

EARLEY

TOWN COUNCIL



PRECEPT 2020-21

Earley Town Council is a local council. It sits in the tier of local government closest to its residents and Town Council Officers and Councillors work hard to deliver high quality services to the people of Earley. The Town Council precept (annual charge) is the part of residents' Council Tax which funds services provided by Earley Town Council. In 2020-21 the annual precept for a Band D household will be £81.82, an increase on 2019-20 of 15p per week per household. This year the Town Council will be working on a vital project to extend the cemetery so, whilst we have tried to keep the increase to a minimum, these extra funds are necessary to secure the future of Mays Lane Cemetery.

Earley Town Council Services

Parks and Public Open Spaces

Earley Town Council has its own in-house team of grounds staff and Park Rangers which enables it to maintain its land to a very high standard. Visitor numbers to **Sol Joel Park** remain high. Popular facilities here include the skate park and parkour areas, and a soft ball team have now joined the numerous cricket and football teams that use the Town Council pitches and Pavilion on a regular basis. The installation of junior play equipment has been completed, with a wonderful toddler section and the increasingly popular all-inclusive play area. The park's playground is now an outstanding feature of the area and visitors travel from a wide area to make use of it.

The play equipment at **Meadow Park** will be upgraded this year, providing residents with another high quality recreation area. Town Council staff continue to maintain the **BMX track** in Paddick Drive and Earley Town Council will carry on investing in plant and equipment in order to further improve the grounds maintenance service delivered.

Earley Town Council is in the unusual, but fortunate, position of being responsible for a **Lake and Nature Reserve**. Our Park Rangers, Water Bailiffs and an exceptional band of volunteers work hard to ensure that the site is well maintained and a welcoming place for visitors, anglers and wildlife. Information boards have been installed as has a bird hide, enabling visitors to gain more from their time spent in the Reserve. Conservation work is regularly undertaken to preserve and enhance the flora and fauna and activities such as bat walks, moth recording and ecology talks take place at the Interpretation Centre.

Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, RG6 5UL
Open: Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 4.30pm

Town Clerk: Jo Friend BA(HONS) PSLCC

Community Centres

The Town Council is responsible for four community centres in Earley; **Radstock Lane**, **Maiden Place**, **Centrepont** and **Silverdale** and will continue its ongoing programme of maintenance and improvements. Between the different centres various types of rooms are available for hire both for regular bookings or one-off functions.

Youth activities are delivered from the Silverdale Centre, where a thriving youth club is based. The opening hours at the popular bike workshop have been extended and another youth worker has been trained in cycle maintenance. The music fusion workshop, a joint project with Rock Academy, continues to operate out of the well equipped music studio at the Centre and the popularity of this facility continues to grow. The Town Council will be expanding its youth provision over the next 12 months, increasing the number of youth worker hours it funds and widening the scope of the services it provides for young people.

Help Shop

The **Help Shop** is based at the Town Council Offices and has direct links with Wokingham Borough Council. At the Help Shop local residents can access many of the services offered by WBC, including applications for travel passes, payment of Council Tax and purchase of refuse and garden bags. We are now stocking replacement recycling and food waste boxes. Earley Town Council also provides free dog poop bags to Earley residents. Our friendly Town Council staff deal with approximately 12,000 enquiries a year, illustrating what a vital service the Help Shop provides.

www.earley-tc.gov.uk



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Cemetery and Allotments

The Town Council operates **Mays Lane Cemetery**, offering provision for burials, the interment of ashes, a special area for child burials, an area specifically for Muslim burials and a Garden of Remembrance. In order to ensure that residents have access to such facilities in the future, it will be necessary for the Town Council to embark on a major extension project. We will be developing some of the adjoining land to create further areas for burial and the interment of ashes alongside additional landscaping in keeping with the current cemetery.

The Council's **Culver Lane Allotment Site** remains popular. Interested residents are welcome to put their name on the short waiting list. The Town Council now offers 'starter' plots, reduced size plots which offer gardeners the perfect introduction to having an allotment or provide a winding down option for allotment holders finding their current full size plot a bit of a struggle. The Town Council is keen to support initiatives that are beneficial to the environment and so we have agreed with a local bee keeper that two bee hives be kept on the site.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Huge Earley Litter Pick - Sunday 29th March 2020

Annual Town Electors' Meeting - Tuesday 26th May 2020

Green Fair - Saturday 1st August 2020

Local Community

Each year Earley Town Council awards local charities and organisations a number of **grants** to assist them in their work with Earley residents. In addition, Town Councillors sit on the boards of various local organisations and report back to Council on their activities and the issues they may be facing.

The Town Council has been increasing its involvement and support of **community events** and the intention is to expand this in the future. Earley Town Council organizes the annual **Green Fair**, which is held at the Nature Reserve, and supports the annual **Huge Earley Litter Pick** (HELP). The Town Council will also be participating in the **Scarecrow Trail** taking place over the autumn half-term and will be organising the **Christmas Celebration** event in December, where children from local primary schools will sing Christmas songs for passers by in the foyer at Asda in Lower Earley.

Representation

Earley Town Council meets regularly throughout the year, either as Full Council or in its particular Committees. In 2020-21 Full Council will meet on 13th May 2020, 17th June, 29th July, 14th October, 25th November, 17th February 2021 and 31st March. Members of the public are welcome to attend and all meetings feature a short period at the beginning in which questions can be put to the Councillors. Details of **dates, meeting agendas and minutes** can be found on the Earley Town Council website.

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on issues around planning in the Earley area. Its **Planning Committee** meets monthly to consider and comment on planning applications. These comments are submitted regularly to the planning authority, Wokingham Borough Council, for their consideration.

Earley Town Council Budget Details 2020/21

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019/20

Income	Net	
	Expenditure	Expenditure
262,886	202,469	(60,417)
30,900	205,039	174,139
11,739	25,106	13,367
18,862	638,852	619,990
0	137,700	137,700
0	15,000	15,000
324,387	1,224,166	899,779

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020/21

	Net	
	Income	Expenditure
Community Facilities	242,343	214,519
Parks & Play Areas	30,110	300,619
Highways & Street Furniture	0	10,106
Help Shop, Grants & Admin	16,080	583,063
Capital & Projects	0	162,000
VAT Liability	0	15,000
Total Expenditure/Revenue	288,533	1,285,307

Budget Summary 2020/21

Estimated Opening Balance at 1 st April 2020	603,380
Precept	978,271
Precept Support Grant	0
Less: Net Expenditure Budget 2020/21	996,774
Budgeted balance as at 31 st March 2021	584,877