



# The Review

The newsletter of the North Loose Residents' Association

*Voice of the community*



march  
2019

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### A229 Corridor

In our last issue of the "Review" I said I hoped to update you on progress being made for the various junctions in our area. The JTB (Joint Transport Board) made up of KCC and MBC representatives met on 16 January.

Highways officers gave a verbal update on this scheme. It appears a new idea has come forward for the Wheatsheaf junction BUT we are no nearer making any final decisions than we were 12 months ago. The NLRA was looking at a lot of these plans in January 2016 and the overall scheme has been with Highways for 4 years.

Bearing in mind that eventually the JTB (Joint Transport Board) will put forward ideas to the MBC SPST (Strategic Planning Sustainability Transport) Group who will have the final say. If agreed there will be public consultations before any start of works. We are therefore looking well into the future while traffic congestion continues to increase. There is also the danger of losing the available funding if work is not completed by March 2021 which in my humble opinion is highly unlikely. I have written to the chair of the JTB expressing the NLRA's thoughts on the lack of progress.

SHEER FRUSTRATION!

### LITTER \_one of the big issues for us.

The problem does not go away but we will be part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign with 3 litter picks on 26 March, 6 April and 11 April. Please do come along and help.

We have had a reasonable response from members to our request to become regular helpers in roads and footpaths nearby. Mainly these have come from membership west of the A229, so come along those of you on the east side. We need help in areas such as Pheasant Lane, Boughton Lane and roads and footpaths nearby. We will provide the equipment required. Contact [david@northloose.co.uk](mailto:david@northloose.co.uk) or on 07801296699.

### VIRGIN MEDIA

This organisation is currently laying cable in the Broadoak Avenue, Mayfair Avenue and Richmond Way area. In the first weeks they have been very efficient and easy to work with. We have requested that the grey boxes being installed are painted green or brown so that they blend in better with the surroundings and are less liable to finish up with graffiti all over them. Apparently grey is the Virgin colour and green is BT but our request has gone to Head Office. We await a reply

Sean

Continued overleaf



Tel: 01622 746273

The NLRA would like to  
thank Page & Wells  
Loose Office for  
sponsoring our  
newsletter in 2018

## **Outline planning application for the demolition of 466 Loose Road and erection of 6 residential dwellings (one detached two story dwelling fronting Loose Road and 5 bungalows within the rear) - REFUSED**

---

As members will be aware, since 2012 the NLRA have been fighting various applications to develop this site. The applicants have applied for 11 houses - 10 - 7 - 6 - and now 1 house and 5 bungalows. This latest application was to demolish the large house on the Loose Road and build 1 new detached house and 5 bungalows on the plot. This was heard by the planning committee on 21st February, when Councillor Mortimer, the NLRA and a local resident all spoke against the application. Despite the planning officer recommending approval, we are delighted to report that the planning committee listened to our arguments against this application and it was **refused** by a unanimous vote apart from just one abstention. The reason for refusal was:

*The scheme would present a cramped form of development (This contrary to the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012). The need to build in close proximity to site boundaries (an inability to mitigate with planting) would result in a visually incongruous built form.*

We consider this application was in contravention of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Maidstone Local Plan and the North Loose Development Plan but the planning officer, in her report, did not mention these at all - an interesting omission.

The developers described the housing units as family homes and then went on to say they would be bungalows restricted to people over age 55. Perhaps they thought this would endear local (older) residents to the scheme? However, we pointed out that bungalows are not family homes, nor did they say how this restriction could be legally achieved and monitored.

It is also interesting to note that although the applicants quoted the NPPF '*applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community*' - they have not consulted with the community on this or any of the previous applications on the site.

Once again, our Neighbourhood Development Plan was mentioned by the planning committee and this Plan continues to help protect our community against inappropriate development.



### **WHAT EXCELLENT NEWS!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **EDITORS CORNER**

Hooray spring is coming snowdrops and crocus are out daffodils are in bud and I can't wait to get my gardening gloves on. Once again we are looking forward to a new season with bluebells and wild flowers making an appearance. Who wants hot sun all the time I know it's better for our bones but the different seasons are better for our wellbeing and something to look forward to when some news is so dismal. We can start planning ahead for holidays and maybe a new layout for the garden, at least the grass looks better when it is cut and how about a coat of paint somewhere to cheer up the house. If you are on your own and feeling down why not join our volunteer litter pickers or go along to the Loose 'Ends' meetings on the 3rd Wednesday in the month at the YMCA centre. If it's not easy to get out why not think of doing an article on where you live for the Review. All offers welcome don't worry about spelling we have the means to sort that out. Just the bare bones will do.

## **Membership 2019**

It is that time of year again when membership subscriptions are due. The renewal date is 1<sup>st</sup> April and the cost remains the same at £10 per household, which is good value when compared to the precept (between £46 and £71 on a Band D property) paid by **all** of the residents living in our neighboring parishes. We continue to offer a range of discounts from our local traders which should recoup your subscription fee if you opt to take advantage of any of them.

A substantial number of our members have signed standing order mandates and we will arrange for a new red membership card to be delivered as soon as we receive the money in our bank account. For those of you who paid last year either by cheque or cash, a renewal notice with a membership form attached will be delivered to you in the next few weeks and we would be grateful if you could update your details when you renew your membership. What is not always clear from our bank statements is who paid by bank transfer last year. If you do renew this way can you please drop me a note to alert me.

You also have the opportunity to renew your membership at our 20% discount day at Rumwoods nursery on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Although we continue to explore other sources of funding, we could not survive without your support and subscriptions. Rhiannon Cox. Membership Secretary

**A.G.M. SATURDAY May 18th 10a.m. start Loose School**  
**SEE PAGE 7**

## **NLRA – Leading the Way**

Great credit to Richard Hunt, Cathy Patton and the team for all the work they put in to The Loose ‘Ends’ Group. Meetings are held at the Y Centre on the third Wednesday of the month. In March there will be a demonstration of ‘Armchair Yoga’ and in April we look forward to a witty talk on ‘The Trials and Tribulations of Public Speaking’ from Barbara Stevens. If you are one of our more senior residents or know someone who would enjoy spending an afternoon with some very cheerful, sociable people then do contact Richard\*. He will be pleased to hear from you.

Our Chair has identified ‘Litter’ as the major problem we will tackle this year. North Loose is not unique. It seems wherever you are and wherever you look nowadays you are looking at ‘rubbish’. We want to make everyone in our area aware of the problem and we will be pushing MBC to supply more waste bins in busy locations. We have included six Litter Picks for this year with the first three timed to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean (22<sup>nd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> April). The dates are 26<sup>th</sup> March 6<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to help with this important endeavour, then please contact David Southgate \* With very little effort we can make a big difference – put the dates on your calendar now!

Fly Tipping is a thoroughly anti-social behaviour. Fortunately very few people do this but you may be surprised to know that throwing garden waste over your back fence is regarded in law as Fly Tipping. The NLRA delivered a leaflet to all the houses in the area which back on to a footpath to advise them of this fact. It is certainly worth knowing as following a meeting with the Environmental Committee of Maidstone Borough Council, action will be taken by MBC against any resident found to have committed this offence.

A lot of work has been done in our Ancient Woodland **see page 4** a lot more to do in the future and if you would like to help then please contact David Southgate\*.

Road Safety is important to everyone. Obvious danger spots will be near schools and on narrow roads and New Line Learning on Boughton Lane is a school on a narrow lane. The NLRA has proposed a number of 20mph zones in our area recommended by the Speed watch team including Boughton Lane and Cripple Street. The proposal has been welcomed by Mr. Paul Murphy the Head teacher at New Line Learning following a recent very productive meeting with him. The NLRA will be presenting the ideas to all the other schools in the area.

\*Email addresses can be found on the last page of The Review and do check our website to see all the current and forthcoming activities we have planned for the year ahead.

As it is NLRA policy to maintain and enhance green spaces in our area we are delighted that our local councillors Brian Clark, Derek Mortimer and Paul Wilby organized planting of 12 trees and 700 whips in Mangravet recreation field ably assisted by children from Oaks Primary Academy

**Alan**

## **News from the Woodland**

We have now reached the end of our fourth working party season in Mangravet Woods and I hope you will have noticed the difference we are making.

We have managed to clear a much greater area of brambles and other invasive plants this year, which will hopefully result in an even better display of Bluebells next month.

This winter we have started to create edge borders to the woodland using the fallen deadwood and pulled brambles. This puts this recycled material to effective use and creates a barrier to deter people and animals wandering into the areas of the woodland we would like to remain unspoilt.

This was an idea we borrowed from the Hayle Park Nature Reserve and shows the value of keeping in contact with other local conservation groups.

The bird boxes – which we are pleased to report were all used, have been cleaned, sterilised and replaced ready to receive their new residents. It is gratifying to know that our efforts have contributed to an increasing amount of wildlife inhabiting the woods.

It is now 4.5 years since we took ownership of the woods. When we first started we wrote an initial Management Plan, with the help of Valley Conservation Society. Last year, we thought that Management Plan was well overdue a refreshment, resulting from all the work already achieved and our changing plans over time. Therefore Jacquie Day and I have spent some of 2018 re-working the Management Plan. The plan includes appendices which show some 12 tree species, 34 plant species and 31 bird species present in the woodland.

Some of the Management plan work programme includes activities which require consent under the Tree Protection Regulations (coppicing and scalloping), we submitted a TPO ( tree preservation order) application for our Management Plan works. I am pleased to advise that on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Maidstone Borough Council granted consent on an on-going basis for our works programme. Copies of our Management Plan and the TPO consent can be viewed on our website.

David Southgate

### **Go Wild Go Green**

In February, three members of our Environment Working Group met Nicola Toulson, Community Partnership Officer from Maidstone Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces department, to discuss the Council's new **Go Green, Go Wild** initiative. Their idea is to engage with community groups that work on and improve green spaces around Maidstone, and encourage more groups and individuals to get involved. The projects aim is to offer support and encourage volunteer groups and individuals to get involved with projects that help keep the borough rich in nature, improve our green spaces and increase biodiversity. The hope is existing groups can make connections and share resources and ideas, new groups and individuals can find inspiration too. They intend to develop a new website which will contain contacts, advice and information but they also hope they can provide a more personal link between volunteers and MBC.

The meeting was an opportunity for the NLRA to discover more about the project and how it will be taken forward, but was also an opportunity for us to explain the background of the Association, how our environmental work has evolved and to explain the existing connections we have with other local conservation groups in the Loose Valley area. We also took the opportunity to show Nicola over two of our most high profile projects, Mangravet Wood and The Greenway. This was a constructive opening approach and the Association will be supporting the initiative as it goes forward and we hope it will prove a vital tool in expanding our network of conservation contacts. If you would like any more information on the initiative, please contact David Southgate on [david@northloose.co.uk](mailto:david@northloose.co.uk).

\*\*\*\*\*

Pesky cats and even peskier squirrels. If they are moving I have to try and catch them, I have short legs and can't climb trees but its great fun trying. My mum is trigger clever with my extending lead and if she is quick off the mark and puts the stop on I can come to a sudden halt which is a bit frustrating. I am looking forward to the warmer weather when I don't have to wear those soppy coats but I know my mum is only looking after me. Perhaps if she bought me a camouflage coat the squirrels would not see me coming. I will have to have a word with her. Here's hoping. See you soon. Freddie.



## LOOSE GREENWAY

To get the Loose Greenway to where we want it will probably take around three years. What we want to do over that period is to eradicate the nettles and coarse grasses from the West side and replace them with meadow grasses intermixed with wild flowers most of which are perennials i.e. the plants regrow every year. Interspersed with this we want to create some small areas of flowers only normally found in cornfields such as Poppy, Cornflower, Corn Marigold and Corncockle which are annual plants, meaning they grow from seed very year and then die, hopefully dispersing their seeds to create next year's flowers. To achieve this we will be killing off the nettles and coarse grasses and reseeding the cleared areas with the meadow and cornfield mixes. We will the work in small patches at a time so that we don't have a barren and uninteresting verge.

On the South end of the Greenway we have areas where there is permanent or partial shade. We will shortly be planting clumps of Foxgloves in the lighter shaded areas and in the longer term looking to plant Bluebells and Snowdrops in this area too. At the North end on the East side as you enter the Greenway there is an area on the bank which is just thick nettles. We hope to clear this small area and seed it with suitable grasses interplanted with Primroses and, if we can get them, Violets.

Sadly there is still a problem with some owners allowing their dogs to foul the Greenway. This is an irresponsible and selfish thing to do. Most dog owners are responsible and this small minority really must change their behaviour.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the work on the Greenway please contact Richard on 07840 897141.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOOSE ENDS

Thirty two members of North Loose 'Ends' braved the elements to take part in the January quiz. It was a close run competition with plenty of laughter among the rivalry. The winning team outscored the runners up by just half a point.



The talk given by former Detective Chief Inspector Colin Breed on Royal visits to Kent, was both interesting and well received by the very well attended February meeting of the North Loose 'Ends', which met on Wednesday, 20th at the Y Centre. Next month's meeting on Wednesday 20th March will see a demonstration of Yoga by Shannon Clarke, who will show the attendees how to do simple exercises from a chair, which will help keep you fit and mobile.

If you would like to see what we are all about come along to our next meeting. It is inexpensive at £3.00 and you will find a welcoming and friendly group of people. As the saying goes, a stranger is just a friend that you don't yet know.



Richard

## Dairy of events for 2019

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m. meet Hockey Club Armstrong Rd
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Litter Pick	9.30a.m. meet Boughton Parade
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m. meet at barrier Pheasant Lane
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Rumwoods	10.30a.m. – 3.30p.m, Garden Centre
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Boundary Walk	2.p.m. YMCA return for refreshments
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	A.G.M.	10a.m. Loose Primary School
Saturday 22 June	Meet and Greet	10.a.m. Boughton Parade
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Richmond Way	To be advised
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Quiz evening	7.30p.m.
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Volunteers Lunch	12a.m. -2p.m.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m.

## LOOSE FETE 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

**Wanted.** Extra volunteers to join the group running this event to ensure it continues to be a success. If you could spare a bit of time please contact:

KIM OWEN [office@loose-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@loose-pc.gov.uk) 0785500015  
ANNE RIGBY [office@loose-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@loose-pc.gov.uk) 07419986538

\*\*\*\*\*



### RUMWOODS GARDEN CENTRE

*The date for the 20% discount day is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 10.30a.m. – 3.p.m.*

*There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits kindly provided by Rumwoods.*

*A competition will be running and the winner will be given a £10 plant voucher again donated by Rumwoods Garden Centre. Please remember to bring your membership card or obtain a new one on site. Please present your card before paying for goods.*

*We hope you have a lovely day and that the sun is shining this year.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON PRODUCTION OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD

**Luckys Newsagent Newsagent, Boughton Parade.**  
A range of services are listed on your membership card  
01622 743073

**Evans Aerial Systems, Linton Road**  
Good service 01622 744144

**The Dolly Tub, Boughton Parade**  
Friendly. Service washes if required  
01622 743082

**Boutique Beauty, Loose Road**  
Speak to Louise for a nice smile  
01622 746917

**C.P.M. Plumbing, Sutton Road**  
Good clean work with professional finish  
01622 759999 M. 07766 132392

**MDK Electrical Services, Loose Road**  
01622 203031 M. 07757 944896

**Rumwoods Garden Centre, Sutton Road**  
Always helpful with a large range of stock  
01622 861477

**A.P.Decorators Loose Road**  
01622 749676 M. 07973 525522

**Domino's Pizza**  
Boughton Parade, Loose Road  
**01622 747900**

Blossom Hill red or white 2 bottles for £9

**THIS WILL CHANGE TO £10 with the new Red M/ship card**

5% excluding Sky

10%

10%

10%

15% off labour charges

10% 20% on special days.

5% on work up to £1000

10% on work over £1000

\*\* 40% on pizzas, side orders,  
and desserts (Not ice cream  
or any drinks.)

**\*\* THIS IS FOR COLLECTION ONLY AND NOT VALID WITH ANY  
OTHER OFFER OR MULTI BUY DEAL**

**Nicki's Florist, Wheatsheaf Parade**  
Your friendly local florist since 1993  
01622 685849

**Footsteps Flooring 196 Loose Rd**  
01622 757411

**Glowing Fitness (Pilates Classes)**  
Help with back pain- injury re-hab  
Ask for Vicki 07759833097

**10%** when you spend £20.00  
on flowers in the shop.

(collection only, excludes delivery)

**5%** off floor coverings (excludes  
underlay, preparation work or labour)

**free** first class, to all N.L.R.A.  
Members

**Disclaimer: the NLRA takes no responsibility for any services given by the above**

## Annual General Meeting

All members are given notice that the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** of the **North Loose Residents Association** will take place at Loose Primary School (Orchard Hall) on Saturday 18 May 2019 at 10.00am

The committee will report on the past year, discuss current issues and present the accounts.

Members will be asked to vote on the appointment of officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and up to, but not more than, five other members to sit on the committee. All existing committee members are required to stand down, although they may seek re-election.

Nominations for the posts of officers or committee members must be in writing and signed by a proposer and seconder; all must be current members of the Association and all must sign the nomination form.

Each full member has the right to attend and vote at the AGM as well as being nominated for election to the committee.

The Secretary must receive nominations **in writing** 7 days before the AGM, ie by **10.00 am on Saturday 11th May 2019**.

Any member may propose a motion to be discussed at the AGM, provided that written notice of the proposed motion is delivered to the Secretary no later than 14 days prior to the meeting, ie before **10.00am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019**.

Nominations and notices posted to the following addresses will be accepted as being delivered to the Secretary:

57 Mayfair Avenue, 402 Loose Road, 42 Boughton Lane and 30 Sevington Park. Signed and scanned nomination/notice forms can also be sent by email to [secretary@northloose.co.uk](mailto:secretary@northloose.co.uk)



### NLRA NOMINATION

I wish to nominate the following person to the Committee for 2019/2020 in the role of  
*(please state particular role or state committee member)*

.....

Name of nominee..... signature of nominee.....

Name of proposer..... signature of proposer .....

Name of Seconder.....Signature of seconder.....

**REPORTING PROBLEMS DIRECT TO K.C.C./M.B.C. COUNCIL**

If you report to the 'phone numbers below you will receive a reference number to monitor that work is carried out within 28 days.

**Please report to K.C.C .on the following phone number 03000 41 81 81**

**Any fallen trees on footpaths to Transport and Highways option 2**

**Any potholes option 3**

**Street lights in need of attention option 4 quoting number stenciled on the lamp post column**

**Drainage option 5**

**EMERGENCY ONLY please use highways emergency line between 5.p.m. – 9 a.m.  
03000 419191**

**Please report the following to MBC on 01622 602000 general enquires**

**Any broken street name signs**

**If there is a near miss with cars at the traffic lights please let the police know**

**COUNCILLORS AND POLICE CONTACTS**

**MBC COUNCILLORS**

Paul Wilby

mob.07949 769276

[paulwilby@maidstobe.gov.uk](mailto:paulwilby@maidstobe.gov.uk)

Derek Mortimer

mob.07825 916930

[derekmortimer@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:derekmortimer@maidstone.gov.uk)

Brian Clark

mob. 07963 757767

[brianclark.ld@gmail.com](mailto:brianclark.ld@gmail.com)

**K.C.C.**

Paul Cooper

[paul.cooper@kent.gov.uk](mailto:paul.cooper@kent.gov.uk)

**Police contacts; p.c.s.o. Ross Russell**

[ross.russell@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ross.russell@kent.pnn.police.uk)

©copyright North Loose Residents Association 2019