

Amenities and Leisure Committee Meeting – 5th July 2023

Agenda Item 13.3 – GREEN EVENTS

Background

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Earley Town Council was unable to hold its annual Green Fair in 2021, so it instead organised a series of small-scale events named '26 to COP26' in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) being held in Glasgow.

The Town Council's '26 to COP26' was held in September and October 2021 and comprised of different environment themed activities and events which were organised by officers at the Town Council. Local residents of all ages were invited to take part and all the activities/events were free of charge. ETC wanted to make '26 to COP26' a fun way of learning more about the environment whilst relaying important environmental information.

Below is a list of just some of the activities/events that were run: -

Activity/Event	Location
Art & Poetry Competitions	-
Bat Walk	Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve
Bee Talk & Build a Bee Hotel	Maiden Place Community Centre
Clothes Swap	Maiden Place Community Centre
Decorate a Bird Box	Maiden Place Community Centre
Moths & Muffins	Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve
Picture Trails	Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve & Sol Joel Park
Pop Up Bike Workshop	Sol Joel Park
Recycling Workshop	Radstock Lane Community Centre
Wind Turbine Tour	Green Park, Reading
Word Search Competition	Sol Joel Park

The idea was that there was something for everyone and the activities/events were held at various ETC sites and at external locations. The Town Council collaborated with outside organisations such as Earley Environmental Group, Green Park's Visitor Centre, the Reading Silvers, Earley Garden Bees and many others. Town Council staff delivered the events, supported by experts when necessary. The project was very successful and some events were run twice to cope with demand.

ETC is committed to engaging with local residents on important subjects and plans to continue running such environment-based activities and events. In June 2023, Council officers ran a Clothes Swap at the Council Offices (residents can donate clothes and in return swap them for something different) and another one is planned for Thursday 13th & Friday 14th July 2023. A new addition is the pop-up Bric-a-Brac stall, which Council Officers have now run on several occasions which is also proving to be very popular.

Emma Carroll, Deputy Town Clerk
23.06.2023