



Earley Town Plan 2021

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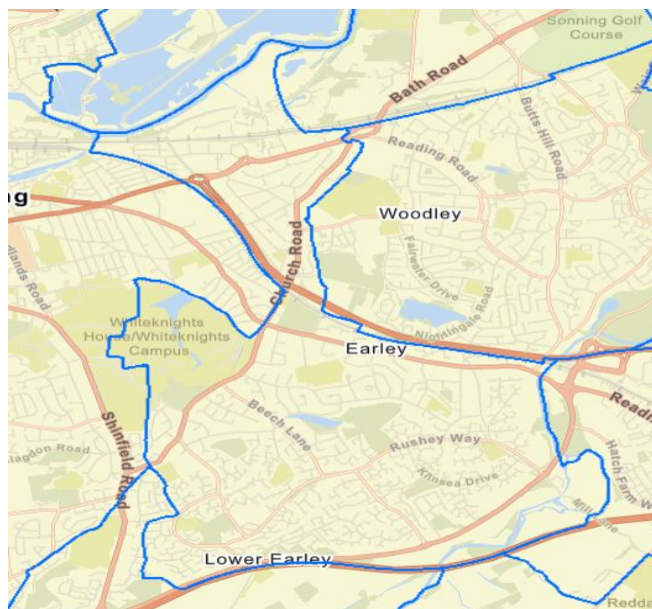
SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 Earley

Since it was first mentioned in the Domesday Book, Earley has grown to become the largest town in Wokingham Borough with a population of about 35,000.

Earley has an elongated shape which stretches from the River Thames in the north, to the M4 in the south. Earley is home to a large portion of the main campus of the University of Reading, as well as the sizeable Thames Valley and Suttons Business Parks. Earley's good transport connections to London and its place in the rapidly growing Thames Valley economy have resulted in its increasing integration into a larger built up area.

There are eight Earley Town Council Wards. The latest available demographic and other relevant data for Earley can be accessed via the Berkshire Observatory. <https://berkshireobservatory.co.uk/>



Source: ONS Data Map

1.2 Purpose and updating of the Town Plan

This Town Plan describes the Town Council's structure and responsibilities. It identifies the Council's key priorities in making Earley an even better place for all our residents, and helps to guide the Council and its Committees in their considerations and decisions.

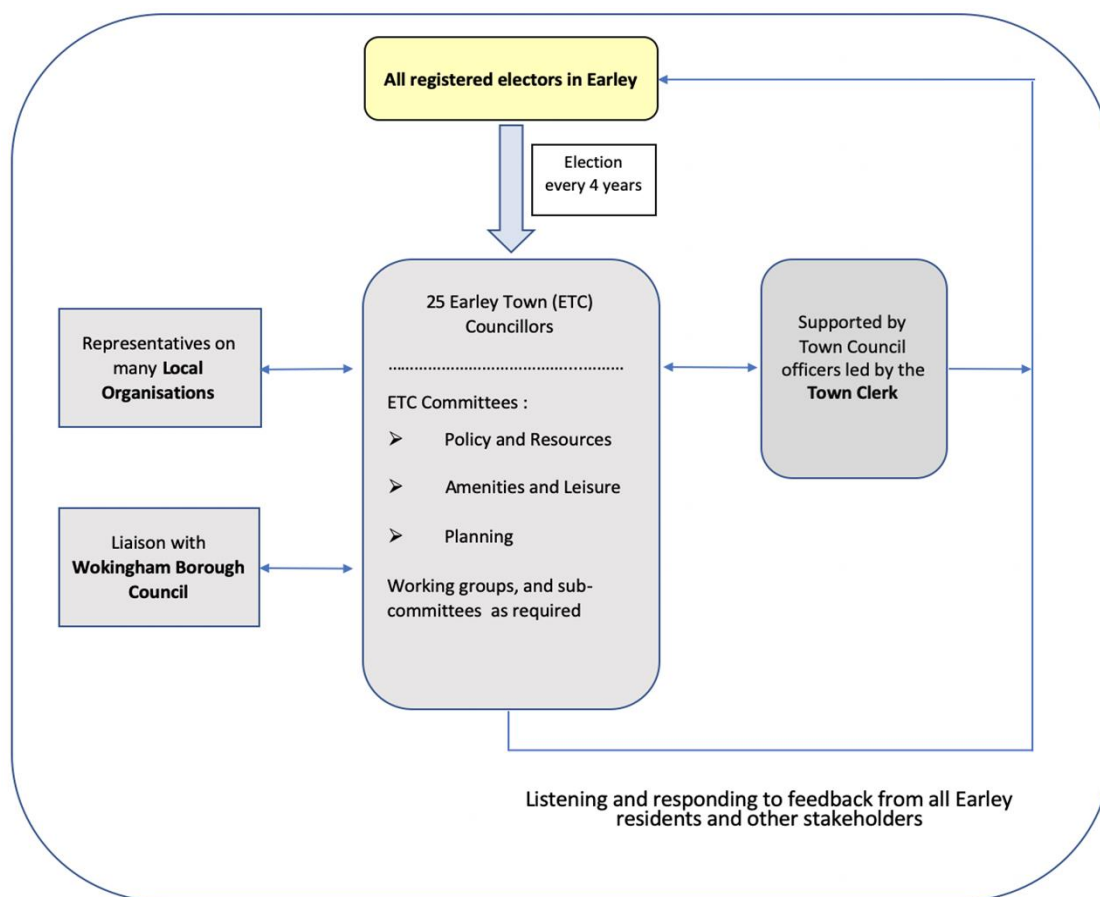
Earley Town Council aspires to review the Town Plan every two years, leading to the next Town Plan. This enables progress to be monitored and improvements made to the Plan. Residents, and local organisations and community groups on behalf of residents, are encouraged to contribute ideas at any time before and during the review process. The Town Plan is a public document, shared on the Earley Town Council website and is also noted in the Annual Council Tax Leaflet.

1.3 Our vision and values

Earley Town Council seeks to be inclusive, empathetic and respectful to all our residents in everything that we do.

We strive to provide excellent governance and stewardship by promoting meaningful community participation in our Council's activities, with transparent and accountable leadership and management.

1.4 Structure of Earley Town Council



Earley Town Council Offices, Radstock Lane RG6 5UL

1.5 Key responsibilities

Earley Town Council	Town Councillors	Town Council Officers
<p>An elected body tasked with representing local interests, and improving the quality of life and local environment.</p> <p>A corporate body, a legal entity separate from that of its Members. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole Council.</p> <p>Granted powers by Parliament to raise money through taxation (the precept) and to spend public money.</p> <p>Employs and oversees the work of Officers required for the Town Council to fulfil its functions.</p> <p>The work of Earley Town Council falls into three broad categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing all stakeholders, including residents and local businesses, a voice on matters that affect them. This includes: celebrating the diversity that exists in Earley and meaningful commitment to encourage inclusion of all residents in our community; providing accessible and relevant information; close liaison with Borough Councillors and Wokingham Borough Council. 2. Improving the quality of life for residents. Examples include: supporting local activities and facilities for all, including environmental initiatives to make Earley cleaner and greener; encouraging active lifestyles; making robust and timely submissions to Wokingham Borough Council and other bodies on matters affecting Earley; supporting local charities and voluntary groups that help Earley residents. 3. Efficient and effective management of specific services such as: Town Council owned parks and spaces; community centres; youth provision; allotments and public events such as the Earley Green Fair. 	<p>Town Councillors are democratically-elected every four years to represent a geographical area known as a Ward. The next four year period will commence with the elections of May 2023.</p> <p>They have three main areas of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being actively involved locally as local representatives and advocates. For instance, participating constructively in meetings of local organisations and community groups; and taking up issues on behalf of local residents and other stakeholders. 2. Decision-making through attending meetings, committees and working groups with other elected members to decide how best to develop and manage the Council's assets on behalf of residents, where money should be spent, and what policies should be implemented. 3. Monitoring, to ensure that the Council is meeting all statutory responsibilities; that the Council's Vision and Values are being fulfilled; and that the Council's decisions are being implemented efficiently and effectively. 	<p>All Officers are employees of the Town Council. They are led by the Town Clerk who is The Proper Officer in law. Legally Councils can delegate decisions to Town Clerks because they are trusted professional Officers whose objectivity allows them to act for the Council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer, who, as such is under a duty to ensure that all statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed, having a fiduciary duty to local taxpayers and must therefore act in the public interest.</p> <p>Supported by a team of Officers, the Town Clerk is accountable to the Council for the effective and efficient management of all its resources, reporting to Council as and when required; fully involved in the Strategic Planning Process of the Council; responsible for facilitating completion of the instructions of the Council; advises the Council on and assist in the formation of policies; responsible for ensuring the availability of all the information required for the Council to make its decisions, and to facilitate implementation of policies.</p>

1.6 Public and wider engagement

Earley Town Council considers that meaningful public engagement is vital for the delivery of this Town Plan and for the preparation of its future iterations. Residents, and local organisations and community groups acting on behalf of residents, are encouraged to contact the Town Council and Town Councillors, and to attend Council and Committee meetings to share their views in the Public Forum sessions on the agendas.

Earley Town Council seeks to support and encourage the local Community Associations MERA (Maiden Erlegh Residents Association) and ACER (Whitegates Residents Association, North Earley), as well as the Wokingham Waterside Centre.

Earley Town Council will in all its activities adhere to the following Policy Statement:

‘Earley Town Council will always aim to act in the best interests of the residents of Earley, including their health and well-being, and to conduct its business efficiently and effectively in an inclusive, open and participatory manner. The Council will promote the wishes of local residents through consultation and by representation to Wokingham Borough Council, other local authorities and the government as appropriate. It aims to always follow best practice and to deliver excellent value for money to the residents and other stakeholders in Earley.’

Earley Town Council recognizes that effective and efficient communications requires significant and ongoing improvements to the Town Council’s website and noticeboards, a ‘fit for purpose’ communications strategy, revamping of the Annual Electors’ Meeting; as well as continuing to offer residents the wide range of services and advice available at the Town Council Help Shop.

Wokingham Borough Council (also referred to as ‘WBC’ in this Plan) is the statutory local Highways, Planning and Education Authority. WBC also has responsibility for providing social services functions, refuse collections, recycling and street cleansing, collecting Council Tax, overseeing licensing, providing electoral services, and the maintenance and operation of other facilities not managed by the Town Council such as Chalfont Park and Laurel Park. Earley Town Council proactively consults and collaborates with WBC, and responds appropriately to consultations conducted by WBC, to help it deliver the best possible services for the residents of Earley.

Earley Town Council will always seek to enhance our residents’ well-being, and will robustly continue to oppose actions it considers will have an adverse effect on them. To these ends, during 2020 and 2021, the Town Council made the following submissions to Wokingham Borough Council and the government:

Planning for the Future (government) [ETC-Planning-for-the-Future-submission.pdf \(earley-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Earley Town Council believes the main issues to be:

- The need for local participation and decision making.
- Environmental (green space) concerns, with a view to imperatives relating to the climate emergency.
- Protection of diversity and well-being, both human and wildlife.
- Affordable, well designed housing appropriately sited.
- The requirement that developers contribute a fair share towards residents' housing and infrastructure needs.

Local Plan Update (WBC) [Local-Plan-Update-Submission.pdf \(earley-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Supports key points in Wokingham Borough Council’s Draft Local Plan Update, including: protecting the Green Belt; the borough’s Declaration of Climate Emergency; and keeping local values at the forefront. Notwithstanding, this submission raises concerns and makes recommendations on a wide range of matters that impact on Earley now and in the future, such as: the need to extend protections through the use of Local Green Space designation; and conversions and subdivisions of buildings.

Local Green Spaces (WBC) [ETC-Local-Green-Space-Response.pdf \(earley-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Comprehensively maps and seeks to protect all of Earley's remaining green spaces from development; and create additional green corridors that will act as vital 'green lungs', support wildlife, including pollinators, and promote biodiversity.

Speed Limit Consultation (WBC) [Speed-limit-submission-for-Earley-Town-Council.pdf \(earley-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Focusing on improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and their passengers, this submission made comprehensive and evidence based proposals to reduce speed limits, particularly near to schools, at busy locations, and in roads off others that already have 20mph speed limits.

Pavement parking (government) [Pavement-Parking-submission-Earley-Town-Council.pdf \(earley-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Whilst a total ban on pavement parking might be a preferred option for some residents, the Town Council does not consider that this is practical in all areas. Narrow roads where there is on street parking sometimes require pavement parking to ensure that traffic flow is maintained and that the parking of vehicles is not then displaced elsewhere. We outlined reasons why we do not support any of the Options in the consultation. Earley Town Council strongly encouraged the government to continue to explore other legislative and public information / education options.

England Tree Strategy (government)

[England Tree Strategy Consultation – Earley Town Council \(earley-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Recognized the vital, multi-faceted importance of trees and woodlands, including on suburban roadsides; with recommendations to help the preparation and implementation of Local Tree and Woodland Strategies.

All submissions, past and future, will be promptly publicized and later archived within the Earley Town Council website.

1. 7 Preparedness for major disruptive events

From early 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought incalculable harm to individuals, communities and institutions worldwide. Earley Town Council has learned much from the local impacts, including the importance of effective communication and support for local residents; of proactive responses to the effects on Town Council Finances; of comprehensive planning to address similar future events, so far as our Council's powers allow; and of working closely with volunteer groups, charities, and Wokingham Borough Council during such crises.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Earley Town Council demonstrated its commitment and capability to take measures needed to continue to function effectively and efficiently during major disruptive events, for instance by responding promptly to residents' queries; holding virtual Council, Committee and Working Group meetings; smooth operation of the Mays Lane cemetery; continuing to make community centre facilities available to key groups; and by maintaining a good standard of maintenance of Earley Town Council's nature reserve, parks and play areas.

SECTION 2: OVERARCHING ISSUES

2.1 Climate emergency and the environment

Earley Town Council recognizes the imperative of addressing the Climate Emergency. It looks to support the Wokingham Borough Climate Emergency Action Plan by taking effective practical actions within our Town Council's remit and available resources. This includes beginning the process of developing a meaningful Earley Town Climate Emergency Action Plan that will include proactively working with local and other environmental groups and organisations to seek out and implement environmental best practice, including innovative local green initiatives and management of the Town Council's assets.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Reduce its carbon footprint and work with others, including in the supply chain, to achieve this.
- Work with local stakeholders to protect and provide environmental stewardship of the Town's green spaces and biodiversity, including green wildlife corridors and 'Bee-streets' for pollinators.
- Support the Veteran Tree Association to maintain an up-to-date register of veteran trees in Earley and lobby Wokingham Borough Council to include all trees that are worthy of protection via a Tree Protection Order in its register, including all those on WBC-owned land.
- Only support recommendations for the felling of TPO protected or veteran trees, or the removal of hedgerows, where failure to do so represents a significant and demonstrable danger to life or property.
- Use all the levers at its disposal to seek to protect the Bulmershe Field from further encroachment.



The Green Fair, normally held each August within the Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve

2.2 Planning and residential development

Wokingham Borough Council is the local planning authority, and Earley Town Council a statutory consultee on planning matters. Following a period of very rapid population growth between the late 1970s and 2000 the population of Earley has risen by a further 10%. As a result, Earley has undergone high density development and pressure on the remaining green spaces, including back gardens. The Lower Earley Development Plan terms have not been strictly followed. More dwellings were built than had originally been proposed, resulting in over one thousand extra houses. Many homes across Earley have been extended and street scenes altered, changing the character of neighbourhoods. In some areas 'infilling' of properties has taken place. This has put a strain on the Town's infrastructure, including roads, as well as pressure on school places and health services including surgeries and dentists in parts of Earley.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Ensure that all planning applications that come to the Planning Committee for its recommendations are thoroughly and impartially assessed on their individual merit and impacts on the Town, taking account of all the relevant planning policies and representations by local residents and / or local organisations and community groups on behalf of residents.
- Ensure that all Councillors who sit on the Planning Committee are provided with appropriate training and administrative support to fulfil this role to a high standard.
- Protect the character of established areas by:
 - Robustly challenging inappropriate development in all its forms, including further infilling and applications that would lead to a visual terracing effect.
 - Making recommendations to Wokingham Borough Council to incorporate design features in the Borough Design Guide which reflect, protect and enhance the character of our local area.
 - Lobby Wokingham Borough Council to revise parking standards, to address the rapidly growing pressure on on-road parking.
 - Ensuring Planning Informatives requesting provision of soft landscaping be included in any recommendations relating to applications that seek to pave front gardens.
 - Proactively and closely liaise with Wokingham Borough Council Planning Enforcement.
- Use all tools at its disposal, including lobbying of Wokingham Borough Councillors and by means of representation to our Members of Parliament, to ensure that new building in the town is of the right type and in the right places. The former must include provision of an appropriate amount and mix of different types of affordable housing, as well as housing to meet the needs of our senior citizens, local first-time buyers and local key workers.
- Support proposals in the Wokingham Borough Council Local Plan Update to ensure that applications for Homes in Multiple Occupancy are only approved when it can be demonstrated that sufficient off-road parking provided within the grounds of the property.
- Usually oppose planning applications which propose a change in use of designated public amenity land.
- Avoid further transfers of responsibility to Earley Town Council for the maintenance and improvement of individual housing estates in Earley where this currently falls within the remit of Wokingham Borough Council.

2.3 Roads and traffic

In 2011 about 10% of households in Wokingham Borough had four or more cars or vans, and just 10% with no cars or vans. Mortality attributable to particulate air pollution amongst persons 30 years and over was above the average in both the South East and in England as a whole. Earley is also subject to high volumes of 'through traffic'. This is increasing rapidly due to the large number of homes being built nearby, contributing to road safety issues (including speeding), congestion and continued deterioration in air quality. Lower Earley in particular contains cycle paths which are being integrated into the wider cycling network. Although buses serve much of Earley, they are largely oriented towards the centres of Reading or Wokingham rather than other nearby suburban areas.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Engage with residents and local and national groups and organisations on matters affecting roads and transport in Earley.
- Fully and constructively take advantage of all opportunities to contribute to Wokingham Borough Council and government consultations relating to highways and transport matters, including future editions of WBC's Local Transport Plan.
- Support policies and initiatives that will help to improve road safety, tackle traffic congestion and improve air quality.
- Use all the levers available to the Town Council to promote cycling, walking and public transport; including support for initiatives in Earley Schools that encourage children to walk to school safely.
- Consult with residents on proposals to impose further parking restrictions in locations where this would improve safety for road users and pedestrians.
- Lobby Wokingham Borough Council to implement policies on roads and traffic that would benefit Earley including reviews of speed limits; tougher parking standards, that are truly reflective of actual average numbers of cars in different size homes in the borough; and appropriate provision of disabled parking.
- Support the local Community Speedwatch initiative.
- Liaise directly with WBC and through Earley's Borough Councillors to ensure that roads are well maintained.

2.4 Flooding

Flooding in parts of Earley is a long-standing and serious problem that is increasing in frequency and severity. Contributory factors include, but are not limited to: the growing expanse of impermeable surfaces resulting from house extensions and paving gardens, inadequate drainage capacity and maintenance, and compacted soils. Earley Town Council shares the concerns of those residents affected by the many and varied impacts of flooding. It believes that much more can and must be done to address the flooding within our boundaries and adjacent areas.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Proactively use all of the levers at its disposal to help reduce flooding in Earley.
- Lobby Wokingham Borough Council to refresh the Borough Design Guides to address this issue.
- Use 'Informatives' when making recommendations on planning applications to request sufficient provision of soft landscaping where it has not been shown.
- Manage assets within its ownership, including the Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve and all other green spaces, in ways that mitigate the risks and impacts of flooding.
- Proactively liaise with Wokingham Borough Council and Thames Water on all matters relating to flooding within Earley.
- Co-produce with local stakeholders a 'bottom-up' Earley Flood Strategy, that will include encouraging residents to adopt simple low and no-cost methods that reduce run-off from their properties, and an effective communications strategy.
- Provide easily accessible information to residents about whom to contact and what actions to take in the event of flooding.



Before measures were put in place during 2020 to prevent regular flooding at the foot of Egremont Drive

SECTION 3: EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY ASSETS

Earley Town Council owns and manages many assets that contribute to the well-being of Earley and its residents. The Council strives to ensure that all residents' views are sought regarding the types of assets will best meet their needs, where gaps in provision may exist, and where assets might be used more efficiently and effectively.

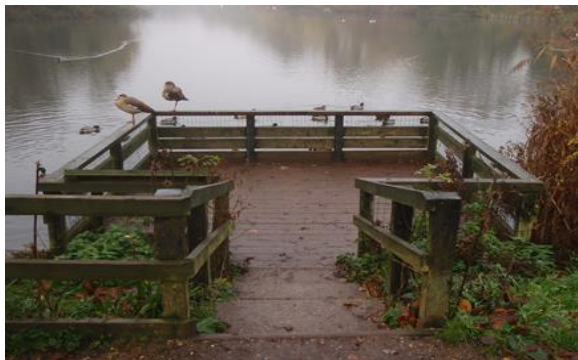
This section describes the Town Council's key community assets as of January 2021, including:



Garden of Remembrance, Mays Lane Cemetery



Silverdale Youth and Community Centre



Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve



Paddick Drive BMX Track



Sol Joel Park Children's Playground



Maiden Place Community Centre

3.1 Maiden Erlegh Local Nature Reserve

Earley Town Council is very proud to own and manage the Maiden Erlegh Local Nature Reserve. This area of approximately 12 hectares is seen as a haven for many local residents and visitors to the area, who are impressed by its beauty and air of tranquillity. Whilst the Nature Reserve is, by definition, an area for protecting and enhancing nature, the Town Council has striven to maintain an appropriate balance between its roles as a Nature Reserve, managed coarse fishery and general recreation area. The reserve also provides a very valuable teaching aid for local schools and Reading University. Earley Town Council's Park Ranger Service offers support in providing environmental education for people of all ages. This service is enhanced by the well-equipped classroom provided at the Interpretation Centre, off Instow Road.

Throughout the year, in association with the Earley Environmental Group 'Wednesday Volunteers', Earley Town Council continues to,

- Plant new trees and wildflowers in the woodlands, maintain the meadows and provide additional conservation focused initiatives.
- Upgrade and maintain signage, including information boards with environmental themes.
- Manage the reed beds and lake shores, including fishing platforms.

Earley Town council will seek to:

- Manage the Nature Reserve in a manner that protects and promotes biodiversity in all its forms.
- Promote and facilitate appropriate use of the Nature Reserve by the public, for example by means of the Earley Green Fair, and, where practical, pathways that provide safe access for residents with disabilities and special needs in a manner that is appropriate.
- Work with established local groups and the Park Rangers to develop a biodiversity database for the Nature Reserve.
- Manage the lake to a high standard as required under the Reservoirs Act.
- Maintain a carefully managed approach to fishing. This will include supporting organized fishing competitions, tuition days and the continued improvement of the quality of lake water and fish stocks through a fish management programme.
- Continue to offer a high standard of environmental education to residents and schools.
- Investigate renewable energy sources for the Interpretation Centre.
- Continue to encourage responsible dog management and safe cycling on designated paths where cycling is permitted.

3.2 Bulmershe Field and Highwood Nature Reserve

Earley Town Council, Woodley Town Council and Wokingham Borough Council share responsibility for managing Bulmershe Field, which is also a designated Site of Urban Landscape Value. Earley Town Council is also represented on the management team of the neighbouring Highwood Nature Reserve – a large area of native woodland. The former has suffered from significant and ongoing encroachment, detracting from its amenity and function as an important ‘green lung’ for the area.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Use all the levers at its disposal to protect these sites from any activities or structures detrimental to their amenity and role as a valued green space and place of recreation and leisure.
- Recommend in the strongest possible terms within its remit against any planning applications that encroach further on these green spaces, or result in the avoidable destruction of trees and hedgerows within them.
- Work in partnership with other stakeholders to maintain and protect these green spaces and the interests of local residents.

3.3 Mays Lane Cemetery

Management of Mays Lane Cemetery passed from Earley St. Peter's Church to the Town Council in the early 1980s. Since then facilities have been expanded, including the provision of tarmac roads, car parking area, Memorial Garden, Children's Area and Muslim Burial Ground. Without considerable investment, parts of the cemetery would reach capacity in the next few years. Earley Town Council has responded by setting aside sufficient funds and begun the necessary preparatory works to enable a significant expansion on adjacent land owned by Earley Town Council.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Maintain all aspects of the cemetery to a high standard as a place of remembrance.
- Facilitate the extension of the cemetery in a timely manner.
- Oppose all planning or other applications that could affect the amenity of the cemetery.
- ‘Topple test’ headstones in line with current Health and Safety Guidelines.
- Maintain a programme of repair for memorials erected prior to 1946.
- Provide more benches and plant more specimen trees within the cemetery.

3.4 Sol Joel Park

Solomon Barnato Joel, owner of the Maiden Erlegh Estate, gave Sol Joel Park for the recreation of local people in 1927. Management of the approximately 7 hectare park was taken over by Earley Town Council on a 50 year lease from Reading Borough Council in 2001. This was done to improve the facilities and level of maintenance. Very significant investment by Earley Town Council has delivered marked improvements to the grounds and provided a large, modern pavilion. The park is now extremely well patronized by residents of all ages and caters for a wide range of organized and informal recreational activities. In 2012 Sol Joel Park was granted additional protection when it obtained Fields in Trust status.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Use all the levers at its disposal to protect the park from any activities or structures detrimental to its amenity and role as a valued green space and place of recreation and leisure.
- Maintain Sol Joel Park and all of its assets to a high standard, continuing to upgrade and expand the range of facilities on offer.
- Investigate building within the existing roofline of the pavilion to provide additional multi-use space available for hire to local groups.
- Explore ways of improving the park for residents with disabilities and special needs.
- Maintain an ongoing programme of planting and maintenance to promote greater biodiversity within the park – especially along some of the park boundaries.
- Deal promptly with any issues relating to damage to park property, such as graffiti, fly-tipping and unauthorized encampments.



The pavilion at Sol Joel Park

3.5 Meadow Park

Meadow Park provides a roughly 1.6 hectare open space for all types of recreational activities. In 2012, following representations by Earley Town Council, Meadow Park was granted protection when it obtained Fields in Trust status. It includes a modern and well-equipped playground, an 'adult gym', and wild flower meadows. In recent years additional seating has been provided within the Park.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Develop and maintain Meadow Park to a high standard.
- Ensure that Meadow Park is accessible to users with disabilities and special needs.
- Liaise with local residents to consider opportunities for enhancing Meadow Park further.

3.6 Paddick Drive open space and BMX track

Earley Town Council maintains a large area of recreational land to the east of Paddick Drive. The site consisting of grass and many trees is popular with walkers, including many dog walkers. The dirt base BMX track, accessed from Paddick Drive and opened in 2011, attracts many users – especially, but not only, younger residents. A community orchard, located in another corner of the site, is now well established.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Maintain all the components to this large open space to a high standard.
- Ensure that the site is accessible to users with mobility and other needs.
- Liaise with local residents and other stakeholders to consider opportunities for further enhancement of this site, the BMX track and community orchard in ways that support Earley Town Council's pledges to promote greater biodiversity and active lifestyles.



Paddick Drive community orchard

3.7 Community Centres

Earley Town Council owns and manages the Radstock Lane and Maiden Place Community Centres. In 2013, at very short notice, it also took on the management of Silverdale and Centrepont Community and Youth Centres from Wokingham Borough Council to prevent their closure. All of these well-equipped facilities are extensively used by an enormous variety of regular and one-off hirers. The Silverdale Community and Youth Centre hosts a number of youth activities including a popular Bike Workshop and Music Fusion Group.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Maintain all of these facilities to a high standard.
- Actively promote the use of these facilities as important places for local residents of all ages, backgrounds and interests to gather, and as a significant income stream.
- Actively seek the views of people in different age groups about the ways in which these facilities might be used for activities that would attract a larger proportion of their age group.

3.8 Allotments

The Culver Lane allotments are situated off Blackthorn Close in North Earley. They comprise more than 70 plots plus recently added 'table-top gardens' (easy access raised beds on legs) available to rent. Priority is given to Earley residents, and there is usually a waiting list of people wishing to rent a plot. The site is home to the thriving Earley Allotments Society.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Maintain all of the Earley Town Council owned onsite infrastructure to a high standard.
- Promote high standards of cultivation at the site through regular inspections and Best Allotment Awards presented at the annual Electors' Meeting.
- Promote the site to local people, and, in particular, Earley Residents, offering a variety of plot sizes to meet individual requirements including for use by residents with disabilities.
- Manage the site in a manner that seeks the allotments to be self-funding.
- Identify and take advantage of opportunities on site, such as the installation of bee hives, to help protect and enhance the local environment.

3.9 Bus shelters, street furniture and street cleansing

Earley Town Council provides and maintains about 50 bus shelters, litter and dog waste bins, and a number of benches throughout the Town. We also provide town notice-boards and illuminated maps.

Earley Town Council will seek to:

- Maintain all of these assets to a high standard.
- Respond promptly to instances of damage to Town Council owned assets (including graffiti); and to promptly forward to Wokingham Borough Council all cases of damage of WBC assets that are drawn to its attention.
- Report promptly to Wokingham Borough Council instances of fly-tipping that occur on WBC owned land.
- Conduct frequent litter patrols in all of the green spaces owned and managed by the Town Council.
- Offer practical support to the EASI (Earley Adopt A Street Initiative) litter-picking volunteers.
- Identify appropriate sites in the green spaces owned by the Town Council for benches with memorial plaques purchased by local residents for public use.
- Monitor the adequacy of current provision of Town Council dog waste and litter bins, and to be open to consider re-siting and / or adding additional bins where additional need is demonstrated.
- Sustain a Town Bus Working Party, with a remit that includes advising on the maintenance schedule and making recommendations with regards to the provision of additional bus shelters.

