

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE

The newsletter of Loughton Residents Association

**September 2010
Townwide edition**

Parking mad

Are you affected by parking issues in your street? If the answer is yes then you will be one of a large number of residents in Loughton whose lives have been made a misery because of inconsiderate parking, often by outsiders using Loughton as a convenient place to park on their commute to London. LRA has campaigned for years to ease the problems that residents tell us they are experiencing. Several years ago the District Council agreed to full scale parking reviews in Buckhurst Hill, Epping and Loughton. The first two were completed but the solutions proved so unpopular the Council agreed to review both of them. This added hugely to an already very expensive exercise.

Meanwhile the Loughton review was scrapped altogether on the grounds of cost, although after much lobbying LRA managed to retrieve the Debden part of the review as a consequence of the Broadway refurbishment scheme. But now that has been put on hold while the costs are re-visited. We have been informed that a solution is possible and are hopeful it will be restarted soon, although have been warned that some reduction in the scope of the scheme may be necessary. This could lead to knock-on problems in adjacent roads so LRA is opposed to this.

Meanwhile the roads near the High Road will continue to suffer although there is the occasional victory. Traps Hill parking restrictions are now agreed and will be implemented shortly but the problems of Meadow Rd, Forest Rd and other narrow streets have all been ignored, even when there is an overwhelming petition from residents in the road. For some years a separate pot of money has been set aside to deal with parking issues in Debden cul-de-sacs. This was not being done but LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has managed to persuade Housing to resurrect these schemes and we hope some will start soon.

LRA believes that the District Council has treated Loughton very shabbily on parking compared with the rest of the District and will not give up fighting on behalf of residents.

Get More from LRA!

Join LRA now - £5 per household until the end of 2011! You will get extra newsletters and can opt to receive a weekly email local news bulletin. Members' support for our work is vital as subscriptions pay our costs such as printing newsletters and election expenses. To join, see back page. (Subscriptions for existing members are due each January).



OCTOBER 19TH 2010 PUBLIC MEETING

HOUSING IN LOUGHTON!

Alan Hall, Director of Housing, Epping Forest District Council will be talking about how the Council and social landlords deal with the demand for accommodation locally.

Doors open 7.30pm for 7.45pm start at the Wesley Hall, (rear of the Methodist Church, Loughton High Rd), followed by refreshments. For details beforehand email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or call 020 8508 2932 (for transport call 8502 5981).

Retail Park plans?

The District Council is planning to vacate its depot on Langston Road as the accommodation is below standard for all the activities that go on there, particularly the SITA base for all its waste collection vehicles. When combined with an adjacent area (owned by a developer) the site would be big enough to accommodate a small retail park. This might be similar to the one in Highbridge St, Waltham Abbey. This would probably not conflict with the Broadway shops and might bring in extra business to the area, increase employment opportunities, and keep public spending within the District which currently goes outside the area to places like Lakeside. It would not include a supermarket or food outlets, other than perhaps a coffee shop.

The downside is the traffic congestion that might arise in Chigwell Lane and the Oakwood Hill/Roding Road junction and which the County Highways department and consultants for the developers are already looking at. The District Council has stated that no scheme will get the go-ahead without traffic congestion issues being resolved. It could link in to the other proposals to improve the access from Debden Station to The Broadway and the Sainsbury's shopping precinct but the two schemes are not directly related. LRA will be monitoring developments very closely, especially those relating to any road changes, so that residents and businesses should not be adversely affected. Please let us know what you think.

Join Loughton Residents Association NOW! Details above

Planning & licensing matters

LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton, and objects to (or supports) some cases.

Phone mast, Church Hill

Following protests by LRA and residents, Vodafone has altered its proposal to put a replacement (higher) mast further north on Church Hill, nearer residential accommodation. The proposal now is to replace pole in the same location as the existing pole (see picture opposite).

Beechlands, 42 Alderton Hill

LRA and residents fought a long campaign and have finally succeeded in overturning the original planning approval for a two-storey house in the back garden of this nursing home.

2 Lower Park Road

LRA is fighting to overturn the existing planning approval for a block of flats.

Clays Lane

LRA successfully objected to a change of use of land on the corner with England's Lane for a Golf Teaching Practice Facility.

Church Hill petrol station

LRA has asked residents to object to Esso's application for an all-night alcohol off-sales licence.

David Linnell

Planning permission

If you're planning to make improvements, pave over your front garden, or install solar panels, then check the District Council website first. Many developments require Building Regulation Approval as well as Planning Permission. Planning Permission is primarily concerned with where a development is built, the impact on its surroundings and whether it is in keeping with its environment.



Shedding light

LRA is aware that there are many concerns about the County Council's plans to reduce the cost and environmental effects of street lighting. LRA county councillor Chris Pond chaired the County Council committee which looked into how this should be done. Chris and the committee took great trouble to suggest how what was decided should be responsive to local needs. They were at pains to avoid endorsing a general presumption that a midnight switch off in residential areas should be the norm. The final decisions will, however, be taken by the Conservative cabinet member, Cllr Norman Hume.

The committee reported that considerable savings in fuel, carbon, and cost could be achieved while maintaining sufficient small-hours lighting to allay people's fear of the dark and worries about crime. New technology offers solutions that save more carbon and money than a blanket midnight switch off. A central computer-managed system gives control over each light, so that some can be dimmed, and/or alternate ones switched off and left on. The committee recommended this, and not a blanket midnight switch off.

Parish/Town Councils will be consulted, and will have some say over the arrangements. Loughton routes leading from stations with services after midnight would not be switched off or turned down. LRA will be trying to make sure that the scheme adopted suits Loughton, but doubts will remain until the details are agreed and tested in practice. Uttlesford and Maldon will be the first to receive smart technology. LRA will be watching closely what happens there.

**For more information about LRA or Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**

Health drive

The West Essex Primary Care Trust has introduced a "triage" system for GP referrals to consultants, alongside prescription limits. Triage involves an extra stage of assessment by a non-specialist arbitrator (and an extra layer of bureaucracy). The Patients Group at the Health Centre on The Drive is very concerned about the possible effects on patients, and have made their concerns known to the PCT and others. If you are a patient at the practice, and have views on the proposals, have experience of the triage system affecting you or your family, or want to know more, please contact Ken Hearn (Patients Group) at jenkoa1@aol.com

If you are a patient at any other Loughton practice, and have views on the proposals, have experience of the triage system affecting you or your family, please let me know at david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk, and I will pass the information on to NHS LINK.

Skate park update

Following reports about the lack of progress on the proposed skate park, LRA would like to clarify the latest position. Skateboards are very popular and have been so for a very long time but more recently the demand has widened to include BMX bikes. The town council is anxious to provide a facility and has been gradually putting money aside so that now it is a feasible consideration, although grant funding will be applied for.

After a number of sites had been deemed unsuitable, the town council decided to focus upon one of its own sites. Following consultations including those with the young people who would use such a facility, the preferred site was identified as next to the allotments in Willingale Road. Some clearance of the site has taken place with the help of Epping Forest Country Care, town councillors and local residents. A skateboard user working group was set up early in 2010, which is drawing up a number of possible site plans, working on funding bids to various bodies and trying to organise fundraising initiatives. We hope and expect that it will not be too long before this facility for our young people becomes a reality.

Suzanne Harper

Tackling vandalism

During the summer there was a spate of vandalism on the recreation ground and the nature reserve from fires to fly-tipping, criminal damage to playgrounds and attacks on wildlife, one particularly brutal one involving a swan at its nest. LRA has been liaising with the police, the Town Council and the Crime and Disorder partnership to try to clamp down on this problem. As a result the police have stepped up patrols and the Town Council plans to take on



another warden to assist. The police have now targeted the area for a priority response if they receive reports of anti-social behaviour from the public. As a result anti-social behaviour has now diminished significantly. It is a big area and cannot be patrolled continuously but if the public ring the non-emergency number 0300 333 4444 or the local mobile number 07968 354021 at the first sign of trouble we have been assured of a swift response.

Another separate issue is the amount of dog faeces on both areas. This not only damages the environment but as it is a play area for children there are health hazards. There are dog bins on the site and we appeal to all dog owners to make proper use of them. We would also appeal to dog walkers to limit the number of dogs they lead to four at most and to be certain they can control them at all times. Failure to do so could lead to prosecution. Most dog owners are responsible people but there are a few that make the area unpleasant for other users and damage the environment. Most of us put a very high value on our open spaces but we also have a responsibility to look after it and not depend on others to clean up after us. There are ambitious plans to make significant improvements to both areas but if funds have to be constantly diverted into restoring wrecked facilities it delays our chances of making the improvements we all want to see.

Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens

Want to help?

If you would like to help LRA by becoming a local councillor, by just getting involved in what we do, or by spending an hour occasionally delivering our newsletters near where you live, please contact David Linnell or Chris Pond (phone numbers on back page, or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

**For more information about LRA or Loughton please visit
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**

JOIN LRA NOW!

LRA depends upon members - please support us by joining now.

I enclose £5 till end-2011 £5.....

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....postcode..IG10

Phone.....email (if any).....

I would like LRA's weekly email local news bulletin

Please complete & send to LRA Membership Secretary,
14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT.

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

LRA who's who

Email: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk

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3 Lower Park Road
Lance Leonard (D) 8502 0771
25 The Lindens

BROADWAY WARD
Jennie Hart (D) 8508 3661
74 Queens Road
Katie Nicholson (T) 07904 069998



Farmers' markets

Come along to LRA's Farmers' Markets, held on the first Sunday of each month, 9am-2pm in the High Road. We're there too - see our display, talk to us about any problems, and visit our second-hand bookstall."

FAIRMEAD WARD
Tessa Cochrane (D) 8508 4148
16 Shaftesbury
Carol Davies (T) 8508 4234
13 Colebrook Gardens
David Wixley (D) 8418 9284
2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Road

FOREST WARD
Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road
Colin Finn (D) 8508 5577
16 Church Close
Suzanne Harper (T) 8508 4770
23 Algers Road
Peter House (T) 8532 1275
52 Baldwins Hill

RODING WARD
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) 8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road
Margaret Chalk (T) 8508 2226
49 Southview Road
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59 Wroths Path
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7 Staples Road
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7 Staples Road

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LRA's Farmers' Markets - High Road - first Sunday each month