

Loughton Residents Association

Neighbourhood News

September 2012



*Working for the people of Roding ward to make our community
a safe and amenable place to live.*



The Jubilee and the Olympics

We have much to celebrate nationally and locally. With your support there can be no better time to make the improvements we all want to see in our town



Your Councils

✓ **Loughton Town Council (LRA-led).** Many thanks to all who voted for us at the last election. It was a huge vote of confidence and we will continue do our very best to safeguard your interests and enhance local facilities. Despite difficult financial times we are still planning further service improvements, including the refurbishment of the football changing rooms on the Recreation Ground.

✓ **Epping Forest District Council (Conservative led).** This is the second year of cuts to the Government support grant, making it harder to find savings year on year without cutting services. In addition this year there are sweeping changes to the Council Tax Benefit (except for the elderly and possibly some other groups) which will leave many people worse off. Let us know if this causes you major hardship.

✓ **Local Plan.** You will have received a leaflet recently about the new Local Plan, called Community Choices. This is a crucial document that will shape development in our District for the next 20 years and beyond. The library has copies of the Community Choices document for perusal in the library (it is too weighty to send to every home) and you can pick up copies of the questionnaire to reply but you do not have to fill in everything, only those pages you wish to comment on. The District has a severe housing shortage but also a shortage of suitable land. This is just one of the important questions the Local Plan has to address. Road congestion and the Underground are big issues and further developments beyond Loughton on the Central Line routes would be bound to have an impact on us.

High Streets

✓ High streets across the Country are suffering at the moment due to the recession, internet buying and out of town shopping. Vibrant shopping centres are essential to the prosperity of Loughton and the LRA Plans Group strongly supports a diversity of good local shops. It also helps the environment if we use less fuel travelling to out-of-town shopping centres. The new 'one shops local' website (<http://www.oneshopslocal.com/>) lists many of our local shops and any promotional offers they may have.

It is still quite new but check it out, look for offers, and support our local traders! If you're a trader, make sure you're featured on the site.



Ward issues

- ✓ It is sad that vandals have twice caused damage to the new fencing around the tennis/ball courts. It means the area had to be closed whilst repairs were carried out, spoiling the enjoyment for others but it also impacts on the Town Council's costs which has to be reflected in the Council Tax you pay. If you see any such activity, please report it immediately to the police on 101. That said, it was good to see many people using the sports facilities in the recent good weather.
- ✓ St. Michael's Church is applying for grants, with LRA support, to renovate the rose garden in Roding Road. It will involve re-landscaping the whole area. They hope to begin work as soon as funds are available. It will be a welcome improvement to the street scene.



- ✓ With help from LRA councillors, an agreement has been reached with Roding Valley Angling Club to bailiff the lake. This should lead to improvements in the way the lake is managed and stocked. We are fortunate in having such a large area of open space within our ward and welcome ideas for enhancing and improving it for the benefit of our residents and visitors.
- ✓ Congratulations to Whitebridge School on their 60th anniversary and their successful celebrations and reunion, also to St. Michael's Church as it approaches its 75th anniversary.

Your LRA Councillors work hard for all our residents and we can be contacted at any time to discuss issues. Our contact details are below.

Ken Angold-Stephens, David Wixley and Margaret Chalk

The LRA is completely independent of national political parties and is driven only by you, our residents.

Your LRA Councillors

District and Town Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens

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Town Councillor David Wixley

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Town Councillor Margaret Chalk

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You can meet LRA Councillors on the LRA stall at LRA's farmers' market in the High Road on the first Sunday morning of every month.

**For more about the LRA and Loughton,
www.loughtonresidents.co.uk**



**Join LRA via our website
or use the membership form in *Loughton Life*.**