

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Members' Edition

*The newsletter of
Loughton Residents Association
February 2013*



LRA paving the way

The saga of pavements in the High Road continues. After the local Conservatives left the Town Centre Enhancement half-finished in 2006, little attention or money has been spent on upkeep of the block paving, with the result that it is now getting uneven, broken and patchy. This was raised by LRA Cllr John Markham in a Full District Council meeting recently. The leader of the Council confirmed that this was a matter for Essex County Council. He said the matter would be raised with the Local Highways Panel and that in addition he would arrange for raise it at a County level. Separately, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has twice raised the issue in Full Council at Chelmsford with Cabinet member Derrick Louis. A complete refurbishment of the High Road was put forward by the County to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership but unfortunately did not attract funding. LRA believes that Cllr Louis is broadly sympathetic to Loughton's need, but of course money is very tight at present.

LRA continues to press for action and the pavements to the north of the Drive have been resurfaced relatively recently, after pressure from LRA Cllrs Chris & Caroline Pond. However, the resurfacing only covered those parts which are technically public highways, and not the bits that used to be front gardens and are still the responsibility of the shop-owners. It was only as a result of action by LRA Cllrs that these private areas were paved when the rest of the High Road pavements were last replaced, and Chris is pursuing the question of getting the northern third private areas done too, particularly the dangerous area of pavement outside Royal Ribs on the High Road. County Highways has confirmed that it is not its responsibility to maintain or repair it because it is a private forecourt owned by the shop. However, it has written to the shop (and nearby shops) asking them for this work be looked into as a matter of urgency. While LRA is not over-optimistic of a positive response, if you feel the pavement should be repaired please let staff at Royal Ribs (and any other nearby shops where the forecourt pavement is faulty) know your views.

New mixed hedgerow

LRA, Essex Wildlife Trust and Epping Forest Countrycare were delighted that around 30 volunteers turned up last December to plant a hedgerow along the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve boundary to Oakwood Hill. The whole site has been opened up, all the fly-tipped material removed (including a lot of old engine oil), a length of fencing installed and 800 plants - mixed hedging varieties - installed, all in the space of about four hours. Congratulations to the volunteers and to Patrick Bailly, the Essex Wildlife Trust Warden, and Countrycare for organising it all.

**8pm 12 MARCH 2013
PUBLIC MEETING & AGM**

Talk to be followed by refreshments
and LRA's AGM.

Full details to be given in the next edition
of *Loughton Life*.

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 2013, 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.

**All newsletters and regular email updates
£5 for 2013**

Planning & licensing matters

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

Refused

37 Upper Park: Proposed steel gates and railing – seen as out-of-keeping with their surroundings.

In progress

Nando's 199 High Road/2 Station Road: Nando's has applied for a Late Night Refreshment licence, until midnight every night of the week, and until 2am over New Year's Eve; an alcohol licence from 11am to midnight every day of the week, and until 2.30am over New Year's Eve; and the installation of a new shop-front, four external fixed tables and sixteen fixed chairs. The unit already has planning permission for use as a restaurant. Following representations by the LRA Plans Group and others, Nando's has agreed to close the external seating area at 11pm each night (rather than midnight) to avoid disturbance to nearby residents.

Pyrles Lane nursery site: Local residents are very concerned about a proposed development of 18 townhouses and 18 flats on this site, which has a very narrow entrance. There would be an overall loss of green space, but an increase in the amount of green space open to the public. However, the LRA Plans Group has serious concerns about a number of aspects, including the access and the significantly inadequate allowance made for parking on the new estate.

Former Loughton Sports Centre, Borders Lane: Construction of a temporary access road along footpath through woodland to service construction of new 72 bed care home. Having unnecessarily closed the footpath - a vital link between Borders Lane and Rectory Lane - for nine months the developers are now trying to keep it closed, and to put the woodland at risk, by using it for lorries. LRA Cllr Lance Leonard has shown that the path has been in use for over 100 years, and Loughton Town Council has applied to the County Council to have it registered as a public path, though this will take a long time. In the meantime the Plans Group objects strongly to the proposal.

Loughton Clinic 115 High Road: Conversion of vacant first and second floors to 2 maisonettes, with 3 car spaces, with ground floor medical practice, and rear beauty salon/clinic to remain as existing. The Plans Group has objected to this application, as the building is situated on a busy main road, and close to a side-turning.



Councillor action

Broadway archway

The archway on the west side of The Broadway shopping area has been looking increasingly "tired". LRA Cllr Jennie Hart has asked the District Council Officers to discuss what can be done. As a result, there should be a make-over in the next three months, which may include better lighting fittings. LRA will also explore the possibility of adding a couple of large planters and a pair of benches. The passageway on the opposite side of The Broadway will also get a coat of paint.

High Road litter bins

For the last few months LRA Cllr Ken Angold-Stephens and other LRA Cllrs have been pressing the District Council to repair or replace the wooden-framed litter bins. LRA is delighted that the Council has now agreed to refurbish the bins and to correct the design fault on the doors.

Great Eastern Path

Additionally Ken and LRA Cllr David Wixley have succeeded in getting two of the plastic waste bins on Great Eastern Path replaced with metal ones, which seems to have prevented a reoccurrence of fires in the bins. After a mugging incident in September, David contacted Essex Police, expressing concerns about security. The Police have confirmed that there are regular patrols of the area both day and night.

Corner of The Drive and High Road

LRA Cllr Harvey Mann has talked to Haart, and LRA is grateful to its management team for agreeing to clean up the piece of waste ground behind its office and to maintain it on a regular basis. It will also look at the possibility of putting something there to dissuade people from dumping rubbish.

Great Woodcote Park

LRA Cllr Sharon Weston is consulting residents in Great Woodcote Park about school catchment areas. At present, by a longstanding anomaly, this is in White Bridge's catchment, a 2 mile walk, whereas St John's is less than 3/4 (three-quarters) of a mile.

**Could you help further improve Loughton?
Contact us**

Christmas quiz answers

There was a good response to the 2012 quiz. First out of the hat was Kate Tracey, who wins a £15 book token.

1. Noise of an orchestra? *The Sound of Music*
2. The hard work of romance and it's all for nothing
Loves Labours Lost
3. Vermin gets ready to go away *The Rat Pack*
4. These chaps go for knitwear *The Jersey Boys*
5. They're down in the dumps even in Paris
Les Miserables
6. Baited with cheese *The Mousetrap*
7. His creator may have written this, but 007 never
got to drive it *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
8. Worn at Ascot *Top Hat*
9. Felines *Cats*
10. Lads in the past *The History Boys*
11. Battle steed *War Horse*
12. Ruler of the pride *The Lion King*
13. My kinda town *Chicago*
14. Fatal to females *The Ladykillers*
15. Do they manufacture things? *The Producers*
16. Assorted animals in a pint pot *The Glass
Menagerie*
17. Lady in mourning? *The Woman in Black*
18. Handsome men in shifts *Dreamboats and
Petticoats*
19. The table here was round *Camelot*
20. She's blonde, and she's mine! *My Fair Lady*
21. A male quintet sounds as if it takes after Mr Farah
Five Guys Named Moe
22. A retrospective tinged with ire *Look Back in Anger*
23. Funny play - but faulty *The Comedy of Errors*
24. Does things cautiously? *The Caretaker*
25. Colliers RA? *The Pitmen Painters*
26. Condemnation in unison *A Chorus of Disapproval*
27. A whisky from the North-East? Sounds like it!
Blithe Spirit
28. Being serious matters
The Importance of Being Earnest
29. On a woman's dressing table *Hairspray*
30. One for Jamie? Or perhaps Vic *Oliver
Les and Sue Harris*

Santa's cause

LRA Cllr Leon Girling Councillor's stint as Father Christmas raised £230 for two charities. Leon, who has represented the Loughton Broadway ward on the District Council since May, rode around the streets of Debden in a sleigh collecting donations from residents shortly before Christmas. The money will be split equally between Chigwell Riding Trust for disabled children and The Silkworth Trust food bank.

Highways action

Parking

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been consulted by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) about a Residents' Parking Zone (RPZ) scheme for the York Hill/Queens Road/Staples Rd area, to prevent saturation of the area by shoppers, commuters, etc. All on-street parking would have to be covered by permits. NEPP will first consult all the residents in the roads affected for their views. LRA will also consult the residents. The charges go to cover the cost of setting up and policing the scheme, and are very reasonable in comparison with similar schemes. NEPP has also agreed to implement some parking restrictions in 2013 in Forest View Road and nearby roads.

A new cashless parking payment system, MiPermit, is now available for residents and visitors in District Council's car parks. It expects to avoid any increase during 2013 in charges and car parks that are currently free at weekends to encourage high street shopping will remain so.

Debden Lane

Following a recent accident near the Davenant school entrance LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked County Highways for a 20mph limit in Debden Lane from Ripley View to Ripley Grange, and 30mph everywhere else on the road. This would not normally be agreed to because the road is technically a County "secondary route", but there is a review of County speed policy generally that may help. Highways will test the surface grip at the accident spot to ensure the skid resistance of the carriageway is up to standard and to determine if the condition of the surface could be contributing to accidents here. It has also promised to try to find other measures for inclusion in its 2013/14 Casualty Reduction Programme.

In the meantime, the school has applied for planning permission to add an entrance/exit.

Obstructions in Borders Lane and Alderton Hill

In November LRA Cllr Lance Leonard took up with Thames Water complaints from shop-keepers in the Borders Lane parade, whose trade was suffering from barriers and equipment blocking access to their shops. He succeeded in getting the materials removed and he went on to get the barriers which have been blocking half of Alderton Hill (for no good reason) removed.

Please report any blockages (or other Highways problems) you come across on 0845 603 7631 or at www.essex.gov.uk (click on "REPORT IT") and let us know at contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Visit www.loughtonresidents.co.uk
for more information

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 bulletin? Just send an email titled "News Bulletins please" to contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk. Check your "Junk Email" to make sure you receive your newsletter.

Making a difference

Members can help LRA by standing as councillors at the Town, District or County Councils – although there are no Town or District Council elections locally this year, now's a good time to find out what's involved, and how you could make a difference, please contact Cllr Chris Pond on 020 8508 2361 or email contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk.

Training is provided and you would be working as part of a strong and experienced group. Alternatively you could consider joining the Executive Committee, which gets involved in the local issues we take up – members are welcome to come along to see how this works, without commitment – just contact Chris.

Contacting the LRA

ALL ENQUIRIES: contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk 8508 2932
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow 8508 4457
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard
14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 8502 0552
INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR Ian Allsop 8532 0053
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey 8508 5582
MINUTES SEC. Gerry Meredith 8508 8654
TREASURER Miriam Murphy 01992 530221

COMMITTEE
Jack Benjamin 8508 4765
Rose Brookes 8502 5981
Rebecca Fricker 8508 8369
Chris Harper 8508 4770
Suzanne Harper 8508 4770
Peter House 8532 1275
Barry Johnston 8508 0843
Kevin Latchford 8502 4568
David Linnell 8508 2932
Bela Yorke 8508 4729

LRA COUNCILLORS
(D = District Council; T = Town Council)

COUNTY: Loughton (Central)
Chris Pond 7 Staples Rd 8508 2361
ALDERTON WARD
Philip Abraham (T) 1 Lancaster Drive 8502 2925
Lance Leonard (D) 25 The Lindens 8502 0771
Tracey Thomas (D&T) 110 Grosvenor Drive 07508 193187

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 July onwards (email david.linnell@loughtonresidents.co.uk).

In December members of the Roding Players helped to bring Christmas cheer to the market, which raised £148.50 for St Clare Hospice. We would like to thank Sainsbury's for supplying the mince pies and Terry Tew for the loan of the CD-player.

Granting success

The LRA-led Town Council has succeeded in obtaining a £10,000 grant from Essex County Council's Big Society Fund to provide a range of outdoor gym equipment, similar to that for adult use on Roding Valley Recreation Ground, on the Willingale Road Playing Field and a further £8,640 from the Aiming High for Disabled Children scheme towards the refurbishment of the play area at Colebrook Lane.

BROADWAY WARD

Leon Girling (D&T) 95 Willingale Rd 8418 0076
Jennie Hart (D) 74 Queens Rd 8508 3661
John Mahoney (T) 299B High Rd 8508 9348

FAIRMEAD WARD

Tessa Cochrane (D) 16 Shaftesbury 8508 4148
Carol Davies (T) 13 Colebrook Gardens 8508 4234
Judy Jennings (T) 94 York Hill 8508 1861
David Wixley (D) 2 Copper Beech Ct, Goldings Rd 8418 9284

FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens (T) 89 Lower Park Rd 8281 0674
Trevor Downing (T) 207 Smarts Lane 8508 8877
Colin Finn (D) 16 Church Close 8508 5577
Sharon Weston (T) 58 York Hill 8502 0713

RODING WARD

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

ST JOHN'S WARD

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

ST MARY'S WARD

Philip Beales (T) 65 Harwater Drive 8418 0459
Richard Cohen (D) 61 Traps Hill 8502 3242
Imogen Lawrence (T) 3 Staples Rd 8508 9570
Harvey Mann (D&T) 20 The Heights 07584 125 211

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**Farmers' Market -
first Sunday of each month**