

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Newsletter Townwide Spring Edition

For all residents in IG10 – March 2019

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

## Broadway area residents' parking

LRA Cllrs are pressing for permits to be introduced only where residents find it difficult to park near their homes because of commuter parking.

As this edition goes to the printers, LRA understands that the scheme will *NOT* go ahead in the form published for consultation by NEPP last October.

The District Council will make the final decisions. However, before anything more is done on introducing a Controlled Parking Zone, NEPP officers will conduct a safety audit of road junctions, bus routes, schools etc to identify where safety restrictions are needed.

We'll keep you updated on our website, on Twitter and Facebook, and by an email news bulletin to LRA members.

## Annual talk & AGM Loughton 100 years ago

Please come along to see Chris Pond's pictures of Loughton as it used to be and ask your questions.

Starts 8pm on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Talk followed by refreshments and our brief AGM. All are welcome.

Loughton Cricket Clubhouse (entrance in The Uplands, off Church Hill).



## Langston Road Retail Park

In mid-January the District Council acknowledged that there are concerns about the build-up of traffic standing across the junction from Oakwood Hill waiting to enter the Shopping Park.

They have asked Essex Highways to look at a scheme to improve the traffic-flow.



## Draft Local Plan

The final version of the District Council's draft Local Plan will significantly affect how Loughton changes in the next 15 years. As well as setting the target for the number of new dwellings in the District, the Plan covers employment sites, infrastructure (schools, surgeries and roads etc.) and the Green Belt and other open spaces.

A Planning Inspector is now examining the Plan to determine whether it's legally compliant and "sound".

The Inspector is holding sessions on various aspects of the Plan. We spoke at the opening session, and will do so at several more, alongside representatives of Loughton Town Council, SaveJesselGreen and the City of London (defending Epping Forest).

As well as persuading the Inspector that the Council are wrong to suggest building housing on Jessel Green, and indeed that they are proposing far too many new homes in Loughton, there are several other issues which we think need to be resolved before the Plan is approved.

## Stay in the picture!



**Join LRA now for £5 per household till end-2019!**  
You'll get extra newsletters. You can receive our regular email bulletins of local news and events.

I enclose £5  
I enclose a donation for LRA's work £ .....

Name .....

Address .....

Post code IG10 ..... Phone.....

Email (if any) .....

I would like LRA's email news bulletins Y / N  
Send to LRA Membership Secretary,  
14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT  
If you'd like more information, please email  
contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or ring 020 8508 2932  
We don't share our membership information.

## Can you help please?

After 20 years on the LRA Executive Committee, and spells as a County Cllr and LRA Chairman, David Linnell is handing over the behind-the-scenes jobs that support LRA's campaigning on behalf of residents.

These include keeping our Farmers Markets running, & making sure our newsletters get produced on time.

If you'd like to help, please contact David at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk or on 020 8508 2932 to talk it over.

**Our thanks to all the residents who support LRA**

## Our Farmers' Markets



Meet LRA's volunteers at our Farmers' Market on the second Sunday of each month, 9am–3pm, on Centric Parade, High Road, and browse our second-hand books.

## Debden: step free access

TFL have awarded a design and build contract for Debden Station and six others. They are on schedule to deliver step-free access at these stations by 2020. [LRA will be watching how the design for this much needed work at Debden Station accords with the access and heritage issues there.]

## Car thefts continue

Thieves in Loughton continue to make off with "keyless" cars because their owners haven't used a Faraday key-pouch and/or a steering-wheel lock.

Even more worryingly, one night recently an LRA Cllr woke up to find that thieves had set off his car alarm by breaking the rear window and were waiting for him to come down with the keys to turn it off. Luckily the thief gave up before any further harm could befall.

## Blue Heritage Plaque

Loughton Town Council has provided a blue heritage plaque at 29 The Crescent, the home of Lionel 'Len' Murray. Lord Murray was most widely known for his trade union work and in particular for his service as General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress from 1973 until his retirement in 1984.



Locally, Len was a member of the Loughton Methodist Church and Loughton and District Historical Society, and a supporter of many charities. The Town Council's Murray Hall in Borders Lane, which opened in 2006, was named in his honour.

Lord Murray lived in Loughton from 1954 until his death in 2004.

## Recycle your plastic waste!

At Marks & Spencer's (High Road), customers can drop a variety of plastic packaging (such as black ready-meal trays, crisp packets, sauce sachets) which aren't currently recycled by local councils and end up in landfill.



The retailer has pledged to convert collected plastic into store fittings, furniture and playground equipment for schools.

## CONTACTING LRA

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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.

### *Blocks of flats*

LPG has objected to several proposals listed for blocks of flats which would be too bulky and too overbearing, would be out-of-character in single-dwelling areas and would set unfortunate precedents.

### *13-15A Alderton Hill*

We're still waiting for a new application for 89 elderly-persons' flats (EPF/2115/18) to go to the District Council Plans South committee for consideration. The plan's proposed size, height and parking are similar to those in the plans refused last April (EPF/2499/17), and now under appeal. LPG, Loughton Town Council and a representative of a residents' group recently spoke at the formal hearing on this appeal; it's very complicated and we expect it will be weeks, or even months, before the appeal is decided.

### *Other applications for flats*

#### *76 Algiers Road & The Ridings, Manor Road:*

We are awaiting the District Council's decisions.

#### *69 Church Hill*

This application was turned down by the District Council.

#### *60 Traps Hill*

The developers have appealed against the District Council's refusal of their plans.

### *Other applications*

#### *165 High Road*

We await the District Council's decision on an application for a one-storey roof extension to provide two flats on top of the 5-storey building already approved here. The flats would be out-of-character with the human scale of the High Road.

## Guilty as charged!

Essex Police report that two drug dealers, who were arrested for dealing class A in Loughton on 6th Jan 2019, received custodial prison sentences for 4 years and 2 years 3 months.

## Red faces in Epping

The Conservative District administration has admitted serious errors in designing the "Landmark" building at the end of The Broadway which led to extra payments out of residents' council taxes of £84,000 in construction fees and £56,000 in specialist legal costs.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond commented: "This development has scarred the Broadway and the Loughton skyline permanently."



## Heritage Lamp-post

LRA Councillor Chris Pond is following up a report that Highways have replaced a vandalised original black metal lantern in Stony Path with a modern LED unit.

## All-night street lighting

The District Council has obtained the County Council's agreement to having street-lighting on all night, if a local town and parish council is prepared to pay for it. Loughton Town Council will be considering the proposal, which for Loughton would cost about £35,000 a year, an increase in your Council Tax of around £2.50 to £3 per household. In Loughton the lights on main roads stay on all night; on other roads they're off between 1am and 5am. It may be possible to have the lights on only on nights when the Night Tube is running. We await developments.

## District Council office move

The Conservative-controlled Council plans to move most of its Epping staff to new offices in North Weald, letting some space in Epping to other organisations, and selling off land at the rear of the Epping site for housing.

While LRA welcomes the Council's attempts to improve the way in which it deals with residents, we are concerned about these proposals.

Thirty years ago, LRA opposed the Council's office move from Loughton to Epping, and the eventual conversion of the Town Hall on Old Station Road into a supermarket, so that homes could be built on the site. The Council's lack of foresight enabled a developer make a vast profit by selling on the site to Sainsbury's for a supermarket, and the 'much needed' homes on the site never materialised. The original cost to Council tax-payers (£4.5m) ballooned to £14m.

Thirty years ago, it was suggested all sorts of savings would result from having the staff under a single roof. Now the current administration is proposing the exact opposite

We also think that it's nonsensical to move staff to move to a car-dependent rural location several miles away from the District's main towns, not on a railway line and served by very unreliable bus routes.



## Help produce our printed newsletters

We're looking for someone to join the team who produces our *Loughton Life* newsletters, to oversee the process by ensuring that the team does things on time, from producing the first draft through to copies dropping through letter-boxes.

Please email [david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk) or phone 020 8508 2932 to find out more.

E-mail LRA at - [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)



## Meet an LRA Cllr

### Cllr Jill Angold-Stephens Forest Ward

Jill is in her third term as a Town Councillor representing Forest Ward and chairs the Planning & Licensing Committee. She served as Mayor in 2013-14.



She was married to Ken (late District and Town Cllr) and they brought up their son and daughter here; their daughter, her husband and four sons live in Loughton. The whole family is passionate about the forest and the green spaces.

Jill spent all her working life in computing, firstly as a consultant programmer and latterly as a lecturer in Computer Science. She has always been active in the town having been a governor at Roding Valley High School for fourteen years and a leader with Girl Guiding. She is an active member of Loughton Methodist Church. Her hobbies include craft activities and genealogy.

Jill is very concerned about the Local Plan and is following keenly the Inspection in Public hearings. Living in Forest Ward near the station she experiences at first hand the problems of commuter parking. She is always happy to discuss this and other problems with Forest residents (make an initial contact by email using [jill@angold-stephens.co.uk](mailto:jill@angold-stephens.co.uk))

## College to sell off land

We see that the College intends to sell off its two sites in Borders Lane: the site of the former College buildings and Lucton's field. The District Council included the sites for housing in their draft Local Plan (around 630 homes).



In 2016, despite strong opposition from LRA Cllrs, the District Council's Conservative councillors voted to remove the covenants on College land which restricted uses to for education or healthcare.



## Social media watch

We need someone to keep an eye once a day on Twitter and Facebook for items of interest to us and to residents.

We use these to help us keep residents informed through our email bulletins, newsletters and Tweets.

To find out more, please contact David Linnell at [contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk) or on 020 8508 2932.

## Marlescroft Way Green Saved!

Oakwood Hill estate



Residents, together with LRA Cllr Chris Roberts and his LRA colleagues, have been fighting to prevent the District Council grabbing their only bit of green space – highly valued as a children's play-space and for events. The Council wanted it for a car-park for staff at their new depot nearby.

The car-park proposal was thrown out at two separate District Council planning committee meetings. But four Conservative Cllrs demanded it should go to a Full Council meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> for a final decision.

In planning and developing their new Oakwood Hill depot, we think that the Council has shown a lack of proper planning and foresight & a total disregard for local residents.

We don't think that the car-park is needed or justified, as there's enough parking available at the roadside, or that the Council should be judge & jury on their own applications!

This week, two weeks before the planned meeting, the Council has withdrawn its planning application & cancelled the meeting. They've said they'll look at other ways of configuring the depot to allow for more on-site parking.

## Library consultation

Essex County Council may well close Debden Library and cut back the hours at Loughton Library, after a highly-flawed public consultation.



LRA & other non-Conservative groups on the County Council have secured a special Full Council meeting to discuss the county library closure programme.

Our previous attempts to get Debden Library moved to somewhere more convenient for residents (for example, a shop in The Broadway) were rejected by the District Council.

We're going to press just before the meeting, but we'll let residents know the results on social media & on our website.

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