

PARKS

services which we provide

The beautiful Maiden Erlegh Local Nature Reserve continues to be improved through the hard work of the Parks Staff and many dedicated volunteers. The Park Rangers have continued to work closely with local schools and youth groups to provide high quality environmental education.

At Sol Joel Park during the past year, work has again continued to improve the condition of the various sports pitches, which are used by a number of local clubs and also schools. The running costs of the Park are partially off-set by the Park's grounds staff, who are sub-contracting their resources and expertise to nearby schools and parish councils, as well as the fees from pitch hire. The new Pavilion completed in 2013 is well used and The skate park continues to be popular as is the 'Parkour' street running facility. Also, new inclusive play equipment has now been installed in the children's playpark.

The Town Council is also responsible for the maintenance of Meadow Park, Marefield Pond, the Paddick Drive Open Space and, in conjunction with Woodley Town Council, Bulmershe Park as well as the Laurel Park Pavilion.

CENTRAL SERVICES

The Help Shop based at the Town Council Offices has direct links with Wokingham Borough Council and allows local residents to access many of the services offered by Wokingham, including viewing Planning Applications, processing applications for travel passes, payment of Council Tax, etc. It is anticipated that the staff will again deal with around 18,000 enquiries this year.

OTHER TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES

The Council provides bus shelters, some street lighting, seats, noticeboards and illuminated town plans. Through its planning committee, the Town Council will continue to monitor local planning applications, and to liaise with the Borough Council over various highway improvements.

The two community centres, at Radstock Lane and Maiden Place, continue to be extremely busy. Both centres are available for hire for party type functions, social events, meetings, etc., and both have resident social clubs with comfortable bar/lounge facilities. Reduced rates are available to Earley residents. The Town Council seeks to improve the Centres with an ongoing programme of works.

The Council is now responsible for two community and youth centres previously run by Wokingham Borough Council, at Silverdale and Centrepont. These facilities, also available for hire, provide a home for many local community groups and the aim is to develop activities for young people at these centres, to add to the popular bike workshop and music fusion projects. A youth club, jointly organised with JAC, now runs on Friday evenings at Centrepont.

The allotment site at Culver Lane benefits from the activities of an efficient and friendly Horticultural Society. A number of plots are now split in half to make

them of a more manageable size to reflect today's busy lifestyle. Priority is given to applications from Earley residents. We are also able to cater for the particular needs of disabled people.

The BMX Cycle Track facility in Lower Earley has proved immensely popular with young people. Through links with other local agencies, including Community Wardens, Youth Workers and PCSOs, the Town Council has encouraged safe cycling initiatives and provided a much appreciated and healthy pursuit for young people in the town.

Mays Lane Cemetery has seen further improvements, with the extension of the existing burial area, and the creation of a special area for the interment of Muslims as well as an area specifically for the burial of children of all faiths.

The Town Council also supports the work of local initiatives, including Readibus, Earleybus, and Citizens Advice Bureau. Again, this year a number of grants have been awarded to local organisations covering a variety of interests.

ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX

This leaflet provides information about the quality and level of service provided. This year, the Town Council element of your Council Tax amounts to £69.14 for the year (on a Band D property).

Earley Town Council is committed to running its services in a way which is compatible with Best Value principles. That is:

- ◆ Maintain continuous improvements in public service
- ◆ Deliver services in the most appropriate way, and
- ◆ Consult on the issues in the area and services provided