

Your Local Conservatives, Working for a Better Loughton

Rod Barrett, Loughton Branch Chairman



Dear Loughton Resident

As the new Conservative Loughton Branch Chairman my main aim while in office is get across to the electorate just how important it is that we have a much higher Conservative representation here in Loughton.

As a former District Councillor, I can categorically tell you that Independent groups cannot make the vital decisions that determine what happens here. On local planning issues where they do have an influence, the result speaks for itself, and in my opinion this has contributed to the deterioration of our High Road over the years.

We need Councillors who can lobby the District Council into getting things achieved for Loughton and that's the Conservatives. National politics aside, this is about local issues and as a lifelong resident, I want to start to get back the Loughton High Road we all loved and can be proud of again. Along with my local Councillor colleagues I will work hard to try to achieve this.

Rod

***We want to hear from you! If you have any issues or concerns,
or think we can help in any way, please get in touch***

Your Loughton Team

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Rod on the Epping Forest Local Plan

After many comments in the press about the Local Plan, here are the facts.

The 1998 Local Plan needs updating due to a rise in the population here in Epping Forest and this will allow us to protect the character of Loughton and the District for the next twenty years. Without a Local Plan in place we could be at the mercy of developers with different priorities to ours.

We have been gathering evidence, studying trends and collating info from interested parties, so we can include this in the Local Plan – most importantly we need your views, this is why we have been holding consultations all over the District.

This is a complex process, and no decisions will be taken until we have gone through the options rigorously. After that a "Preferred Options" document will be created and residents will again be consulted and asked for their views. This is estimated to be around the summer of 2013. The final outcome will be to create a formal plan which will be submitted to a Government Inspector for public examination.

This long process will ensure all views are taken into account and that we get it right for our future.

**Most
important
of all - we
need your
views**

Local News from your Conservative Councillors

Epping Forest District Council

Cllr. James Hart

Forest Ward
020 8502 5430
hartjmh@bloomberg.net



LICENSING IN LOUGHTON

Earlier this year, I invited my local residents to complete a survey on key local issues. The number one concern was the licensing of pubs and nightclubs along the High Road. In my election leaflet this May I promised to do what I could to improve the situation.

At the September meeting of Epping Forest's Licensing Committee I presented a motion asking them to set up a sub-committee to look into ways of improving the application process. Currently, cases from places such as *Luxe* and *Nu Bar* are considered by councillors living in all parts of Epping Forest, the meetings are held in the daytime, and residents are barely consulted.

My proposal was to move these meetings to the evening so that working councillors and residents can participate in discussions. I also suggested that immediate neighbours of such establishments should be notified in writing of any submissions. I thought these changes would improve local democracy.

Before submitting the Motion I contacted two senior LRA councillors, Ken Angold-Stephens and Caroline Pond, but to my dismay neither wished to support the Motion. At the recent Licensing meeting when my Motion was considered, the three LRA councillors present were basically observers rather than participants. This is despite the fact that in the preceding week several LRA councillors had assembled for a photograph in the local newspaper outside the former *Wheatshaf* pub to demonstrate their concern over extending its licensing hours and to demonstrate their solidarity with residents' anxieties!

Despite the lack of practical support from the LRA, I am pleased to say that the Motion was passed with the support of Conservative councillors from outside of Loughton. A subcommittee will now be set up to look into ways of improving the application process for the benefit of local residents, and I will let you know the outcome in due course.

Essex County Council

Cllr. Valerie Metcalfe

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POTHOLE RECOVERY

You may have read that the County Council is investing an additional £11 million into repairing potholes across Essex and I am making sure we get our fair share of that money here in our local area.

Although over 50,000 potholes were fixed last year, the damage to our road surfaces with the last two winters' bad weather conditions, has increased the need for repairs.

I don't suppose we are ever going to get all our side roads totally fixed, but I have to keep badgering and with the County's new process called *Jet Patcher*, this is supposed to allow repairs to be carried out quickly and reduce traffic disruption – and hopefully will be a 'right first time' approach.

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

Essex County Council has just announced plans to carry out a comprehensive review of its current speed management policy. There are genuine public concerns around speeding and road safety, so we need the ability to bring in lower speed limits, say 20mph, around schools or other hotspots where we can address the needs of both local communities and highway users in a flexible and pragmatic manner.

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

You may know that on 15 November this year there are to be elections for a Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex. This is part of the Government's programme of decentralisation, where power is returned to people and communities. The idea is that they will drive the fight against crime and ensure that the police are held to account by local people.

The issues that residents regularly raise are anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related crime and disorder, drug-related crime and young offenders – so, not surprisingly, these are the concerns that will top the list of things PCCs will want to take action on.

JOIN US TO HELP MAKE LOUGHTON A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE & WORK

We need your help. You can find out more about who we are and what we do, and keep up-to-date with local news on our website www.EppingForestConservatives.com. You can also join as a **Member** or even register as a **Supporter** for free. Alternatively, give us a call or write to Rod, or any of the Loughton Team at the address below.



TO FIND OUT MORE,

TO JOIN ONLINE OR TO REGISTER AS A SUPPORTER:

www.EppingForestConservatives.org.uk/Join-Us-Today

Or call 020 8508 6608 or write to EFCA, 4 Meadow Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4HX