schemes under consideration for Loughton. The situation seems worse since January 2013 when LUL significantly raised their commuter parking charges, and also because of changes in staffing the nearby police station. An LRA member in Forest Road is drawing up a petition, with Chris's encouragement, as the more pressure residents can apply to NEPP the better.

Oakwood Hill

The weekday parking problem has recently become substantially worse. LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens is concerned that there is going to be an accident before long, and is investigating whether anything can be done to prevent this.

York Hill area

There were 91 responses from residents against, and 61 for, the NEPP's proposals for a Residents' Parking Zone, so the NEPP has let go of the idea and is instead looking at a number of suggestions for yellow lines to prevent irresponsible parking in the York Hill area.

Chester Path

LRA Cllr Jennie Hart has been trying to find ways of increasing parking provision. The grass verges have been churned up and Jennie has got the Council to agree to reseed them. Also, refuse lorries will no longer drive up Chester Path (the refuse collectors will take the bins to the lorries) to avoid any damage to the verges.

Highways action

Over the last 9 months, LRA and committee members have been stepping up the pressure on County Highways by reporting (and re-reporting) blocked drains in Loughton, and have encouraged residents to do so too. Five drains in the Alderton Hill area have also been cleared recently. Please help by reporting blockages and other highways problems.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond reports that Highways Officers have agreed in principle to put up signs deterring HGV use of the Earls Path/Forest Road to/from the Robin Hood Roundabout on the Epping New Road in 2013/14.



Jill Angold-Stephens

New Town Mayor

At Loughton Town Council's annual meeting on May 8th, LRA Cllr Stephen Pewsey handed over the Town Mayor's chain to the newly elected mayor, LRA Cllr Jill Angold-Stephens. Her deputy is LRA Cllr Sharon Weston.

Where's my bus?

For the last 10 years or so, LRA has been pressing for real-time bus information in Loughton. LRA Cllr Chris Pond reports that progress is being made, as the County Council is looking to renew and improve the systems now operating elsewhere in the County. However, it's more likely to be a service that you access on your smart phone than screens on the Loughton bus stops. In the meantime, you can access real time information for routes 20,167, 397 and 549 on your mobile phone at m.countdown.tfl.gov.uk

Kay Ellis

LRA stalwart Kay Ellis is moving from Algers Road to a bungalow. Kay served LRA first as Press Officer and devised the still-used Loughton Life distribution system. Then she was LRA chairman.

She was elected to the District Council for Forest Ward in 1986, becoming vice-chairman of the Housing Committee. Under no overall control on EFDC (1994-2006), Kay was the first LRA councillor to be elected Chairman of the District Council. She was EFDC Chairman when the Town Council (LTC) was established (1996), and in 1999 was elected to LTC. Her commitment to public service extended beyond council work - Citizens' Advice Bureau management, vice-Chairman of the Epping Forest/West Essex NHS Primary Care Trust, steward of the Methodist church. She's now active with the Alzheimer's Society. Kay and David's move is Waltham Abbey's gain, Loughton's loss - but, luckily, they will retain many of their links with our town. Thank you, Kay.

**Visit www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
for more information**

Lopping Hall

Lopping Hall has had a refurbishment, and now has the Arts Centre on the ground floor – but there's more to be done. Widespread work has been carried out on the Hall, including the installation of a lift for the disabled connecting the ground and first floors. The lift has been paid for by the Hall's Trustees with grant funding from the Grange Farm Trust and the District Council's 2000 Chairman's charity. The Trustees want the local community to get involved and are seeking all kinds of support, especially from those with experience of fundraising, publicity and architectural/building practices.

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.

Contacting the LRA

ALL ENQUIRIES: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk	8508 2932
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard	
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT	8502 0552
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow	8508 4457
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
Eva Blasco	8923 0065
Rose Brookes	8502 5981
Steve Eaton	8923 0065
Rebecca Fricker	8508 8369
Chris Harper	8508 4770
Suzanne Harper	8508 4770
Peter House	8532 1275
Barry Johnston	8508 0843
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
David Linnell	8508 2932
George Meltser	8502 3006
Bela Yorke	8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS

(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

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

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 local councillors and LRA helpers. LRA has two stands at all markets available free for charities and voluntary organisations operating locally. To find out when spaces are available, email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk

Making a difference

Members can help LRA by standing as councillors for the Town or District Councils – although there are no Town or District Council elections locally this year, now's a good time to find out what's involved, and how you could make a difference, please contact Cllr Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk Training is provided and you would be working as part of a strong and experienced group. Alternatively you could consider joining the Executive Committee, which gets involved in the local issues we take up – members are welcome to come along to see how this works, without commitment – just contact Chris.

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

BROADWAY WARD

Leon Girling (D&T) 95 Willingale Rd	8418 0076
Jennie Hart (D) 74 Queens Rd	8508 3661
John Mahoney (T) 299B High Rd	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 Ct, Goldings Rd	8418 9284

FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Rd	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 Rd	8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Rd	8508 2226
David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Ct, Goldings Rd	8418 9284

ST JOHN'S WARD

John Markham (D) 77 Queens Rd	8508 1945
Stephen Pewsey (T) 59 Wroths Path	8508 5582
Caroline Pond (D&T) 7 Staples Rd	8508 2361
Chris Pond (T) 7 Staples Rd	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 Rd	8508 9570
Harvey Mann (D&T) 20 The Heights	07584 125 211

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**Farmers' Market -
first Sunday of each month**