



Ron Heath

LOUGHTON LIFE

November 2007

STATION APPROACH

LRA are delighted to report that Sainsbury's have agreed to our request for safety measures at the entrance to the car-parks that serve their store and Loughton Station. They have installed warning lights and "zebra" stripes. This has been a very dangerous crossing for pedestrians and we hope the changes will make it safer. We are also very grateful to them for agreeing to replace the two missing trees by the bus stops.

Sainsbury's redesigned and surfaced Station Approach and the adjacent roads when they received planning permission to build the store some five years ago. After a year the County Council's Highways department were due to take over the responsibility for looking after the area, subject to any outstanding work being completed. We discovered that this had never happened, so technically Sainsbury's are still responsible for the Approach. We alerted the Highways department, who are now taking steps to adopt the Approach.

LRA has been trying for years to improve access for cleaning staff behind the bus stops and generally to keep the area free from litter. Now it is about to be transferred to Highways we will be putting pressure on the District Council to sort out the problems once and for all.

CAROLS ON DEC. 2ND

at the Farmers Market - see back page for details.

IT'S A DISGRACE!

Is this your reaction when you see potholes, litter or selfish parking in Loughton? Here's a chance for **YOU** to change things. LRA is looking for Councillors to represent residents in various parts of Loughton.

As a **Town Councillor** YOU could influence much in Loughton, including planning applications, recreation facilities and community issues. YOU could have say on your school governing bodies, the Citizens Advice Bureau and other outside organisations. Most people fit the role easily into their lives.

As a **District Councillor** your primary responsibility would be the interests of residents in your area, but you would also consider the whole of Epping Forest District. YOU would influence committees which decide a range of issues that affect people in Loughton. These include parking, planning, trees, waste disposal and leisure facilities. YOU could make a significant difference.

To find out more about LRA and being a councillor, call Peter House on 020 8532 1275.

Loughton Residents Association - your Independent Community Association

LOUGHTON POLICE

The **Dispersal Notices** outside Loughton and Debden stations have successfully been renewed for September – March 2008. Any anti-social behaviour should be reported on 020 8502 3881.

Sainsbury's Car Park Blitz. Police have given warnings to motorists causing a nuisance, such as cars and mopeds speeding around the car park late at night. Any further reports of anti-social behaviour could result in the vehicles being seized. If you have any information please contact Loughton police station on 01279 641212, contact the neighbourhood policing team direct on 07968 354021 or go to www.crimestoppers-uk.org. Please also report any similar problems in the car-parks next to Loughton Library or elsewhere.

POTHoles ON THE HARWATER ESTATE

Residents on the Harwater Estate were delighted to receive a letter from ECC stating that repairs to their roads would be carried out during October. This followed complaints by LRA members, and a comprehensive survey by cllrs Chris and Caroline Pond in the spring, which found 29 defects. These were reported and, at long last, money has been found to rectify them.

YOUNG DRIVERS

Epping Forest has the worst vehicle accident record in Essex - a large percentage of incidents involve the 17-24 age group. As part of the action being taken to try and reduce the number of accidents motorists will notice more police patrols, six mobile speed cameras and extra bridge cameras on busy roads such as the A12 and A120. In addition, as part of the campaign particular attention will be paid to young people and motorcyclists. For more information visit www.drivingcasualtiesdown.org

Alderton Hall Lane - Children's Centre

Cllr Chris Pond is supporting a proposal for a new access and footpath to the main building (estimated cost £18,000), which would provide a safer journey to school for children and parents.

WASTE COLLECTION AND ROAD CLEANING

From November a different firm of waste contractors (SITA) will be responsible for sweeping Loughton's streets and collecting your rubbish. LRA's Cllr Peter House has been working hard behind the scenes to make sure the new systems will be a significant improvement on the patchy service some of you have at present.

LRA will be monitoring the handover to identify any teething problems. To report any problems in your road you can ring Epping Forest Council's Environmental Services Dept on 01992564000.

Incidentally, the Council now say that (clean) cat litter should NOT be included in the recycling bags but should go in the normal (wheelie bin) rubbish.

EPPING FOREST COLLEGE FIELD

Local residents are concerned about what is to happen to the College sports field on Borders Lane, which many of them use as a green open space to walk their dogs, etc.

The College is drawing up plans for a proposed sports hall and playing fields. There will also be space for the Town Council to install skateboard facilities – something that young people have been asking for since 1996!

LRA will continue to keep a close eye on the various developments at the College.



Find more about Loughton & LRA on www.loughtonresidents.com

WRONG DIRECTIONS



After some idiot moved the arms of the fingerpost at the bottom of Traps Hill to point in the wrong directions, LRA took action to get the County Council Highways department to put them back in the right positions. Then they were moved again, so the department has fixed them more firmly in their correct positions. We hope that visitors to Loughton did not get their Eppings confused with their Buckhurst Hills, or think that the way to Abridge was down the side-road leading to the Wesley Hall.

WHIPPS CROSS

Discussions on the possible changes to Whipps Cross Hospital have now been deferred until next year. A report from Sir George Alberti suggests that the A&E at King George Hospital, Ilford, be closed, and the rest of that hospital upgraded, but the eventual outcome is still uncertain. LRA have made sure that when the NHS review finally happens, the needs of Loughton residents are taken into account.

BROOK PROJECT

For a long time LRA has wanted to improve the banks of The Brook as it passes along Roding Road to create a mini-wildlife reserve. Essex Wildlife Trust have completed an environmental survey which found no protected species, but did discover Japanese knotweed – the District Council have agreed to destroy it. The group running the project (with LRA support) are now awaiting land surveys from University of East London, carried out free as part of a student training exercise.

STUCK IN THE MUD IN THE BROADWAY

Commuters are clogging up the Burton Road car park by 8am. This in turn is driving away shoppers who cannot find anywhere to park.

The LRA has been lobbying for parking controls to deter commuters. Unfortunately this is likely to displace them to nearby roads which are already suffering from badly commuter parking. LRA insisted that the Loughton Parking review included these roads. However, the legal process is a long, drawn out one and there seems to be no way of speeding it up.

We have also recently heard that EFDC are considering major changes in The Broadway, including a big new supermarket and better transport interchange. No details yet, but we will keep you informed.

Residents approached us about the move of the bus stop for some routes to the far end of Vere Road - most unhelpful for passengers and for shops as it is too far from the station and Sainsbury's, particularly for the elderly or infirm. LRA County Councillor Chris Pond called County staff down to The Broadway to get this sorted out.

BORDERS LANE

Owing to the lack of available spaces, there is already unofficial parking on the verges in Borders Lane. After seeing the great difficulties residents have in parking, LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens is exploring the possibility of tidying matters up by eventually providing proper parking bays.

As part of the highway improvements following the Redrow development, Cllr Chris Pond has also asked for a pavement along the whole length of the western (college) side of Borders Lane, whilst protecting the trees.

He also asked for pedestrian refuges in the road, to enable slower people to cross safely. The County Council are considering this request – unfortunately, the road may not be wide enough to install refuges.

Find more about Loughton & LRA on www.loughtonresidents.com

Would you like to help LRA?

Please contact David Linnell, or any of those listed below

CAROLS AT NEXT FARMERS MARKET

Christmas comes to the market on December 2nd with music, wine and mince pies at the LRA stall. Musicians from the Roding Players orchestra will provide festive music at 11:00. Carol singing starts at 12.15. If you would like to join the singers, just come along - song sheets are provided.

YELLOW LINES

LRA Councillors Caroline Pond, Chris Pond and Ken Angold Stephens have followed up the objections and letters of support received by the County Council following the advertising of proposals for yellow lines on some Loughton roads, and double-yellow lines on corners. Most have been agreed, but some controversial ones (Upper Park, Stonards Hill, and Eleven Acre Rise) have been shelved after we reported widespread adverse public reaction.

CLLR TONY LEE

Tony Lee has moved out of the area. If you need help, please call another LRA district councillor.

LRA SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE JAN 1st

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 Name.....
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 For a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope
 Please send to LRA Membership Secretary,
 14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT.
 Queries: please telephone 8508 2932 or e-mail
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