

# LRA's LOUGHTON LIFE Townwide Autumn Edition

Loughton Residents' Association Newsletter

For all residents in IG10 - Autumn 2018

*LRA is independent and 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.*

## Crime in Loughton

Recently, residents have become increasingly concerned about crime, particularly crime by youths (and on youths). Marion Barclay arranged two public meetings at Loughton Club, ably chaired by Independent Cllr Stephen Murray, which were very well-attended by residents and by LRA Cllrs, and where residents could raise specific issues and the police could explain what they were doing.

Among the many issues raised were: the anti-social behaviour of a group of teenagers coming from outside the borough and congregating in and around Loughton Station and Debden Broadway; a lack of visible Police presence; the closure of Loughton police station, no British Transport Police (BTP) presence at Loughton and Debden Stations, youngsters fare-dodging and the lack of street lights.

In response CI Basford and BTP have increased uniformed and plain-clothes patrols in Loughton (of course, we can't tell that plainclothes teams are around, any more than the troublemakers can). We do however know that there have been arrests in Loughton. Also the police have been present at Loughton & Debden Tube Stations checking for knives.

Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch do a great job of reporting what's going on. Join them, or help set up a NW group in your road if there isn't one already).

We exchange information with them constantly.

Although our police station's public desk is closed (it wasn't used much anyway), the station is the base for the local Community team, and several other police teams.

Our District Commander, Lewis Basford, has emphasised the importance of every resident reporting each and every crime, even if you think the police will not be able to act. The number of police officers we have locally depends largely on the number of crime reports that come in. Also, if you're not happy with the service you get, please complain.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond has asked the police for statistics of crimes committed during 1- 5am when the lights are off but hasn't yet received them. CI Basford has said that there's no known research that shows that crime increases when streetlights are switched off overnight.

Street lights: LRA Cllr Chris Pond fought the Conservative County Council's switch-off plan from the start, and gained improvements for Loughton to cover Tube running hours.

## Alderton Hill bridge (see page 4)



## When should you use 999?

Only when there is a direct and immediate threat to life or property or if a crime is in progress. Or there's been a road traffic collision and someone is hurt and/or a danger is being caused to other road users.

### Alternatives

For routine enquiries, or to report crimes or incidents which are over, ring 101 or - on your computer or phone - go to [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk); under *Do it online* choose what it's about (this frees up the call-taker to deal with other calls and reduces other callers' waiting times).

For British Transport Police: incidents on or near stations and on public transport, call 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016.

Report crime anonymously on Crimestoppers:

0800 555 111 <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

For local enquiries (not crimes), email Loughton police station: [EppingForestCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EppingForestCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk)



## Stay in the picture!



**Join LRA now for £5 per household till end-2019!**  
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 .....

Address .....

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

Email (if any) .....

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](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) or ring 020 8508 2932

*LRA's membership information is not shared with anyone*

**Our thanks to all the residents who voted LRA!**

## Farmers' markets



Come along to LRA's Farmers' Markets, browse our second-hand book stall and talk to our volunteers on the second Sunday of each month, 9am–3pm, on Centric Parade, High Road. Each month we make two stalls available (free) to different local voluntary organisations.

### Somebody say Christmas?

Loughton businesses are encouraged to decorate their windows with a Christmas-themed display & get automatic entry into the Town Council's 2018 Christmas Window competition. Judging from 30<sup>th</sup> November.

More: 020 8508 4200 or [contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk)

### Prickly friends

With more paved front gardens and properties bordered by fences, life is getting harder for hedgehogs. Help them by leaving areas of the garden 'wild', with piles of leaf litter and logs. Leave out foods like tinned dog or cat food (not fish-based) and crushed dog or cat biscuits. Never feed hedgehogs milk (it can cause diarrhoea); instead provide plain, fresh water in a shallow bowl. Check for hedgehogs before using grass trimmers or mowers, particularly under hedges where animals may rest. Check compost heaps before forking over, and also check bonfires before lighting. Don't use slug pellets (unless animal-safe).

## 66 & 87 bus services

EOS withdrew from these services at the end of July, and Arriva's application to provide replacement services (at short notice) was initially turned down by the Traffic Commissioners. LRA Cllr Chris Pond was kept busy trying to pull things together, but finally the Arriva routes were approved and the buses are now running.

### Chigwell Lane bus stops

Bus stops at Rolls Park corner: LRA Cllr Chris Pond followed up a resident's enquiry about two missing bus stops. They were removed when the new traffic lights were being installed, and the District Council forgot to sort out new positions for them once the lights were in place. They've now promised to re-install them.

### Editing skills needed

David Linnell would like help with compiling LRA's Events fortnightly email bulletins. This involves keeping a list of the Events and editing the text into the required format between each edition. If you're interested in helping, please ring 020 8508 2932 (leave a message if out) or email [david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

### Defibrillators

Defibrillators are in place outside the Housing Office in The Broadway, Loughton Club (Station Road) and Morrisons store (High Road). There's also a portable defibrillator at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.



### Epping Forest College

Despite concerns among residents, Cllrs and LRA about the longer-term future of the prime sites occupied by Epping Forest College, the College Governors have agreed to the merger with New City College going ahead.

## CONTACTING LRA

D: District; T: Town	<b>Enquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk">contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk</a> <b>8508 2932</b>	
	<b>Membership:</b> Juliet Pollard 14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT <b>8502 0552</b>	
<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>FAIRMEAD WARD</b>	<b>ST MARY'S WARD</b>
<b>ALDERTON WARD</b> Philip Abraham (T) Lancaster Drive 8502 2925 Chris & Debra Roberts (D) Colson Rd 8279 0053 Adam Omer (T) Station Road 07904 919701 Mick Stubbings (T) Greenfields 07766 480522	Carol Davies (T) Colebrook Gardens 07817 230372 Kevin Latchford (T) Colebrook Gardens 8502 4568 Louise Mead (D) 07746 875952 David Wixley (D) Goldings Rd 8418 9284	Philip Beales (T) Harwater Drive 8418 0459 Barbara Cohen (T) Traps Hill 07957 141197 Judy Jennings (D&T) York Hill 8508 1861 Howard Kauffman (D) Church Ln 8508 1098
<b>BROADWAY WARD</b> Michael Owen (D) Baldwins Hill 07767 004745 John Mahoney (T) High Rd 07909 517145 Stella Murphy (T) High View Close 8508 2794 Chris Pond (D) Staples Road 8508 2361 Jayna Jogia (T) The drive 07983 713389	<b>FOREST WARD</b> Jill Angold-Stephens (T) Lower Pk Rd 8281 0674 Roger Baldwin (D) Burney Drive 8508 8479 Amy Beales (D) Harwater Drive 07507 341956 Tessa Cochrane (T) Shaftesbury 8508 4148 Trevor Downing (T) Smarts Lane 8508 8877	<b>COUNTY: Loughton (Central)</b> Chris Pond Staples Road 8508 2361
<b>ST JOHN'S WARD</b> Bob Jennings (D) York Hill 8508 1861 Stephen Pewsey (T) Wroths Path 8279 1858 Chris Pond (T) Staples Road 8508 2361 Caroline Pond (D&T) Staples Rd 8508 2361	<b>RODING WARD</b> Rose Brookes (D&T) Lower Park Road 8502 5981 Mark Dalton (T) Highland Avenue 07719 736901 David Wixley (T) Goldings Rd 8418 9284	<b>COMMITTEE</b> Michael Benbow 8508 4457 Param Doal 8508 8594 Steve Eaton 8923 0065 Lance Leonard 8502 0771 David Linnell 8508 2932 George Meltser 8502 3006 Chidi Nweke 07403 489455
<b>SECRETARY</b> Jill Angold-Stephens 8281 0674	<b>LOUGHTON LIFE EDITOR</b> Eva Blasco 8923 0065 <b>TREASURER</b> Miriam Murphy 01992 815525	<b>MINUTES SECRETARY</b> Susan Creevy

**LRA Cllrs are Independent and non-political**

## 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 District Council turned down an application for a 6-storey block of 109 retirement flats, which has gone to appeal. Another application has been made for an 89 flat block. LPG thinks both are too bulky, too dense and out-of-character with their surroundings.

### *Crown House ground floor, High Road*

This was *Nu-Bar*, and is now *Tom, Dick and Harry's* bar/restaurant. The service road and pavement are private land, and daytime permit parking has been introduced.

### *Hollybush, High Road*

After objections from LPG and others, McMullens' dropped their application to replace the ground floor front of this pub with plate-glass. Ironically, McMullens' own website says "the Hollybush is a key part of Loughton High Street's (sic) rich history".

### *The old Sorting Office, 256 High Road*

The applicants have reapplied for a block of 29 retirement apartments up to 5 storeys high. For technical reasons, when they considered the same documents in April, the District Council weren't able to make a final decision - but they would have approved them if they'd been able to.

### *69 Church Hill*

There's a further planning application for a block of 10 flats which LPG has objected to as out-of-character with its surroundings.

### *56 Tycehurst Hill*

An Inspector rejected an appeal against the District Council's refusal of permission for a block of flats on this site as quite out of keeping with the prevailing character of the area.

### *60 Traps Hill*

The District Council turned down an application for a block of 7 flats on this site as incongruous and overbearing.

### *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 can turn it down but isn't allowed to approve it – it has to go to a meeting of District Cllrs. The applicant can appeal against a refusal.

## Care about Loughton?

David Linnell needs help to list and send round the new planning applications to the LPG and to respond to them. Everything is done on email. If you're interested in helping, please ring 020 8508 2932 (leave a message if out) or email [david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk](mailto:david.linnell@LoughtonResidents.co.uk)

## Highways & parking

### *Parking on double yellow lines*

LRA Cllr Bob Jennings was contacted by a resident of Harwater Drive about vehicles regularly parked on the double yellow lines around the junction of Harwater Drive and Millsmead Way. NEPP staff paid 11 visits but only caught one offender, so asked whether there were particular times/days when this happened so they could visit then. However, they'd obviously been seen by the culprits, because the resident has reported that the situation is now much improved.

### *Oakwood Hill estate pavements*

The County Council have put back the start of the resurfacing work from 3rd September to 8th October, with planned completion by 19th October. LRA secured funding for this work 4 years ago, and both the County & District Councils have delayed it time and again. LRA Cllr Chris Roberts will be continuing to monitor their progress.

### *Sparelease Hill roadworks*

A resident contacted us because they'd been told that Cadent Gas were planning to dig up Sparelease Hill to replace the gas pipes. However the road was recently resurfaced (2-3 years ago) and, as we reported last time, County Highways shouldn't permit this. LRA Cllr Chris Pond commented that either the resurfacing happened just before Highways started keeping records for this purpose or the pipes could be under the pavements rather than the roadway, and so the work wouldn't affect the resurfaced area.

### *Parking at Loughton Station*

We've recently learnt of a couple of residents who've been fined by the firm running the car-park for NCP, for staying for over 20 minutes when in fact they had left the 20-minute area and had returned later that day, or the next day.

Following having his appeal against this sort of accusation rejected by NCP, an LRA member has managed to get them to admit that their camera equipment was not working properly, and has had his fine waived.

*If you've recently had a similar fine, and you'd like us to try to help, please email us at [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk) straightaway and we'll see what we can do.*

### *Resurfacing Staples Road*

Resurfacing will now take place in the October half-term holiday.



## LRA Plans Group

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

Get our news as it arrives on Twitter (@LoughtonRA)  
& at [www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents](http://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidents)

## Meet an LRA Cllr

### Trevor Downing Forest Ward Town Cllr

Trevor has been a Town Cllr for Forest Ward since 2012, and has been a member of the Planning & Licencing Committee most of that time. He has enjoyed: living in Smarts Lane for 28 years, the Forest and the environment of Loughton. Born in Yarmouth, he has studied and worked in Central America, Edinburgh, Cambridge and Leeds before settling in Loughton. He is a keen cyclist, and enjoys the London and local arts, theatre and music scenes. For 12 years, he was director of a global maritime information company, and is now a maritime consultant.



He has campaigned (successfully) for residents; parking in Forest Ward, and is now looking into the through-traffic problem, in particular over-sized lorries in the narrow roads of the area.

## Elections: LRA successes!

The District Council elections in May proved to be a tremendous success for LRA; our local candidates gained significant majorities in all 7 seats we stood in (in Roding ward we didn't oppose Independent Cllr Stephen Murray).

LRA stands out because our District Cllrs are not an "Opposition" at Epping. Our Cllrs are independent; they will support good policies, whichever party suggests them. However, they will oppose bad proposals, like the Conservatives' proposal to build on Jessel Green (we will defend Loughton's green spaces in front of the Local Plan Inspector at a hearing later this year/early next year).

We are very active in following up the every-day problems which matter so much to residents, such as potholes, unemptied rubbish bins, crime and anti-social behaviour, and leisure facilities. Whilst not guaranteed, we have an ever-growing list of successes. We are persistent and we care!



## Parking, Broadway phase 2

Considerable work is going on behind the scenes, with LRA Cllr Chris Roberts heavily involved, to prepare the next set of residents' parking controls this autumn. It has been envisaged all along that the "displacement" from the first round of residents' parking would adversely affect residents in the surrounding area, and that action would be needed to deal with this.

## Alderton Hill bridge

The bridge carries the road over Loughton Brook and is made up of a Victorian arch and extensions either side of the arch. The footway is in a weakened condition, so we had five weeks of summer traffic chaos while the road was closed. Utility services (gas, water etc.) have been moved so that repairs can be done next summer.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond, supported by Cllrs Valerie Metcalfe and Stephen Murray, persuaded Transport for London not to turn 167 buses round at Buckhurst Hill, and battled to get County Highways to carry out their promise to make Brook Road and Brooklyn Avenue a clearway so buses and other traffic could get through. Chris also tried to get Highways to adjust the phasing of the High Road traffic lights to reduce the queues; although they don't seem to have done so, we'll ask for this again next year.

## Burton Road fire

LRA Cllr Chris Pond asked at a District Council meeting about the insulation used in the building affected, and was met with comments about the process for tendering the building contract (before Grenfell). It appears that insulation similar to that which may have been involved in the Grenfell fire is involved in this and the other blocks. The Council asserts that they checked and approved the materials after Grenfell.

There will be no delay to the 17 townhouses and the block of 15 apartments which should continue to be completed by the end of December 2018. The block of 19 apartments which was damaged by the fire will fall slightly behind schedule, but should be ready by the end of March 2019.

## 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  
email [contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk](mailto:contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk)  
or phone (numbers on page 2).