

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
June 2018

LRA is independent & focuses on looking after Loughton. We have Cllrs on the County and District Councils, and hold 20 out of 22 of the seats on Loughton Town Council.

Elections: LRA successes!

Once again, the recent elections to Epping Forest District Council proved to be a tremendous success for LRA; our local candidates gained significant majorities in all 7 seats we stood in (in Roding ward we didn't oppose Independent Cllr Stephen Murray).

We would like to thank Leon Girling who has worked hard in his roles on the Town and District Councils, representing Broadway ward, and particularly on defending Jessel Green against development. A job change, however, means that he is no longer based in Loughton and has had to stand down as an LRA Cllr. Whilst we are sorry to lose him we are pleased to welcome his replacements Michael Owen (District) and Jayna Jorgia (Town).

A full list of LRA's current Cllrs can be found on page 2. One of the things that makes us stand out is that LRA's District Cllrs are not an "Opposition" in Epping. Our Cllrs are independent; they will support good policies, whichever party suggests them. LRA Cllrs do, however, oppose bad proposals, like the Conservatives' proposal to build on Jessel Green. Residents and LRA have been rejecting this idea since it was first suggested in 2008, but the Conservative District Cllrs voted for it at last December's Council meeting. We will defend Loughton's green spaces in front of the Local Plan Inspector at a hearing later this year.

We are very active in following up the every-day problems which matter so much to residents, such as potholes, unemptied rubbish bins, crime and anti-social behaviour, and leisure facilities. Whilst not guaranteed, we have an ever-growing list of successes. We are persistent and we care!

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
email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk
or phone (numbers on back page).



LRA's Plans Group is active in opposing inappropriate planning and licensing applications, informing and supporting residents. We listen to residents, who can talk to our Cllrs or meet us at our monthly stall at the Farmers' market in Loughton High Road, so we stay informed of what matters to residents. Unlike other parties, we keep residents informed between elections. Each year, our volunteers deliver two editions of our *Loughton Life* newsletter to all Loughton households.

Our website, Twitter feed and Facebook posts keep residents informed. LRA members get extra editions of our *Loughton Life* newsletter and a regular email bulletin of local news and events.

It's no accident that we've been going for over 35 years, and that we're now the second largest party on the District Council; we hold 20 out of the 22 seats on Loughton Town Council, and hold a seat on the County Council too.

When in the past there were Conservative Cllrs for Loughton wards, they usually toed the party line in Epping and so did little or nothing for Loughton, which is why residents have increasingly elected LRA Cllrs.

LRA relies on the support of Loughton's residents and we're very grateful to all those who supported us throughout the campaign, particularly those who canvassed residents and/or delivered leaflets, and especially the voters, all of whose support allows us to strive to keep Loughton a good place to live in.

Email bulletins

If you don't receive our news & events bulletins, and would like to, let us know at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk
In between the email bulletins, we send out urgent items on Twitter and Facebook:
www.twitter.com/loughtonra and
www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

Have you renewed your LRA membership?

Not sure? Email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or ring 020 8508 2932. £5pa per household!
LRA's membership information is not shared with anyone

Our thanks to all the residents who voted LRA!

Farmers' markets



Come along to LRA's Farmers' Markets, browse our second-hand book stall and talk to our volunteers on the second Sunday of each month, 9am–3pm, on the Centric Parade, High Road. Each month we make two stalls available (free) to different local voluntary organisations.

More wheelie bins?

The Council is looking at reducing costs by replacing the dry recyclables sacks with another wheelie bin. LRA Cllrs are very aware that many residents couldn't house another bin, and will be concerned to ensure that residents can opt-out if the Council introduces another wheelie bin.



Morning burglaries

Essex Police reported two burglaries recently, one in Chigwell and one in Theydon. What was unusual was that they were both between 8:30am and 9:30am so thieves must be looking for properties where people are out doing the school run etc. Remember to set alarms etc., even if you're just nipping out to school or locally.

Keyless car crime

Keyless vehicle theft is on the rise across the country. Reduce the chance of having your vehicle stolen by following this crime prevention advice from Essex police - don't give thieves an easy ride!



1. Store your keys away from household entry points. Keeping your keyless entry fob out of sight is not enough; thieves only need to gain proximity to the key to amplify the signal. Faraday Bags can be purchased online and in stores, these stop your signal being intercepted and your vehicle stolen.
2. Despite social media or public opinion, DO NOT leave keys in the fridge, microwave or a tin as this may do more damage to the key and is unlikely to be effective.
3. Contact your dealer about any car software updates you take advantage of.
4. Review your car security.
5. If you have a garage, use it.

Loughton police station

Although the police station is no longer open to the public, the local policing team is based there 24 hour a day, 7 days a week and handles 999 emergency calls and 101 calls. This team then deals with local investigations and lower graded crimes, such as common assaults. The CID criminal investigation team, also based in Loughton, also operates on a 24/7 basis and covers more serious crimes, such as burglaries and serious assaults.

CONTACTING LRA

D: District; T: Town	Enquiries: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932	
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COUNCILLORS	FAIRMEAD WARD	ST MARY'S WARD
ALDERTON WARD Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive 8502 2925 Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Rd 8279 0053 Adam Omer (T) Station Road 07904 919701 Mick Stubbings (T) Greenfields 07766 480522	Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens 07817 230372 Kevin Latchford (T) Colebrook Gardens 8502 4568 Louise Mead (D) 07746 875952 David Wixley (D) Goldings Rd 8418 9284	Philip Beales (T) Harwater Drive 8418 0459 Barbara Cohen (T) Traps Hill 07957 141197 Judy Jennings (D&T) York Hill 8508 1861 Howard Kauffman (D) Church Ln 8508 1098
BROADWAY WARD Michael Owen (D) Baldwins Hill 07767 004745 John Mahoney (T) High Rd 07909 517145 Stella Murphy (T) High View Close 8508 2794 Chris Pond (D) Staples Road 8508 2361 Jayna Jogia (T) 07983 713389	FOREST WARD Jill Angold-Stephens (T) Lower Pk Rd 8281 0674 Roger Baldwin (D) Burney Drive 8508 8479 Amy Beales (D) Harwater Drive 07507 341956 Tessa Cochrane (T) Shaftesbury 8508 4148 Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane 8508 8877	COUNTY: Loughton (Central) Chris Pond Staples Road 8508 2361
ST JOHN'S WARD Bob Jennings (D) York Hill 8508 1861 Stephen Pewsey (T) Wroths Path 8279 1858 Chris Pond (T) Staples Road 8508 2361 Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Rd 8508 2361	RODING WARD Rose Brookes (D&T) Lower Park Road 8502 5981 Mark Dalton (T) Highland Avenue 07719 736901 David Wixley (T) Goldings Rd 8418 9284	COMMITTEE Michael Benbow 8508 4457 Param Doal 8508 8594 Steve Eaton 8923 0065 Rebecca Fricker 8508 8369 Lance Leonard 8502 0771 David Linnell 8508 2932 George Meltser 8502 3006 Chidi Nweke 07403 489455
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LRA Cllrs are Independent and non-political

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 entirely separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees. "Council" = "District Council"

Crown House, High Road

This was *Nu-Bar*, and is now to be *Tom, Dick and Harry's* bar/restaurant. Planning permission was granted in January for various alterations, and work is now underway. The LPG is objecting to any opening after midnight.



Hollybush, High Road

The LPG have objected to McMullens' planning application to replace the ground floor front of this pub with plate-glass. The pub is locally listed, and the present facade is a valued part of the street-scene (but isn't original). Ironically, McMullens' own website says "the Hollybush is a key part of Loughton High Street's (sic) rich history".

13-15A Alderton Hill

The proposed 6-storey, 106-unit care complex was turned down by the District Council as too bulky, too dense and out-of-keeping with its surroundings. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of affordable housing, and whether the development would be financially viable. No doubt the applicant will now appeal. We'll keep residents informed.

The old Sorting Office site

The District Council has approved the block of flats proposed for this High Road site. An earlier application for flats was turned down.

56 Tycehurst Hill

An Inspector rejected an appeal against the District Council's refusal of permission for a block of flats on this site as quite out of keeping with the prevailing character of the area.

60 Traps Hill

The District Council turned down an application for a block of 7 flats on this site as incongruous and overbearing.

Proposed 66 and 86 route cuts

EOS buses are proposing to withdraw the evening service between Loughton and Waltham Abbey, which they put on as a commercial service when the County Council removed route 250 last year. These have not proved a success and EOS will cease to operate them in this month. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the County Council to make a contribution to EOS to maintain the service, but he is not hopeful. We think the primary impact will be to further isolate Waltham Abbey from surrounding areas.



Highways & parking

Rubbish clearance

A resident contacted us about rubbish in the water-course at the rear of the houses in Willingale Road. The District and Town Council staff were helpful, and the Town Council confirmed that the clean-up, plus some work on the bridge, would be done as soon they could get vehicle access to the land in order to remove the material (previously prevented by the wet weather).

Cllr out and about

Whilst delivering the first LRA election leaflet, LRA Cllr Chris Pond noticed around 12 highways faults. He reported two of them, a collapsed District Council gully in the front path of a block of maisonettes in Burney Drive, and sharp ironwork in a County Highways road hump in Chester Rd, as urgent. Residents' reports of a District Housing department street-light in Austen Close had been ignored by the Council, so he reported it again (but as non-urgent). Delivering LRA's second election leaflet on 1 May, he found all three defects had been repaired. Miracles still happen!

Roding Road brook area

Following complaints from residents, LRA Cllr Rose Brookes and Independent Cllr Stephen Murray have triggered off a clean-up by the District Council of the (private) land involved. In addition, the Council has decided to put a rubbish bin by the brook, opposite 50 Roding Road, to try to reduce the amount of rubbish thrown over the fence.

Pothole Church Hill / Church Lane junction

This dangerous pothole has been reported many times to County Highways, without any response. LRA Cllr Chris Pond has now got them to acknowledge the problem, but is still waiting for a date for the repair.

Pedestrian lights, Chigwell Lane (by the railway bridge)

LRA Cllr Debra Roberts reported that pedestrians were at risk because the lights were badly phased. LRA County Cllr Chris Pond took this up with Highways, who have agreed that this needs investigation to see what changes are needed.

Cars parked dangerously on Forest land

LRA Cllr Trevor Downing has been trying to sort out who will take responsibility for preventing drivers parking cars near the junction of Nursery Road with Smarts Lane, just beyond the double yellow lines and the limit of the CPZ. NEPP and the police appear reluctant to take action. Longer term, we believe that permanent measures are needed to stop parking along this stretch of Forest land.

LRA Plans Group

To join the LRA Plans Group (we work by email only), and to be consulted by email on significant local plans, please email contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

Get our news as it arrives on Twitter (@LoughtonRA)
& at www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents

Follow the money

We were asked recently, who keeps an eye on how the District Council spends our cash? LRA Cllr Caroline Pond replied that LRA Cllr Bob Jennings is on the Audit and Governance Committee (with two other Cllrs and two Independent non-cllrs).

Financial matters also go to the Resources Standing Panel, on which there are three LRA Cllrs (out of 15). The budget goes to a Cabinet before full Council, and LRA Cllrs can ask detailed questions at this meeting.

All "growth" items over a certain amount go individually to the Council's Cabinet meetings and LRA Cllrs look at these as they come along.

Flower baskets

The summer flower baskets in The Broadway, the High Road and Old Station Road should be installed by the end of May, for 18 weeks (net cost just under £7,000, paid for by Loughton Town Council).

Christmas lighting

The Town Council hopes to set up a new 3-year contract (£15,000 for three years) to wrap up to 49 lamp columns with nets of at least 200 LED lights; to install coloured motifs on a number of columns in the High Road and The Broadway; install a larger 5m display panel above Brickclamps Path in The Broadway; continue to light the large Lime tree on Kings Green and the Horse Chestnut by Standard Green and consider the re-use of the miniature pre-lit artificial Christmas trees on columns in Old Station Road.

Epping Forest Shopping Park

Units: Nine out of the twelve units are now operational. Of the three remaining units, *Mountain Warehouse* has signed an agreement for a lease. We await news of the others.

Parking fines: following LRA Cllr Chris Pond's intervention at the District Council about reports of customers being fined for overstaying when they've actually made two separate visits in a day, changes are being made.

EV charging points: A resident complained that there was no signage and no maintenance of the EV points in the retail park car-park, and that anyway the spaces were always blocked by other vehicles.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond took this up with the District Council, they say the inoperable charging points towards the middle of the car park will be repaired, so providing five working units. These will also have payment devices installed and, where they are not currently marked for use of electric vehicles only, this will be remedied. The other five charging points at the edge of the park will be decommissioned.

Princess Alexandra Hospital

The Hospital is located on a highly constrained site near the Harlow town centre and faces a number of challenges in continuing to serve the needs of its catchment. The building needs major capital investment and there is no room to expand its services.

The preferred option is to relocate to a new site near Harlow. Both Local Plans for Epping Forest & East Herts Districts include possible locations. Alternatively, the Hospital could be redeveloped/refurbished on its current site.

Broadway Restore Centre

There has been widespread concern about the proposed move of the Centre away from The Broadway shops (owned by the District Council), where it serves a vital purpose.

At the last full Council meeting LRA Cllr Chris Pond raised this with the leader of the Council, Conservative Cllr Chris Whitbread, who promised to discuss the matter with Chris and colleagues to see if anything can be done to help Restore to carry on its good work for the community.



Potholes

Despite our protests, for years the Conservative-controlled County Council has not spent enough on road repairs. The pothole situation has been made much worse over the last few months because of the rain, the snow and freezing conditions, which has meant that many previous repairs have washed out of the holes, particularly on the hills. The conditions also meant that the repair teams couldn't do repairs.



They have now started to try to catch up with the backlog across the County, however, they will only do repairs where the pothole is bad enough to meet their repair criteria.

Please report dangerous potholes online. If a "Category 1" pothole isn't repaired promptly, please let us know; if it's in LRA County Cllr Chris Pond's Division, he'll take it up with the Council, although unfortunately this doesn't guarantee success. Otherwise we'll tell you which non-LRA County Cllr you need to contact.