

Amenities and Leisure Committee Meeting – 5th July 2023

Agenda Item 7.3 – COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

Earley Town Council was contacted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see if the Council would be interested in having a sign for Mays Lane Cemetery to identify that there are war graves located there.

CWGC's project to erect signs commenced as part of the centenary of the First World War and the Commission is hoping to erect as many signs as possible at churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds, in the aim of increasing awareness of war graves in the UK.

The Commission has now installed the sign at Mays Lane Cemetery at no charge, and it will be maintained by the Commission on a permanent basis.



Graves at Mays Lane Cemetery which are recognised as Commonwealth War Graves: -

Name, Rank, Service No	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Location of Grave at Mays Lane Cemetery
John Walter Olney Warrant Officer Class II 1046222	Royal Artillery UK	25 th January 1940 40yrs old	Section A Row 9 Grave 92
Gordon Ernest Westall Corporal 6296165	7 th Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) UK	21 st October 1940	Section B Row 2 Grave 131
Herbert Frederick East Aircraftman 2 nd Class 1047084	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve UK	26 th September 1941	Section B Row 7 Grave 176
Alfred Henry John Belson Lance Serjeant 13006378	7 Bomb Disposal Coy. Royal Engineers UK	24 th March 1942 37yrs old	Section B Row 9 Grave 199
Donald Henry Owen Flight Sergeant 1313798	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve UK	19 th September 1943 21yrs old	Section C Row 1 Grave 265
Ronald Worsfold Sapper 2094278	266 Field Coy. Royal Engineers UK	18 th November 1943 22yrs old	Section C Row 1 Grave 274

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Agenda Item 12 – TELEPHONE KIOSK – SILVERDALE ROAD

In 2022, Earley Town Council adopted two decommissioned red telephone boxes from BT for a nominal charge of £1 each. The telephone boxes are located in Wychwood Crescent and Silverdale Road.

The adoption of telephone boxes has been something that town and parish councils have been doing across the country and the boxes are being repurposed for various uses such as houses for defibrillators, book exchanges and flower planters, there are even some unusual uses such as a showers and cocktail bars.

As the telephone kiosk in Wychwood Crescent was in better condition and in a suitable location, the Town Council repurposed this kiosk into a house for a defibrillator. The Senior Operations Support Officer oversaw the project, liaising with Community Heartbeat Trust who work with BT to help local communities install defibrillators into converted telephone boxes. The Town Council's maintenance team gave the box some much needed attention, replacing the glass, repainting inside and out and office staff created a colourful tiled mosaic for the floor. This project has now been completed.

The telephone kiosk in Silverdale Road is in poor condition and is often subject to vandalism, so Council agreed that further discussion would be needed to agree a way forward.

Some possible uses to consider:

- Defibrillator
- Book exchange
- Toy Swap
- Art Gallery
- Information Kiosk
- Planter

Further points:

- Kiosk located at the side of the parade of shops, very close to the exit of maiden Erlegh School, and somewhat tucked away from the main thoroughfare
- There are 2 defibrillators currently listed in the area, one at Tesco Express and one at Aldryngton School

Should no suitable purpose be found for this red telephone box, it may be possible to move it. This could be costly as a specialist company has to be used. Consideration should also be given to the fact that moving it would lose its connection to the electricity supply (therefore some uses may no longer be feasible) and that, if it were moved to non-ETC land, permission for the landowner would need to be obtained.

Members are requested to discuss the telephone box in Silverdale Road and to decide how they wish to proceed with the project.

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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



Earley Town Council Guidance- Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

The Oak Processionary Moth

The caterpillars of the OPM infest oak trees, eating the leaves, weakening the tree, and leaving it vulnerable to other threats. OPM nests and caterpillars are also a hazard to human and animal health.

The South East of England (including Earley) is an established area and landowners are responsible for the management of OPM on their land.

Hazards

- Their tiny hairs which can be blown in the wind can cause itchy rashes, eye and throat irritations and occasionally breathing difficulties in both people and animals.
- In rare cases the hairs may cause an allergic reaction. You can become sensitised by repeated exposure to the hairs, worsening your symptoms.
- The greatest risk period is June to August, but nests should always be avoided as they can contain thousands of shed hairs.

How to Identify OPM

They live almost exclusively in Oak trees and are found clustered together moving in nose-to-tail processions in the tree or on the ground.

They build white silken webbing trails and nests, usually dome or teardrop shaped on Oak trunks and branches (not leaves) these nests soon become discoloured.



OPM Caterpillars



OPM Nest

If you see nests or caterpillars

- **Do not come into contact with caterpillars or nests.**
- Take a photo and note the location.
- Report it:
 - Online: treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk
 - Email: opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk
 - Phone 0300 067 4442

Carrying out tree works on Oak

- **Thoroughly check all oak material thoroughly before handling/ working with it**
- Thoroughly chip all small material
- **Retain all material on site wherever possible.**
- Follow specified guidelines for moving or disposal of materials.
- PPE to be worn at all times when working with infested material.

Removal

Removal or treatment needs to be carried out by a licensed professional, **DO NOT try removing nests or caterpillars**, instead you should report it to the Operations Manager or Senior Park Ranger who will make the arrangements.

If you have been in contact with OPM hairs

- See a pharmacist if you need relief from skin or eye irritation following contact.
- See a GP or NHS 111 if you have a serious allergic reaction.
- See a vet if a pet has been affected.

Document created: 23/6/23.

This document has been shared with all outside staff.

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Agenda Item 16 – DOG WASTE BAGS

Background

For some years, Earley Town Council provided Dog Waste Bags free of charge to Earley residents (in packs of 50 bags), the cost of purchasing the bags was budgeted for each financial year. The cost of providing free dog waste bags was £1,000 - 2022/23, £1,000 - 2021/22, £900 - 2020/21, £1,434 - 2019/20 and £1,235 - 2018/19.

This service proved very popular with residents, but town council staff had concerns that it was not just Earley residents who were obtaining the free bags and that a minority of those asking for a pack of dog waste bags were visiting several times a week saying that they were collecting bags for friends or family. In 2022, there was an increase in the number of people requesting ETC's packs of dog bags and, although this may be entirely coincidental, this increase happened at a similar time to WBC stopping provision of food waste bags (ETC's dog waste bags are far larger than regular dog waste bags and are biodegradable).

Town councillors have often been divided in their opinion on the provision of free dog bags. Some councillors take the view that not all residents are dog owners and therefore funds from the precept are being spent on something that benefits a minority, whilst some councillors have expressed concerns in relation to the Council providing single use plastics. There has also been a concern that, should the Council stop this free resource, that incidents of dog fouling being left in our parks and open spaces would increase.

To help address these concerns, in November 2022 ETC agreed to impose a limit on the number of packs (a pack contains 50 bags) each resident could collect per month, the limit was set at one pack per month. Then in December 2022 ETC introduced a charge of £1 per pack. This charge would just about cover the purchase cost to the Council.

Current Situation

Packs are only given out to residents who provide their postcode and that postcode is within Earley. Helpshop staff have recorded a decline in the number of people coming in to collect bags – details in the table below. The feedback has generally been along the same lines - people are happy to pay £1 for a pack of ETC dog bags as they are larger than standard bags and of such good quality, however, we do receive complaints that they are only allowed to purchase one pack per month. ETC's grounds staff have not reported any change in the incidences of dog fouling in our parks and open spaces.

For Consideration

Town councillors are requested to consider removing the limit of one pack per resident per month whilst retaining the charge of £1 per pack.

Members are asked to **RESOLVE** accordingly if appropriate.

Figures

	No of packs collected 2022	No of packs collected 2023
January	152	66
February	124	46
March	159	68
April	147	45
May	147	45
June	136	45 (up to the date of the agenda)
July	136	-
August	172	-
September	132	-
October	133	-
November	137	-
December	82	-

Emma Carroll
Deputy Town Clerk
28.06.2023