

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Edition

*Loughton Residents Association newsletter
for all residents in IG10
Autumn 2014*

Building on success

The six successful LRA candidates, including four who were elected for the first time in May's district council elections, have been working hard as Cllrs for the last four months. In Alderton ward Chris Roberts won with 58 per cent of the turnout, in Broadway Chris Pond got 41 per cent of the vote while in Fairmead Louise Mead was chosen by half of those who voted. In Forest Ward Sharon Weston secured 56 per cent while in St John's and St Mary's Bob Jennings and Howard Kauffman won an impressive 70 and 67 per cent of the vote respectively.



Chris Roberts



Louise Mead



Bob Jennings



Howard Kauffman

Thanks to all those who voted and supported the campaign. LRA will continue to work hard at all Council levels to speak up for Loughton first. As Louise Mead said: "This town has everything including character and warmth. I share LRA's ethos - working to preserve what local people value."

Royal Oak site

LRA is very concerned about what might happen to this locally listed building, which has recently been closed. A group of residents is undertaking research about the pathway between Forest Road and Smarts Lane that was closed off by the Royal Oak prior to its sale. They are seeking input from other residents who have historical evidence of the use of this road/footpath. They are also seeking residents' views on whether a pub or similar commercial use should continue on the site. If so, they could apply for it to become an Asset of Community Value to help secure this. Please contact the group via allresidentstogether@gmail.com.

Library futures

Cllr Chris Pond has been added to an Essex County Council member group considering the future of the customer-facing services it offers. There are 74 libraries in Essex, which are in effect the Council's shop-windows for local people. Following the removal from office of cabinet member John Jowers, who was a strong defender of libraries, Chris asked new cabinet member, Roger Hirst, for an explicit assurance that there would be no library closures - this was readily given. The group may be considering proposals for relocation of some libraries. For example, the moving of Debden Library into Epping Forest College has never met with the general approval of local people, although the College is looking at ways of improving access. The group will also assess the addition of other county council services to library buildings. It would seem that almost alone of English local authorities, there is at least the political will in Essex to maintain and improve its libraries.

Join LRA now for £5 per household until end of 2015!

There are no duties! You will get extra newsletters and can receive our weekly email local news bulletin. Members' support is vital as subscriptions pay our costs, such as printing newsletters and election expenses. To pay direct from a bank account or by standing order, ring 020 8508 2932 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

I enclose £5 till end-2014£5

I enclose a donation for LRA's work £

Name

Address

Post code IG10 Phone

Email (if any)

I would like LRA's email local news/events bulletins 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. Subscriptions for existing members are due in January.

**Members' newsletters and local news by email
£5 for 2015**

Planning & licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate.

Church Hill sites (by The Plume of Feathers):

A developer submitted a planning application to build a block of six flats with a *Sainsbury's Local* on the ground floor, on the old car park. Many local residents, some traders and the LRA Plans Group felt access and parking arrangements were wholly inadequate, and strongly opposed the application (volunteers delivered letters to over 1,000 local households). Meanwhile the Co-op applied for a convenience store on its old dairy site uphill of the petrol station. Thanks to the District Council's co-operation, both applications were considered at the same District Council meeting – the flats one was turned down while the Co-op's was approved. *The Plume of Feathers* has applied to enlarge its parking area, with the consequent loss of trees, though at the time of going to press this application remains undecided.

Taxis: All taxis licensed by the District Council are now metered. Drivers can charge less than the metered rate, and can negotiate rates if going outside the district (eg. to an airport). There has been concern about the rates set for evenings and weekends, which the District Council will soon review.

48 Church Lane: Following a major campaign by residents and the LRA Plans Group, which led to the District Council rejecting an application to allow the building of four houses on this plot, the applicants appealed. Happily, the Planning Inspector firmly rejected it, as otherwise the character of large areas of the town could have come under threat.

Luxe, High Road: The LRA Plans Group and local residents successfully objected to Luxe's retrospective planning application for change of use to a night club, because of the disturbances to nearby residents and also because this use has created a dead daytime area at the heart of the High Road.

The Broadway Car Parks/Burton Road Depot. The District Council has taken possession of the former jewellers shop in the walkway, and the access between The Broadway and the Burton Road car park will be widened. Despite LRA opposition, the Conservative-led District Council is now proposing 52 properties (with inadequate parking) on the Burton Road site, instead of the 31 initially suggested and supported by LRA.

Langston Road retail development: It will be called the Epping Forest Retail Park - a 50/50 partnership between a developer and the District Council, who will have some control over which companies occupy the retail outlets (to avoid taking away business from The Broadway & the High Road).

2 Connaught Avenue: Following a letter from the LRA Plans Group, local residents and the Group successfully opposed an application for a block of nine flats, three storeys high on this site.

How you can help? LRA Cllr Howard Kauffman recently followed up a resident's complaint of breaches of planning conditions, including working till 7.30pm. If you think a development is not being built according to the plans, or is in breach of conditions, let the District Council and/or us know asap – don't leave it till it's too late to put things right.



Kiss and ride

The take-over of "kiss and ride" spaces at the car park near Loughton station for Sainsbury's collections has angered many residents. LRA has been in touch with Sainsbury's to complain, and to point out that the conditions laid down when the Sainsbury's store was built prevent the use of this area for any other purpose. They are discussing alternatives with TfL and we will keep you posted.

Primary school catchments

Schools in Loughton are under huge pressure because of greater numbers of children reaching school age. When choosing schools for primary age starters parents should bear in mind that they run the risk of not being allocated ANY school place in Loughton unless they choose the school in whose Priority Admission Area (PAA) their address falls AND back-up choices of other Loughton schools.

If you live in such a PAA be aware that in the event of the school being over-subscribed from within the PAA, it is distance from the centre of the school in a straight line to the centre of the home that determines who will be allocated a place. In 2014, for instance, the first allocations to Staples Road School excluded anyone within the PAA who lived more than 1,075 yards from the school.

There were cases this year of Loughton children being allocated schools in Waltham Abbey and Nazeing, simply because parents chose oversubscribed schools in Loughton or elsewhere, and no in-Loughton alternative.

None of the above necessarily applies if the application is for a looked-after child or one with a sibling already at the school.

Visit www.loughtonresidents.org.uk
for more information

Oakwood Hill estate

LRA is delighted that, following discussions with LRA Cllrs Lance Leonard & Chris Pond and others, the District Council has agreed to a £400,000 Estate Enhancement Scheme for the Oakwood Hill estate, covering mainly improvements to the paths and roads and street lighting, funded by the Council and by Essex County Council. The Town Council will fund signage. The District Council will set up a taskforce including senior housing officers, local Cllrs and interested residents.

Citizens Advice

For over thirty years there has been a Citizens Advice Bureau in Loughton, located at St Mary's Church. Shortly the Bureau will have to move at least, on a temporary basis. The building which it occupies is in a poor state of repair and the Church has plans to demolish it and build a new hall and other facilities. It is hoped that agreement can be reached to enable the Bureau to eventually occupy part of the new building.

The Bureau helps over 2,000 people with a wide range of problems every year. At the moment it has nowhere to go when the present building is demolished. If anybody is able to help or knows of premises which might be available for a period of about a year from June 2015 please contact Peter Gordon (peterwgordon@ntlworld.com or 020 8508 0300). Ideally the Bureau needs a room that could be used as an office plus two or three smaller rooms that could be used for client interviews. Disabled access is a necessity.

Art in Loughton

The Lopping Hall is finally emerging as the cultural centre of Loughton, as was originally intended, with Loughton Art Centre in a dedicated gallery fronting onto the High Road. Each couple of weeks they host a local artist or group of artists, who exhibit their work for sale. The styles and themes are varied and will soon also include three dimensional work such as sculpture and ceramics.

If you are an artist and would like to exhibit and maybe sell some of your work, ring 079532 053194 or drop in to the Centre. The opening times are 10am - 4pm, Monday - Saturday. Come along and see just what talent our local artists have.

Lady Mary's Path

The Borders Lane/Rectory Lane footpath has reopened and is now officially designated as a public right of way. It will be called Lady Mary's Path after Lady Mary Wroth (1587 – 1653), who lived at Loughton Hall. LRA Cllrs Chris Pond and Louise Mead have secured funding from the County Council's local highway panel to improve access and appearance.



Councillor action

Unofficial signage on Oakwood Hill

LRA Cllrs David Wixley Chris Roberts and Ken Angold-Stephens have been trying to get the increasing number of boards outside the Oakwood Hill industrial estate removed. They have had some success but several have now sprung up in Chigwell Lane, which they are also following up.

Staples Road

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked County Highways to deal, as a matter of urgency, with the "heave" (probably caused by tree roots) on the roadway near numbers 39-45 (the *Four Sisters*), as it has damaged car exhausts/running gear.

Almshouses

Loughton's handsome 1830s almshouses, already a listed building, have been added, along with the Potato Ground, into the Baldwin's Hill Conservation Area. LRA Cllr Caroline Pond intervened with the housing association that runs them when an underpinning process seemed to have come to a standstill, and happily, it was soon resumed.

River Way

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has been pressing the District Council to deal with the rubbish on the garage site at the end of River Way. The complication is that it is private land so the landowner or the garage owners are responsible but if they fail to clear the rubbish the Council will charge them.

New mini-roundabout

For years, LRA has been asking for safety measures at the junction of Traps Hill, Borders Lane and Alderton Hill. Finally, pressure from LRA Cllrs Chris Pond and Lance Leonard, and others, has led to the roundabout appearing.

Shrub beds, Loughton Station

LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has recently had confirmation that Transport for London (TfL) will tidy up the shrub bed by the car park at Loughton Station. This follows years of considerable pressure by Ken and research into the ownership of the beds, which is still disputed by TfL.

**LRA member - not getting LRA's local email news bulletins?
Email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk**

CONTACTING LRA

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David Linnell	8508 2932
George Meltser	8502 3006
Bela Yorke	8508 4729

Stay in touch

Members can get our email bulletins of local news (email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk if you aren't on the list and would like these). We are also putting out occasional topical messages on Facebook and Twitter – please follow us at @LoughtonRA & www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

Conservation areas

Character appraisals and management plans for Staples Road and York Hill Conservation Areas are now available on the District Council's website at:

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/help/file-store/category/79-staples-road-conservation-area

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/home/file-store/category/82-york-hill-conservation-area

Banking on Debden

The Bank of England has announced that it has selected De La Rue in Debden as its "preferred bidder" in the tender for its banknote printing contract. The Bank of England started a formal public procurement process in November 2012 for the printing of the Bank's banknotes. Printing under the new contract is due to commence in April 2015.

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
Chris Roberts (D) 107 Colson Road	07952 753081
Tracey Thomas (D&T) 110 Grosvenor Drive	07930 418615
BROADWAY WARD	
Leon Girling (D&T) 95 Willingale Road	8418 0076
John Mahoney (T) 149 Colebrook Lane	8502 3192
Chris Pond (D) 7 Staples Rd	8508 2361
FAIRMEAD WARD	
Carol Davies (T) 13 Colebrook Gardens	8508 4234
Judy Jennings (T) 94 York Hill	8508 1861
Louise Mead (D) 22 Lower Road	07547 264561
David Wixley (D) 2 Copper Beech Ct, Goldings Rd	8418 9284
FOREST WARD	
Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Road	8281 0674
Trevor Downing (T) 207 Smarts Lane	8508 8877
Sharon Weston (D&T) 58 York Hill	8502 0713
RODING WARD	
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) 89 Lower Park Rd	8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road	8508 2226
David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Ct, Goldings Rd	8418 9284
ST JOHN'S WARD	
Bob Jennings (D) 94 York Hill	8508 1861
Stephen Pewsey (T) 30 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
Howard Kauffman (D) 42 Church Lane	8508 1098
Imogen Lawrence (T) 1 Longfield	8502 1159
Harvey Mann (D&T) 20 The Heights	07584 125211

Tree preservations

LRA Cllr Caroline Pond would like to remind owners of trees, in the context of the new Loughton Tree Strategy, that they can nominate a tree to have a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) if it is of great public amenity or much valued by them for personal reasons. In the spring, a resident contacted Caroline to try to preserve an oak, a lovely tree in itself, but doubly important to her as her late husband's ashes were buried under it. A suggestion was put up to the District Council Officers and, after due investigation, a TPO issued.

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