

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL – PRECEPT 2026-27



Earley Town Council's precept enables it to provide services and maintain and improve its assets around the town. These assets include Maiden Erlegh Lake & Nature Reserve, Sol Joel Park, Meadow Park, Paddick Drive open space, Redhatch Copse, three community centres, Radstock House Council Offices, Mays Lane Cemetery, Culver Lane Allotments, numerous bus shelters and over 30 notice boards. In addition to managing its assets, ETC organises various community events; represents the town in its responses to numerous consultations; carries out its role as statutory consultee in all Earley planning applications; provides advice and information by way of its website and social media page; and delivers a wide range of in-person services such as the provision of waste bags & recycling receptacles, payment of council tax and the certification of foreign pension forms, from its Helpshop located at the Council Offices.

In the 2025-26 financial year, in addition to its regular service delivery work, Earley Town Council continued with its environmental and biodiversity projects - planting trees, bulbs and wildflower seed; improving the conservation corridor at Collins Drive; and investing in equipment such as a lake oxygen meter and bat detectors. During this time, several Town Council buildings benefitted from the ongoing maintenance programme; Centrepoint was fitted with a new floor in the main hall and the Council workshop toilets were fully refurbished. At Mays Lane Cemetery the cremated remains section was extended and landscaped, increasing capacity for years to come. The Town Council continued with its bus shelter replacement programme and also installed four up to date, informative Town Maps around the town. A second traditional red telephone box was renovated and turned into a mini art and information gallery where displays are regularly changed and updated.

During the 2025-26 financial year, the Council awarded grants of over £27,000 to charities and organisations providing support and services to local residents – it is a condition of these awards that evidence be provided of the number of Earley residents benefitting so we can be sure that the funds are enhancing the services available to our residents. In terms of Earley Town Council's civic role, in 2025-26 we held two by-elections when those individual seats became vacant, the cost of these was funded by a reserve which ETC keeps for such occasions.

Looking Ahead

In 2026-27 Earley Town Council will continue its buildings improvement programme with particular focus on energy efficiency and sustainability, one such project being the replacement of the old, inefficient heating system at Maiden Place Community Centre. A major renovation of the play equipment and outdoor gym at Meadow Park will be completed, some of which will be funded by the developer contribution monies received by the town council. Officers are working with pupils from a local school to create a design that fulfils local needs. More community services will be delivered from Centrepoint Community Centre - the Town Council's popular youth club service, run by professional youth workers, will be expanded, with at least one extra club night per week being offered. We will continue to support the Earley Repair Café, a hugely popular venture for both residents with items to fix and the volunteers who do the fixing. Another volunteering opportunity will open in late Spring/early Summer – Spokes Bike Workshop at Centrepoint. ETC's new Bike Workshop Co-ordinator will head up sessions where residents can bring their cycles for service and repair.

The cost pressures of recent years are likely to continue in 2026-27, utility charges remain high and employment costs have increased. Further challenges could also come from the devolution of some community assets following the government review of borough councils and principal authorities as well as the financial challenges these councils are facing. Earley Town Council needs to remain

resilient and able to respond positively to future challenges to ensure that Earley remains a great place to live and work and residents have access to good quality facilities and services. Careful management of Council finances means Town Councillors have been able to agree a below average increase of 1% to ETC's precept in 2026-27. This will mean an average Band D household will pay £88.46 a year towards the Town Council's precept as part of their council tax bill, an increase on last year of 39 pence per year per Band D household.

2026/27 Budget and Precept	Income	Expenditure
Community Facilities	£214,356	£189,555
Parks & Open Spaces	£30,075	£195,489
Highways & Street Furniture		£46,700
Vehicles & Equipment		£41,216
Helpshop & Administration		£1,221,821
Grants		£40,000
Invested Funds Income	£50,030	
Totals	£294,461	£1,734,781
Income from precept	£1,068,686	
Additional funding from reserves	£371,634	
Final total	£1,734,781	£1,734,781