

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

## Members' Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter  
February 2016

Contact us at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

### Lucton's Field

In the summer, LRA Cllr Chris Pond headed off temporarily an attempt by District Council cabinet member John Philip to release the protection this 11-acre field between Borders Lane and Colson Road has enjoyed since 1952. The protection is a covenant restricting its use to educational or NHS uses, and the Council controls the covenant.

Epping Forest College, who own the land, want to develop it for a sports centre, and, importantly, for housing, to finance the sport centre and improve their finances. The sports centre is a good idea, but it won't take up 11 acres.

LRA believes some of this land is still needed for educational purposes. Loughton will need a new school within a decade or so. But with land at up to £4m an acre, how could such a site be found anywhere in Loughton, without taking green belt or valued urban open space?

All this was aired at a special meeting in Epping, when the decision to go ahead with the covenant release was scrutinised. LRA Cllrs Leon Girling, David Wixley, Howard Kauffman and Chris Pond all pointed out how the decision was flawed, and how much Lucton's Field was valued, and should be continue to be protected for educational use. However, the silent Conservative majority on the committee - not one of whom spoke to defend this short-sighted decision - voted it through.

So the chances are that the college will cover this land, and its middle site (other side of Borders Lane), with yet more housing, as well as the sport centre, so we will need even more school places, which we will be unable to provide as we have no land.

LRA thinks this is preposterous, unreasonable and entirely short sighted

\*\*\*If you used Lucton's Field for any recreational reason - football, running, kite flying, hide and seek, etc. at any time over the last 20-30 years, please let us know at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)\*\*\*



Congestion in Loughton High Rd c1902

### Public Meeting & AGM

8pm TUESDAY 22 March 2016

Chris Pond will give an illustrated talk, *Pictures of Old Loughton*, followed by refreshments and LRA's AGM. Doors open 7.45pm for 8pm start at Loughton Cricket Clubhouse. Entrance is in The Uplands (off Church Hill), where the road bends sharply. Park onsite or nearby.

### Please subscribe now

We are very grateful for our members' support. Your copy of Loughton Life should enclose a letter asking you to renew your membership (only £5 a year) or confirming that you've already paid for 2015.

LRA is run by volunteers and we keep our costs to the minimum. We depend upon our volunteers and your membership to produce these newsletters and run our campaigns.

You can help us greatly by renewing now.

### Waste collection

The District Council recently reviewed the problems that arose at the start of the new Biffa arrangements, and looked at how things had settled down. More at <http://ow.ly/WNCTU>

### Path to Traps Hill Surgery

LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up a request for a proper path from the Traps Hill car-park to the surgery. It is now in the hands of the District Council, who own the land.

### If you care about your town...

Please think about joining our teams on the Town or District Councils this May. To find out what's involved, please call Chris on 020 8508 2361 or Michael on 020 8508 4457 or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

**£5 for 2016 - have you paid for 2016, please?**

## Planning & licensing

The LRA Plans Group (LPG) looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. It works separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees. Here are some recent cases:

### *Oaklands School*

The school on Albion Hill proposed a new parking and drop-off arrangement, with an increase in the number of pupils permitted. LPG's analysis suggests that there wouldn't be enough off-road parking for staff, let alone parents and visitors, and so we oppose any increase in pupil numbers.

### *Loughton Hall Rectory Lane*

The LPG has objected to a proposal for an extension and other changes to this Grade II listed building because we are concerned about the loss of off-road parking space.

### *Debden Hall Debden Green*

This is a Green Belt site. LPG feels that the package of improvements may look persuasive at first but don't outweigh the detriment the proposal will cause to the Green Belt. Many of the improvements put forward could be achieved if the Council used its enforcement powers to clear up the site.

### *12A Chequers Road & 66 - 72 Church Lane*

LPG and others had objected to the bulk of proposed two-storey blocks on land to the rear of these buildings. The heights of the blocks have been reduced by 0.9m but the LPG objections remain.

### *Vere Road garage site (next to the former Sir Winston Churchill PH)*

The District Council had planned to work with a housing association to provide 15 new affordable rented flats. The Government however has made this sort of development less financially attractive and the Council is now considering including the development in its Council Housebuilding Programme.

### *51 High Road*

The District Council turned down an application for 8 flats here. LPG & others had objected to it as an overdevelopment of the site, with insufficient off-road parking.

### *Arewater Green.*

A Planning Inspector has rejected an appeal against the District Council's refusal of an application for ten houses on the Trevelyan House site. LPG & others had objected to it as an overdevelopment of the site, with insufficient off-road parking.

## On the move?

Subject to the final details being agreed, Loughton Town Council will be moving its offices from Buckingham Court (Rectory Lane) to the former Connexions Room at Loughton Library, Traps Hill. The present offices would be let.



## Play Area Traps Hill

Loughton Town Council will receive £20,000 from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards refurbishing the play area in Traps Hill. This is part of the Town Council's regular programme of play area refurbishments. Before LRA managed to get the Town Council set up, we battled for 13 years to get the District Council to create the Traps Hill playground.

## LuXe Bar

We have been asked why LuXe appears to be operating as "normal" after the refusal of their appeal against District Council enforcement action to remove their music centre and to close the dance floor. The Council are taking legal advice on the next steps.

It would be a great help if you could let us know (contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) if you suffer any problems or disturbance or if you see LuXe open (daytime or evening) other than on Thursday - Saturday nights.



## Police crackdown on crime and persistent ASB

Local officers have been targeting those responsible for an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour in The Broadway area, including criminal damage, shoplifting and public order offences.

Suspects have been dealt with in many of these cases.

Officers have been successful in obtaining a closure order on premises where serious anti-social behaviour was occurring.

Officers and the District Council are now in discussions to make the Debden Broadway area the subject of a Public Spaces Protection Order.



Report crime and issues of persistent anti-social behaviour to Essex Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

## Citizens Advice Bureau

From **8th February**, Loughton CAB will be on the first floor of Loughton Library, Traps Hill (lift available) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am - to 1pm.

Or phone 0344 477 0808 (Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm) or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)



## Join a book group

A new library-based reading group has started and meets in Loughton Library, Traps Hill monthly on a Monday at 1.30pm. Lift access to first floor. All new members welcome. Please telephone Libraries (0345 603 7628) for the next date.

To get LRA's news emails - [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## Round and about

### *Answers to LRA's Christmas Quiz 2015*

What a clever lot you are! Several of you came up with a few alternative answers to the quiz – all have been allowed where they fitted correctly. First all-correct answer out of the hat was from Claire and Peter Dyson, who've chosen a book token. Well done to them!

1. Find a crop here (3) *Rye*
2. Dark stream (9) *Blackburn*
3. Home of a ukulele player (6) *Formby*
4. Go round the dock (7) *Torquay*
5. What the bank robber said to do with the money (7) *Andover*
6. Sounds like a rusty, old car (6) *Bangor*
7. Make sure you leave things long enough in the oven (8) *Bakewell*
8. You might get to play cards here (4) *Deal or Looe*
9. Central store for organs (9) *Liverpool*
10. Bonded notepaper (8) *Basildon*
11. Feeling good around town (14) *Wellingborough*
12. Awful actor, but quite funny (6) *Witham*
13. Could be on Park Lane (10) *Dorchester*
14. Paint the town green (7) *Lincoln*
15. Sounds as if it's the bottom of the boat (5) *Keele*
16. Prepare strawberries here? (4) *Hull*
17. Oliver takes the biscuit (4) *Bath*
18. Carry on decorating (8) *Paignton*
19. Another one made for Noah (6) *Newark*
20. Wide steps here (11) *Broadstairs*
21. Lawn or water? Both (8) *Grasmere*
22. Top of a five-barred one (9) *Gateshead*
23. Sounds like a famous jockey (9) *Leicester*
24. Clues the detective wants (5) *Leeds*
25. Kept going here? (7) *Preston or Skipton*
26. Stately bird in the main (7) *Swansea*
27. Where cattle are boarded (9) *Stockport or Oxenholme*
28. A weighty span (9) *Tonbridge or Weybridge*
29. Duke or Dwight? (4) *York*
30. Pasture for Jamie or Gordon (9) *Sheffield*

## Highways and parking

### *Weight restrictions on York Hill, Staples Road, Woodbury Hill, and streets off*

After some months of applying pressure, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has managed to get the advisory 7.5 ton weight limits in these narrow roads converted into a statutory prohibition. The signs were changed in early January.



This should help stop the incursions of foreign articulated lorries into the area, caused by sat-nav errors.

There are plans to apply the same to all roads to the west of the High Road and south of The Drive, but this has first to be evaluated and consulted on.

### *Barrington Green/ The Broadway area parking restrictions*

New yellow lines are being proposed as part of the changes linked to the Langston Road Retail Park.

Details of the proposals can be found under Traffic Regulation Order TRAF/5226 at

[www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads.aspx](http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads.aspx)

### *Rectory Lane roadworks*

As part of the plans for the Langston Road Retail Park, Rectory Lane will be widened and traffic and pedestrian lights will be linked together. LRA is concerned about the potential effect these major works will have on trade in The Broadway shops, and LRA Cllr Chris Pond asked the District Council (who own the shops) whether a rent reduction would therefore be appropriate.

They replied that there are no proposed closures of the highway and any disruptive works are proposed to be out of hours. Given the current congestion we find this difficult to believe.

### *District Council car-parks*

It is easy to forget that the charges changed last year for Saturdays and Sundays, therefore please check the notice-boards for information on charges.

If you use the public car park at the District Council in Epping, charges now apply on weekdays and at weekends.



### *Drink- & drug-driving*

Over 1,900 drivers were breathalysed as part of a Christmas crackdown on drink and drug driving in Essex; Seventy seven were found to be over the limit, or refused or failed to provide a sample. Fifty three drivers were tested using roadside drug testing kits of which 22 (41.5%) tested positive and were arrested.

Anyone with information about people who drink or take drugs and drive can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Cycle safety

Is your bike safe? Doctor Bike Sessions take place at Loughton Library, Traps Hill every second Saturday of the month. 11am – mid-day. Safety checks, advice on lights, what to wear, where to ride and small repairs – just come along and ask.



## LRA's farmers' markets

The LRA organises farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Road - come and meet LRA Cllrs and volunteers, and browse our second-hand book stall. We hope to see you there. LRA makes two stands available free for charities and other local voluntary organisations (to find out about free dates please email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)).

## Queen's New Year Honours

Congratulations to two Loughton recipients; Peter Adams (senior Verderer, Epping Forest): MBE, and Maureen Gould (Oak View School, Chairman of Govs): BEM.

## Do you live in Church Hill?

Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch urgently wants to start up a Neighbourhood Watch Group in Church Hill. This is the only road in the immediate area without an active Watch Group. Please contact [Outerlondon@aol.com](mailto:Outerlondon@aol.com) - you don't have to look after the whole of Church Hill, just your stretch of the road.

## Be smart

engageEFDC is a free and simple-to-use smartphone app, which lets you connect to District Council services.

## Town Council Christmas window competition 2015

Almost 150 Loughton businesses decorated their windows. The Town Mayor (LRA Cllr Judy Jennings) was disappointed that multiples and supermarkets, with their large windows on the High Road, presented a rather bleak and dismal frontage with no seasonal decorations.

The winners of the competition were **Restore Community Centre** (68 The Broadway), **Tonys** (61 The Broadway) and **Starbucks** (243 High Road). Further details and runners-up can be found at [www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/4psrel137.pdf](http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/4psrel137.pdf)

## Council tax 2016-17

We currently expect the following:

- **Loughton Town Council** (LRA-led): no increase
- **Epping Forest District Council**: no increase
- **Essex County Council**: increase of 3.99%, which is £43 for a Band D property
- **Police**: increase of 3.36% (£4.95 for a Band D property)
- **Fire Services**: not yet known but probably no increase.

**Note:** out of every £1 of Council Tax, the County Council gets 72p, the District Council gets 10p, the Police 10p and the Fire Service and the Town Council 4p each.

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**CONTACTING LRA**      **ENQUIRIES: [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**      **8508 2932**

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TREASURER Miriam Murphy      01992 815525

### COUNCILLORS

(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

#### COUNTY: Loughton (Central)

Chris Pond Staples Road      8508 2361

#### ALDERTON WARD

Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive      8502 2925  
Chris Roberts (D) Colson Road      8279 0053  
Tracey Thomas (D&T)      07982 847215

#### BROADWAY WARD

Leon Girling (D&T) Willingale Road      8418 0076  
John Mahoney (T) Lopping Hall High Rd      07909 517145  
Chris Pond (D) Staples Road      8508 2361

#### COMMITTEE

Eva Blasco	8923 0065	Barry Johnson	8508 0843
Rose Brookes	8502 5981	Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
Tessa Cochrane	8508 4148	Lance Leonard	8502 0771
Steve Eaton	8923 0065	David Linnell	8508 2932
Rebecca Fricker	8508 8369	George Meltser	8502 3006
Peter House	8532 1275		

#### FAIRMEAD WARD

Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens      8508 4234  
Judy Jennings (T) York Hill      8508 1861  
Louise Mead (D) Lower Road      07547 264561  
David Wixley (D) Copper Beech Ct Goldings Rd      8418 9284

#### FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens (T) Lower Park Road      8281 0674  
Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane      8508 8877  
Sharon Weston (D&T) York Hill      8502 0713

#### RODING WARD

Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) Lower Park Rd      8281 0674  
Margaret Chalk (T) Southview Road      8508 2226  
David Wixley (T) Copper Beech Ct Goldings Rd      8418 9284

#### ST JOHN'S WARD

Bob Jennings (D) York Hill      8508 1861  
Stephen Pewsey (T) Wroths Path      8508 5582  
Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Road      8508 2361  
Chris Pond (T) Staples Road      8508 2361

#### ST MARY'S WARD

Philip Beales (T) Harwater Drive      8418 0459  
Howard Kauffman (D) Church Lane      8508 1098  
Imogen Lawrence (T) Staples Road      8502 3395  
Harvey Mann (D&T) The Heights      07584 125211

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**£5 for 2016 - have you paid for 2016, please?**