

Improving the High Road.

Ever since the Conservative administration at the District Council cancelled the final set of improvements planned at the north end of the High Road, LRA has been working to sort things out.

We persuaded the County Council to repair the pavements on the Morrisons side, and is in the process of been done – but only on the public highway. Potholes on private land, like the one outside *Royal Ribs*, are the responsibility of the shop-owners, and we are taking this up with them.

Late last year, LRA Cllrs Chris Pond, Rod Barrett and Ken Angold-Stephens met County Council Officers and agreed a workable plan for changes to Brooklyn Parade, including speeding up traffic through the traffic lights, and replacing the hypericums and dead trees. To our dismay, a different plan was produced, which would have resulted in traffic chaos, and Cllr Chris Pond acted swiftly to prevent it going ahead. We will keep up the pressure for a sensible solution.

When the middle section of the High Road was refurbished, we lost some trees. LRA Cllrs have been battling to get replacements and – despite encountering maddening problems – we will carry on till they appear.

High Road traders. We are concerned about the empty shops on the High Road, and welcome the new traders who have arrived recently. LRA Cllrs Rod Barrett and Peter House are trying to reinvigorate the High Road Town Centre partnership, which should be an active link between traders, councils and residents.

Traps Hill. Last Autumn there was a sudden increase in the number of cars parked during weekdays on the north side of the road, across the pavement, making life very difficult for the partially-sighted and mothers with buggies, and making this stretch of road one-way. At our request, the local police community support officer warned drivers and this seems to have cleared the pavement. LRA County Councillor Chris Pond had already asked for a double-yellow line on the north side to stop parking here altogether – it's in the pipeline, but will take a long time and we will continue to press for this to be done as soon as possible.

The Drive. Did you suffer from the potholes, the broken and displaced kerbs, and sunken trenches? LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been nagging County Highways to deal with the problem. After 418 emails and calls, he succeeded – the holes were filled in at Christmas and the kerbs reset in March. But why don't the County Council have a proper programme? LRA Cllr Lucette Howe has been similarly persistent with Sparelease Hill.

Traps Hill/Alderton Hill/Alderton Hall Lane junctions. These are nightmares for drivers and pedestrians alike. You take your life in your hands to cross. Cllr Chris Pond and LRA district councillors have formally requested County Highways to prepare a scheme to sort out these difficulties.

Christmas lights in the High Road. In 2007 Loughton had no High Road lights at all. In 2008, the Chairman of the High Road Town Centre Partnership (TCP), former Town Cllr Peter Sheen, almost singlehandedly succeeded in getting some lights installed. The LRA-led Town Council put up £4,000, and some of the traders contributed; as in previous years the owner of the Brooklyn Parade shops funded the lights there.

The Financial Crisis. To help residents through the current economic downturn, the LRA-led Town Council kept its share of the Council tax rise to below inflation.

Planning applications. We monitor planning applications and where we have concerns we make objections.

In key cases, like the recurring attempts to turn 12-30 Church Hill into a cliff-face of flats, we let residents know and are grateful for their help and support.

How you can help. Ever thought you could make a difference in your neighbourhood? How about becoming a local LRA Councillor? Or could you deliver *Loughton Life* a few times a year to a road near where you live?

Send us an email or give us a ring if you want to know more.

Loughton Residents Association is an independent local association of residents who are dedicated to making our town a better place to live. We are not affiliated to any national party. We have a strong voice in the community with councillors in every tier of local government. Our diverse membership ensures that all shades of opinion get thoroughly aired without regard to national party agendas. We provide regular newsletters to members and residents.

Contact us: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or 020 8508 2932 (more details are in *Loughton Life*).

See an LRA Councillor at the monthly Farmers Market in Loughton High Road for help or advice.

FOR MORE ON LRA & LOUGHTON: WWW.LOUGHTONRESIDENTS.CO.UK

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