

# EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



# EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** Thursday 2nd April 2020. 6.30pm entry. 7pm start.  
Epping Hall, St Johns Road, Epping, CM16 5JU.

## TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Council continues to be as busy as ever to provide the residents of Epping, Coopersale and Fiddlers Hamlet with ongoing functions, services and facilities. In addition, and where funds allow, the Council strives to improve these services and facilities.

The Stonards Hill recreation ground and Jack Silley Pavilion in particular have now been largely upgraded and improved and this includes the addition of the café which has proved to be a very popular addition to Stonards Hill. The new outdoor gym and table tennis table have also been well received and have also proved to be very popular. It is hoped that the tennis courts can be upgraded in the near future if external funding can be secured.

The Monday Market is another facility that continues to occupy much attention to ensure its continued success. A variety of measures have been put in place to protect the market and make it a viable facility for the future.

The Safer Epping Group, previously the antisocial behaviour working party, and initiated by Epping Town Council, now has excellent community representation and attendance and is covering a variety of residents' concerns. Meetings are open to everyone and are advertised widely around the town.

The Annual Town Show was once again a resounding success. Taking place on the first Sunday of July the show was attended by record numbers of people and the weather was once again kind to us. Likewise the Christmas Market, was very well attended and continues to be very popular. The Christmas tree, sponsored by the

Rotary Club of Epping, and the Christmas lights in general also received very favourable comments. These are all organised and financed by Epping Town Council.

Planning continues to be a vital function of the Town Council, ensuring it at least has a say into the shape of development in Epping. The Chair of the Planning Committee has his own report following this report. There is also an update on the Neighbourhood Plan which is now quite advanced. There are numerous other functions that the Town Council are responsible for and I would draw your attention to a summary of these at the back of this report.

I have had the pleasure of attending numerous events this year and meeting many members of our community. Thank you to everyone who has extended an invitation to me, and the Mayoress, and for making us most welcome. Tinged with some sadness, I have also attended the funeral and remembrance services of two of our Freemen of the Town, Freddy Limer MBE and Denys Favre. Both will be greatly missed.

Because of the excellent work carried out by the Town Council, I am pleased to report that the Town Council has been awarded Quality Gold Status by the Essex Association of Local Councils, demonstrating an excellence in policies, procedures and council development. Epping Town Council is now one of only five Councils in Essex to have attained this standard. I would like to congratulate the Town Clerk, all the staff and my fellow Councillors, both past and present, for their hard work in achieving this standard. We look forward to another busy year ahead.

*Grahame Scruton*

Grahame Scruton, Town Mayor

**Town Mayor**  
Mr G Scruton  
**Deputy Town Mayor**  
Mr M Wright

**Members:**  
Mr N Avey  
Mrs I Black  
Mrs C Burgess

Mr J Duffell  
Mr R Griffiths  
Mrs C McCredie  
Mr H Pegrum

Mrs B Scruton  
Mrs M-L Whitbread  
Mr J Whitehouse

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Town Council's Planning & General Purposes Committee acts as a consultee to the District Council in respect of any planning application which falls within the Town. It has been a great pleasure for me to continue to chair this Committee throughout the municipal year. There has been no respite from the large number of applications the Committee has reviewed this year; 164 proposals in total and we have made recommendations to the District Council in respect of those applications. A change to the planning procedure has meant that where we object to an application, we are required to attend the District Council's Planning Committee to support our objection. May I thank my Vice Chairman, councillor Barbara Scruton for appearing for the Town Council on many occasions. In making our recommendations, the Committee carefully considers planning issues which arise. We also apply our local knowledge to arrive at a decision which we believe is in the interests of the Town and its residents. The majority of applications we have seen this year are enhancements to family homes which we have not objected to. However, we have seen a small number, which we have objected vigorously to, as we consider they will entail the loss of family homes and damage the amenity of prominent residential streets in the Town. In particular, we objected to one application which we have seen a number of times in different iterations which would have, in our view, been extremely detrimental to the conservation area in the town centre. This involved the demolition of an existing house and the erection of flats. Unfortunately, this theme is becoming more common and more applications of this type are being received. While the Committee does not object per se to flat developments, we will continue to carefully

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

consider any which we believe will affect the fabric and feel of Epping as a market town in a rural setting and robustly object to applications the Committee finds frankly offensive. May I thank my fellow councillors who also served on the Committee.

*Nigel Avey* Chairman, Planning Committee

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have also had the great pleasure to continue to chair the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. With the help of fellow councillors and residents who have given up their time to sit on the Committee, enormous progress has been made on the Neighbourhood Plan. The submission version of EFDC's Local Plan has been subject to examination by an Inspector and EFDC is currently dealing with issues arising as a result of that examination. However, it is likely that the Local Plan will be adopted at some point in the near future. As a result, we have proceeded on the basis that the Neighbourhood Plan must mirror the Local Plan. We have therefore halted any further work on our advanced Neighbourhood Plan, until the Local Plan is nearer to adoption and the Inspector's issues have been resolved. We have not amended the sites identified in the Local Plan for development and we have chosen not to add sites for development, as the Committee wishes to protect as much Green Belt surrounding Epping as possible. We continue to maintain that any development undertaken as a result of the Local Plan must carry such infrastructure enhancements as are necessary to support the development without damaging the Town's character. In particular, we are concerned that Epping's traffic problems must be mitigated before any future large development is undertaken. We hope to be able to return to the Neighbourhood Plan shortly and move towards its adoption.

*Nigel Avey* Chairman, Neighbourhood Planning

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### MEMBERS

Mr N Avey (Chairman)  
Mrs B Scruton  
(Vice Chairman)  
Mrs C Burgess  
Mrs C McCredie  
Mr G Scruton  
(Town Mayor) (ex-officio)  
Mrs M-L Whitbread  
Mr M Wright  
(Deputy Town Mayor) (ex-officio)

## COUNCIL OFFICERS

Miss B Rumsey - Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Mrs K Harrigan - Finance & Cemetery Officer  
Mrs D Kennedy-Fogg - Committee Secretary  
Miss R Dennis - Bookings & Administration Officer  
Mrs G Vallis - Planning & Events Officer  
Mrs J Lewis - Cemetery & Market Officer  
Mr W Towers - Recreation & Amenities Manager & Cemetery Superintendent  
Mr M Patience - Groundsman  
Mr S Willsmore - Groundsman  
Mr B Jones - Caretaker  
Mr P Morton - Caretaker  
Mr D Manning - Groundsman  
Mr D Hogan - Market Supervisor  
Mrs J Tappenden - Caretaker (Epping Hall)  
Miss J Bayley - Caretaker (Jack Silley Pavilion)

## COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2019/20

| <b><u>COUNCILLORS'</u></b><br><b><u>ATTENDANCE SUMMARY</u></b> |         |        |                             |        |  |        |
|--|---------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--|--------|
| 2019/2020  | Council |        | Planning & General Purposes |        | Corporate Governance Advisory, Extraordinary, Neighbourhood Planning |        |
|  | Held    | Actual | Held                        | Actual | Held   | Actual |
| Avey, N  | 9       | 8      | 16                          | 12     | 2  | 2      |
| Black, Mrs I   | 9       | 7      |                             |        |  |        |
| Burgess, Mrs C   | 9       | 8      | 16                          | 14     |  |        |
| Duffell, J   | 9       | 8      |                             |        |  |        |
| Griffiths, R   | 9       | 8      |                             |        |  |        |
| McCredie, Mrs C  | 9       | 8      | 16                          | 11     | (0)  | (1)    |
| Pegrum, H  | 9       | 5      |                             |        |  |        |
| Scruton, Mrs B   | 9       | 8      | 16                          | 16     | (1)  | (1)    |
| Scruton, G (Town Mayor)  | 9       | 9      | 16                          | 13     | 1  | 1      |
| Whitbread, Mrs M-L   | 9       | 9      | 16                          | 12     |  |        |
| Whitehouse, J  | 9       | 9      |                             |        |  |        |
| Wright, M G (Deputy Town Mayor)                                | 9       | 7      | 16                          | 15     | 2  | 2      |

NB. Numbers in brackets indicate not a member of that Committee but has attended some or part of some of the meetings of that Committee.

Where no figures are given, the councillor is not a member of that Committee.

Meetings from 14 May 2019 to 28 Jan 2020 inclusive.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2019/20 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2020/21

| <b>EPPING TOWN COUNCIL</b>              | <b>2019/20</b> |               | <b>2020/21</b> |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>SUMMARY &amp; ESTIMATES</b>          |                |               |                |               |
|   | <b>GROSS</b>   | <b>NET</b>    | <b>GROSS</b>   | <b>NET</b>    |
| Service & Committee Support             | 193130         | 192030        | 197280         | 196180        |
| Loan payments                           | 102416         | 102416        | 102416         | 102416        |
| Grants                                  | 4650           | 4650          | 4650           | 4650          |
| Events & Publications                   | 34080          | 29830         | 33530          | 28530         |
| Public Halls                            | 46435          | -3065         | 51910          | -1590         |
| Market                                  | 53020          | -14980        | 60390          | -9610         |
| Cemetery                                | 5780           | -38220        | 5750           | -34250        |
| Parks & Maintenance                     | 208750         | 202150        | 210700         | 204900        |
| Public Toilet                           | 6000           | 6000          | 6820           | 6820          |
| Allotments                              | 1600           | -1200         | 1400           | -1400         |
| Street Furniture                        | 2100           | 2100          | 2000           | 2000          |
| Leases                                  | 2001           | -1799         | 2001           | -4699         |
| Capital Projects                        | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0             |
| Neighbourhood Planning                  | 4000           | 4000          | 3000           | 3000          |
| War Memorial                            | 100            | 100           | 100            | 100           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>664062</b>  | <b>484012</b> | <b>681947</b>  | <b>497047</b> |
|   |                |               |                |               |
| <b>Less</b>                             |                |               |                |               |
| Transfer to (+)<br>from (-)<br>reserves |                | (8427)        |                | 3094          |
| <b>PRECEPT +<br/>LCTS GRANT</b>         |                | <b>475585</b> |                | <b>500141</b> |

## COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

### RECREATION GROUNDS/PLAY AREAS:

Stonards Hill Recreation Ground  
Ivy Chimneys Playground  
Lower Swaines  
Frampton Road  
Brook Road  
Parklands, Coopersale

Epping Monday Market  
Bakers Lane Toilets  
Epping Cemetery, Bury Lane  
War Memorial, Town Green

### COMMUNITY HALLS:

Epping Hall, St Johns Road  
(also the offices of Epping Town Council)  
Jack Silley Pavilion, Stonards Hill Recreation Ground

### ALLOTMENTS:

Lower Bury Lane, Meadow Road

### STREET FURNITURE:

(Bus Shelters, Seats, Notice Boards,  
Town Signs, Finger Post Signs)  
Maintenance of selected greens  
Christmas lights and trees

### PUBLICATIONS:

Town Magazine: Talk About Epping  
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter  
Residents are invited to submit material for consideration.  
Deadline dates in the back of each issue.

### EVENTS & OTHER DUTIES:

Town Show, Stonards Hill recreation ground  
Christmas Market, Epping High Street  
Specialist Markets, when available  
Consultee for Planning & Highways matters within the Town  
Epping Town Neighbourhood Plan

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

In the last year, Epping Town Council have made further improvements to Stonards Hill recreation ground, providing the new café facility at the Jack Silley Pavilion, a new outdoor gym with sixteen different exercise points and an outdoor table tennis table. We were lucky to receive funding for both, meaning less spent from our budget. We have made changes to Epping's Monday market to enable us to support our traders by reducing their rent and introducing events to attract more footfall. The Monday market is crucial to the character of our historic market town and we must continue to support its vitality and future. This will be ongoing.

In December, we were awarded Quality Gold status by the Essex Association of Local Councils and we are proud to be only one of five Councils in Essex to hold this award. This confirms that we have excellent policies and procedures in place, budget carefully and effectively and work hard for the benefit of our community.

Epping Town's Neighbourhood Plan has reached an advanced stage and we are waiting for work on Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan to be finalised before we can move forwards, as the Neighbourhood Plan must conform to the Local Plan. Our residents will be involved in the final stages of the Plan, as it will be publicly examined. Epping Town Council are a busy Council, managing and maintaining many parts of Epping Parish (including Fiddlers Hamlet and Coopersale) and much of our work is the ongoing work associated with our important functions and services. This includes our Monday Charter market, two booking halls, regular maintenance of our six recreation grounds, management of two allotment sites, the publication of our quarterly magazine Talk About Epping, care of Epping War Memorial, the Bakers Lane toilets, management of Bury Lane cemetery, Epping Town Show, the Christmas Market and providing Christmas lighting and a central Christmas tree for our Town. As we approach the VE Day 75 commemorations in May 2020, we anticipate another busy year.

## CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

Epping Hall, St Johns Road, Epping, Essex, CM16 5JU  
Tel: 01992 579444 Fax: 01992 579446

Website: [www.eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Email: [info@eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Twitter: @EppingTown  
Facebook.com/@epping.towncouncil

TALK ABOUT EPPING  
Town Magazine  
Spring, Summer,  
Autumn, Winter  
Epping Town Council publication







EPPING TOWN COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2019/20