

LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Spring Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter
For all residents in IG10 - Spring 2018

LRA is independent & focuses on looking after Loughton. We have Cllrs on the County and District Councils, and hold 20 out of 22 of the seats on Loughton Town Council.

Talk: Policing Loughton!

Come along on Monday March 19th to hear from our District Commander, Chief Inspector Lewis Basford (Essex Police), and ask your questions.

Starts 8pm; the talk will be followed by refreshments and our brief AGM.

All are welcome.

Loughton Cricket Clubhouse
(entrance in The Uplands,
off Church Hill;
some parking available).



Stay in the picture!



Join LRA now for £5 per household till end-2018!
You'll get extra newsletters. You can receive our regular email bulletins of local news and events.

I enclose £5
I enclose a donation for LRA's work £

Name

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I would like LRA's email bulletins Y / N

*Send to LRA Membership Secretary,
14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT.*

More information? Please email
contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk or ring 020 8508 2932

LRA's membership information is not shared with anyone

Saving Loughton's Greens

LRA has written to the District Council, setting out what we see as the serious mistakes in their Local Plan. Loughton Town Council has also sent in strong representations. You can see our objections, and a link to the Local Plan, on our website: www.LoughtonResidents.org.uk

The next stage will be a hearing in front of a Government Inspector, probably in Autumn 2018, where we can follow up our protests. We know that the District Council won't change anything at this stage, so our objections are aimed at the Autumn hearing.

To get the Inspector to require changes to the Plan, we have to show that parts of it aren't soundly based and aren't the most effective way to deliver the required results within the Plan's period.

The national Government has forced every Council in the country to go through a similar process. How many new homes, and where will they go? Where will residents work? Where will they shop? How will they travel? And lots more, such as Garden Communities, infrastructure (green spaces, open water, health services, schools, libraries, roads etc), environment and flooding risks.

The new Plan will affect how the District develops between now and 2033. If the Council get the Plan wrong, Loughton's residents will suffer the consequences.



Photo courtesy of marksoanes.com

We've called (again) for Jessel Green to be dropped from the development list, something we've demanded ever since the Conservative-led District Council first suggested putting houses on it in 2008. Incidentally, SaveJesselGreen have produced a petition which shows that over 5,000 people care about Jessel Green and want it protected. The petition is still open for signatures; search on Google or other browsers for SaveJesselGreen.

Among our other objections were that the Plan allocates too many dwellings to Loughton and does so without any regard to the extra commuting this would cause on the already overcrowded Central Line. We also detailed the problems of trying to build on the Loughton and Debden station car-parks (while keeping the same number of parking spaces) and the drastic effect on Loughton Self-Drive that building on Debden station car-park would have.

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Help us look after Loughton - join LRA now!

(Continued from page 1: 'Saving Loughton's Greens')

We also objected to the way in which the Plan fails to stop developers proposing buildings that are too high compared with nearby buildings, or to stop them putting up boundary walls or fences that would adversely affect neighbours.

Finally we pointed out that Loughton's roads couldn't take the extra traffic the Council are proposing, because two key roundabouts are surrounded by Forest Land and can't be enlarged; and that the Council's proposed reliance on bus services couldn't be counted upon, as they have no control over which bus firm provides what services.

We want to try to ensure that Loughton retains its character, which is what our residents appreciate, despite all the changes in recent years, and what makes other people want to move here, particularly from London.

Farmers' markets



After our problems in the summer, the market is recovering, although we hope to increase further the proportion of produce stalls, including cheese and fruit-&-veg stalls.

Come along to browse LRA's second-hand book stall and to talk to our volunteers on the second Sunday of each month, 9am-3pm, on the Centric Parade, High Road.

Each month we make two stalls available (free) to different local voluntary organisations.

Bus Service 20

LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up rumours that the service was about to close. In fact, the company that runs the buses (Go-Ahead) is having to re-bid for the franchise, which is the system in London, and happens on a 7-year cycle.

We understand that the Invitation to Tender issued provides for the route to be retendered on its existing route to Debden.

We will keep a close watch on any proposals on this vital lifeline, especially as the service is at the mercy of the London Mayor's policies from time to time.

Streetlight out of action?

Report it at the Highways helpline on 0345 603 7631 (also for information on any holdups in repairing faulty lights you've already reported).

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 entirely separately from LRA's Cllrs on Council planning committees.

"Council" = District Council

13-15A Alderton Hill

The proposal for a large retirement complex was withdrawn from January's Council planning meeting, and we await further details.

2 Connaught Avenue

At a planning meeting in December, District Cllrs reluctantly approved a proposal for flats, but added extra conditions for half-height obscure glazing for the rear upper flat, the retention and upgrade of all existing doors and windows and for wheel washing equipment to be used during construction work.

Had the Committee turned down the application, it would have inevitably been approved on appeal.

How planning works

Each application goes to the District Council. In most cases, a District Planning Officer will turn it down or approve it. However, if the Town Council and/or several residents have objected, or a District Cllr "calls-in" the application, the Officer isn't allowed to approve it - it has to go to a meeting of District Cllrs.

The applicant can appeal against a refusal.

Highways & parking

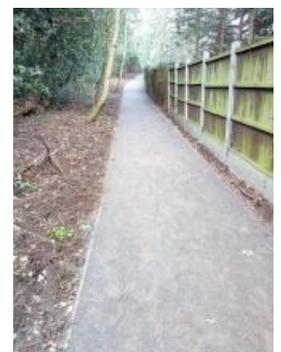
Off-street parking for The Broadway

Local Cllrs and Broadway traders have expressed concerns over commuter and worker parking and the impact it is having on the small businesses. In order to make an informed decision, the Council commissioned an external consultancy firm to carry out surveys on The Broadway car parks. Once their report is received, officers will be able to make recommendations for further action.

In particular, officers are working on proposals to submit a planning application to create more parking spaces by demolishing a walled area and some garages in Vere Road, creating about 30 more spaces.

Footpath, Baldwin's Hill to Sedley Rise

In rainy weather you can now walk along all 149m of Footpath 109 from Baldwin's Hill to Sedley Rise without fighting your way through a mud-bath, thanks to the County Council's new all-weather path, which was suggested by LRA Cllr Philip Beales.



[Note: we're reporting this as it's an exception to the otherwise poor state of Loughton's paths and pavements. You can find the County Council's stated Maintenance Strategy at <https://tinyurl.com/ybj3v7>]

LRA Cllrs are Independent and non-political

Bus Services 542 & 87

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has been pressing for some time for better bus services between Loughton and Epping. And has passed on many residents' requests for a service to the Langston Road Aldi. EOS buses have now come forward with a proposal, as follows:

New bus route (experimental) 87 will run hourly, to a similar timetable as the current 542, from 3 April.

It will be extended at one end to Langston Rd Aldi/Retail Park, and at the other end via Willingale Rd, Jessel Drive, Chester Rd, Pyrles Lane, Debden & Loughton Lanes, Piercing Hill, Epping, and Harlow.

Bus Service 418

Following pressure from LRA Cllr Chris Pond, the County Council and Galleon Travel have agreed to continue a service January to March (extendable by mutual agreement).



In order to provide the service with just one bus, the new weekday service will be similar to the current Saturday service. This means some timing changes, and there'll be one fewer morning peak-period journey from Loughton to Harlow.

Evening journeys and Sunday journeys numbered 418B will be unchanged.

Smart water-metering

In March-May 2018, compulsory smart water-metering for properties currently without water meters is being imposed on Loughton. We've had reports that Thames Water are working in some Loughton roads repairing old pipes (in preparation for this?). Existing meters won't be replaced until the end of their useful lives.

VOTE LRA on May 3rd!



Why does LRA have Cllrs? The simple answer is "to look after our town and 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 are Independent and non-political. Unlike the national political parties, LRA doesn't dictate to its Cllrs how they should vote.

LRA is the second-largest party on the District Council, which has a Conservative majority. But we're not just a mindless "Opposition" to the administration! 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.

Would you like to help us talk to people in April about LRA's candidates for the District Council? If so please email us at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

Landmark building

(Former Winston Churchill Public House)



The District Council is behind schedule on filling the new shops, and has had to offer incentives to some prospective tenants to put in shop-fronts (because the Council failed to provide for these when setting up the building contract!) They now expect there to be a public house, a restaurant, a coffee shop and a Co-op convenience food store.

CONTACTING LRA:

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ALDERTON WARD

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Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Rd 8279 0053

Adam Omer Station Road 07904 919701

Mick Stubbings Greenfields 07766 480522

BROADWAY WARD

Leon Girling (D&T) Via Chris Pond

John Mahoney High Rd 07909 517145

Stella Murphy High View Close 8508 2794

Chris Pond (D) Staples Road 8508 2361

FOREST WARD

Jill Angold-Stephens Lower Pk Rd 8281 0674

Roger Baldwin (D) Burney Drive 8508 8479

Amy Beales (D) Harwater Drive 07507 341956

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RODING WARD

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Mark Dalton Highland Avenue 07719 736901

David Wixley Goldings Rd 8418 9284

ST JOHN'S WARD

Bob Jennings (D) York Hill 8508 1861

Stephen Pewsey Wroths Path 8279 1858

Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Road

Chris Pond) 8508 2361

ST MARY'S WARD

Philip Beales Harwater Drive 8418 0459

Barbara Cohen Traps Hill 07957 141197

Judy Jennings (D&T) York Hill 8508 1861

Howard Kauffman (D) Church Ln 8508 1098

COMMITTEE

Michael Benbow 8508 4457

Steve Eaton 8923 0065

Rebecca Fricker 8508 8369

Lance Leonard 8502 0771

David Linnell 8508 2932

George Meltser 8502 3006

Meet LRA Cllr Howard Kauffman

St Mary's War District Cllr

Howard was elected in 2014 and will be standing again in the Local Elections in May.

Howard represents LRA at the Council as a member of the Area Plan South Planning Committee, the District Development Management Committee and sits on the Governance Select Committee.

Howard has lived in Loughton since 1999, having 'emigrated' from Chigwell. He lives in Church Lane, Loughton and is married with three sons.

He has worked in the Central London Commercial Investment and Development Market since 1977 and is an advisor to the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Hackney.

Howard is an avid classic car enthusiast and is responsible for the biennial Loughton Classic Car Show, which raises money for Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and St Clare Hospice. The classic car show will be held again this year and classic car owners are invited to email hbkauffman@aol.com if they'd like to take part.

Howard's local interests include high quality urban planning design and the protection of both Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land.



Meet LRA Cllr Chris Roberts

Alderton Ward District Cllr

Chris was elected in 2014 and will be standing again in the Local Elections in May. He was born in Debden in 1963. He attended Hereward and Lucton schools. After leaving school, he worked in construction, and now teaches Engineering.

He is married to Debra, also a District Councillor, and they have two grown up sons who are still living at home, so he is very much a local family man.

Chris joined LRA to get involved with local issues four years ago when we sadly lost The Sir Winston Churchill pub.

Chris has lived in Alderton Ward for 33 years and will be standing again in the upcoming April 2018 Local Elections.

Chris believes much has changed in our town since then.

He understands it is a challenging ward with issues we all care about like flytipping, parking, antisocial behaviour, drug abuse and social problems. So far, meetings with Essex Police and other agencies have made a difference but much more is needed here, and he spends considerable time representing the views of Alderton residents at Epping Forest District Council, trying to make that difference.

Chris has spoken out against the new local plan in defence of our green open spaces, protecting our town and improving quality of life in Loughton.



Langston Road Retail Park

Shops

The Conservative-led District Council has failed to achieve its initial intention, which was to attract fashion-led shops to the retail park, and has still not managed to fill all the units. While many residents welcome the wide range of



outlets, we understand that trade on The Broadway (where the shops are also owned by the Council) is being significantly adversely affected.

Bus service

From April 3rd there'll be a bus service (see page 3).

Roadworks

The Chigwell Lane roadworks dragged on far longer than originally promised; the traffic lights still need adjusting to match the traffic flow, and more railings are needed at the Borders Lane junction.

Planning - have your say!

To join the LRA Plans Group (we work by email only), and be consulted by email on significant local plans, please email contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk



Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday March 14th

Murray Hall, Borders Lane from 7.30pm

Hear what your Town Council has achieved and its plans for the future.

Raise your concerns during the public question time.

Local organisations' displays. Voluntary sector speakers.

Chat to your Town Councillor over a cup of tea.

Please vote LRA on May 3rd