



Loughton Cricket Ground drawn by Peter House.

LOUGHTON LIFE

FEBRUARY 2005

LOUGHTON AND THE EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

The East of England Plan will have a big impact on the future of Loughton. Published at the end of 2004 by the East of England 'Regional Assembly', it sets out plans for the development of eastern England between now and 2020. The proposals assume a huge population growth across the region, with 478,000 additional dwellings being built over the next 20 years. The total number of additional jobs planned is only 421,500 however, so there is a built-in assumption of more commuting to London.

Epping Forest District has to find space for 11,000 more homes, or over 500 a year for the next 20 years. Developers are eyeing up North Weald Airfield to provide 6,000 of those homes, but even if that controversial scheme goes ahead, there will be huge pressure for building over the remaining open spaces in and around Loughton and overdeveloping existing built-up areas. The Plan does not however properly address the issue of affordable local housing, so ironically, even this large-scale development will not meet the needs of Loughton residents for starter homes. There are fine words about the preservation of Green Belt in the form of a 'Green Arc', but this proposal is so far ill-defined. The authority for taking land out of the Belt for development is on the other

hand quite specific, and there is a serious danger of a conurbation stretching from Harlow to Theydon Bois.

There is serious doubt about the sustainability of the proposals. The water resources of Essex, the driest county in the country, are already stretched. On the other hand, climate change means an increased risk of flooding on flood plains, but this is precisely where many new homes are planned. Pressure on wildlife will increase and the county's unique biodiversity will be under ever greater threat.

Infrastructure is the most difficult issue of all. In the Thames Gateway (south Essex and North Kent) an independent study has shown that the 200,000 homes planned there will need

300 new primary schools, 80 new sewage treatment works, 4,000 additional police, 10 hospitals and 50 new railway stations. The roads around Loughton are already at bursting point, and other services are at full stretch. The 'Regional Assembly' has estimated that at least £10 billion of additional infrastructure will be needed to make the plans work. The Government has refused to promise this vital cash, so the Assembly has, bizarrely, had to refuse to endorse its own plan!

LRA will be making these points on your behalf loudly and clearly to the Regional Assembly during the consultation period, which lasts until 16 March 2005. You can add your own voice by completing an online comments form at www.eera.gov.uk, or by contacting the Assembly at 01284 729442 and requesting a printed version or CD be sent to you.

Stephen Pewsey

WHY WHEELIE BINS??

What will the change to wheelie bins mean to residents?
How often will rubbish be collected?
How can we meet recycling targets?

Representatives from Essex County Council and Epping Forest District council will explain everything!

Tuesday 8 May 2005. 8.00pm, Lincoln Hall, High Road, Loughton.

Everybody welcome



Then...

FROM SADLER'S LIVERY STABLES TO M&S

At the mention of Sadler's, most Loughton folk will think of the taxi firm at the station who have been in business there for some years. However, they may not be aware of how long there has been a Mr. Sadler conveying local people from place to place.

Percy Ambrose, in his *Reminiscences of a Loughton Life*, 1995 describes Sadler's livery stables:

'Going north along the High Road from the Crown one next reached Sadler's, whose main business was the supplying of horses and carriages for hire. His cabs could be found at Loughton Station, and there were usually some horses in a paddock in front of his house beside the (High) road. Sadler described his trade as 'Jobmaster', and amongst the jobs he

undertook was the contract for hauling the Loughton fire engine. This was housed beside the Lopping Hall, and when there was a fire it was Sadler's job to provide the horses to pull it. There was usually some delay while the horses were caught and harnessed.'

'The local cabs were open landaus drawn by a single horse, with the driver sitting up front, and up to four passengers sitting in pairs facing each other behind

In the 1930s, as the car took over from the horse, the site became a petrol garage and motor works. Lamb's of Loughton acquired it in the 1960s, and when it closed in 1984 EFDC bought the land which was used as a car park until M&S began the development of a new store there.

Joy Gordon



HIGH ROAD SEATS

After her successful bid to site a litter bin outside the Methodist Church, Cllr Caroline Pond moved on to seating, and has triumphed by having two bench seats sited near Woolworth's to replace those which were removed when the redwood tree was felled.

WHY BOTHER WITH CHELMSFORD?

For most of its existence, LRA has had a County Councillor – why? What goes on at Essex County Council (ECC)? Well, they are responsible for three-quarters of your council tax (that's £891 a year out of £1,215 for a Band D home). The main spending areas are schools, highways, social services and disposing of household waste. They also play a key role in other things that will affect Loughton, such as defending us against government plans to build too many houses locally.

We need to know what's going on in County Hall and to make Loughton's voice heard there. Although much of the information is available on the internet, there's no real substitute for being on the spot, and being involved in matters at an early stage - I go to Chelmsford 2 or 3 times a month for (daytime) meetings.

If you would be interested in finding out more about being a County Councillor, and looking after Loughton's interests, please give me a ring on 020 8508 2932.

Cllr David Linnell

SAINSBURY'S AND STATION CAR PARKS

District Cllrs Ken Faulkner and Caroline Pond, together with LRA Chairman, Peter House, recently organised a meeting with Sainsburys, LUL, Essex Police, Highways officers, and the Town Centre Manager to discuss the anti social behaviour in the station and Sainsburys car park area where a dispersal order is currently in place. LRA is concerned to ensure that the interests of traders, residents, and the store are coordinated to bring about a workable solution to this problem.

In the meantime, please remember that to prevent disorder in the area, Sainsbury's car park is now locked at 10 pm. If you intend to park late at night around Loughton Station, use the station car park.

FARMERS MARKET AND CHRISTMAS ON BROADWAY - THANK YOU

Many thanks to all those who helped make the Christmas Farmers Market such a success. At the LRA stand, a talented group of volunteers sang

STREET CLEANING – OR LACK OF IT

EFDC is still trying to ensure that its waste contractor, South Herts Waste Management, provides an acceptable standard of street cleaning in Loughton.

LRA Councillors Ken Faulkner and Ken Angold-Stephens, together with Chairman Peter House, met with Head of Highways John Gilbert last month to get an update on the situation. Mr Gilbert was aware that the system of regular inspections, to identify which roads need cleaning, is not working in a number of cases. He assured LRA that he is following through why some roads have 'slipped through the system', in order to rectify this.

The High Road has particular problems, one cause being trade waste that is left out for days before being collected. The situation is not helped by the fact that businesses do not all use the same contractor for their waste, so it is collected on different days. Staff from Highways Department will be making regular tours of the High Road, looking out for 'offenders' and having a word with them. A new law should soon come onto the statute book, which will empower local authorities to take action against traders who persistently leave rubbish outside their premises longer than is necessary.

One piece of good news is that fast food takeaway establishments may shortly face laws which associate them with packaging which is discarded thoughtlessly by their customers. Mr Gilbert is waiting for further details of the proposals.

Another piece of good news is that two new mechanical sweepers are on order and should shortly be in action.

Thank goodness there are one or two glimmers of light on the horizon – let's hope it isn't simply another false dawn.

Carol Murray

carols, accompanied by the Roding Players Orchestra, and mulled wine and mince pies, kindly donated by Morrisons, were dispensed. There was also a display from Roding Valley School on their bid for specialist status, and LRA members were out rattling collecting tins; £322 was raised for the St Clare Hospice.

The earlier 'Christmas on Broadway' event was also a success, thanks to LRA volunteers whose gazebo provided some welcome shelter from cold winds, and who again served mulled wine and mince pies, this time kindly provided by Sainsbury's. Don Lewin, the founder of Clinton Cards, presented prizes to the winners of the Town Council Christmas card competition, and West Ham fans were out in force to meet Bobby Zamora and Malky Mackay.

WORKING TOGETHER - OAKWOOD HILL

The police plan to work with other organisations - County youth service, District housing service, voluntary groups and residents – to deal with young people on the Oakwood Hill estate who are making people's lives there a misery. Details perhaps don't need spelling out – sadly they are becoming commonplace on many estates around the country. Enough to say that peace & quiet, local property and surroundings, and residents' right to feel safe & comfortable in their home patch are all under pressure. Frequent police visits to the estate, with arrests & ASBOs, have already been made, but seem to be only part of the answer. LRA is talking to residents and authorities to see how the association can assist.

For comments or enquiries contact Cllr Caroline Pond, Rose Brookes (see list), or Dorothy Paddon (020 8508 2238)

FARMERS' MARKET

First Sunday of every month in Loughton High Road.

BORDERS LANE AREA TRAFFIC CALMING

Borders Lane is currently ranked 12th on EFDC's Traffic Calming List. Alderton Hill, Newmans Lane, and Traps Hill are ranked 17th, 19th and 18th respectively. These sites have been grouped together and will form part of an area-wide study. They have been included in EFDC's Local Transport Plan submission to Essex County Council for 2006/2011, when it is hoped funding will be made available to undertake traffic calming/management works. A puffin crossing is proposed in Borders Lane, approximately 20 metres east of its junction with Newmans Lane, by summer 2005. Amendments to existing waiting restrictions (and some new) were recently approved by EFDC Cabinet under the 'quick fixes' policy. LRA councillors will be lobbying EFDC officers to make sure these schemes keep a high visibility.

FOREST HALL CHESTNUT TREE

A campaign by LRA members to 'Save Our Tree' last year saw Higgins relent on their plans to cut down the fine old chestnut tree next to Forest Hall in the High Road as part of their development plans for the area. Recently however, a few inconsiderate people have been parking on the pavement behind the tree, threatening its roots. Pressure from LRA resulted in the installation of bollards to stop this selfish minority from damaging this much-loved local landmark.

Stephen Pewsey

QUIZ ANSWERS

A CRYPTIC ESSEX CHRISTMAS...

and a howler from the compilers! We must start with an apology for failing to spot that Haverhill is just over the border in Suffolk (though the golf course is in Essex on the map – and that's mostly how this golf-mad family navigates around the county). Lots of you realised our mistake, and put Haverhill with a query, but there were some ingenious attempts at fitting an Essex place into the nine letters of the answer. We allowed any of the Essex solutions that fitted and made sense, as well as Haverhill. From our highest-ever quiz entry, the first correct one drawn out was from Ros Hay, who'll get £15 of book tokens. Happy New Year to you all!

1. Top religious festival (4, 6)
High Easter
2. Good place for boating (5, 6)
Great Saling
3. Get a slope (9)
Haverhill (see above)
4. Brian's spice (7, 6)
Saffron Walden
5. Mr Laurel's bear (8)
Stansted
6. Intern an Archer (7)
Danbury
7. Noble ice cream (5, 5)
Earls Colne
8. In a wooded head? (9)
Braintree
9. Or without 'em (6)
Witham
10. Buried? (7)
Ingrave
11. Herb that teaches (8)
Basildon
12. Prickly forest (9)
Thornwood
13. Mr Gascoigne is envious (7, 5)
Bambers Green
14. Sunbeam on the meadow (8)
Rayleigh
15. Watery bacon (7)
Rainham or Fordham
16. William and Richard, in short (10)
Billericay
17. Ailing car (6)
Ilford
18. Ocean – French or English (6)
Mersea
19. Putting in an offer (8)
Tendring
20. The topmost branches are here (7)
Tiptree
21. Brass in a religious setting (10)
Hornchurch
22. The Bard gets blown around (10)
Willingale
23. Antarctica in Essex? (8)
Southend
24. Jean of the Silver Screen (6)
Harlow
25. Climb the cathedral tower (9)
Upminster
26. Where we hear the dogs (7)
Barking
27. A dark heath (9)
Blackmore
28. Ships below a Scottish mountain (8)
Benfleet
29. Spans the Humber? (10)
Hullbridge
30. Dappled horses? (5)
Grays

LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1 JANUARY

We hope you have enjoyed Loughton Life – we value your views and your support for our work, and hope you will renew your subscription. If you want to check whether you have paid for 2004, please ring 8508 2932.

To LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT

- I enclose £4 for 2005
 I enclose a donation in support of LRA's work
 Please send a receipt. I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope

Name

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email

All membership information is held by LRA for its own records and is not made available to any other body

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