



# Think Loughton



N° 21 Summer 2003

News from Loughton Town Council

## Progress steady on centre plans

**READERS will know that Loughton Town Council has purchased the former United Reform Church in Borders Lane with the aim of building a community and youth centre there, in partnership with Essex County Council.**

But though, at present, there are few visible results of this project, a lot of work is going on behind the scenes.

Local people have welcomed plans for a community centre, and everyone has recognised the desperate need for a youth facility in Loughton.

Fortunately, people have also been realistic in their expectations: they know a youth centre will not on its own eradicate the public disorder we sometimes see in the town, although hopefully it will help alleviate some of the problems.

On page 5 of *Think*

*Loughton*, you can read about the talk given at the Annual Town Meeting by Nigel Varnam and David Stone, of Essex Youth Service. Both will be involved in the youth service side of our joint project.

One of the reasons for the lack of visible progress is the sheer size and complexity of the project. This is a major piece of work and it is important we get both the details and the wider picture right.

Consequently, the Town Council has spent a lot of time working with Essex County Council to sort out the legal niceties. The result will form the basis of a partnership for a long time to come.

The next stage is to obtain architects' proposals to translate our aspirations into more formal plans.

Public reaction to our plans for a community centre – received via letters, emails,

phone calls, personal contact and at public meetings – has been generally positive.

Adverse comments have tended to focus on possible problems of noise and anti-social behaviour in the area – and, of course, the project's cost. All the points will be taken into account during our project

planning, execution and operation.

An exciting and tangible aspect of all this is deciding what facilities we want located in the building and at what cost. We will continue to keep you informed of this through *Think Loughton*, the local papers and our website.

### Swings and roundabouts



**FELSTEAD Road playground now has new play equipment, thanks to Loughton Town Council.**

The area, previously owned by Epping Forest District Council, was a playground some years ago but fell into disrepair.

Now owned by Loughton Town Council, it has been completely refurbished, with an exciting, challenging and safe design.

For full story, see page 15.

# CONTACT NUMBERS

## COUNCIL SERVICES

Loughton Town Council	020 8508 4200
Epping Forest District Council	01992 564000
Epping Sports Centre	01992 564564
Waltham Abbey Sports Centre	01992 716194
Waste Management Hotline	01992 564320
Essex County Council	01245 492211
Registrar of Births & Deaths	01992 572788
Registrar of Marriages	01992 572789
Education Office	01245 436231
Loughton Library	020 8502 0181
Debden Library	020 8508 5869
Social Services	020 8508 9311

## POLICE & FIRE (dial 999 for emergencies)

Loughton Police Station (non-urgent)	020 8502 3881
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## HEALTH & HOSPITALS

Forest Medical Centre	020 8505 2288
Health Information Service	0800 665544
Holly House (Private)	020 8505 3311
King George	020 8983 8000
Loughton Hall Clinic, Rectory Lane	020 8272 4600
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Roding (Private)	020 8551 1100
St Margaret's & Primary Care Trust	01992 561666
Silverthorn Centre, Chingford	020 8529 3706
Wanstead	020 8532 2711
Whipps Cross	020 8539 5522

## SPORT

David Lloyd Centre	020 8559 8466
Essex School of Swimming	020 8505 9436
Loughton Cricket Club	020 8502 2064
Loughton Rugby Club	020 8504 0065
Loughton Bowling Club	020 8508 3546

Roding Valley Cricket Club	020 8506 1001
Roding Valley Tennis Centre	020 8505 4008
South Loughton Cricket Club	020 8530 2200

## ADVICE, HELP & INFORMATION

Citizens Advice Bureau	020 8502 0031
Epping Forest College	020 8508 8311
Family Care Counselling Service	020 8502 2714
Loughton Information Centre	01992 564808
Loughton Job Centre	020 8258 4740
Trading Standards Office	01245 341800
Social Security, Department of (Wentworth House)	020 8532 4200
Samaritans	020 8520 9191
SSAFA, Forces Help	020 8508 8960

## TRAVEL & TOURISM

Arriva Herts & Essex	01279 426349
Arriva London North East	020 8595 3088
Essex Traveline	08457 000 333
Gatwick Airport	01293 535353
Heathrow Airport	020 8759 4321
London Regional Transport	020 7222 1234
Luton Airport	01582 405100
National Express (Victoria Coach Station)	0990 808 080
National Railways Enquiry Line	0345 484 950
Stansted Airport	01279 680500
Thamesway	01245 353104
Tourist Information Centre	01992 652295

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

British Gas	08459 555208
London Electricity	0800 096 9000
Thames Water	08459 200 800

## COMMUNITY

Care & Repair Service	01992 564086
Churches Together in Loughton	020 8508 0811
Epping Forest CVS	01992 564178
Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau	01992 564256
Royal British Legion	020 8508 5044

## CINEMAS

ABC (South Woodford)	020 8989 3463
Odeon (Gants Hill)	020 8554 2452
UCI (Lee Valley)	0870 603 4567
Virgin (Harlow)	0870 505 0007

## BREAKDOWN SERVICES

AA	0800 887766
RAC	0800 828282

## LOCAL AMENITY REFUSE POINTS

Chigwell (closed Bank Holidays)	Luxborough Lane
Ongar	Mill Lane
Waltham Abbey	Brooker Road

For enquiries and opening time details, call Epping Forest District Council.

## Editor's notes

THE Summer is upon us – a welcome season, but sadly it brings with it the perennial problem of motorbikes on our open spaces, especially the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. Their behaviour is not only unpleasant for everyone who is out for a

quiet walk, a game of cricket or a family picnic, but has the potential to cause accidents. The Town Council has been working with the local police to deal with the problem, but it is an uphill struggle. If you see motorbikes on the Recreation Ground, or people pulling down fences with the obvious intention of gaining illegal access, don't wait and phone the Town Council the

next day – call the police immediately.

We have finally managed to get our new play equipment installed on the Felstead Road playground. Watching the work going on, local people were keenly anticipating its completion, and the equipment has already been well used.

It certainly looks very inviting with its bright

colours and stylish shapes.

Unlike other parts of the Epping Forest district, there have been no local elections in Loughton this May, so all our local councillors remain as before. However, following our Annual Meeting on 21 May, there could be some changes in committee memberships and chairmen.

**Louise Fuller**  
Town Clerk

# Parents need not tough it out



**P**ARENTING does not come with an instruction book. Without the Rough Guide, all parents can do is tough it out.

Have you been there, done that? That's where you can help Home-Start Epping Forest help families in the same situation.

This is the local branch of the national charity Home-Start, set up in 1973 as a national organisation to offer support to fami-

lies with at least one child under five, who were experiencing difficulties of any kind – from isolation to post-natal depression to multiple births.

Support is offered via home-visiting volunteers and family groups.

In earlier days, extended families were more likely to offer support.

Today, families are scattered across the globe. This is where

the Home-Start volunteers can help. As a volunteer, you visit 'your' family from around two hours weekly, with as much or as little emotional or practical support as both parties are comfortable with.

You might be someone to play with the kids while mum makes the shopping list, the chilli or the curtains, or someone to bounce childcare ideas around with. You play it by ear.

But Home-Start needs those volunteers whose qualifications are the fact that they have been there and done that.

Volunteers are first given a full preparation course and there's always plenty of support from Home-Start Epping Forest's co-ordinators.

Use those skills you acquired in the kindergarten of life. Call Home-Start Epping Forest on 020 8502 5242.

## Grove opens in honour of war heroes



From left: Paul Roden (Loughton Town Council), Jo Price (Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau), volunteer Harry Harris, Sarah Smith (EF Volunteer Bureau), Bruce Keeling (Prince's Trust) and Sue Rigley (Corporation of London)

**O**N 7 June, the Loughton Town Council Chairman will perform the opening ceremony for the Millennium Remembrance Grove, on Hillyfields.

The Essex Regiment Corps of Drums and Rev Nigel Howarth will attend the ceremony, to start at 2pm.

The grove was originally the Royal British Legion's idea and the Legion is not only sending representatives but also a standard bearer for the event.

Local residents and groups who subscribed to the grove have been invited, and all townspeople are welcome.

Two interpretation boards telling how the grove was conceived are in place and a

book of dedication recording the subscriptions made can be viewed at the Town Council offices following the ceremony, when refreshments will be served.

■ On 29 October, more than 100 young volunteers took part in Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau's 'Make a Difference Day', during which volunteers worked in charity shops, put together Christmas boxes to send to eastern Europe, helped redecorate St Clare Hospice and gardened at Copped Hall, Epping, as part of dozens of activities across the area.

Volunteers donned overalls and planted more than 2,000 daffodil bulbs in the Millennium Remembrance Grove, pictured.

The result was a splendid display in the spring, helped along by the unseasonably good weather. The bulbs will enhance the grove for many years to come.

## Deadline dates

Edition	Copy deadline
September	21 July
December	20 October

Further copies of *Think Loughton* may be obtained from Loughton Town Council at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, or from Debden or Loughton libraries.

Please note that we will not accept unattributed articles for publication.

# GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

## LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ  
Tel: 020 8508 4200 Fax: 020 8508 4400

Web: <http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk>

Email: [loughton\\_tc@compuserve.com](mailto:loughton_tc@compuserve.com)

### BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Joyce M Barnett  
59 Colson Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3RL

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180  
(Council Chairman and F&GP Committee)  
4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Thomas G Owen 020 8508 6916  
(Chairman, Planning Committee; EH&L)  
15 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

Cllr Marion E Taylor 020 8508 5152  
(Chairman, Community; Planning Committee)  
52 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NA

### ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr Kay F Ellis 020 8508 6018  
(Planning and F&GP Committees)  
31 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386  
(Council Vice-chairman, F&GP Committee)  
32 Millsmead Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LR

Cllr Christopher C Pond 020 8508 2361  
(Chairman, EH&L Committee)  
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton,  
Essex IG10 1HP

Cllr Robert J Wilmot 020 8508 1987  
(EH&L and Planning Committees)  
50 Baldwins Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SF

### DEBDEN GREEN WARD

Cllr Michael D Hogan 020 8502 5483  
(Planning Committee) 3 Debden House Cottages,  
Debden Green, Loughton, Essex IG10 2NZ

Cllr Montague W Juniper JP 020 8508 5930  
(Vice-chairman, F&GP; Community Committee)  
31 Alderton Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EQ

Cllr Michael G Sellaars 020 8502 0782  
(EH&L Committee)  
76 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EF

Cllr Victoria Wisenfeld 020 8502 1025  
(Community Committee)  
The Garden Cottage, The Warren, Loughton,  
Essex IG10 4RN

### ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Anthony T Lee 020 8508 7649  
(Community Committee)  
33 Priory Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AF

Cllr Pamela Meadows 020 8508 4136  
(Vice-chairman, Community Committee)  
98 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EJ

Cllr Michael W Wardle 020 8508 2771  
(Planning Committee)  
61 The Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HG

**Please note: committee membership may have  
changed since publication. Please telephone the  
council for details.**

### FOREST WARD

Cllr Suzanne M Harper 020 8508 4770  
(F&GP and Community Committees)  
23 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

Cllr Judith P Woodman 020 8502 0785  
(EH&L Committee)  
164 Forest Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1EG

Cllr Leslie J Harris 020 8508 1333  
(Chairman, F&GP Committee)  
32 Upper Park, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EQ

### RODING WARD

Cllr Edward V Boatman 020 8508 1890  
24 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3ED

Cllr Larry M Ford 020 8508 4344  
(EH&L Committee)  
47 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EH

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548  
(Vice-Chairman, EH&L; F&GP Committee)  
1 Avondale Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 3BT

Cllr Betty R Siggers 020 8508 2100  
(Planning and Community Committees)  
10 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LG

EHL= Environment, Heritage & Leisure  
F&GP= Finance & General Policy

## EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

### ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Anthony T Lee 020 8508 7649  
33 Priory Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AF

Cllr Dorothy F Paddon 020 8508 2238  
12 Forest View Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DX

### FOREST WARD

Cllr Kenneth N Faulkner 020 8508 1215  
Briar Patch, Park Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4ES

Cllr Peter J House 020 8532 1275  
10 Connaught Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DP

### ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr John A Markham 020 8508 2534  
77 Queen's Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RR

Cllr Caroline P Pond 020 8508 2361  
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10  
1HP

### RODING WARD

Cllr Stanley R Goodwin 020 8508 2821  
56 River Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LH

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548  
1 Avondale Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 3BT

### ALDERTON WARD

Cllr Paul A Bostock 020 8508 3482  
91 Queens Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RR

Cllr Maureen Boatman 020 8508 1890  
24 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3ED

### BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180  
4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Margaret Owen 020 8508 6916  
15 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

### FAIRMEAD WARD

Cllr Stephen W Barnes 020 8502 1152  
34 Durnell Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1TG

Cllr Albert G Farren 01992 716955  
25 Paternoster Close Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

### ST JOHN'S DIVISION

Cllr Colin Finn 020 8508 5319  
16 Church Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LQ

### ST MARY'S DIVISION

Cllr David Linnell 020 8508 2932  
20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN

## PARLIAMENTARY & EUROPEAN

### MP FOR EPPING FOREST

Eleanor Laing MP 020 7219 3000  
House of Commons,  
London SW1A 0AA

### MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Robert Sturdy	Eryl McNally	Jeffrey Tittford
Andrew Duff	Bashir Khanbhai	Richard Howitt
Christopher Beazley	Geoffrey Van Orden	

# Borders Lane set to be hub of local community

## **T**HE Town Council held its Annual Town Meeting on the evening of 25 March at Wesley Hall.

The Town Council Chairman and committee chairmen each gave their reports on their activities over the last year (see pages 7 and 10).

Questions were asked by members of the public on issues as wide ranging as vandalism in the Broadway area, plans for the former United Reform Church site, the tennis courts, bins and motor bikes on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, the cycle path in Rectory Lane and the roadworks around Sainsbury's new store.

Essex Police Inspector Andy

## Youth Service bosses outline plans for church site

Loveridge was present to answer some of the public's concerns about crime in the area. He also took the opportunity to report that the Loughton Police Station custody suite is reopening.

The invited speakers were Nigel Varnam and David Stone, both of Essex County Council Youth Service.

Nigel told the meeting that he had been involved in youth work for 26 years. He described this work as "getting young

people involved by making it fun and interesting, and so helping them to flourish and gain self esteem".

He went on to explain that Essex County Council's youth service works alongside the schools with 13 to 19-year-olds, and supports the Prince's Trust.

The service also operates a complementary education scheme for children who are excluded from school.

Priority issues include health, emotional and sexual relationships, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and the youth service has set up a range of information and support and a webpoint.

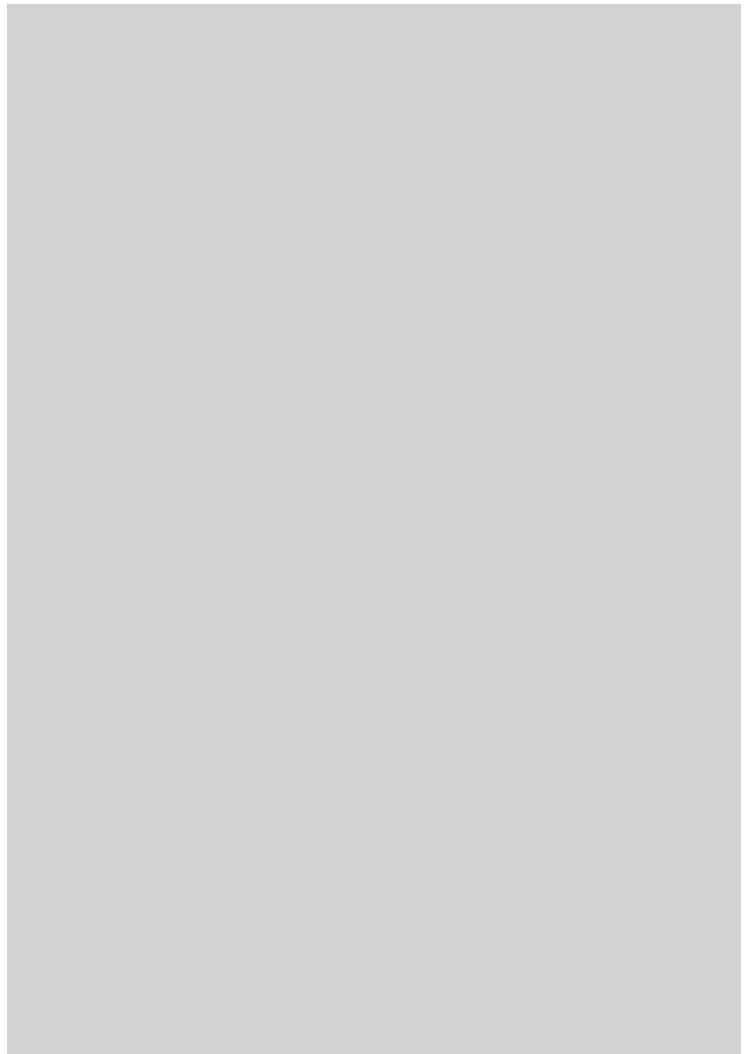
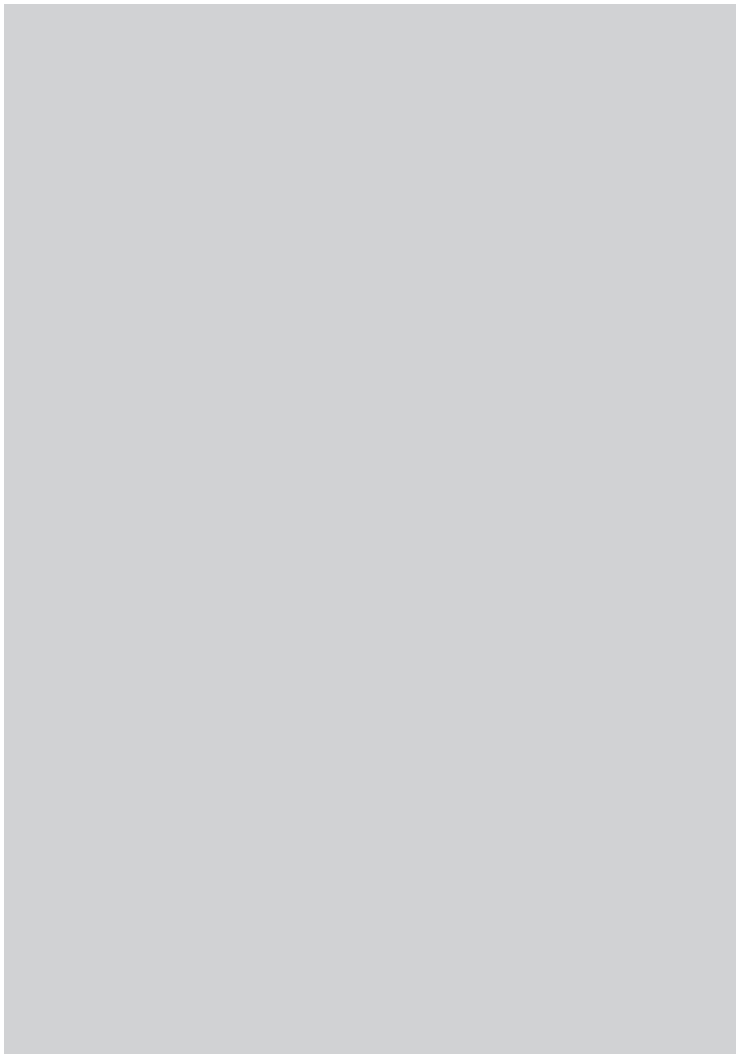
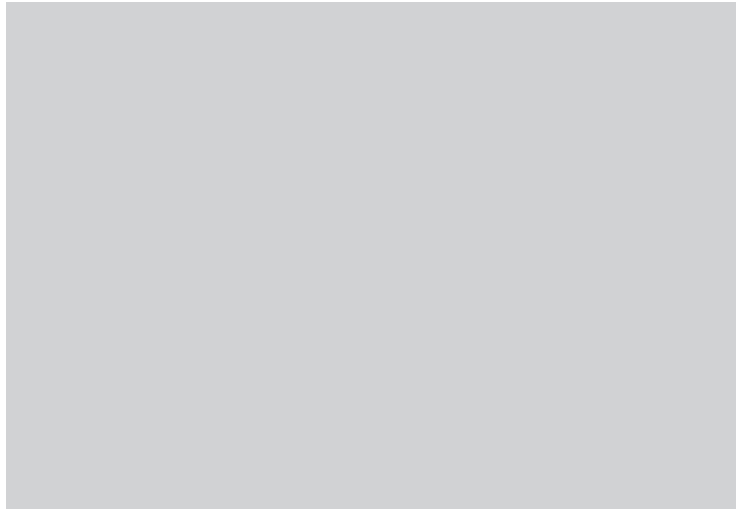
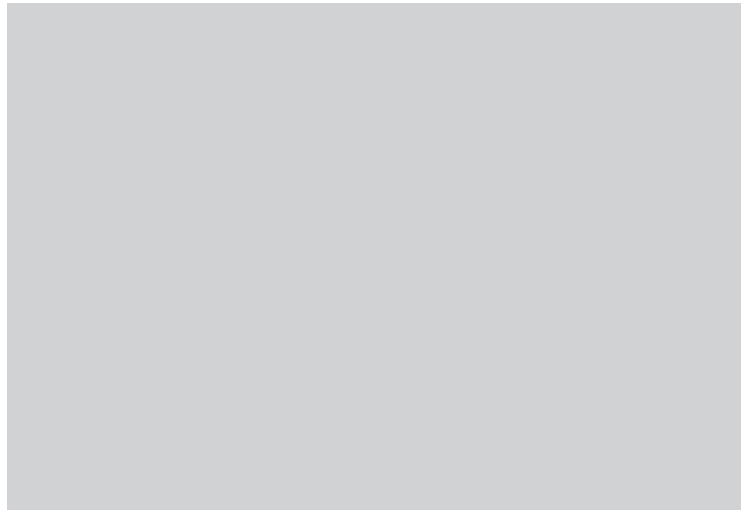
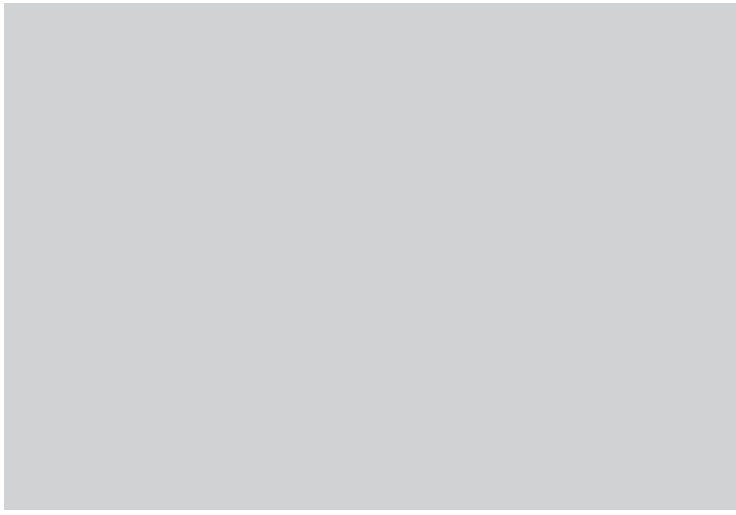
They also take young people on prison visits.

David explained that the proposed new community centre, at the former United Reform Church in Borders Lane, which has been acquired by the Town Council, is a prime site for a youth/community facility.

This is because it is centrally located and will become Essex County Council Youth Service's centre of operations in Epping Forest.

He referred to the Prince's Trust's 12-point programme to kick-start youngsters' careers, and added that it is envisaged that the new centre will provide not only youth but also community facilities – Essex County Council being

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continued from page 5 responsible for the provision of youth services and Loughton Town Council providing the community services.

The exact nature of the services provided from the site is still to be agreed, but David told the meeting that a survey had been carried out among students of Epping Forest College to ascertain what facilities young people would like to see based there.

## Councillors reflect on a busy year

### ■ Council Chairman, Cllr Joan Davis:



This has been an interesting year. We have acquired the former United Reform Church in Borders Lane and, in due course, the site

will become a centre for community use, for young and old alike.

The Willingale Road playing fields are now ours, having been purchased from Essex County Council. We hope the adjacent land, Lady Whitaker's Mead, can be set aside for a local cemetery.

There is a lot of work to be done before this can happen, but we need a local cemetery for local needs.

The Town Council is discussing the future of Willingale Road allotments with Epping Forest District Council – the land should have been

passed to us years ago.

I have enjoyed being Town Council Chairman this year. I have represented the town on several occasions, including laying the wreath at the War Memorial in November.

This year, new names have been added to the memorial. Two plaques with names of those local people killed in the first and second world wars, were dedicated.

I attended the opening of the Specsavers shop in the High Road, and I presented prizes for the Christmas Card competition, as well as awards following the Jubilee Fun Day in the Broadway.

Recently, I attended a meeting to discuss the siting of the interpretation centre for the nature reserve. The majority of those present wanted the centre located on the other side of the M11 motorway.

### ■ Finance & General Policy Committee Chairman, Cllr Leslie Harris:



Many of the things we have achieved, or tried to achieve, aren't simply the province of a few people in a committee room, but

involve almost all the Town Council – and beyond.

My committee is charged with monitoring and controlling the Town Council's spending, once it has set – after debate with all the other committees – what we all agree on as a fair and balanced precept.

However, in any year, there are things you cannot budget

for, but have to spend on nevertheless.

In some of these, it has been prudent to attempt to mitigate the cost through insurance: the vandalism at the Roding Valley changing rooms last September cost £2,000 to remedy, in addition to the cost in officers' time – time they could have spent far more productively for the local community.

Another act of vandalism last August which destroyed so many trees at the Millennium Grove, cost £400 – and again, that's not adding in staff time and the frustration of seeing cherished community projects mindlessly ruined.

Part of the precept raised within the Council Tax (and I should emphasise that our spending accounts for just a little over three per cent of Loughton residents' total Council Tax) is put back into the community in the form of grants to local bodies.

Last year, for example, grants were made to organisations as diverse as Loughton Stroke Club, the Family Care Counselling Service, Epping Forest Alzheimers Society, Essex Handicraft Association (Acorns), Loughton Citizens Advice Bureau, the Kidz Club, and some others besides.

And now for some figures: for the 2003/04 financial year, the precept rose by 4.4 per cent. For a Band D property, this equates to an increase of £1.68 a year – or less than half a penny a day.

The Town Council increase of 4.4 per cent in its precept is also much lower than the precepts for any of the other bodies that

make up the Council Tax we pay.

Bearing in mind the responsibilities the Town Council has for the Roding Valley, including the playgrounds, cemetery, halls and allotments – as well as the many projects it undertakes to the benefit of the community, I consider that we have achieved much in holding the increase to a reasonable level.

This also applies to staffing levels, for which the committee is also responsible. We currently have an establishment equivalent to 5.9 full-time posts. I believe this reflects appropriately on our areas of responsibility and activities.

Just a word before I finish about the much-talked-about ethical framework. This was introduced in May last year, and concerns a code of conduct which bears on a councillor's personal and/or prejudicial interests relating to council matters.

Nationally, some doubts were expressed as to whether this would work, and might even deter people from serving as councillors. I am pleased to report that it appears to be working properly and to be causing no problems within Loughton Town Council.

Finally, I would like to thank my vice-chairman and all the other committee members for their support during this past year.

And thank you, too, to the Town Council officers for all the help they continue to give, and the hard work and commitment they show

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## Willingale Road playing field

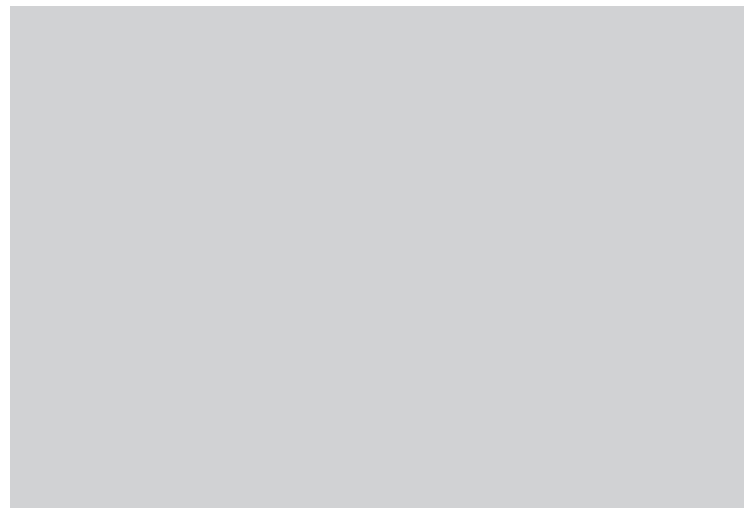
### **F**OLLOWING the Town Council's purchase of the field, we have been running it directly from the office for the first season (2002/03).

As an initial step towards possible ultimate independent management of the playing field, the Environment Heritage and Leisure Committee has decided to set up a management committee.

Its members will comprise representatives from the Coun-

cil and also from users. We would like to include casual users of the area on this committee.

If you use the field, maybe to walk the dog, go for a stroll with the family, or just as a place to kick a ball about, and you think you would like to sit on the management committee and have your say, please contact the Town Clerk, making sure you give details of your name, address, and telephone number.



## Dates for the diary

■ **19 May, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, Essex Curios, talk by Mr C Davis, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **31 May, 2.50-4.50pm:** Loughton & Epping Workers' Educational Association, Any Questions. Tickets £2.50/£3 on the door. Details: 01992 560119.

■ **2 Jun, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, Looking Lovely, demonstration by Emma Black, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **6 Jun, 7.30pm for 8pm:** St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood – Edwardian Dinner incorporating Titanic theme. Tel: 01279 413590

■ **13 Jun, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society Preparation for International Museums Weekend. Come and see how we set-up a Special Event Station. The Old Rectory, All Saints' Church, Chigwell Row. Marc Litchman: 020 8502 1645.

■ **14 & 15 Jun:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society, International Museums Weekend – Operating from Blake Hall Gardens. See 13 Jun for contact.

■ **16 Jun:** St John's Wives Group, Memories of Childhood, an outing to the House on the Hill Toy Museum.

■ **20 Jun, 3pm:** 'Tea at Three' National Hospice Day. St Clare Hospice, tel: 01279 413590.

■ **22 Jun, 11am-3pm:** Midsummer Madness, Family fun day. Entry £1. St Clare Hospice, tel: 01279 413590.

■ **22 Jun:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society, Abridge Village Fete. Come for

a chat and a cuppa! See 13 Jun for contact.

■ **7 Jul, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, 'Putting on the Ritz'. Talk by Carol Harris. St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane

■ **12 Jul, 6-11pm:** Blaze Fire and Ice Walk, sponsored walk on broken glass. St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood. Tel: 01279 413590

■ **21 Jul, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, Another Year Over. Cheese & Wine Evening. St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **27 Jul, 11am-4pm:** St Clare Hospice Fete, Hastingwood. Tel: 01279 413590.

■ **2 Aug, 7.30pm-12 midnight:** Friends of St Clare, Bank of England, Debden Meal and Disco. Contact: Marilyn Coleclough on 020 8508 6115.

■ **Every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday morning:** Walk with the West Essex Ramblers. New walkers always welcome (sorry no dogs). Contact: Pat or John Juchau, 020 8502 1628.

■ **Every second & fourth Thurs, 8pm:** Debden House Quilters, details: 020 8508 4873.

■ **Alternate Fridays, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society meets at The Old Rectory, All Saints' Church, Chigwell Row. Details: 020 8502 1645.

■ **Every Sunday, 3.30-5.30pm (term time):** Kidz Club for children aged 6-12. Details: 020 8502 0695.

■ **Every Sunday, 7.30-10.30pm:** Dance – ballroom, Latin and popular sequence, Victory Hall, Hainault Road, Chigwell. Admission: £3 + refreshments. Details: 020 8508 0313.

■ **First Sunday of month at 3.30pm:** Church

Service, St Michael's Church, Roding Road, Loughton. Friendly, informal service, welcomes people with learning difficulties and their friends. Lasts about half an hour.

■ **First Sunday of month (until Dec), 9am-2pm:** Farmers' Market, Centric Parade, High Road. Contact: Suzanne Harper on 020 8508 4770. ■ **Every Monday, 7.15-9.15pm:** Roding Players Orchestra rehearses at Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, Loughton. New players welcome. No audition. Call Miles Harwood on 020 8505 4329 for details.

■ **First + third Monday, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane. ■ **Every Monday, 8-10pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir meets at Epping Methodist Church Hall. New members welcome, especially tenors and basses. Details: 020 8508 3539.

■ **Every Monday, 9.30pm:** Loughton Mountaineering Club, Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane, Loughton. All hill walkers and climbers welcome. Call Jeff Harris 020 8508 2888.

■ **First Tuesday of month, 8pm:** Royal British Legion Branch and Club meetings, 118 Church Hill, Loughton.

■ **Second Tuesday of month, 7.30pm:** Forest Philatelic Society meets, Centenary Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Details: 020 8508 1244.

■ **Every Wednesday (term time), 9.30am-11.15am:** Trinity Toddlers, Mannock Drive. Contact: Isobel Jackson on 020 8508 3317.

■ **Every Thursday, 12.45pm:** Rotary Club of Loughton meets Roebuck Hotel, North End, Buckhurst Hill. Call: 020 8504 6367.

■ **Second Thursday of month, 8pm:** Loughton

Historical Society, Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton. Guest visitors welcome on payment of £1.50.

■ **Every Friday 7.30pm:** Kingsley Spiritualist Church, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road

**LABOUR COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES:**

First Saturday in each month:

■ **9.15-10.15am:** Oakwood Stores, Longcroft Rise  
 ■ **From 10.30am:** The Broadway shopping parade (under the walk-through)

Second Saturday in each month:

■ **9.30-10am:** outside Londis, Valley Hill  
 ■ **10.30-11am:** outside the former Mother Hubbard pub, Valley Hill

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Jun	2	Planning
	11	Community
	16	Planning
	30	Planning
Jul	2	Environment, Heritage & Leisure
	9	Finance & General Policy
	10	Community Forum#
	14	Planning
	23	Council
	28	Planning
Aug	18	Planning
Sept	3	Community
	8	Planning

All meetings at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, at 7.30pm except # at 8pm.

Copy date for next issue: 21 July. Next issue covers September to early December. Call 020 8508 4200 to add entries.

continued from page 7 throughout the year.

**■ Environment, Heritage & Leisure Committee Chairman, Cllr Christopher Pond:**



The major issues dealt with this year have included the improvement and future planning of Lady

Whitaker's Mead and the Willingale Road Playing Fields, in which the committee has been assisted by the Willingale Road Working Group. We have taken the first steps in consulting on establishing a new burial ground on the former. A permissive footpath has been established on the perimeter of the playing fields.

The committee has been concerned by Epping Forest DC's reluctance to transfer the Roding Valley open lands and the Willingale Road allotments to Loughton Town Council, and a draft constitution for a Roding Valley Joint Committee has been discussed and issued for consultation.

The committee also expressed great concern about road safety and has tried to encourage Essex County Council to promote traffic calming in Loughton, and to extend gritting and salting in winter.

The committee's heritage work involved erecting three blue plaques. Only one has materialised owing to reluctance from property owners, and another is in the pipeline. We also agreed on replacement of concrete lamp-posts in conservation areas. We

supported the Christmas lights, and the High Road display in particular attracted a very positive public response.

The committee adopted measures to deal with irregular access to the Roding Road allotment site. We agreed, subject to certain provisos, to adopt the Loughton Brook Enhancement Scheme when completed by the Roding Group.

The Willingale Road playing field changing rooms were completely refurbished and overhauled. We regret the vandalism, in these facilities on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

Comments were made on the Orbit and LOIS multi-modal studies. As Chairman, I wrote to district and county councillors about the Central Line's scandalous two-month stoppage, which has caused such harm to Loughton, and the new leader of Epping Forest District Council incorporated much of this into his open letter to London Underground's managing director Paul Godier.

On 30 June, the committee organised a service at Loughton Methodist Church for the dedication of additional names of World War I and all World War II names on the War Memorial. This was a debt of honour long overdue, and we are glad to have set things to rights.

In March, it was announced in the House of Commons that town councils, when they attain Quality Council Status, can assume a number of functions from districts councils. I have every confidence Loughton Town Council could and will

take on some of these functions and discharge them more effectively to the benefit of the town. This will be a major item of concern to the committee.

Many thanks to all councillors and officers who have helped the committee.

**■ Community Committee Chairman, Cllr Marion Taylor:**



Over the last year, your councillors have judged the Christmas Card competition and walked around Loughton to

judge the Best Dressed Christmas shop window.

Our committee goes out to meet the people of Loughton with our Community Forum meetings. At one of these, Cllr Robert Glozier spoke about the decriminalisation of parking. Community development worker Monica Needs spoke to the committee of her work with voluntary organisations.

The Millennium Remembrance Grove Book of Dedication has been ordered. Over the past year, some of the grove's trees were vandalised. We hope that as the trees develop, they will attract young and old to come and admire their beauty. A ceremony to unveil the story boards takes place on 7 June.

We have also looked at Emergency Planning, Focus on Flooding. The town magazine *Think Loughton* was entered into a national competition and was highly commended. It goes into every home and business in Loughton. If you would like to write an article for *Think Loughton*, please send it to our editor, Louise Fuller.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their time and help over the last year.

**■ Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr Thomas Owen:**



My thanks to all members of the committee for their input and co-operation, making the experience of

chairing the meetings a very positive one. The planning

committee sits every two weeks and usually has a lengthy agenda. We have had differences of opinion, but always managed to reach a consensus after constructive debate.

Over the past year, the public has become aware of our existence and as a result have exercised their rights to speak both for and against planning applications. I would like to make a few observations on points often raised.

**1** The committee makes decisions based on a framework laid out in the Epping Forest District Local Plan. This document is available in all local libraries and the Town and District Council offices. It is helpful if comments made when addressing the committee are related to the Local Plan as this aids discussion and helps to fine tune the arguments.

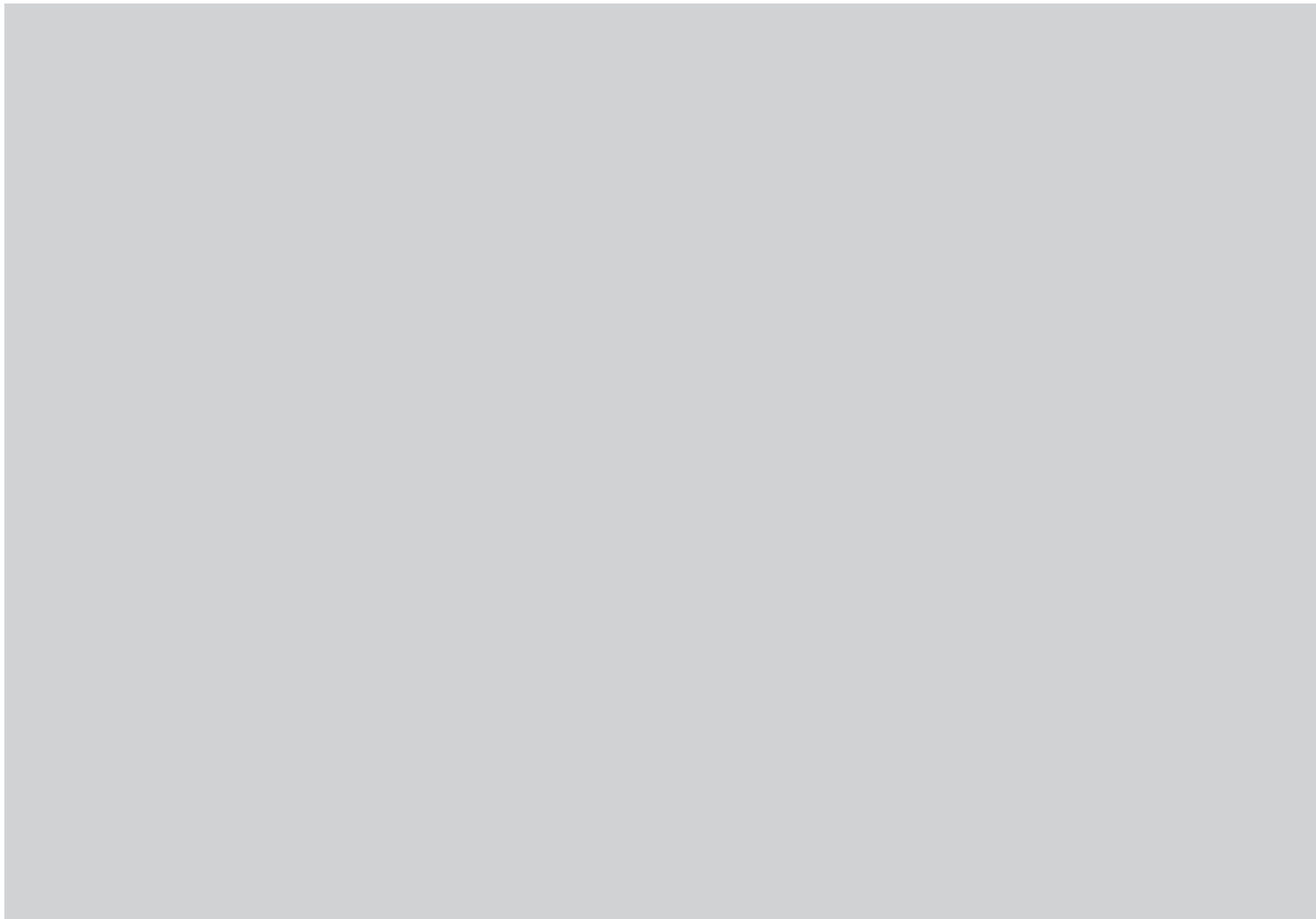
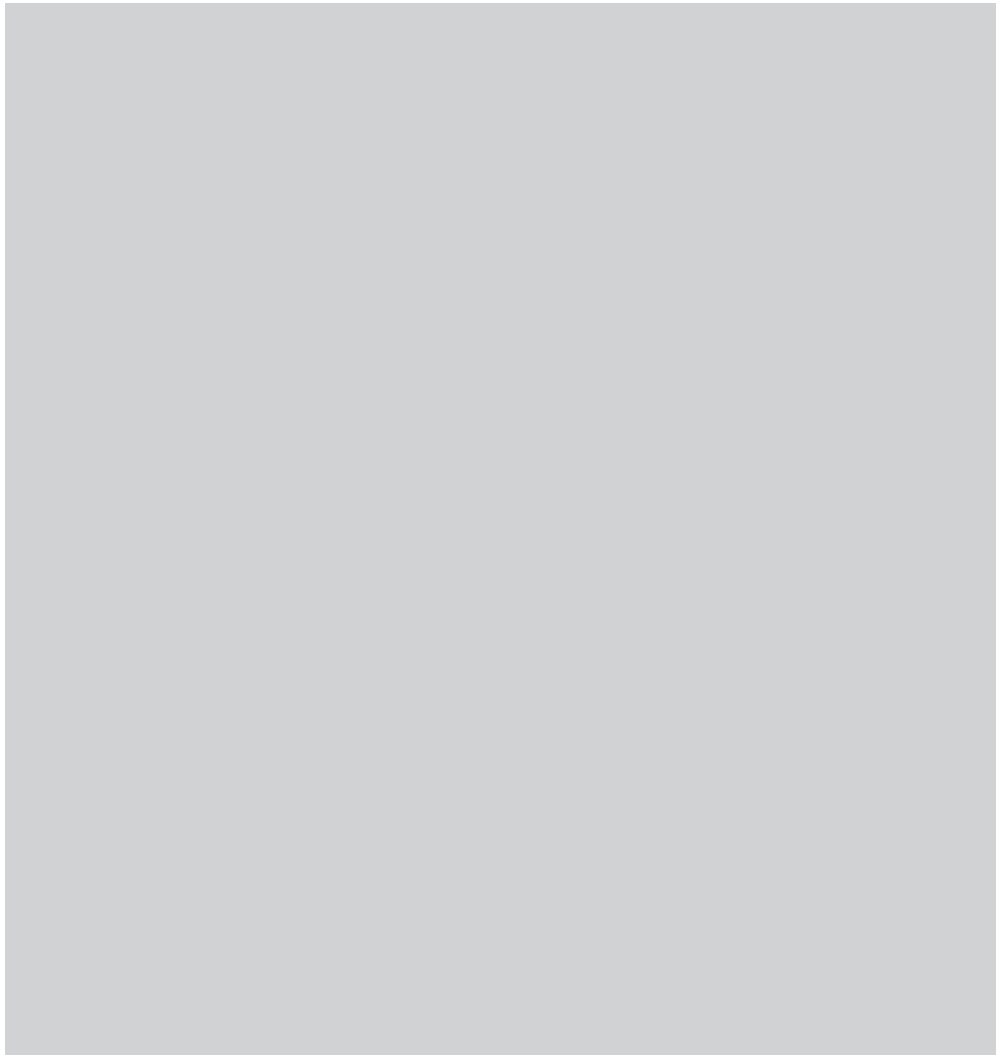
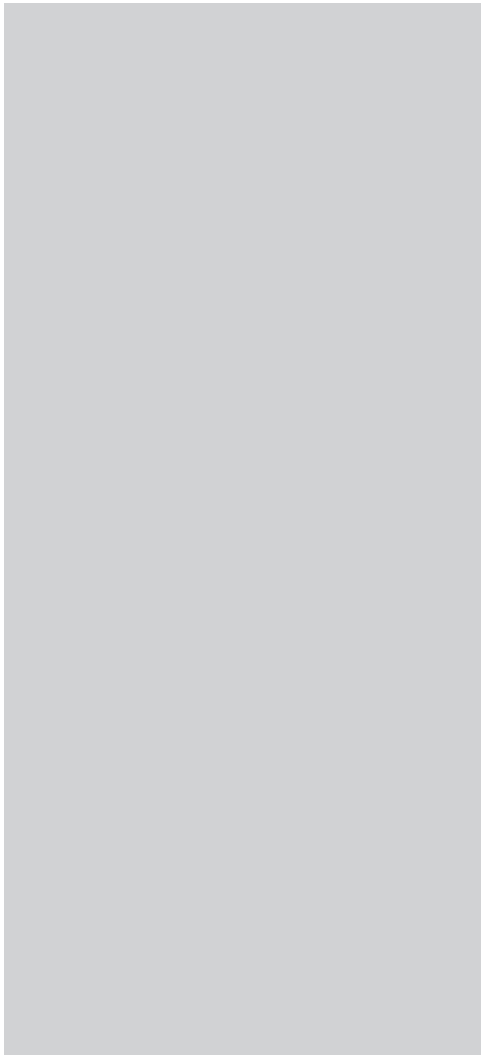
**2** One popular misconception seems to be that the applicant must own the land or property for which an application is made. This is not the case. For a fee, a planning application can be made even though there may be contentious civil issues around ownership and rights.

**3** Any member of the public has the right to address the committee regarding a planning application and has a maximum of three minutes in which to make their point. In addition, town councillors can represent an applicant or objector at the district council's plans meeting. Rules govern speaking at meetings – information is available from either town or district council officers.

**4** I suggest anyone wishing to support or contest an application can obtain a free copy of the Council for the Protection of Rural England document *Responding to Planning Applications*. This is a plain English booklet available from the CPRE on 020 7967 6433 or [info@cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@cpre.org.uk) and is a helpful and comprehensive guide to the way planning legislation works.

Once again, I would thank my colleagues and the Town Council staff for making the job of chairing the plans committee a pleasant experience.

**LOUGHTON SPORTS CENTRE**



**FOSKETT MARR  
GADSBY & HEAD**

## Let still waters flow

**L**OUGHTONIANS have a restored drinking fountain that is as dry as the proverbial American Prohibition Period bar.

Let pure waters flow again. It is debatable whether local tap water from the mains (which cynics suggest is like recycled urine) is the popular choice of water supply for our fountain.

Why not use naturally-cleansed waters from the subterranean reservoir that lies below us?

Loughton's drinking fountain

was formerly supplied by an over 1,000ft deep bore hole from levels well below the chalk stratum.

This could be a practical solution and would arouse a lot of interest and enthusiasm among students studying geology as part of their syllabus – and by environmentalists who would doubtless be supportive of such a project.

Let still and pure waters flow again.

**This is an extract of a letter from local resident Mr P Relph**

## Hunt for a new warden

**M**ANY people were pleased with the appointment of a park warden in April last year.

However, the postholder, Danny Carr, resigned from the Town Council in March to become a driver for the Epping Forest Community Transport

scheme. We wish him well. Meanwhile, the Town Council has increased the hours of the job and widened the duties. The post will be filled as soon as possible.

It is hoped this will be quickly agreed and the post readvertised.

**DIRECT TRADE  
WINDOWS & DOORS**

# Come and savour the good life...

SUMMER is beginning and you could be looking forward to picking some luscious strawberries, tomatoes, sweetcorn, peas, runner beans and many more.

Or, you could be digging up those first early potatoes with that nice earthy smell, cooking them with a sprig of mint and serving them with a little melted butter. Mmmm!

No chemicals here! If you want a lifestyle change to a healthier one, you can find it on the Loughton Potato Ground (LPG) at Stony Path. You can take a half or quarter of a plot to grow a few veggies or a full size one that would have room for fruit as well to help you be self-sufficient in your own home-grown food.

You can bring the family – and a picnic – and stay all day. Those small fingers are excellent at sowing seeds and children enjoy seeing how the plants have grown each time you visit – adults too.

The children can scratch their name on a marrow or courgette and watch it grow! They will love growing giant sunflowers and measuring

themselves against them – all good family fun. There are lots of birds and wildlife to see, with wonderful views, friendly people, it is a nice place to be.

If you want a bit of “the good life”, come and join us on the LPG. Give Ken Burgess, the Secretary, a ring on 020 8508 4198.

**Diane Rhodes**

# Hats off for your memories

**I**n the Autumn 2002 Think Loughton, we asked for details of the hat factory formerly located behind Loughton Town Council's offices in Buckingham Court and the shops in Goldings Hill and Lower Road.

Various people contacted Cllr Christopher Pond – for which many thanks – with reminiscences.

The factory appears to have been established in the 1950s in premises once occupied by the Paddock Engineering Works.

It was run by a Mr and Mrs Jaffe and at first made ladies' hats. A good deal of the work was done by outworkers round and about Loughton.

Feathers were delivered by van and had to be sorted and curled in the homeworker's

house or flat. They were attached to the form of the hat with glue and liners inserted.

The rate of pay was apparently 2s 0d a hat.

There were also in-workers, largely, says one contact, nimble-fingered apprentices from London who commuted out to Loughton.

Another worker remembers ostrich and marabou feathers being sorted, treated and used. The hats were sold in the “big London stores”.

Apparently, in the late 1960s, the Jaffes retired to Dorset, where they ran a gallery in Bridport – and still used feathers artistically.

The factory was taken over by friends or family of the Jaffes and, from 1970 to 1985, also made feather bonnets under government contract

for the Welsh and Scots Guards.

These bonnets were made on the premises, using aluminium moulds heated by gas.

The hat factory appears to

have closed in the mid-1980s, after which it was given over to various light industrial and warehousing uses.

In 2003, planning permission was refused for its conversion to a fitness club.

## Viewpoint

# Are you missing Council Tax Benefit?

## CAB opening times

■ St Mary's Parish Centre, Loughton High Road: Mondays to Fridays.

■ Buckhurst Hill Information Centre: Tuesday mornings.

■ Tel: 020 8502 0031.

We regret to announce that the part time office at Debden Library has had to be closed as the Bureau was forced to make economies due to a cut in the grant by Epping Forest District Council for the year 2003/04. Existing client case records have been transferred to Loughton. Advice, and further details of opening hours, are available on 020 8502 0031.

## ACCORDING to the government, Britain's poorest households are failing to claim nearly £5bn in means-tested benefits!

And it seems that the people who are losing out most are the over 60s. In particular, many pensioners don't realise they could claim some help towards their council tax.

At Loughton CAB, we often find out more or less by accident that people are not claiming Council Tax Benefit, when they come in for advice about something else.

Council Tax bills have risen significantly in all the local

authorities in this part of the world, so it is a real shame if people aren't getting as much help as they can.

Whether you can get help with your Council Tax bill depends on both your savings and income.

Many people who have a bit of money in the building society, or who have a company pension on top of their state one, don't realise that they may be entitled to help.

As an example, let's look at a couple over retirement age with £12,000 in the bank who receives a company pension of £50 per week, as well as their state pension of around £125

per week. If they had a typical Council Tax bill of around £1,150, they should qualify for Council Tax Benefit of some £700, leaving them only £450 to pay themselves.

Council Tax Benefit can be claimed from Epping Forest District Council. Or, if you would like the CAB to work out whether you would qualify for any assistance, please contact us – we are happy to help and all our advice is on an entirely confidential basis.

**Alison McBrayne**  
Manager, Loughton CAB

## Contacting us

WE welcome contributions to *Think Loughton*, but do not guarantee their inclusion and reserve the right to edit them.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of Loughton Town Council.

# Swings and roundabouts in Felstead Road

**A BRAND new play-ground with lots of inviting equipment has been installed in Felstead Road and is now open for local children.**

The area was a playground some years ago, but fell into disrepair. It has now been completely refurbished by Loughton Town Council.

Local children and adults were consulted on the design and on the elements they like to see in a playground.

The eventual design is exciting and challenging, whilst also having regard to safety. The playground meets the EN1176, EN1177 and BS7188 standards.

There are swings for toddlers and older children, a see-saw

and a roundabout and a "multiplay" unit which incorporates climbing, a slide, a bridge, and a fireman's pole.

An innovation is "the fun run", a mini obstacle course with stepping stones, a revolving beam, cat walk and a snow board.

The play equipment is intended for children up to 12 years. There are seats where the mums and dads can rest while the children play.

The cost of the playground to the Town Council was just over £26,000.

As the playground is on the border with neighbouring Buckhurst Hill Parish Council, it contributed £5,000 towards the cost.

Loughton Town Council is

very pleased to have invested in this facility for local children, and wishes them all many hours of fun in the playground.

Pictured: Town Council Vice-Chairman Cllr Roger Pearce, Environment, Heritage & Leisure Committee Vice-Chairman Cllr Stephen Murray and local resident Sam Griffiths.



## Calling all 'expert' patients

THE Expert Patient Programme is a national NHS programme to help patients who suffer from a long-term medical condition to gain self-confidence and using simple skills take more control of their condition.

The programmes are free. For details, call expert patient trainers Pete Moore on 01245 295043 ([pete.moore@chelmsford-pcg.nhs.uk](mailto:pete.moore@chelmsford-pcg.nhs.uk)), David Matthews on 01245 295044 ([david.matthews@chelmsford-pcg.nhs.uk](mailto:david.matthews@chelmsford-pcg.nhs.uk)).