

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' edition

*The newsletter of
Loughton Residents Association*
February 2012



Rubbish problems

LRA Cllrs are often reporting areas that need attention for the removal of litter. Remedial action by the council is normally quick on footpaths, but some areas need a lot of follow up emails and phone calls. For example, LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens has been working hard on Station Approach (see opposite) and land between Cheltenham Gardens and Roding Gardens. Here, following a build-up of detritus on this patch of land some, such as broken chairs, too big for even long litter pickers, a gate to gain access to the land has been installed and the area has been cleared of waste. The land is owned by the County and District Councils and is managed by the latter's parks section. When the gate was installed the team also cleared the undergrowth. This should now be regularly maintained to ensure that the area remains free from significant amounts of waste. Any litter that blows through the fence should be reached by SITA crews through the fence.

Recycling. The District Council is encouraging residents to use a new recycling bank for small domestic electrical equipment, located in the Tesco car park in Waltham Abbey. If this is successful they hope to place similar banks at the larger recycling "bring" sites throughout the district next year. You can also take your unwanted domestic electrical equipment (small or large) for recycling to the depots at Luxborough Lane, Chigwell and Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey. For general recycling the Chigwell site on Luxborough Lane is now closed Wednesday and Thursday, while the Waltham Abbey site is closed Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Ongar one has closed permanently. Sites open from 9-4 in the Winter, and 9-5 in Summer.

Fly-tipping. As well as issuing 22 fixed penalty notices (FPN) for littering offences, the District Council investigated 382 of the 630 fly-tipping incidents reported where there might have been evidence to trace the culprit. It sent 62 Warning/Enforcement letters and undertook four prosecutions. If you see fly-tipping happening in the District, and can do so without risking a confrontation, please photograph the vehicle used, showing its number-plate, and email it to Tony.Ellis@essex.pnn.police.uk

Rubbish problems cont'd

Station Approach

Following residents' complaints followed up with the District Council, the land next to the bus-stops on Station Approach has been cleared. The District Council has instructed the sweepers to cleanse the front part of this land on a daily basis. Additionally, every two weeks there will be a more in-depth cleanse including going along the back, as long as the bushes are kept cut back. A rat infestation has also been cleared but please let Ken know if you become aware of further problems.

Making a difference

The list of LRA candidates for this May's Town Council elections is coming together nicely, but we are still looking for one or two more LRA supporters to stand in Loughton wards.

To find out what's involved, and how you could make a difference locally, contact Cllr Chris Pond (020 8508 2361). Training is provided and you would be working as part of a strong and experienced group.

Most elected members are on either one or two committees, and Full Council. Meetings start at 7.45pm and end at 9.30-ish. Recreation, Environment & Heritage, Resources Committee and Full Council meetings are held once every two months on a Wednesday, while the Planning Committee meets on Mondays approximately every two weeks.

Please support LRA

If things go according to plan, you should receive a letter with this copy of Loughton Life, asking you to renew your membership subscription (only £5 a year) or, for those who have already paid for 2012, confirming that you have done so. LRA is run by volunteers and we keep our costs to the minimum. We depend upon our volunteers and your subscriptions to keep going, and it is a great help if you renew now. We are very grateful for our members' support.

Could you make a difference? See above

Planning/licensing matters

The LRA Plans Group looks at all planning and licensing applications in Loughton. It may consult residents, and supports or objects to individual applications as appropriate. Details of current cases are available on LRA's website.

Shops by Sainsbury's, Torrington Avenue: The District Council has approved the demolition of the shops and the number of car parking spaces will increase from 26 to 44. LRA Cllr Jennie Hart has been in touch with Sainsbury's to ensure that the spaces are used by shoppers and not by commuters.

6 Willingale Close: The District Council has turned down a revised application for a two storey, two bedroom semi-detached dwelling. LRA objected as there was a significant danger that approval would have set a precedent for "garden-grabbing".

Roding Valley High School: The school has dropped plans for high external fencing and has now applied for new pedestrian gates onto Alderton Hill and security fencing inside the site.

182 Roding Road: Despite Plans Group opposition, the District Council has approved yet another application to replace the existing house with a block of flats. Previous applications were turned down because of their scale.

The Last Post, High Road: Residents were invited to discuss proposals to extend late-night opening hours before a formal application was made. This has been turned down several times by the Council, and Wetherspoons has agreed to drop this idea following strong objections by residents. They are submitting a planning application for tables and chairs on the pavement by the front door, currently used by smokers, to make the area more attractive; the Plans Group will consult nearby residents.

Highway changes, Chigwell Lane/Rectory Lane: the Plans Group has asked for various changes to proposed highway improvements associated with the planning application for the Langston Road retail park. While improvements to the traffic flow are welcomed concern remains about other aspects.

Commuter car park: The Plans Group (and others) recently objected to an application to build a 179 space commuter car park on Green Belt land off Abridge Road, Theydon Bois, because of the effect it would have on Loughton's train commuters. The District Council turned down the application, but the applicant has appealed, and there will be a public hearing.

Loughton BBQ: At 10am on February 7th the District Council Licensing Sub-Committee will consider an application for a half-hour extension to closing times. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A number of local residents have objected, as has the LRA Plans Group.



Closure of Fairmead Road

Essex County Council proposes to prohibit motor vehicles from using Fairmead Road from a point approximately 55yds south of its junction with Cross Road for its entire length. There will be an exemption for agricultural and forestry vehicles. LRA's view is that Fairmead Road and its parking provide a route into the heart of the Forest for disabled and less able people, and is used for access by the District Council's Lifewalks. LRA thinks the closure is unnecessary and would be contrary to wider recreational access to the woodlands for the public. The road should be left fully or partially open. Please send comments to TRO Comments, Epping Forest Transport Strategy, E3 Planning and Transportation, Environment, Sustainability & Highways, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH, or email majorschemes@essex.gov.uk, by the 3rd February (we appreciate some members might not receive this newsletter in time to do this).

Street lights in Loughton

There has recently been mention in the local press of the County Council's plans to reduce costs by turning off some street lights in the small hours. LRA Cllr Chris Pond was heavily involved in the committee work that scrutinised the proposals, and ensured that no changes will be made without prior discussion with the relevant Town/Parish Council. The aim will be to make sure that lighting is retained where necessary, and that local conditions (such as the times of the last trains to Loughton station), are taken account of.

Telecomms masts

The LRA Plans Group and many residents recently opposed six applications for new masts by Vodafone and O2, which the District Council turned down. The applicants have appealed the decision for a mast on the High Road, near the entrance to Oaklands School. Revised proposals for the others are now under discussion and residents will be informed when formal applications are lodged.

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

Cryptic quiz answers

It was a bumper year for entries to the quiz on book titles with a lot of correct ones. Congratulations to the winner, who receives a £15 book token.

Here are the answers.

1. A story of London and Paris (1, 4, 2, 3, 6)
A Tale of Two Cities
2. Someone we both know (3, 6, 6) *Our Mutual Friend*
3. Around 15th/16th of 3rd month (11) *Middlemarch*
4. This bird isn't long lasting (3, 7, 5) *The Pelican Brief*
5. Grinning folk (6'1, 6) *Smiley's People*
6. Precious digit (10) *Goldfinger*
7. Clue to a painter (3, 2, 5, 4) *The Da Vinci Code*
8. Conflict and calm (3, 3, 5) *War and Peace*
9. Foreign officer's lady (3, 6, 10'1, 5)
The French Lieutenant's Woman
10. A prescient epic tale (3, 7, 4) *The Forsyte Saga*
11. Two syllables that sound like a higher degree (4) *Emma*
12. A sin and bias (5, 3, 9) *Pride and Prejudice*
13. Puzzling thing? (6) *Enigma*
(A couple of people suggested *Jigsaw*, which we allowed)
14. Twenty seven years ago (4) *1984*
15. Weather-exposed residence (5, 5) *Bleak House*
16. Blow through the trees (4, 2, 3, 7) *Wind In The Willows*
17. Fatality on the river (5, 2, 3, 4) *Death on the Nile*
18. Sainly kitchen utensil (5, 3) *Peter Pan*
19. Male offspring and liaisons (4, 3, 6) *Sons and Lovers*
20. Sounds like a song for a plain girl (4, 4) *Jane Eyre*
21. Planet with a tanner? (3, 4, 3, 8) *The Moon and Sixpence*
22. Grass for a herbal drink? (3, 8, 4) *The Camomile Lawn*
23. Half a biscuit and a dance (6, 5) *Oliver Twist*
24. 24 hours (3, 3) *One Day*
25. Unforgiving ocean (3, 5, 3) *The Cruel Sea*
26. Small ladies (6, 5) *Little Women*
27. Cross-making fruit (3, 6, 2, 5) *The Grapes of Wrath*
28. Tome from the rain forest?? (3, 6, 4) *The Jungle Book*
29. Male trio go sailing (5, 3, 2, 1, 4) *Three Men in a Boat*
30. Seasonal song (1, 9, 5) *A Christmas Carol*

Les and Sue Harris

LRA Public Meeting & AGM

This will be held on Monday 12th March, 7.45pm for 8pm.
Please put the date in your diary now.
Speaker Cllr Chris Pond.



Loughton Brook project

Readers will recall the long-running attempts to smarten up the Brook as it runs alongside Roding Road from Alderton Hill to Oakwood Hill. In the end the proposed scheme proved over-complex and over-expensive with too many diverse ownerships and interests. All is not lost, however, as the scheme is being broken down into manageable sections, each of which is under a single ownership.

The first is to renovate the rose garden that belongs to St Michael's Church. The garden is at the roadside, is open to the public and makes a strong statement in the street scene. The Church is very keen to see it going ahead. Plans have already been drawn up and quotations for the work obtained but there remains the problem of funding as this will have to come from grants and donations. Community engagement with a project is almost a pre-requisite for qualifying for a grant but we are confident this will be forthcoming through the engagement of local volunteers. Watch this space!

Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens

Highway repairs taking longer

A resident mentioned the potholes in Roundmead Close to me while I was collecting members' subscriptions. This was passed onto the Highways department at Essex County Council by Cllr Chris Pond, as he has done with many other repairs that are needed. A street light missing after utility works in Stony Path has also been reported after a request from a resident.

However, Highways is reacting slower than ever to the many requests made to them by Chris and other LRA people. For example, a pothole at the entrance to Morrison's car park was first reported three months ago. We are being told that more and more repairs are not urgent. Is this because of the cuts, and the fact that maintenance is to be outsourced from April 2012?

Cllr Caroline Pond

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

Get more from LRA!

Every year, LRA volunteers deliver two editions of *Loughton Life* to every household in Loughton. LRA members get extra newsletters, like this one. Did you know members can receive a weekly email local news bulletin? Just email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk, headed "News Bulletins please".

If you've asked us to send you the News Bulletins but you're not receiving them, please check your "Junk email" folder, as some programmes divert bulk mailings to this folder. If that's not the problem, please let us know.

Want to help?

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

LRA who's who

ALL ENQUIRIES:

contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932

PRESS OFFICER	Michael Benbow	8508 4457
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Jack Benjamin	8508 4765
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Leon Girling	8418 0076
Barry Johnston	8508 0843
Kevin Latchford	8502 4568
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David Linnell	8508 2932
Ann Obeney	8502 3604
Bela Yorke	8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS

(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)

Chris Pond 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361

ALDERTON WARD

Rose Brookes (D & T) 3 Lower Park Road 8502 5981
Lance Leonard (D) 25 The Lindens 8502 0771

Monthly farmers' market

LRA organises the farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am – 2pm) on Centric Parade, Loughton High Rd. Come and meet local councillors and LRA helpers. LRA has two stands at all markets available free for charities and voluntary organisations operating locally. Spaces are available from June onwards (email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

In December members of St Mary's and Restore Community Church helped to bring Christmas cheer to the market, which raised £339.30 for Haven House Hospice. We would like to thank Sainsbury's for supplying the mince pies.

Broadway surgery

Please note that until further notice Cllr Jennie Hart won't be holding a surgery in The Broadway.

BROADWAY WARD

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

FAIRMEAD WARD

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

FOREST WARD

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

RODING WARD

Ken Angold-Stephens (D & T) 89 Lower Park Road 8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road 8508 2226
David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Court Goldings Rd 8418 9284

ST JOHN'S WARD

John Markham (D) 77 Queens Road 8508 1945
Stephen Pewsey (T) 59 Wroths Path 8508 5582
Caroline Pond (D & T) 7 Staples Road 8508 2361
Chris Pond (T) 7 Staples Road 8508 2361

ST MARY'S WARD

Richard Cohen (D) 61 Traps Hill 8502 3242
Chris Harper (T) 23 Algers Road 8508 4770
Lucette Howe (T) 19 Sparelease Hill 8508 3719
Tracey Thomas (T) 110 Grosvenor Drive 07508 193187

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**LRA's Farmers' Markets, High Rd,
first Sunday each month – see us there**