

To: Earley Town Council

From: Mayor of Earley

Subject: Mayoral Visits

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022

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The last two months have been quite busy with Mayoral visits. I have represented Earley Town council at the following events: -

- Readibus AGM. The AGM was well attended; this, I believe, was the first physical public meeting that Readibus had held for two years. There were a number of long service awards given out. I was also particularly pleased to see four other Mayors at the AGM – this demonstrates how important the local community feel the services that Readibus provide are.
- Earley Green Fair. I was particularly impressed with the mix and the large number of stalls that were present. I want to, especially, acknowledge those who arranged the fair and managed the day; this was really well done. The participation at the fair by many Earley residents (and others from outside of Earley) was good to note. It was really a family event.
- 1996 (Earley) Squadron air cadets. The air cadets are now based at Bader Hall in Woodley. Even though I was there for an evening, I was very impressed by how well the evening was organised and the commitment of everyone involved to support the parade. It was evident, observing the cadets, how eager they were to participate and learn.
- Reading Football club community event. The community event was fishing at Maiden Erlegh lake for school children. I applaud the effort the Football club make annually to engage with the youngsters in Earley. I had not realised how many different fish species are in the Lake. One of the youngsters caught up to six over the two hours that I was there.
- Book launch. This was a book written by the daughter of a poet (who is seen as a national hero in Pakistan – and a communist). Having briefly looked through the book; I found it to be quite personal; it must have been very cathartic to write such a book. I was touched by some of the personal memories shared between a daughter and a father.
- Maiden Erlegh School. The Headmaster took me on tour around the school and introduced me to the different classrooms and to some of the pupils. What came across was the care the school has taken to teach pupils based on their particular needs. I was also pleased to see smaller class sizes. Maiden Erlegh has always had a good reputation as a school, and I am glad to see that the standard of pupil care, education and engagement with the local community is being maintained.
- Citizen Advice, Wokingham AGM. It was pleasing to see the difference they are making in the community. I can also say that the Trustees at Aisha mosque are very pleased with the mobile advice unit going to the mosque monthly (which I helped to arrange). I have also introduced CAW to the Sikh Gurdwara, located on London road, to see how they can assist them.

- Trinity Concert Band. My wife and I were invited to the Anniversary concert at the Great Hall, Reading University. I was glad to note that Earley Town council and Earley Charity have given grants to the band. A worthwhile cause. The evening was very captivating, and the programme choice was very entertaining. My evening favourite was Waterloo Sunset which was led by an Alto saxophone (as I play the Alto saxophone but badly).
- Berkshire Vision AGM. This was held at Wokingham Cricket club. Again, they offer valuable service to those affected by sight problems in our community. The work they do is very commendable. We were lucky to hear from a partially sighted athlete, a young lady who won the Gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in the triathlon. Very impressive.
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation AGM. This was held at the Art Centre in Bracknell. This service provider is key to providing mental health services across Berkshire.

Due to work pressure, I could not attend a couple of events that I believe Councillor Caroline Smith, in her role as Mayor of Wokingham, attended.

As Mayor, I have also reached out to as many of the ethnic minority communities in Earley as I could to engage them. Unfortunately, there is a perception by a few that little effort is made to engage some members of the community.

Cllr. Tahir Maher  
Mayor of Earley

## Deputy Town Mayor's Report

### Love Unites Festival

This was on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September; everyone was to meet up outside Reading Station at 10.30 and when we arrived it was extremely well attended and organized into groups. Many Mayors were invited to attend and along with Mayor of Reading, Bracknell Forest, Thatcham and Newbury. Matt Rodda MP, the High Sheriff and other dignities also lead the march through Reading Centre. It took over an hour and half and was extremely good natured and fun. The march finished in Kings Meadow where an all-day fair with many community stalls and music had just opened. I did appear on television for about 2 to 3 seconds.

Cllr Caroline Smith  
Deputy Town Mayor

### Royal County of Berkshire

#### Army Cadet Force, Longmoor Training Annual Camp 2022

I attended this event at Longmoor Military Camp, Hampshire, on behalf of the ETC Mayor, Cllr Tahir Maher.

On arrival we were taken for coffee and to choose our picnic lunch – it becomes apparent later why this was important. Along with our coffee was a general briefing presentation which explained thoroughly what the cadet force involves and their funding. I have the booklet if anyone would like to see a full explanation of the life of an Army Cadet.

This day was about visiting the camp during the Army Cadet annual camp week. With our picnic lunch, we were taken by bus to meet some of the Cadets during one of their many outdoor activities, such as an outdoor climbing wall, archery, and physical training (indoors). We were at all encouraged to talk to the Cadets. This group was referred to a 1- Star (first years). I found out the climbing tower was had various levels of difficulty per side, but the Cadets were not going to give up - thankfully I was not asked to give it a try.

We were also taken to a target range which they called a PlayStation 10; we watched as the Cadets, with modified real guns that have been fitted electronically to shoot virtual bullets into a screen (just like a computer game). We were told that it is easier to manage training with this electronic equipment being immediately able to adjust shooting angles etc whereas before someone had to walk to a target and look at the bullets holes to see how well an individual had done; this computer did all this in seconds and the Cadet can be trained into improving their shooting. However, with the cost of the technology, is not any cheaper than using blanks – but provides more accurate, instant feedback.

The next visit was to meet the 3-Star Field Cadets (the eldest of the 3 triers) for lunch. These cadets, who just finished outdoor night activities and were going to eat their Army rations including the heating of various pouches of food, this is all outdoors, and we were going to eat our picnic with them. The Army Cadets has a reciprocal arrangement with the Norwegian Army Cadets where a few of our Cadets go to Norway on exercise. In return, and for this week, about 10 are joining the annual training camp. And once again, we were encouraged to talk to the Cadets, and they offered a share of their rations. I did refuse though they did say it was very nice including chocolate brownie.

The final exercise of the day was the 2-Star cadets this took place in a part in a nearby wood and concrete open space. We were taken into a wood to watch this full-on exercise. The exercise starts out with some of the cadets checking their part of the wood, to get their bearing, they then proceeded across open ground at which the point they came under fire by Cadets hidden in bunkers before them. Using two Corps, one on the ground shooting being followed by back group moving forward before changing over and start shooting going forward. When they decided they were coming under too heavy fire, they pulled back using the same mechanism but in reverse. Also, I should add they were using blanks but still very noisy. Once we had a chance to speak to the Cadets afterwards about their experience of sleeping outside and taking part of this exercise and most were looking forward to a shower and cooked dinner having lived on rations.

This was the last part of the day, and we went back for a last goodbye. It was a full-on day, and it only gave a flavour of the whole experience. What I did take away is the commitment of the various officers involved in making sure that the Cadets have a great experience. Secondly, the Cadets themselves who were clearly enjoying themselves and challenging themselves in ways not are not open to most young adults.

Cllr Caroline Smith  
Deputy Town Mayor

## Report for Full Council – Re attendance at Kenton Road Day Centre AGM 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 22 and a Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 22

After 5 years the Chairman Pauline Allen has now stepped down and Linda Chambers has now taken over. The rest of the committee remains unchanged with the addition of one new member.

The committee were very grateful for the council grant awarded to them and have spent this on refurbishing their chairs and are looking into a new projector so that they will be able to show films again since their old one broke.

Whilst the centre needs to attract new members on a weekly basis it's Knit and Knatter sessions are quite well attended, and it continues to provide chiropody sessions. The larger events held continue to be well supported and raise funds for the centre. They were very appreciative of the Mayor's attendance at the Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea party.

The treasurer reported that thanks to donations, grants, donations, hall hire, and funds raised, the centre continues to have a healthy bank balance. Furthermore, thanks to the treasurer's great foresight the centre had managed to fix their energy costs until May 24. **(With climbing energy cost for everyone this will make the centre very much a warm hub for our senior citizens this coming winter.)** The committee is conscious that they need to attract more members on a daily basis to ensure the costs of running the centre are met in the future.

**Ongoing carpark subsidence** - This is unresolved and getting worse but at long last their insurance company have agreed to re visit and it is thought they will pay to repair this.

**FUTURE PROJECTS-****a)** Refurbish toilets and make one of them more suitable for the disabled. **b)** Provide curtains at the front of the property. **c)** Purchase a new tea urn. **d)** Erect a noticeboard at the front of the property. It is hoped that this will attract new members. A member of the committee (Tim Chambers) is willing to build this. He has asked if he could take advice from our council's maintenance men as to how to do this.

**FUTURE EVENTS** - 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 22- Fish and chip lunch

26<sup>th</sup> Nov 22 – Xmas Fair

13<sup>th</sup> Dec - 2pm Christmas carols

31<sup>st</sup> Dec 7.30pm New year Bring and Share party

## RECORD OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCES – 2022/23

NAME OF COUNCILLOR	COUNCIL							AMENITIES					PLANNING												POLICY & RESOURCES						
	05	06	07	10	11	02	03	05	06	09	11	1	03	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	06	07	10	11	01	03
A. BASSETT	✓	✓						✓		✓				✓			A										✓				
G. BHANGRA		✓	✓					✓		✓																					
N. BROCK	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓																					
D. CHOPPING			✓																												
J. CLARK	✓		✓																							✓	✓				
R. COOK	✓		✓											✓		✓	✓		✓												
M. EASTWELL	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓																					
J. EASTWELL	✓	✓	✓																							✓	✓				
D. HARE	✓	✓	✓																							✓	✓				
R. HOULBROOKE	✓	✓																								✓	✓				
D. IRELAND	✓	✓							✓	✓																					
C. JONES	✓	B	✓																							✓	✓				
I. KHAYINZA	✓	✓	✓																												
G. LITTLER	✓	✓	✓											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
A. LONG	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓																					
T. MAHER	✓	✓	✓						R	B					R	✓		✓									✓				
S. MATTHEWS	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓																	✓	✓				
A. MICKLEBURGH	B	B	✓											✓	B	✓	B	✓	✓							✓					
A. NEAL	✓	B	✓											B	B	✓	B	✓	✓												
A. NEWTON	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓																					
R. SANGSTER	✓		✓											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
M. SHAW	✓	✓												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								A				
C. SMITH	✓	✓	✓						✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓					
M. SMITH	✓	✓	B											B	✓	✓	✓	✓	B												
K. YABSLEY	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓																					

R = Representing Town Council

B = Attending Borough Meeting

A = In Attendance

hatched = Covid: Virtual

shaded cell denotes non-representation on Committees

# RECORD OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCES – 2022/23

## *Virtual Meetings for Members*

NAME OF COUNCILLOR	COUNCIL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS							AMENITIES MEETING OF COUNCILLORS					PLANNING MEETING OF COUNCILLORS												POLICY & RESOURCES MEETING OF COUNCILLORS						
	05	06	07	10	11	02	03	05	06	09	11	1	03	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	06	07	10	11	01	03
A. BASSETT																															
G. BHANGRA																															
N. BROCK																															
D. CHOPPING																															
J. CLARK																															
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K. YABSLEY																															

**R = Representing Town Council**

**B = Attending Borough Meeting**

**A = In Attendance**

**hatched = Held in Person  
crossed = Cancelled**

**shaded cell denotes non-representation on Committees**