



# LOUGHTON LIFE

MAY 2006

## Campaigners Hit the Streets Getting the vote out...

LRA is supporting five good candidates in Loughton wards in the local elections on May 4th. Some are current councillors or have previous council experience, some are fresh and with new ideas. All are Loughton residents, and all are well briefed and backed up by active and knowledgeable local advisers.

As an LRA member you probably support our policy that Loughton residents are best represented by councillors who live in Loughton. For

some wards, the Conservatives and Lib/Dem parties are bringing in candidates from Epping, Theydon Bois and Buckhurst Hill, but we expect LRA councillors to be seen in the High Road, and to experience the problems that must be solved in Loughton. 'Visiting' councillors do not have day-to-day intimate knowledge of our town, or of the needs of its residents.

That is why we could not support Mitch Cohen as an LRA candidate for St Mary's. We believe that LRA has to

stand by the principle of Loughton councillors living in Loughton, even if he chose to stand as a Conservative in his old seat.

Loughton already has three BNP district councillors and there are more BNP candidates in this election. The two BNP councillors in Fairmead and Alderton wards were elected with majorities of only 13 and 57 votes, so the BNP can be stopped – if you make sure you vote against them. The BNP relies on low turnouts so their few supporters gain importance beyond their numbers.

When it comes to a general election we all have our party loyalties. LRA believes that national politics have no place in local government, which is why our policy decisions are made in Loughton for Loughton.

## Introducing Our Candidates...

### St Mary's Ward

Loughton has been good to me, and I want to give something back. I'm the third generation of my family to be born, live and work in Loughton.



*Rod Barrett*

### St John's Ward

I have lived in Loughton since 1963. As a district councillor for St John's, I see how LRA councillors make a difference because they know Loughton well.



*John Markham*

### Alderton Ward

I was a teacher in Alderton, and I have become involved with helping the residents. A lot can be done in Alderton, and I would like to represent you as district councillor.



*Rose Brookes*

### Forest Ward

I enjoyed representing the residents of Forest Ward as an LRA district councillor from 2002 to 2004, and I look forward to returning to the council.



*Peter House*

### Fairmead Ward

I am not afraid to stand up for residents' rights. I live in Fairmead ward, and I will work to help build a strong community identity where residents have pride in Fairmead.



*James Dean*

**WE NEED  
YOUR VOTE**

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## LRA 'huge positive influence'

Long-standing members will recognise this issue's cover drawing of Albion Granaries, a symbol of the founding of LRA. It was to save this building from Loughton's first supermarket development that LRA was born.

During the 1980s and early '90s, one political party had a majority on the District Council. They ruled with hardly any regard to the other parties represented on the Council, and did little for Loughton.

We were delighted to receive the following letter from Alan Vaughan, convenor of the first public LRA meeting in 1981 in Lopping Hall. As he said then, 'The Loughton Residents' Association was set up because residents no longer have confidence in the decisions of their elected representatives.'

Dear Editor

I have just been sent a couple of back copies of the LRA news from another couple of founders, Bill and Jo Pearce, who lived as we did in The Drive at Loughton. I am so pleased that the association has prospered over the last 20 years or so and that it has been instrumental in not only curbing some of the excesses of local planning, government and business, but providing a huge positive influence in the town.

I now live in Gloucestershire and have learned that Loughton is not alone in having such local difficulties. I look back on the time that we started LRA as a very rewarding experience, bringing together so many like-minded people untainted by party politics. I'm proud to have had a very small part in the formation of what is now an important part of life in Loughton. Best wishes for the future

*Alan Vaughan*  
Box Glos.

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## Thanks to Alice...



Our congratulations go to Alice Excell who delivered the first issue of Loughton Life and 25 years on she is still delivering... We rely on volunteers such as Alice and would like to recruit more newsletter deliverers. If you can spare an hour or so eight times a year, please contact John Woods on 020 8508 1764 or [contact@loughtonresidents.com](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.com).

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## Parking on My Road

### Letter from a resident

I live in a cul-de-sac not far from the High Road. There are no parking restrictions and we have a lot of all-day parking, but drivers mostly park only on one side. If they park on both sides the road is impassable for emergency vehicles. Most residents have off-street parking, but get frustrated when they are blocked in.

Some of my neighbours would like to restrict parking so that it stays empty of cars during the day, but we want a vibrant shopping centre and so people need to park somewhere. There seems to be no justification for a residential scheme, or a ban on parking in my road.

One solution would be for a double yellow line on one side (and at both sides of the corners at the junction with the main road), plus metered parking during certain hours on the other side thus

removing the incentive to avoid using the car parks.

A 2pm-3pm parking ban deters all-day parkers but still leaves short-term parkers a financial incentive to avoid using the nearest car park.

My point is that each road needs to be looked at in the light of its position, the scope for parking, and the need (or otherwise) for residents' parking. Does this strike any chords with other Loughton residents?

**Editor's note:** LRA councillors have listed residential parking problems for the forthcoming EFDC parking survey. If you have a problem, or a solution, for your road please let us know by e-mailing [contact@loughtonresidents.com](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.com) or by writing to Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens (see *back page*).

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## Trouble on the Buses

### LRA story sparks reaction

We were amazed to receive such a response to our story in our last issue on behaviour problems on the buses, particularly the 20 and 167 routes. Passengers, drivers, teachers and the police are concerned. Having touched this nerve, LRA has been pleased with the response so far. The bus companies, the police and the schools have all taken some action. An extra bus has been laid on to reduce overcrowding and waiting times (often an initial cause of rowdiness), the police have put officers on some of the buses, and have ejected some troublemakers, while school staff are monitoring behaviour at bus stops and head teachers have given warnings at school assemblies.

The operator of route 167 has had recent meetings with the Essex and Metropolitan Police, and with a specialised department known as the Transport Operational Command (TOCU), which polices up to 20 key bus corridors and has four task forces that can be deployed throughout London. The operators also have a programme, aimed at educating school children so that they will behave appropriately while using the bus. Where pupils from a specific school can be identified, the problem will be raised with the school in order to find a solution.

In the meantime, LRA Councillor Caroline Pond is pushing for the police, schools and bus operators to meet so that their actions may be co-ordinated.

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## Give Way Halfway

The Victorian water pipes under Staples Road have been replaced. The work took three months and the road surface was expertly re-instated where the access holes were dug. As



you can see from the photo, HALF a 'Give Way' warning triangle has been painted on the road at the York Hill junction. Hard to believe that anyone would blindly follow a highway specification to this extent, but seeing is believing!

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# A Better Broadway to Come

## Enhancement scheme proceeds

LRA has fought for years to enhance the Broadway shopping centre. We are delighted that detailed design work has started. The scheme is on course for work to start later in 2006, although this target is ambitious. Overall the scheme will result in a big improvement to the Broadway, though as always, funding is limited so some aspirations may not be fully met.

The existing design guide will be developed to take into account the

needs and wishes of housing and business tenants, and lessons learned from the Buckhurst Hill and Loughton High Road enhancements. It is hoped to incorporate opportunities for affordable housing, efforts at crime reduction, and health and environmental improvements.

The first phase will affect primarily the Broadway itself, but also Vere and Burton Roads. The suggested road layout will include a raised section

(level with the pavement) in the middle. This has several advantages: it will create a more pedestrian friendly zone, reduce traffic speeds, and ease crossing the road for wheelchair users. It will also provide a platform for special events (if the road is closed) and specific places for disabled people to park.

Parking is one of the biggest issues. A parking survey has revealed a very significant amount of commuter parking in the Burton road car parks (44 out of 111 spaces). Devising parking controls to meet this problem is not easy, and decisions will not be made until after a detailed consultation exercise.

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## Plymouth Lodge or a Block of Flats?

### Working with local residents...

Residents often complain that the first they know about a new development is when the builders move in.

LRA has a plans group who look at all local planning applications, and make their views known to the District Council where appropriate.

Late last year there was a planning application to build a block of 10 flats on 2 Lower Park Road (Plymouth Lodge). We felt that the proposed building was out of keeping with neighbouring properties. The fine Victorian house, with its deep eaves and gables, sets the tone for the rest of the Lower Park development and makes a notable contribution to the heritage of Loughton.

We produced a letter to neighbouring residents, so that they could have a chance to comment – for or against – before the plans were considered by the council. One of the residents delivered the letter for us in Lower Park Road, and to nearby High Road properties and part of Upper Park. Subsequently a number of residents wrote to the council to object to the plans, and a couple of them organised a petition which went round the area.

We are pleased to say that the council has turned down the



application. This is a good example of LRA and local residents working together.

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## Devious Development

### A planning rule loophole

One of our members was recently horrified to discover that a neighbour was building an extension, but not the design for which he had been given planning permission.

How was this possible? – investigation showed that amazingly, the building inspectors (who check on site to ensure that foundations are correct and that the structure meets building regulations) have to rely on the plans that are being used by the builder – which are provided by the client.

The inspectors have no means of ensuring that any building work has been done to the approved design, and it is possible for someone who had a planning application rejected, but a

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## Bus Stops Here

Four years of LRA campaigning about the appalling lack of helpful information at Loughton Station seems to have finally paid off. Essex County Council has agreed to transfer ownership of certain bus stops in Loughton, including those at the bus station, to Transport for London (TfL). We understand that work will shortly start on upgrading the stops to TfL standards. The works will include replacing the timetable information, lettering the stands and marking the flags with the service numbers, destinations and days of operation. We are not sure in what order the transferred stops will be upgraded, but we are pleased that it is finally happening.

*David Linnell*

modified plan approved, to build the original rejected design and have a chance of getting away with it.

There have been such cases in Loughton in recent years, and when complaints were made, the council has either refused to take action, or taken enforcement action and became involved in appeals procedures.

Surely Development Control and Building Control (the planners and the inspectors), who are both responsible to the Head of Planning and Economic Development, should use the same sets of approved plans?

Comments to the Editor at 1a Woodland Road, IG10 1HG or [contact@loughtonresidents.com](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.com).

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## No Litter Day

Are you keen to see a particular part of Loughton litter-free? Loughton town councillors are looking for groups of people – work colleagues, friends, family, club etc — to help them clean up the streets on Saturday 6 May. Each group can work on their own particular ‘litter spot’. Contact the Loughton Town Council (020 8508 4200 or [www.loughton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk)) for information and free equipment.

## Film Club

Local film buffs gather at the Odeon Cinema, South Woodford on the first Monday of the month at 12.30pm to view films specially selected for the Wanstead WEA cinema club. Members meet up afterwards in the Pizza Express for a drink and some discussion. Recent selections include *Enduring Love*, *Downfall* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Membership costs £1 per year, and the cinema’s usual charges and concessions apply. For details contact Linda Tillbrook on 020 8989 7523 and [wea.filmclub@gmail.com](mailto:wea.filmclub@gmail.com).

## Delivering Library Books

Library Direct caters for people who find it difficult to get to the library because of age, disability or caring responsibilities. Volunteers deliver books and books on tape to customers,

and more volunteers are needed. Contact Janice Waugh on 01245 244960 or email [access.services@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:access.services@essexcc.gov.uk) for more information.

## Housework For Home-Bound

Age Concern Essex Home Support Service provides paid workers to carry out general housework and shopping services for people over 60 who have difficulty in doing these tasks themselves. There is a charge for this service, but it is kept as affordable as possible. Workers go to the same clients each week, which enables both to get to know each other. The service has been running for a number of years across Essex, and has now been extended to the Epping Forest area. For details contact 0208 504 7357.

## Community Beat Officers

From this summer, each ward in Loughton will have one or more Community Beat officers. These officers will actively patrol their ward and be on hand to help where they can. They may be contacted at Loughton Police Station on 020 8502 3881 and there will also be a ‘mobile’ number which will be handed on from shift to shift. For emergencies you should still dial 999.

## LRA Subscriptions

Your membership helps pay for our work for Loughton, including each issue of *Loughton Life*. We need your help to make sure you don’t miss getting your copy of the newsletter. Whether or not you have paid for 2006, to help us – and you – would you pay your future subscriptions by Standing Order? To find out more, and to check if your subs are up to date, ring David Linnell on 020 8508 2932, or email [davidlinnell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davidlinnell@tiscali.co.uk).

Send to: LRA Membership Secretary, 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT

- I enclose £4 for 2006
- I enclose a donation in support of LRA’s work
- Please send a receipt. I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope

Name .....

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

## LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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