

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter  
For all residents in IG10 - Spring 2016

*LRA is independent & focuses on looking after Loughton. We have Cllrs on the County and District Councils, and hold the majority of the seats on Loughton Town Council.*

Contact us at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## Why does LRA have Cllrs?

The simple answer is "to look after our town & to improve it". Much council work goes on behind the scenes, and Cllrs have an effect from the earliest stages of proposed changes. Our Cllrs also work hard on problems raised by individual residents.

LRA Cllrs hold the majority of Loughton Town Council seats.

Our Cllrs are not an "Opposition" to the majority Conservative administration on the District & County Councils. LRA Cllrs are independent and non-political. Unlike the national political parties, LRA doesn't dictate how its Cllrs should vote. If the Council is getting things right then, our Cllrs will support them. But when the Council proposes something which would have an adverse effect on our town, LRA Cllrs will challenge this and will work hard to achieve a better outcome.

## LRA-led Town Council freezes tax for 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!

We're pleased to confirm that the town council part of your council tax will be unchanged.

LRA Cllr Stephen Pewsey, chairman of the Resources and General Services Committee said, "All residents will welcome the fact that Loughton's precept will not increase in 2016-17, the seventh year in succession that the Town Council has held the Band D precept increase at zero. Over the past six years the Town Council has maintained its policy of prudent spending and careful management of its finances while maintaining high levels of service and delivering a steady stream of projects to benefit the town."

## If you care about your town...

Please think about joining our teams on the Town or District Councils this May. To find out what's involved, please call Chris on 020 8508 2361 or Michael on 020 8508 4457 or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)



## Our AGM - 8pm, March 22nd

Our short 2016 AGM will be preceded by a talk by LRA Cllr Chris Pond on Pictures of Old Loughton. You don't need to be a member to come along - all are welcome.

**Location:** Loughton Cricket Clubhouse  
(entrance in The Uplands, off Church Hill).

## High Road parking

Brooklyn Parade and Bower Parade (north of the Methodist Church) will soon have Pay & Display parking, Monday - Saturday, 9.30am - 5pm, freeing up shopper spaces, instead of the present all-day free parking. We hope this will help shoppers - and the shops - by freeing up shopper spaces.



## Stay in the picture!

Join LRA now for £5 per household until the end of 2016! You will get extra newsletters and can receive our regular emails of local news and events bulletins. Members' support is vital as subscriptions pay our costs, such as printing newsletters and election expenses.

Subscriptions for existing members are due in January.

To pay direct from a bank account or to set up a standing order, or to check if you've paid, ring 020 8508 2932 or email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

I enclose £5 till end-2016 ..... £5

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

Name .....

Address .....

Post code IG10 ..... Phone.....

Email (if any) .....

I would like LRA's email local news bulletins Y / N

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

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

**Join LRA now for Loughton news & events!**

## Planning & licensing

The LRA Plans Group (LPG) looks at all planning and licensing applications in the town. It consults residents and supports, or objects to, individual applications as appropriate. It works separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees. Here are notes on some recent cases:

### *Langston Road shopping park*

The District Council is pressing ahead with the highways work to make Chigwell Lane into three lanes.



### *Oaklands School (Albion Hill)*

LPG has objected to the school's proposals for a new parking & drop-off arrangement, with an increase in the number of pupils permitted.

### *Parks Nursery, Pyrles Lane*

Despite a previous rejection by a committee of local Cllrs, the District Council is pressing ahead with a plan for up to 36 flats and houses on this Council-owned site.

### *20 Ollards Grove*

A Planning Inspector has turned down an appeal against the District Council's refusal to allow an application to change this house to a residential institution for offenders or defendants. There is a new application for a change of use to a hostel for people on bail; LPG will continue to object to such moves.

### *Telecoms masts*

There have been a number of proposals to upgrade existing masts. On balance, LRA considers that this is preferable to having new masts erected on attractive green areas of the town, such as the application for a new mast on land close to the Westall Road/Burney Drive junction.

### *Old car-park & Co-op site, Church Hill (next to the ESSO garage)*

A developer won a planning appeal and will build flats and a *Sainsbury's Local* on the old car-park. As a result, the Co-op, which has planning permission for a single-storey mini-supermarket on the other side of the garage, has put the site on the market.



## Epping Forest College

The playing fields and old Middle Site were protected by covenants restricting their use to education & NHS purposes. Despite strong protests from LRA Cllrs, the District Council has agreed to the College's request to release these so it can build housing and a sports centre.

## Loughton Town Council

The Town Council (LTC) is Loughton's own council, where Loughton issues can be discussed without input from other parts of the district or county. The wellbeing of the town is its only focus. It listens to and speaks for local people on issues such as planning and the environment. Every planning application comes before the Planning

Committee, and the plans are looked at in detail by the councillors - not just officers - in the light of any comments from people involved. Road and parking schemes receive the same sort of scrutiny. Open spaces and leisure facilities are a major preoccupation, and many of the Town's own playing fields have been made "QEII fields" to protect them for decades. LTC does small things to brighten up the town and add to its interest, like the flower baskets and blue plaques.



LRA Cllrs have controlled the Town Council since 2003. We are very careful with your money. Every item of expenditure is questioned and scrutinised. The LTC element of the council tax has been kept at the same level since 2011, with below-inflation increase before that. The District and County councils profited from a Freeze Grant every year from the Government to freeze their tax; Town Councils were not eligible for that grant, so six years of frozen tax has been paid for by clear economy and more efficient working.

## What does the Mayor do?

My name is Judy Jennings and last May I was elected by the other members of the Town Council to be Mayor of Loughton. During that time, alongside being a Loughton Town Cllr, I have carried out over 50 engagements.



I chair Council meetings, ensuring all Cllrs are involved in the discussions and have an opportunity to speak, and that the decisions taken by the Council are lawful and effective. I also represent the Council at official events such as those put on by the City of London, Epping Forest District Council and other local councils.

I have attended local charitable events organised by the St. Clare Hospice, Chigwell Riding Trust, Restore Centre, Abbeyfield Society, Loughton Voluntary Care and the Jack Petchey Awards.



It means so much to Loughton families that I showed my respect by attending this year's events. These included Remembrance Sunday, the Dedication of new names on the War Memorial and the Commemoration of the falling of the first bomb in the London Civil Defence Area, which was marked by the dedication of a lovely planter in The Drive.



In the Spring I am looking forward to lighting a beacon for the Queen's birthday on the 21st April, and also dedicating a plaque in memory of Ruth Rendell. I am also busy making final preparations for the annual Civic Awards Service when we will honour Loughton's Citizen of the Year.



## Meet LRA Cllrs

### *Philip Abraham*

*Alderton Ward Town Cllr*

Philip is a Town Councillor for Alderton ward. Born in India, he has lived in Loughton since 2000. He is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and attends meetings of Debden Tenants Panel and Oakwood Hill Estate Residents Association. He is passionate about protecting our town, its green surroundings and improving quality of life in Loughton.

Philip is also involved with promoting business between the UK and India, with the view of creating jobs in the UK. He is the vice-chair and co-founder of British South India Council of Commerce and conducts networking events for business people from India and the UK. He is married with two daughters.

### *Stephen Pewsey*

*St John's Ward Town Cllr and former Loughton Town Mayor in 2012-13*

Stephen Pewsey is a Town Councillor for St John's ward and was Loughton Town Mayor in 2012-13. A retired project manager, he is a well-known local historian and author of numerous books on Epping Forest area and Essex.

On the Town Council, Stephen chairs the Resources & General Services Committee, which is responsible for financial issues. Under his chairmanship, the precept has not gone up for 7 consecutive years, which has been good news for many hard-pressed local families.

Stephen has lived in Loughton for over 20 years and is very active in the community. As well as being LRA's Secretary, he is a Trustee of Lopping Hall, a member of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, founder of Loughton Film Society and Loughton Art Trail, and a volunteer at Loughton Foodbank and many other local causes. He enjoys writing, photography and sketching, and is passionate about Epping Forest. He loves Loughton and has worked hard to help protect the unique landscapes of the Loughton Hills where he lives.

## LuXe Bar

We have been asked why LuXe appears to be operating as "normal" after the refusal of their appeal against District Council enforcement action to remove their music centre and to close the dance floor. The Council are taking legal advice on the next steps.

It would be a great help if you could let us know (contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) if you suffer any problems or disturbance.



## Highways and parking

*Weight restrictions on York Hill, Staples Road, Woodbury Hill, and streets off*

After some months of applying pressure, LRA Cllr Chris Pond has managed to get the advisory 7.5 ton weight limits in these narrow roads converted into a statutory prohibition. The signs were changed in early January.

This should help stop the incursions of foreign articulated lorries into the area, caused by sat-nav errors.

### *Station car-parks*

At Loughton the cash machines are now by the on-foot exit to the station (or pay on your mobile phone).

A resident complained that she had been charged for parking at Debden station when all she had done was to drive round the car-park to drop off a friend, and had then left. There are now automatic cameras operating. NCP say that there is a 15-minute grace period at both stations during which customers who enter and leave are not required to pay.

### *Rectory Lane roadworks*

As part of the plans for the Langston Road Retail Park, Rectory Lane will be widened and traffic and pedestrian lights will be linked together. LRA is concerned about the effect these major works could have on trade in The Broadway shops, and LRA Cllr Chris Pond asked the District Council (who own the shops) whether a rent reduction would therefore be appropriate.

They replied that there are no proposed closures of the highway, and disruptive works will be out of hours. Given the current congestion we find this difficult to believe.

## LRA - the voice of Loughton!

What has the LRA ever done for us? Reflecting on some of the things that have made Loughton a better place to live, the positive impact LRA continues to have on Loughton is undeniable.

Holding the majority of seats in Loughton Town Council, and sponsoring Cllrs on all three tiers of local government, we are perfectly placed to help and support local people. By consulting with, and listening to, local people, whether through our Cllrs or at our monthly stall at the Farmers' market, we stay informed of what matters to you.

Here are a few of our recent achievements:

- secured £400,000 for the Oakwood Hill estate for improvements to paths, roads and street lighting.
- fostered the creation of 6th forms in local schools.
- successfully campaigned for street lighting to be turned on one hour earlier in the morning to help early commuters.
- pushed the County Council into making a start on pavement repairs, after years of neglect
- re-opened the Borders Lane/Rectory Lane footpath, now named Lady Mary's path, which has been officially designated as a public right of way.
- renovated the rose garden in Roding Road, now renamed Loughton Memorial Garden.



Please keep helping us to help you!

[www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk](http://www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk)

## Farmers' markets in Loughton

The LRA organises farmers' markets on the first Sunday of each month (9am–2pm) on Centric Parade, High Road - come and meet LRA Cllrs and volunteers.

LRA makes two stands available free for charities and other local voluntary organisations. To find out about free dates please email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)

## On the move

Subject to the final details being agreed, Loughton Town Council will be moving its offices from Buckingham Court (Rectory Lane) to the former Connexions Room at Loughton Library, Traps Hill. The present offices would be let.



## Bus routes threatened

TfL's bus routes 167 and 20, which connect Debden, the High Road and Buckhurst Hill, were threatened by proposed County Council cuts to the £580,000 annual subsidy it gives to Transport for London. No changes will happen this year, but LRA Cllr Chris Pond acted swiftly to get the Council cabinet member to issue a statement of intent to replace these services with a service of the same or near quality & frequency if TfL withdraw or reduces them.

## Annual Town Meeting

Find out more about your Town Council!  
Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>. 8pm. Murray Hall, Borders Lane.  
Guest speaker: Brian Page, Acting Principal at Epping Forest College.

Organised by Loughton Town Council.

## Need advice or support?

These voluntary organisations give local people support:

- Citizens Advice Bureau: help you face problems with free, independent, confidential, impartial advice  
*Now based at Loughton Library, Traps Hill*
- Loughton Voluntary Care: provides transport to medical appointments for older or less mobile residents and good neighbour services to housebound clients
- Loughton Food Bank: provides donated emergency food to people in crisis
- Memory Café Loughton: a free service to people with memory loss and their carers, and offers refreshments, entertainment, memorabilia and informal chats
- Loughton Bereavement Service: a free service to help those who are bereaved
- Loughton Stroke Club: support for stroke survivors and their carers in an informal and friendly setting, offering social and recreational activities.

## Play area Traps Hill

Loughton Town Council has successfully bid for £20,000 from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards refurbishing the play area in Traps Hill. This is part of the Town Council's regular programme of play area refurbishments.

Before LRA managed to get the Town Council set up, we battled for 13 years to get the District Council to create the Traps Hill playground.

**CONTACTING LRA**    **ENQUIRIES: [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)**    **8508 2932**  
**Membership: Juliet Pollard 14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT**    **8502 0552**

ELECTIONS OFFICER Michael Benbow	8508 4457	<b>FAIRMEAD WARD</b>	
LOUGHTON LIFE EDITOR Eva Blasco	8923 0065	Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens	8508 4234
SECRETARY Stephen Pewsey	8508 5582	Judy Jennings (T) York Hill	8508 1861
MINUTES SEC. Susan Creevy	-	Louise Mead (D) Lower Road	07547 264561
TREASURER Miriam Murphy	01992 815525	David Wixley (D) Copper Beech Ct Goldings Rd	8418 9284
<b>COUNCILLORS</b>		<b>FOREST WARD</b>	
(D = District Council; T = Town Council)		Jill Angold-Stephens (T) Lower Park Road	8281 0674
<b>COUNTY: Loughton (Central)</b>		Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane	8508 8877
Chris Pond Staples Road	8508 2361	Sharon Weston (D&T) York Hill	8502 0713
<b>ALDERTON WARD</b>		<b>RODING WARD</b>	
Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive	8502 2925	Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T) Lower Park Rd	8281 0674
Chris Roberts (D) Colson Road	8279 0053	Margaret Chalk (T) Southview Road	8508 2226
Tracey Thomas (D&T)	07982 847215	David Wixley (T) Copper Beech Ct Goldings Rd	8418 9284
<b>BROADWAY WARD</b>		<b>ST JOHN'S WARD</b>	
Leon Girling (D&T) Willingale Road	8418 0076	Bob Jennings (D) York Hill	8508 1861
John Mahoney (T) Lopping Hall High Rd	07909 517145	Stephen Pewsey (T) Wroths Path	8508 5582
Chris Pond (D) Staples Road	8508 2361	Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Road	8508 2361
<b>COMMITTEE</b>		Chris Pond (T) Staples Road	8508 2361
Eva Blasco    8923 0065	Barry Johnson    8508 0843	<b>ST MARY'S WARD</b>	
Rose Brookes    8502 5981	Kevin Latchford    8502 4568	Philip Beales (T) Harwater Drive	8418 0459
Tessa Cochrane    8508 4148	Lance Leonard    8502 0771	Howard Kauffman (D) Church Lane	8508 1098
Steve Eaton    8923 0065	David Linnell    8508 2932	Imogen Lawrence (T) Staples Road	8502 3395
Rebecca Fricker    8508 8369	George Meltser    8502 3006	Harvey Mann (D&T) The Heights	07584 125211