

To: Earley Town Council

From: Mayor of Earley

Subject: Mayoral Visits

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

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 Since January, I have represented Earley Town Council at the following events: -

- University of Reading Court meeting  
 There were a number of presentations from a varied group of organisations and how they are working with the University. I was particularly impressed to hear about the University's values and emphasis on its people.
- University of Reading – Celebration of Volunteering  
 I think this initiative the University has started is very progressive and worthwhile. There have been a number of community events, that I know of held by the University, that are appreciated by residents across Wokingham and Reading. Talking to a number of staff who work in this area, I was pleased to learn that they don't see the University as a separate identity but as a valuable part of our community.

I was impressed by how much all the recipients, who received the awards, have done and in such a short time that some of them have been operating. I was particularly inspired by Nancy Mudenyio Hunt's (fellow Kenyan) life journey to supporting children in Kenya.

- The Dialogue Society – Opening the Iftar (opening the fast)  
 It was held at St. Nicolas's Church. I support their inclusive approach, engaging with our local community, and introducing local residents to what it means to fast and the Iftar.

I thought their theme for the night about the 'Cost of living' was very apt; we are living in challenging times, and the more we can do to assist and support each other, the better. It was interesting that a number of speakers emphasised the word 'we' in their talks, specifically not using the word 'I'.

- Community Iftar at Aisha Mosque  
 It's important for all communities across Earley (and surrounding areas) to participate and understand each other's beliefs and cultural practices. The best time to do this is during the different festivities we celebrate, so they become more inclusive by their very nature. I strongly believe that diversity in our community is our strength, and this I felt was achieved with this Iftar; it was open to all and inclusive.

I felt that the presentation by Dr Amer was excellent, and it went down very well (people always listen carefully to a Doctor, especially one with a sense of humour).

- Scout investing night and Iftar.

I was invited to participate in the '1st Lower Earley Scouts Iftari'. I met Salma about nine months ago at a Sports Day event, where she informed me that she planned to start a Scouts Group. I was so pleased to see the results of her efforts and collaboration with others, culminating in this Iftari.

I strongly believe that all members of our diverse community engage with each other toward a common goal of making Earley safer and a better place for everyone.

The children's performance was delightful. I had the opportunity to talk to some parents who suggested a positive change in their children's behaviour since joining the Cubs. I am sure this is true of all children in Beavers, Cubs or the Scouts.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors who served residents over the last four years and welcome new Councillors, who I am sure will continue the good work. Being a Mayoral representative for Earley over the last year has been an honour.

Cllr. Tahir Maher  
Mayor of Earley