

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Thursday 21st April 2022. 6.30pm. Main Hall, Epping Hall, St Johns Road, Epping, CM16 5JU.

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve this Town as Mayor and Chairman of the Council for a second term and though we are still suffering the effects of Covid restrictions, we are starting to return to normal, which has meant a very busy time for myself and my wife Lorna. Throughout the past year and through all the restrictions, Epping Town Council has managed to fulfil its statutory obligations and continue its services and functions. We are now back to face to face meetings for both full Council and Committee meetings, which are held at Epping Town Council's offices at Epping Hall in St Johns Road.

We were delighted to be able to welcome our hall hirers and Monday market back in full. The Monday market has adapted well to its new layout, but continues to need everyone's support. We were delighted to, once again, provide the central Christmas tree and all the Christmas lights for Epping.

The Town Show returned last summer after the Covid closures. The popular event was a great success with about 60 stalls, displays, arena events and funfair, as well as a Flypast from an RAF Spitfire. The Christmas Market returned to a larger event in 2021 and was again hugely popular. Back in 2019, Epping Town Council initiated the formation of Epping Playground Association, to assist with fundraising for the refurbishment of the playground at Lower Swaines recreation ground. Epping Playground Association have now raised a staggering £134,000 for the project to date and this will now enable the new exciting and accessible playground to be delivered. We hope that work will begin on this fantastic new facility for the town in the coming months. Thank you very much to Epping Playground Association and everyone who has been involved in this fantastic achievement.

We were delighted to be able to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy and planted three oak trees at Stonards Hill recreation ground to mark this important commemoration. The trees were planted by Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, Hugh Pegrum, Town Freeman John Batchelor and myself. You may be aware that Ride London will be visiting Essex on 28th and 29th May and this major cycling event will be coming through and finishing in Epping, bringing much focus on the Town.

Epping Town Council are delighted to be holding some special events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2nd-5th June 2022) including a beacon lighting ceremony, as part of the national lighting programme and supporting a concert and other activities. We are asking the Town to decorate itself red, white and blue for this historic occasion. I shall look forward to thanking members of our local community on their achievements at the Mayor's Civic Reception at the end of April 2022, which is the first time this has been able to be held in two years.

I have met so many fantastic people during the last year and attended so many wonderful events, including the opening of the refurbished wing of Ashlar House, where Lorna and I have been made so welcome. I will be sad when my Mayoral year comes to an end in May.

A big thank you to the Town Clerk Beverley Rumsey and her excellent team for making the Council run smoothly. Thank you also to Bill Towers and his grounds team for their care of our wonderful green spaces. My thanks to my fellow councillors for their hard work and support in Council business and as always, a big thank you to my wife Lorna for all her support.

I am very proud of all the Town Council has achieved in the last year.

Michael Wright

Michael Wright, Town Mayor

Town Mayor:
M Wright
Deputy Town Mayor:
B Scruton

Members:
N Avey
S Baker
C Burgess

J Duffell
R Griffiths
C McCredie
H Pegrum

G Scruton
M-L Whitbread
J Whitehouse

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Town Council's Planning & General Purposes Committee acts as a consultee for Epping Forest District Council regarding any planning application which falls within Epping Parish. It has been a great pleasure for me to continue to chair this Committee over the municipal year.

We have continued to receive a large number of applications at Committee this year; 152 proposals in total and we have made recommendations to the District Council in relation to all those applications.

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, its particular location and its residents.

The majority of applications we have seen 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 feel they will be detrimental to the particular location and/or character of the Town.

We continue to monitor the prevalence of flatted developments, as our Town needs a mix of dwelling types. Epping Town Council are keen to protect the fabric and feel of Epping as a historic market town in a rural setting.

Of particular interest this year has been the five Qualis planning applications, where we offered constructive comments and await those developments with interest.

Where Epping Town Council's Planning Committee objects to an application, we are required to attend the District Council's Planning

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Committee to support our objection. May I thank my Vice Chairman, councillor Barbara Scruton for appearing for the Town Council on many occasions. May I also thank my fellow councillors who work alongside me on this Committee.

Nigel Avey Chairman, Planning Committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have also had the pleasure to continue to chair the Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee this year, with the help of fellow councillors and residents who have given up their time to sit on the Committee.

We are currently waiting for the adoption of Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan and have proceeded on the basis that the Neighbourhood Plan must mirror the Local Plan. Once the Local Plan is adopted, Epping Town Council can finalise the Neighbourhood Plan, which will form a key planning document for Epping Town and Parish.

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 progress the Neighbourhood Plan to conclusion over the coming months.

Nigel Avey Chairman, Neighbourhood Planning

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

N Avey (Chairman)
S Baker
C Burgess
C McCredie
G Scruton
B Scruton
(Vice Chairman)
(Deputy Town Mayor) (ex-officio)
M Wright
(Town Mayor) (ex-officio)

COUNCIL OFFICERS

B Rumsey - Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
K Harrigan - Finance & Cemetery Officer
R Dennis - Bookings & Administration Officer
G Vallis - Planning & Events Officer
J Lewis - Cemetery, Market & Administration Officer
W Towers - Recreation & Amenities Manager & Cemetery Superintendent
M Patience - Groundsman
D Manning - Groundsman
S Willsmore - Groundsman
B Jones - Caretaker
P Morton - Caretaker
J Tappenden - Caretaker (Epping Hall)
L Pottle - Caretaker (Jack Silley Pavilion)

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2021/22

<u>COUNCILLORS'</u> <u>ATTENDANCE SUMMARY</u>						
2021/2022	Council & (ExtraOrdinary Council)		Planning & General Purposes		Corporate Governance Advisory & (Neighbourhood Planning)	
	Held	Actual	Held	Actual	Held	Actual
Avey, N	12	10	19	13	2 (3)	2 (3)
Baker, S	12	11	19	16	0 (3)	0 (2)
Burgess, C	12	11	19	14	0	0
Duffell, J	12	9	(0)	(0)	0	0
Griffiths, R	12	9	(0)	(0)	0	0
McCredie, C	12	11	19	16	0 (3)	0 (2)
Pegrum, H	12	11	(0)	(0)	0	0
Scruton, B (Deputy Town Mayor)	12	12	19	18	2 (3)	2 (3)
Scruton, G	12	11	19	17	2	2
Whitbread, M-L	12	7	(0)	(0)	0	0
Whitehouse, J	12	10	(0)	(0)	0 (3)	0 (1)
Wright, M G (Town Mayor)	12	11	19	18	2 (3)	2 (2)

Where (0) is given, or brackets () are given, the councillor is not a member of that Committee.

Meetings from 18 May 2021 to 8 Mar 2022 inclusive.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2021/22 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2022/23

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL	2021/22		2022/23	
	GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET
SUMMARY & ESTIMATES				
Service & Committee Support	202850	201750	208000	207400
Loan payments	102416	102416	102416	102416
Grants	4650	4650	4650	4650
Events & Publications	30470	25970	34120	29620
Public Halls	53060	3060	53950	3450
Market	43820	-6680	40700	-4800
Cemetery	5680	-38320	5700	-40300
Parks & Maintenance	217710	212199	231200	224600
Public Toilet	12300	12300	11560	11560
Allotments	1500	-1700	1600	-2400
Street Furniture	1800	1800	1800	1800
Leases	2001	-4424	2001	-7199
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood Planning	4000	4000	3000	3000
War Memorial	100	100	100	100
Total	682357	517121	700797	533897
Less				
Transfer to (+) from (-) reserves		208		4517
PRECEPT + LCTS GRANT		517329		538414

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

Epping Town Council have been delighted to be able to resume our full range of normal operations following the ever changing circumstances and closures surrounding the coronavirus Covid 19 health situation over the last two years. Epping Town Council has continued to provide our town with the many services and facilities we operate, including Stonards Hill recreation ground, five playgrounds, two allotment sites, two sets of public toilets (at Bakers Lane and Stonards Hill recreation ground), Stonards Hill recreation ground tennis courts, Bury Lane cemetery and Epping's historic Monday Charter Market. In addition, Epping Town Council delivered the annual Town Show and Christmas Market and lit up Epping at Christmas.

Council and planning meetings have returned to face to face meetings and many residents have joined us to express their views. We have continued to analyse planning and tree applications in Epping Parish. We continue to wait for progress on Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan, when work will move towards conclusion on our Town's Neighbourhood Plan. We have been working with Epping Playground Association since 2019 to deliver an exciting new playground refurbishment at Lower Swaines recreation ground and are delighted to announce that the fundraising target has been reached. (Epping Playground Association having raised £134,000 with the Town Council's help and support.) We hope work will start on the playground refurbishment in the next few months. Epping Town Council continue to support Epping in Bloom with their work on the community garden at Market Garden Terrace (beside M&S) and have provided a lovely new Town Sign at Tower Road green on the approach into Epping and three oak trees at Stonards Hill recreation ground to mark the Queen's Green Canopy as part of her 70th Jubilee year. We look forward to assisting with the major cycle event Ride London Essex and leading Platinum Jubilee events for the Town over the coming months.

CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

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Facebook.com/@epping.towncouncil

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



LOWER SWAINES RECREATION GROUND
 EPPING TOWN COUNCIL PAGE 1 OF 3

0-12+ 40+ 80+ USES

PRODUCT LIST

1. TODDLER SWING WITH CRADLE AND YOU&ME SEATS
2. OLD EPPING TOWN HOUSE
3. CAT SPRINGER
4. FARMYARD SEE-SAW
5. MEGAPHONE
6. POST & ROPE UP MOUND
7. MOUND TUNNEL
8. TIPI CAROUSEL WITH BARS
9. FLOWER EXPLORER PANEL
10. BUTTERFLY TILE SIDE PANEL
11. WHATS THE WEATHER LIKE? PANEL
12. PICNIC TABLES X 3
13. JUNIOR MULTIPLAY UNIT WITH OVERHEAD BARS
14. SPICA X 2
15. JUNIOR SWING WITH FLAT AND GROUP SHELL SEATS
16. NET CLIMBING TOWER
17. ZIP WIRE WITH START PLATFORM
18. BLOCKX ACTIVITY CUBE
19. COMB'S STREET WORKOUT
20. MEETING POINT
21. SPORT'S GOAL WITH FOOTBALL GOAL AND BASKETBALL HOOP

OUR DESIGN AT LOWER SWAINES RECREATION GROUND ENSURES THAT USERS OF A RANGE OF AGES AND ABILITIES CAN LEARN, INTERACT, IMAGINE AND PLAY TOGETHER!

LOGICAL THINKING 2M TALL INCLINED PANELS CROSS BODY CO-ORDINATION CLIMBING GRIPS

KOMPANI Let's play



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