

EPHING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, Friday 13th March 2015, 8pm
Epping Hall, St John's Road, Epping CM16 5JU

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

Being chosen to be your Town Mayor for 2014/15 made me very proud but my year has passed far too quickly! Throughout the year I have attended dozens of Mayoral events and have met many representatives of charities and organisations that make Epping the special place that it is. Epping has been my home for most of my life and it is the place I brought up my family, run a business and enjoyed the amenities that all of us who live here enjoy. The last 12 months for me has been a flurry of community and public events, I can only comment on a few.

I'm sure that one of the standout moments of this year for everyone has to be the Tour de France, when Derek Whitbread who we had awarded Townsperson of the Year to only a few months before and his colleagues from Epping Fire Station, gave their time to deck the town with bunting purchased by the Town Council to create a carnival atmosphere ahead of the race.

It was my pleasure to open the Epping Town Show which is now well established in the annual calendar of the town. It is an opportunity for the town's businesses, clubs, associations and charities to show off what they are about and for the townsfolk to actively see what goes on in and around Epping and most importantly, have fun!

Events in the High Street are important for promoting Epping as a place to visit and shop. This year the Town Council once again supported the Epping Festival run by the Town Centre Partnership. The continental market on 12th July was a great success and the Town Council is planning to organise regular continental markets throughout the year as something for residents to enjoy but also to bring visitors to Epping to spend and support our High Street!

It was also the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. It was an honour, accompanied by my husband, to represent the people of Epping at several Remembrance services in and around the town.

This year, the Town Council invested in new Christmas lights in the central part of the town, with trees being lit up at each end of the town, to welcome people to Epping. We are looking forward to adding illuminations to the tower of St John's church this year.

Overall, my year has been a very rewarding and delightful one, but sadly, in June, Ken Avey, a fellow councillor and past Town Mayor passed away. Ken had served this community for many years and is sadly missed. Ken was also instrumental in helping me to become a Town Councillor.

In spite of all the improvements the Town Council has made, this year we are able to freeze Council Tax for the 4th year running.

Looking forward, Epping has been designated as a Neighbourhood Planning Area and the Town Council now has the power to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan, giving residents of Epping more influence over development in the town.

As residents, we sometimes take for granted the fact that all outside areas in the town have to be maintained and my thanks go to the ground staff who maintain the recreation areas.

I cannot close without thanking my fellow Town Councillors, Alan Shaw the Town Clerk, his new Deputy Beverley Rumsey and the support staff in the office, for all the help and support they have given me throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Scruton".

Barbara Scruton
Town Mayor

Town Mayor
Mrs B Scruton

Deputy Town Mayor
Mr M Wright

Members

Mr N Avey
Mr L Burrows
Mr W Breare-Hall
Mr A Church
Mrs J Hedges

Mrs L Hughes
Mr H Pegrum
Mr G Scruton
Mr J A Smith
Mrs J Whitehouse

Chairman's Report

Our Committee has reviewed 179 separate development proposals within the Town over the last year and made recommendations to the District on each of them. In 82% of cases, the final decision is the outcome that we were hoping for. The other 18% is the area of concern for us. A number of proposals this year have seen many flats being approved above shops in the High Street with what we feel are inadequate parking and amenity space. Another area of concern is the rapidly diminishing stock of bungalows in the town as these are being allowed to convert to houses, and integral garages being converted into internal space putting more and more pressure on already inadequate parking infrastructure in Epping. To this end, we have made the first steps towards introducing a neighbourhood plan for Epping, which we hope will help us address the imbalance between the current planning policy and the aspirations of residents for the town.

Nigel Avey, Chairman

MEMBERS

Mr N Avey (Chairman)
Mr L Burrows (Vice-Chairman)

Mr A Church
Mrs J Hedges
Mrs J Hughes
Mr G Scruton
Mr J A Smith
Town Mayor (ex-officio)
Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio)

Recreation Grounds/Play Areas:
(Stonards Hill, Ivy Chimneys, Lower Swaines, Frampton Rd, Brook Rd, Parklands.)
Epping Market
Bakers Lane Toilets
Epping Cemetery
Community Halls
Allotments
Street Furniture:
(Bus Shelters, Seats, Notice Boards, Town Signs, Finger Post Signs)
War Memorial
Maintenance of Town Greens
Christmas Lights
Town Magazine
Events: Town Show, Christmas Market
Statutory consultee for Planning & Highways matters within the Town

COUNCIL OFFICERS

A Shaw - Town Clerk

Miss B Rumsey - Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs K Harrigan - Finance Officer
Mrs G Ratcliff - Senior Admin Officer
Mrs D Kennedy-Fogg - Committee Sec.

W Towers - Town Supervisor
A Clark - Groundsman
D Manning - Groundsman
M Patience - Groundsman

B Jones - Caretaker (Epping Hall)
Mrs J Tappenden - Caretaker (Epping Hall)
P Morton - Caretaker (Jack Silley)

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2014/15

| Councillor | Council | | Planning | | Other | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Actual | Planned | Actual | Planned | Actual | Planned |
| Avey, K ⁽¹⁾ | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Avey, N | 9 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 1 | 2 |
| Breare-Hall, W | 8 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Burrows, L | 9 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 1 | 2 |
| Church A | 3 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 1 | 2 |
| Hedges Mrs J | 9 | 10 | 13 | 17 | 1 | 2 |
| Hughes, Mrs L | 7 | 10 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 3 |
| Pegrum, H | 9 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Scruton, G ⁽²⁾ | 6 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 2 |
| Scruton, Mrs B | 9 | 10 | 14 | 17 | 2 | 3 |
| Smith, J A | 10 | 10 | 16 | 17 | 2 | 2 |
| Whitehouse, J | 9 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wright M | 7 | 10 | 14 | 17 | 1 | 3 |

(1) Deceased (2) Co-opted 12 August 2014

Meetings from 13 May 2014 to 13 January 2015 inclusive

CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

Epping Hall, St John's Road, Epping CM16 5JU
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twitter: [@eppingtown](https://twitter.com/eppingtown)

facebook: www.facebook.com/epping.towncouncil

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2014/15 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2015/16

| | 2014/15 | | 2015/16 | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | GROSS | NET | GROSS | NET |
| Service & Committee Support | 72210 | 69410 | 179730 | 179610 |
| Loan Payments | | 102416 | 102416 | 102416 |
| Grants | | 5300 | 5300 | 5300 |
| Events & Publications | 71113 | 67749 | 25750 | 22250 |
| Public Halls | 100016 | 52762 | 41474 | -26 |
| Market | 66667 | -16270 | 63735 | -21265 |
| Cemetery | 28732 | -3068 | 6425 | -37575 |
| Parks & Maintenance | 93941 | 87903 | 180929 | 168207 |
| Public Toilet | | 10393 | 6620 | 6620 |
| Allotments | 4117 | 1921 | 1250 | -1050 |
| Street Furniture | | 2490 | 2300 | 2300 |
| Leases | 1001 | -2799 | 1101 | -2699 |
| | | | | |
| Total | | 378207 | 617030 | 424088 |
| | | | | |
| Less | | | | |
| Transfer to(+)/from(-) reserves | | 60369 | | 16547 |
| PRECEPT + LCTS GRANT | | 438576 | | 440635 |
| | | | | |
| FINANCIAL RESERVES (YEAR END) | | | | |
| | | | | |
| General Fund | | 189314 | | 178861 |
| Asset Fund | | 60396 | | 78396 |
| Capital Fund | | 45699 | | 57699 |
| Election Fund | | 10000 | | 2500 |
| War Memorial Fund | | 2838 | | 2838 |
| Vandalism Fund | | 20047 | | 20047 |
| Stonards Hill Project Fund | | 40000 | | 40000 |
| Christmas Lights | | 4500 | | 9000 |
| Total Reserves | | 372794 | | 389341 |

