

Service	Council	Residents	Interment fee	+	EROB fee	=	Total
New Burial - Adult + EROB	Earley	Resident	£979.00	+	£610.00	=	£1,589.00
		Non Resident	£3666.50	+	£1167.00	=	£4,833.50
	Wokingham	Resident	£754.00	+	£1191.00	=	£1,945.00
		Non Resident	£2262.00	+	£3573.00	=	£5,835.00
	Reading	Resident	£1039.00	+	£1036.00	=	£2,075.00
		Non Resident	£1039.00	+	£4023.00	=	£5,062.00
	Bracknell	Resident	£1410.00	+	£1450.00	=	£2,860.00
		Non Resident	£4230.00	+	£4350.00	=	£8,580.00
New Burial - Child + EROB	Earley	Resident	£489.50	+	£610.00	=	£1,099.50
		Non Resident	£1834.00	+	£1167.00	=	£3,001.00
	Wokingham	Resident	£139.00	+	£2095.00	=	£1,330.00
		Non Resident	£417.00	+	£6285.00	=	£6,702.00
	Reading	Resident	£335.00	+	£1036.00	=	£1,371.00
		Non Resident	£335.00	+	£4350.00	=	£4,685.00
	Bracknell	Resident	£98.00	+	£620.00	=	£718.00
		Non Resident	£294.00	+	£1860.00	=	£2,154.00
Burial Re-opening (Adult)	Earley	Resident	£300.5		-		£300.50
		Non Resident	£1388.5		-		£1,388.50
	Wokingham	Resident	£754		-		£754.00
		Non Resident	£2262		-		£2,262.00
	Reading	Resident	£1039		-		£1,039.00
		Non Resident	£1,039.00		-		£1,039.00
	Bracknell	Resident	£1040		-		£1,040.00
		Non Resident	£3120		-		£3,120.00
Burial Re-opening (Child)	Earley	Resident	£151		-		£151.00
		Non Resident	£694.5		-		£694.50
	Wokingham	Resident	£139		-		£139.00
		Non Resident	£417		-		£417.00
	Reading	Resident	£335		-		£335.00
		Non Resident	£335.00		-		£335.00
	Bracknell	Resident	£98		-		£98.00
		Non Resident	£294		-		£294.00
New CR - Adult + EROB	Earley	Resident	£473.00	+	£610.00	=	£1,083.00
		Non Resident	£1388.50	+	£1167.00	=	£2,555.50
	Wokingham	Resident	£252.00	+	£379.00	=	£631.00
		Non Resident	£504.00	+	£1137.00	=	£1,641.00
	Reading	Resident	£200	+	£645.00	=	£845.00
		Non Resident	£200	+	£1935.00	=	£2,135.00
	Bracknell	Resident	£355.00	+	£930.00	=	£1,285.00
		Non Resident	£1065.00	+	£2790.00	=	£3,855.00
New CR - Child + EROB	Earley	Resident	£237.00	+	£610.00	=	£847.00
		Non Resident	£1103.00	+	£1167.00	=	£2,270.00
	Wokingham	Resident	£252.00	+	£379.00	=	£631.00
		Non Resident	£504.00	+	£1137.00	=	£1,641.00
	Reading	Resident	£45.00		-		£45.00
		Non Resident	£45.00		-		£45.00
	Bracknell	Resident	£152.00	+	£930.00	=	£1,082.00
		Non Resident	£456.00	+	£2790.00	=	£3,246.00
Cremated Re-opening - Adult	Earley	Resident	£175.00		-		£175.00
		Non Resident	£744.00		-		£744.00
	Wokingham	Resident	£252.00		-		£252.00
		Non Resident	£756.00		-		£756.00
	Reading	Resident	£200		-		£200.00
		Non Resident	£200		-		£200.00
	Bracknell	Resident	Not specified on website				
		Non Resident	Not specified on website				
Cremated Re-opening - Child	Earley	Resident	£175.00		-		£175.00
		Non Resident	£744.00		-		£744.00
	Wokingham	Resident	£252.00		-		£252.00
		Non Resident	£756.00		-		£756.00
	Reading	Resident	£45.00		-		£45.00
		Non Resident	£45.00		-		£45.00
	Bracknell	Resident	Not specified on website				
		Non Resident	Not specified on website				
Scattering of Ashes	Earley	Resident	£118.00		-		£118.00
		Non Resident	£159.50		-		£159.50
	Wokingham	Resident	£100.00		-		£100.00
		Non Resident	-		-		-
	Reading	Resident	£100.00		-		£100.00
		Non Resident	£100.00		-		£100.00
	Bracknell	Resident	Free if deceased was cremated at Easthampstead				
		Non Resident	£188		-		£188.00
EROB Extension	Earley	Resident			-		£110.00
		Non Resident			-		£110.00
	Wokingham	Resident			-		£655.00
		Non Resident			-		£655.00
	Reading	Resident			-		£260.00
		Non Resident			-		£260.00
	Bracknell	Resident			-		Not specified
		Non Resident			-		Not specified
Transfer of EROB	Earley	Resident			-		£110.00
		Non Resident			-		£110.00
	Wokingham	Resident			-		£95.00
		Non Resident			-		£95.00
	Reading	Resident			-		£120.00
		Non Resident			-		£120.00
	Bracknell	Resident			-		£99.00
		Non Resident			-		£99.00

Burial Memorial Permit	Earley	Resident	-	£245.50
Fee		Non Resident	-	£306.00
	Wokingham	Resident	-	£314.00
		Non Resident	-	£314.00
	Reading	Resident	-	£335.00
		Non Resident	-	£335.00
	Bracknell	Resident	-	£205.00
		Non Resident	-	£205.00
CR Memorial Permit	Earley	Resident	-	£167.00
Fee		Non Resident	-	£223.00
	Wokingham	Resident	-	£164.00
		Non Resident	-	£164.00
	Reading	Resident	-	£90.00
		Non Resident	-	£90.00
	Bracknell	Resident	-	£205.00
		Non Resident	-	£205.00
Additional Inscription	Earley	Resident	-	£62.00
		Non Resident	-	£123.50
	Wokingham	Resident	-	£100.00
		Non Resident	-	£100.00
	Reading	Resident	-	£78.00
		Non Resident	-	£78.00
	Bracknell	Resident	-	£92.00
		Non Resident	-	£92.00
Bronze Plaque	Earley	Resident	-	£245.50
6" x 4" + 10 year term		Non Resident	-	£428.00
	Wokingham	Resident	-	Not specified
		Non Resident	-	Not specified
	Reading	Resident	-	£330.00
		Non Resident	-	£330.00
	Bracknell	Resident	-	Not specified
		Non Resident	-	Not specified
Bronze Plaque Renewal	Earley	Resident	-	£68.50
		Non Resident	-	£184.00
	Wokingham	Resident	-	Not specified
		Non Resident	-	Not specified
	Reading	Resident	-	£210.00
		Non Resident	-	£210.00
	Bracknell	Resident	-	Not specified
		Non Resident	-	Not specified

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL – MAYS LANE BURIAL GROUND FEES

1ST APRIL 2025 – 31ST MARCH 2026

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE *EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL FEE IS ADDITIONAL AND MUST BE ADDED (NOT OPTIONAL) TO THE PLOT SPACE FEE

The fees below relate to the place of residency of the deceased at the time of death.

	EARLEY	WOODLEY	OTHER
BURIAL IN GRAVE SPACE*	£979.00	£1345.50	£3666.50
CREMATED REMAINS/FOETAL REMAINS*	(£489.50 child) £473.00	(£673.50 child) £748.00	(£1834.00 child) £2,205.00
RE-OPENING (BURIAL)	(£237.00 child) £300.50	(£374.00 child) £451.00	(£1,103.00 child) £1388.50
RE-OPENING (CREMATION)	(£151.00 child) £175.00	(£225.50 child) £249.00	(£694.50 child) £744.00
HEADSTONE (BURIAL) (Permission to erect only)	£245.50	£306.00	£306.00
HEADSTONE (CREMATION) (Permission to erect only)	£167.00	£223.00	£223.00
TABLETS (CREMATION) (Permission to erect only)	£167.00	£223.00	£223.00
ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS (Permission only)	£62.00	£123.50	£123.50
KERBS (SECTIONS A-G) (Permission only)	£121.00	£181.50	£181.50
SCATTERING OF ASHES	£118.00	£130.00	£159.50
MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES	£245.50	£428.00	£428.00
RENEWAL OF MEMORIAL PLAQUES	£68.50	£68.50	£184.00
TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00
10 YEAR EXTENSION TO E.R.B.	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00
*EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (ADDITIONAL FEE FOR BURIAL & CREMATED/ FOETAL REMAINS)	£610.00	£777.00	£1167.00

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL – MAYS LANE BURIAL GROUND FEES

1ST APRIL 2024 – 31ST MARCH 2025

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE *EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL FEE IS ADDITIONAL AND MUST BE ADDED (NOT OPTIONAL) TO THE PLOT SPACE FEE

The fees below relate to the place of residency of the deceased at the time of death

	<u>EARLEY</u>	<u>WOODLEY</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
BURIAL IN GRAVE SPACE*	£	£	£
CREMATED REMAINS/FOETAL REMAINS *	890.00 (445.00) child	1,223.00 (612.00) child	3,333.00 (1,667.00) child
RE-OPENING (BURIAL)	473.00 (237.00) child	748.00 (374.00) child	2,205.00 (1,103.00) child
RE-OPENING (CREMATION)	273.00 (137.00) child	410.00 (205.00) child	1,262.00 (631.00) child
HEADSTONE (BURIAL) (Permission to erect only)	175.00	249.00	744.00
HEADSTONE (CREMATION) (Permission to erect only)	223.00	278.00	278.00
TABLETS (CREMATION) (Permission to erect only)	167.00	223.00	223.00
ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS (Permission only)	167.00	223.00	223.00
KERBS (SECTIONS A-G) (Permission only)	56.00	112.00	112.00
SCATTERING OF ASHES	110.00	165.00	165.00
MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES	107.00	118.00	145.00
RENEWAL OF MEMORIAL PLAQUES	223.00	389.00	389.00
TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL	62.00	62.00	167.00
10 YEAR EXTENSION TO E.R.B.	100.00	100.00	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00
*EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (ADDITIONAL FEE FOR BURIAL & CREMATED/FOETAL REMAINS)	610.00	777.00	1167.00

Earley Town Council

CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS – FEES 2025

ALL TENANTS

PLOT TYPE	FEE
Raised Bed	£14.00
Trough	£14.00
3 POLE	£35.00
4 POLE	£42.00
6 POLE	£53.00
8 POLE	£62.00

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - £38.00

CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS – FEES 2026

ALL TENANTS

PLOT TYPE	FEE
Raised Bed	£15.00
Trough	£15.00
3 POLE	£36.00
4 POLE	£43.00
6 POLE	£54.00
8 POLE	£63.00

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - £39.00

ETC Hall Hire Charges 2018 - 2025

	Current		Previous years								
	1st April 2025		2024 & 2023		2022, 2021 & 2020		1st April 2019		1st April 2018		
	Non-Commercial per Hour	Commercial per Hour	Non-Commercial per Hour	Commercial per Hour	Non-Commercial per Hour	Commercial per Hour	Non-Commercial per Hour	Commercial per Hour	Non-Commercial per Hour	Commercial per Hour	
Main Hall (all centres)											
Non-party type functions Monday to Saturday	£16.50	£24.00	£14.50	£22.00	£13.00	£20.00	£12.50	£19.00	£12.00	£18.00	
Non-party type functions Sunday	£24.00	£35.00	£22.00	£33.00	£22.00	£33.00	£21.00	£32.00	£21.00	£32.00	
Party Type Functions (any day-excl. Fri/Sat evenings)	£24.00	n/a	£22.00	n/a	£22.00	£37.50	£36.50	£57.50	£35.50	£56.00	
Friday/Saturday after 6pm (non regular)	£39.50	n/a	£37.50	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Function Room (MPCC)											
Non-party type functions Monday to Saturday	£13.00	£18.50	£11.00	£16.50	£10.00	£15.00	£9.50	£14.50	£9.00	£13.50	
Non-party type functions Sunday	£20.00	£29.50	£18.00	£27.50	£18.00	£27.50	£17.50	£26.50	£17.50	£26.50	
Party Type Functions (any day-excl. Fri/Sat evenings)	£20.00	n/a	£18.00	n/a	£13.00	£20.00	£12.50	£19.00	£12.00	£18.00	
Parties Sunday (any time)	-	-	-	-	£23.00	£36.00	£22.00	£34.50	£21.50	£33.50	
Friday/Saturday after 6pm (non regular)	£25.00	n/a	£23.00	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	
David Fuller Room (RLCC)/Meeting Room (MPCC)											
Interpretation Centre											
Non-party type functions Monday to Saturday	£9.00	£12.00	£7.00	£10.00	£6.00	£9.00	£5.50	£8.50	£5.00	£7.50	
Non-party type functions Sunday	£13.00	£18.00	£11.00	£16.00	£11.00	£16.00	£10.50	£15.50	£10.50	£15.50	
Parties up to 6pm, Monday to Saturday	£18.00	n/a	£16.00	n/a	£8.00	£11.50	£7.50	£11.00	£7.00	£10.50	
Friday/Saturday after 6pm (non-regular)	£16.00	n/a	£14.00	n/a	£14.00	£22.00	£13.50	£21.00	£13.00	£20.00	
Parties Sunday (any time)	-	-	-	-	£14.00	£22.00	£13.50	£21.00	£13.00	£20.00	

Hall Hire Charge Comparison

Local Halls

Earley Crescent Centre	Non-Commercial per Hour		Commercial per Hour		Earley St Peters Church <u>Large Hall & Kitchen</u> Daily	Non-Commercial per Hour		Commercial per Hour		Woodley Town Council <u>Coronation Hall</u> Woodley residents (daily) Woodley residents (Fri/Sat 6pm onwards) Non-Woodley residents (daily) Non-Woodley residents (Fri/Sat 6pm onwards) Charities (daily) Charities (Fri/Sat 6pm onwards)	per Hour	
	Current		Current			Current		Current			Current	
<u>Large Hall</u> Monday to Friday up to 6pm Monday to Thursday after 6pm After 6pm Friday and Saturday	£26.00	£36.50	£26.00	£30.00	charitable groups price negotiable	£25.00	£29.31	£43.92	£18.94	£28.38	Winnersh Community Centre <u>Winnersh Hall (main hall size)</u> Monday-Friday up to 6pm Monday-Friday (6pm-Midnight) Saturday up to 6pm Saturday (6pm-Midnight) Sunday all day	per Hour Current
<u>Small Hall</u> Monday to Friday up to 6pm Monday to Thursday after 6pm After 6pm Friday and Saturday	£15.00	£26.00	£15.00	£25.00								
<u>Additional charge for kitchen</u> Up to 4 hours over 4 hours	£20.00	£31.50	£36	£22.00	<u>Chapel Hall</u> Woodley residents (daily) Non-Woodley residents (daily) Charities (daily)		£22.90	£35.23	£14.79		<u>Sindlesham Room (meeting room size)</u> Monday-Friday up to 6pm Monday-Friday (6pm-Midnight) Saturday up to 6pm Saturday (6pm-Midnight) Sunday all day	£17.70 £26.10 £26.10 £33.00 £26.10

Earley Town Council Fishing Prices 2025-2026

SEASON TICKETS

ADULT

EARLEY = £34.00

NON-EARLEY = £49.00

JUNIOR (7-16 years), OVER 60'S & CONCESSIONS

(UNDER 13'S MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT)

EARLEY = £22.50

NON-EARLEY = £27.50

DAY TICKETS

ADULT

EARLEY = £12.00

NON-EARLEY = £15.50

JUNIOR (7-16 YEARS), OVER 60'S & CONCESSIONS

(UNDER 13'S MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT)

EARLEY = £6.50

NON-EARLEY = £9.50

Earley Town Council Fishing Prices 2024-2025

SEASON TICKETS

ADULT

EARLEY = £33.00

NON-EARLEY = £48.00

JUNIOR (7-16 years), OVER 60'S & CONCESSIONS

(UNDER 13'S MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT)

EARLEY = £22.00

NON-EARLEY = £27.00

DAY TICKETS

ADULT

EARLEY = £11.50

NON-EARLEY = £15.00

JUNIOR (7-16 YEARS), OVER 60'S & CONCESSIONS

(UNDER 13'S MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT)

EARLEY = £6.00

NON-EARLEY = £9.00

ETC Sports Pitch Hire Charges 2018 - 2025

	Current		Previous years				
	1st April 2025	1st April 2024	1st April 2023	1st April 2022, 2021 & 2020	1st April 2019	1st April 2018	
Adult Football Fees inc pavilion							
Adult Pitch casual one-off games	£89.50	£81.00	£81.00	£80.83	£78.33	£75.83	
Adult Pitch Regular Booking	£70.00	£63.50	£63.50	£57.50	£63.33	£61.70	
Changing rooms/shower only	£22.00	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00	£19.17	£18.33	
Toilets only	£10.00	£9.00	£9.00	£8.75	£8.33	£8.33	
Junior 11-A-Side Pitch one-off games	£45.50	£41.00	£41.00	£40.83	£39.58	£38.33	
Junior 11-A-Side Pitch Regular Booking	£42.50	£38.50	£38.50	£34.58	£33.33	£32.50	
Junior 11-A-Side Pitch block booking of >5 teams	£31.50	£28.50	£28.50	£28.33	£27.50	£26.67	
Junior 9-A-Side Pitch one-off games	£16.00	£14.50	£14.50	£14.17	£13.75	£13.33	
Junior 9-A-Side Pitch Regular Booking	£15.50	£14.00	£14.00	£12.50	£12.08	£11.67	
Junior 9-A-Side Pitch block booking of >5 teams	£13.50	£12.00	£12.00	£11.67	£11.25	£10.83	
Mini Soccer per games	£15.50	£14.00	£14.00	£13.33	£12.92	£12.50	
Mini Soccer Regular Booking	£15.00	£13.50	£13.50	£12.50	£12.08	£11.67	
Mini Soccer block bookings of >5 teams	£13.50	£12.00	£12.00	£11.67	£11.25	£10.83	
Cricket/Softball Pitch Fees inc pavilion							
Midweek 1-7pm - price per game							
Adult Pitch casual one-off games	£96.00	£87.00	£72.50	£72.08	£70.00	£68.33	
Adult Pitch Regular Booking	£86.50	£78.50	£65.50	£59.17	£57.50	£55.83	
Junior Pitch casual one-off games	£46.50	£42.00	£35.00	£34.58	£33.33	£32.50	
Junior Pitch Regular Booking	£43.00	£39.00	£32.50	£29.17	£28.33	£27.50	
Weekend 1-7pm - price per game							
Adult Pitch casual one-off games	£135.00	£122.50	£102.00	£101.67	£98.75	£95.83	
Adult Pitch Regular Booking	£122.50	£111.00	£92.50	£84.17	£81.67	£79.58	
Junior Pitch casual one-off games	£68.00	£61.50	£51.50	£51.25	£49.58	£47.92	
Junior Pitch Regular Booking	£63.50	£57.50	£48.00	£43.33	£42.08	£40.83	
Toilets only	£11.00	£10.00	£9.00	£8.75	£8.58	£8.33	

Pitch Hire Charge Comparison

Local Pitches

Woodford Park	Cost	West Berkshire Council	Cost
Cricket Grass Wicket Full Day per match	£145.00	Cricket Grass Full Day per match	£113.00
Football Grass Adult per match	£80.00	Football Grass Adult per match	£86.00
Mini Grass Junior	£13.50	Mini Grass Junior	£24.00

Wokingham Borough Council	Cost
Cantley Park Grass Football 2 hour slot	£60.45
most other pitches Football 2 hour slot	£54.00

Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting – 14th January 2026

Agenda Item 6.1 – SOL JOEL PARK – PARKING REQUEST

Background

A representative from MERA attended ETC's Council meeting on 26th November 2025 to ask if the town council would consider permitting parents and pupils of Maiden Erlegh School and Aldryngton Primary School to use the overflow Sol Joel Park car park in Mays Lane. The purpose of the request is to try to alleviate the pressure on Silverdale Road and the schools' entrance from vehicle traffic at both ends of the school day.

It is MERA's view that the volume of traffic represents a danger to children. They have requested that Wokingham Borough Council install a raised pedestrian crossing on the access road to the schools to ensure that motorists on this road give way to pedestrians and have also submitted a petition containing 74 signatures to WBC.

MERA are asking for the Sol Joel overflow car park to be open between 8am and 4.30pm on school days and that parents be permitted to use it as a drop off point for pupils as well as older pupils who drive to school being permitted to use it as a car park. They suggest that, if ETC does not have the staff resources to do this then a school caretaker could be given the key and carry out the opening and closing each day.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCILLORS:

Legalities

Contrary to MERA's claim that this is a public car park, the overflow car park at SJP was built as part of the new pavilion project, to accommodate pavilion hirers and is used as such by football and cricket teams on match days. As it is not a public car park, to use it in any manner other than for hirers of the pavilion would require ETC to apply for, and be granted, Change of Use planning consent.

The SJP site is covered by a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust, ETC would need to apply for permission for such use and, as use of the land as a public car park does not align with the terms of the DoD, it is far from certain that such permissions would be granted.

ETC's current insurance does not cover operating what would be a public car park. ETC's existing parking areas are for people accessing ETC facilities, this proposal is not for that and so would require separate insurance. Who would be responsible for any incidents or accidents whilst parents and pupils were using the car park? ETC would not be having any say or oversight on who was using it to drop off or who was choosing to leave their car in it, so it would be unreasonable for the council to be liable.

MERA do not appear to have obtained professional advice from Highways saying that this proposal is acceptable in terms of impacts on the highways and traffic safety around Mays Lane.

Physical aspects

The entrance to the SJP overflow car park is one car wide, this works with sports hirers as they arrive together and leave together. Parents dropping off children would be going in and then wanting to come out whilst others were trying to get in. There is no space for a one way system around the car park and in and out and the result could be congestion on the road and impact on residents accessing their properties.

Leaving the SJP overflow car park unlocked all day would be a security risk in terms of unauthorised incursions onto Sol Joel park. This area has been targeted before hence we currently only have the gates unlocked during a match and whilst the car park is being used by the hirer. The barriers between the car park and the wider field are low and wooden (in keeping with it being a FiT site), hence the

high risk of incursions, and replacing them with a form of security fencing would be expensive and permissions would be required.

Practicalities

MERA has suggested that ETC's 'warden' could open and close the gates on school days but has not explained who they mean by this. ETC do not have spare staff who could be allocated to open at 8am and close at 4.30pm every school day. MERA has suggested that if ETC does not have the manpower to operate this car park then a key be given to the school caretaker. Were such an agreement to be entered into a formal agreement would be required, detailing the schools' responsibility for dealing with incidents, accidents and unauthorised use or incursions.

What would be the procedure for dealing with cars still parked in the car park at 4.30pm, would they be locked in overnight or would the gates be left unlocked so they could get out later? Who would deal with any calls relating to this? What if the car locked in belongs to a pupil who has not collected it by 4.30pm, would the public perceive it as ETC doing this when in fact it would be the actions of a third party?

The main car park at Sol Joel is free to use and is open daily. Its' distance from the schools is not very different to that of the overflow car park but we are not aware that any parents from these schools currently use it to drop off pupils. What is the evidence of need that such a facility would be used in the way MERA suggests. ETC has not received any requests or comments on this subject from anyone at the schools, PTAs, pupils or residents.

Policies

Earley Town Council's Town Plan states that we will 'continue to 'prioritise the conservation and safeguarding of green spaces', and 'support sustainable travel' – these statements could be seen as a contra-indication to giving support to making car-parking available, should the parents/guardians and pupils be encouraged to increase their engagement with Active Travel. Is the proposal simply moving a traffic problem from one location to another, risking impacting a different set of residents who do not live near a school?

Earley Town Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan states:

6.7 encourage and support others, including local schools and local businesses, in their contributions to tackling the Climate Emergency.

A2.2 Earley Town Council believes that a green recovery and reconfiguration is vital to tackle the Climate Emergency. Locally this includes: - supporting active travel – safe cycling and walking

Maiden Erlegh School's Sustainability Strategy promotes active travel and aims for the school to be net zero by 2030. Encouraging individuals to drive by providing alternative parking facilities could be seen as not supporting these aims.

Maiden Erlegh School's website states:

***Getting to School** - Students are encouraged to walk to school if at all possible. Cycle racks are available for students wishing to cycle. For the safety of our students, parents are not allowed to drive onto the school site at the start and end of the school day.*

This would suggest that the issues MERA reports of vehicles not giving way to pedestrians on the access road would involve drivers who are either teachers or pupils. Would education be useful on this matter?

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Agenda Item 7 – CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

Troughs & Raised Beds (see photo)

During the judging of the 2025 allotment competition, the Judging Panel noted that some of the raised beds and troughs had been vacant for some time.

The Judging Panel are concerned that the trough/raised bed area often looks neglected due to the vacancies and this also results in grass growth and weeds growing, as there is no plot holder to maintain the area around the vacant trough/raised bed. It then falls to ETC staff to maintain, which adds to already busy work schedules.

There are 4 troughs - 2 are currently vacant and the other 2 are occupied by the same plot holder.

There are 8 raised beds - 2 are currently vacant, 1 is used by the Park Rangers and 5 are occupied.

The Judging Panel would like to ask the Amenities & Leisure Committee to give consideration as to whether ETC should continue with the provision of troughs and raised beds going forwards.

Members to discuss and **RESOLVE** as necessary

Thefts

In October 2025, ETC officers received a report from a plot holder to say that produce had gone missing from their allotment. ETC sent a letter to all plot holders to inform them of the incident and asked plot holders to be vigilant and to report any concerns.

In response to the letter, another plot holder reported that they had also experienced produce going missing. This plot holder had seen two men at the allotments, who were unknown to them, and when they were approached about being on the allotment site, they became quite aggressive towards the plot holder.

As a result, ETC officers changed the entry code to the front and rear gates and reported the incidents to the police. Notices have also been erected, stating that ETC have reported the thefts to the police and a crime reference number has been provided, it is hoped that this will deter further episodes. Plot holders have been asked to report any further incidents directly to the police. Officers have also carried out a security check of the perimeter to look for places where people could be gaining entry to the site but all appeared to be secure.

No further incidents have been reported to the Council since the notices were erected and ETC officers continue to monitor the situation.



Photo taken December 2025

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Agenda Item 8 – Biodiversity Update

The Biodiversity group met on 5th December 2025 to discuss actions and plans. Present were the Park Rangers, Town Clerk and the Operations Manager.

1. Sibly/Collins Drive Planting

A botanical survey of the conservation corridor, including vegetation in the sustainable drainage features, has been completed. Residents have previously complained that the area looks unsightly and appears overgrown with 'weeds'. As this is an area for conservation, it is important that we strike the right balance between providing an environment that supports and enhances biodiversity and one that also looks attractive.

A plan for wildflower planting along the conservation corridor has been drawn up, it features a more organic approach which can be built upon in following years. Some of the existing planting will be retained but other sections will be cleared and sown with a wide variety of seed. Whilst nettles are an important food source and habitat, we intend to reduce their number to improve the overall appearance. Once the seeds are established and we know what has taken, we plan to create some information boards to show residents the importance of these stretches.

2. Redhatch Copse

The following work has taken place in Redhatch Copse:

- Coppicing on 12th and 26th November 2025 in the area to the right of the telecoms tower. This work had not been undertaken in years and involved removing sycamore, laurel and holly. AP and TW have mapped which areas will be cut in what year to continue this work in future years.
- Bluebell signs have gone up, and social media posts have been published which have gained interest from residents. Other social media posts have been written about the Wednesday Volunteers sessions which have also been well received.
- Vegetation has been cleared along the perimeter ahead of the annual tree survey, Redhatch and Sibly have now been added to the list of sites to be surveyed each year.

3. Woodland Trust Tree Planting

420 trees from the Woodland Trust have been planted in 2 separate sessions. 75% planted by members of the public in MENR and 25% by the Wednesday volunteers in Redhatch Copse.

The Town Clerk submitted a second successful application for 'working wood' trees from the Woodland Trust (field maple, rowan, silver birch, wild cherry, common oak and grey willow). 280 of these will be planted in MENR in a proactive plan to replace the Ash that will be lost due to Ash Dieback in the coming years, the remaining 140 will be planted in Bulmershe Park (once permission is obtained from Woodley Town Council). This second batch of trees will be received in March 2026.

Following the success of the previous public tree planting events it was agreed that ETC would once again offer the planting of the trees at MENR as a public session to residents. FOBOS will be approached to assist with planting at Bulmershe Park.

4. Duck Feeding Station MENR

Members discussed viability of installing a duck feeding station at MENR, two options for this were discussed:

Option 1- Installing a feeding station through Feed the Ducks Initiative (charged at £1 per serving, this option is serviced and installed through the organisation and is solar powered)
Option 2- ETC building a small feeder which is topped up regularly by the Park Rangers (no charge per serving)

Having previously investigated option 1, JF and MB shared concerns over vandalism as the area by the duck feeding platform is a popular thoroughfare and extremely prone to attacks of vandalism. Having a duck feeding station installed by an organisation would likely mean ETC picking up the bill for its replacement/ repair once vandalised.

We agreed to start off with option 2, hopefully this can be made by ETC officers or a member of the Repair Cafe, in a design similar to a gobstopper dispenser. The feeder would be small and topped up by the Rangers a few times a week but would not be there to serve every visitor. By starting in this way, we can monitor it and see how long it lasts.

5. Student Dissertation

A student from Reading University had contacted ETC to get permission to conduct non-invasive field studies to record lichen species presence and frequency on selected trees. We granted the student permission and she has agreed to share her data with ETC to improve our biodiversity species records. The study was scheduled for late November, but it may take some time for the data to be produced, MB will check in with the student in the new year to see how it went (diarised).

6. Bird Feeders

The Rangers reported that several bird feeders have been salvaged from elsewhere and installed at the bird feeding station, these have been topped up and are now being enjoyed by the various birds at the reserve. More seed will be ordered in January.

7. Bat Surveys

Two bat detectors are on order to assist the Rangers with mapping the location, frequency and type of bats present at the Nature Reserve and other sites.

8. Island Survey

The relevant staff have now received boat safety training. This will enable them to conduct a survey and mapping exercise of the island and determine if improvements are required for ground nesting birds' habitat.

9. Species incidents

A Canada Goose was found dead on MENR during a weekend, the animal was retrieved from the bank by one of the volunteer water bailiffs and disposed of in the woods.

Hedgehog houses checked – no sign of occupation.

A Tawny Owl (suspected female) has been spotted occupying the owl box by the butterfly garden. Romeo and Juliet- last years' couple had not been seen for some time so this may be Juliet returning or a new female looking for territory.

The Rangers have sighted a kingfisher on the lake. Earlier in the year a local photographer also managed to get an incredible photo of it in the pond of Old Pond Copse.

Shoveller ducks have been seen creating 'feeding whirlpools' as, being filter feeders they gather in large numbers to create a whirlpool in which to feed. This phenomenon is

apparently quite rare and hasn't been seen for years on the lake. Rangers will try to film the activity. (a video filmed by the Rangers has now been posted o ETC's social media page)

Additionally- 2 swans have arrived on MENR W/C 24/11/25 and have been seen 'canoodling'. They have since stayed so hopefully we have a new breeding pair at the lake.

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Agenda Item 10 – Phone Box Project

The university staff who had expressed an interest in creating displays for the phone box are no longer in position at UoR and therefore we (the chair of Amenities and Leisure Committee and the Town Clerk) have had to start again on what was meant to be a collaborative project. Fortunately, staff at the Museum of English Rural Life are keen to get involved and we have a meeting scheduled with them in late January.

In the meantime, officers have made contact with and met the head of art at Maiden Erlegh School. She is very keen for some of the students' work to be displayed in the phone box and already has ideas for what work could be used, we will be discussing this with her further early in the New Year. The school's technicians will carry out the actual installing of the work.