

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Friday 11th March 2016. 8pm
Epping Hall, St John's Road, Epping. CM16 5JU

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

I would like to begin by thanking the people of Epping for electing me again as a Town Councillor and to my fellow councillors for electing me as Town Mayor. It has been a fantastic year which has passed all too quickly. I have met so many interesting people from our local organisations who contribute to our town and help create the community spirit we all enjoy so much.

Epping Town Council set up the Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee which consists of councillors and resident stakeholders, to develop the Neighbourhood Plan for Epping. It has been most interesting to talk to people about their concerns and seeing these comments collated to inform the policies of the plan and as such, help shape the future of Epping.

I was delighted to open the Town Show, which was one of the many highlights of my year and accompany our MP Eleanor Laing round the side shows and fair. The arena events and entertainment were enjoyed by the hundreds of people that attended. It was on that day we said goodbye to Town Clerk, Alan Shaw, who was presented with a picture of Epping.

We were pleased to be able to complete Ivy Chimneys Playground, providing a variety of new play equipment, including a children's shop and zip wire.

The Town Council hosted a reception for our visitors from Eppingen in September and my wife and I attended a dinner hosted by the Epping-Eppingen Association with some of my fellow councillors. We had a number of successful continental markets in the town and it was an honour to open the Horticultural Society Show at St John's Church and do a presentation at Slimming World. Other pleasures have been visits to the fire station, Ashlar House Care Home and a

concert for the 80th birthday celebrations of Epping Forest Band.

Christmas is such an important time and being Mayor made it extra special this year, with a nativity play at Chigwell Riding Trust and a carol concert at Ada Cole Memorial Stables amongst my many treats.

Epping and its High Street sparkled at Christmas, with scores of decorated shop windows, illuminated trees on the buildings, lights on the trees and a fantastic light curtain round St John's Church. It gave me great pleasure to open the Christmas Tree Festival, which was a real success with over 61 decorated trees and the Christmas Market, which filled Epping with magic and sparkle. Thank you to all those who attended and supported the varied stalls, magician, jazz band, Epping Forest Band and all our talented school choirs. This happy community spirit is what Epping is all about.

I think everyone was particularly moved by the Sunday Remembrance Service, where so many people came along to support this important event. It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of Epping Town Council at our war memorial, attend services at North Weald Airfield and read out the names of the fallen in St John's Church. My wife Lorna and I have attended so many wonderful things during my Mayoral year and we have been made so welcome. I will host a Civic Event in April where I have the opportunity to give my thanks.

In conclusion, may I say a very big thank you to my fellow Town Councillors, Interim Town Clerk Beverley Rumsey and all the Town Council staff for making my year so enjoyable.

Michael Wright

Michael Wright, Town Mayor

Town Mayor
Mr M Wright

Deputy Town Mayor
Mr L Burrows

Members

Mr N Avey
Mrs D Baird
Mr A Church
Mr H Pegrum
Mrs B Scruton

Mr G Scruton
Mr J A Smith
Mr D Spillman
Miss H Whitbread
Mr J Whitehouse

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In terms of planning applications, 2015 was a busy year for the Planning Committee. We have reviewed 201 separate development proposals over the period and made recommendations to the District Council on each of them.

Underlying any of the Committee's decisions is a desire to preserve and enhance the Town's unique character and also preserve the Green Belt which surrounds the Town. Whilst the majority of applications have been uncontentious enhancements to residents' homes, the Committee has been faced with some challenges. For example, we have been keen to preserve the town's stock of bungalows and the special nature of particular areas, such as The Orchards.

The Committee has also sought to counter overdevelopment, for example, a trend for applications for the development of flats in areas where family houses are prevalent and the street scene would be adversely affected. A number of these issues may hopefully be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan, the preparation of which is well underway. Hopefully the Plan will enable the people of the Town to articulate a real vision of how they would like the Town to develop and what is and is not acceptable in such development.

Nigel Avey

Chairman, Planning Committee

COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

RECREATION GROUNDS/PLAY AREAS:

Stonards Hill Recreation Ground
Ivy Chimneys Playground
Lower Swaines
Frampton Rd
Brook Rd
Parklands

Epping Market
Bakers Lane Toilets
Epping Cemetery, Bury Lane
War Memorial

COMMUNITY HALLS:

Epping Hall, Jack Silley Pavillion

ALLOTMENTS:

Lower Bury Lane, Meadow Road

STREET FURNITURE:

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

PUBLICATIONS:

Town Magazine: Talk About Epping

EVENTS:

Town Show, Christmas Market, Continental Markets

Consultee for Planning & Highways matters within the Town

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr N Avey (Chairman)
Mrs B Scruton (Vice Chairman)

Mrs D Baird
Mr A Church
Mr G Scruton
Mr J A Smith
Mr D Spillman
Miss H Whitbread

Town Mayor (ex-officio):

Mr M Wright

Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio):

Mr L Burrows

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Miss B Rumsey - Interim Town Clerk
Mrs K Harrigan - Finance Officer
Mrs G Ratcliff (CiLCA) - Senior Admin Officer
Mrs D Kennedy-Fogg - Committee Secretary
Mrs S Latchford - Project Assistant

Mr W Towers - Town Supervisor
Mr A Clark - Groundsman
Mr D Manning - Groundsman
Mr M Patience - Groundsman
Mr M Quinn - Market Superintendent

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

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2015/16

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY						
2015/2016	Council		Planning & General Purposes		Corporate Governance Advisory, Extraordinary and Neighbourhood Planning	
	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned
Avey, N	7	9	11	17	2	4
Baird, Mrs D	8	9	13	17	2	2
Burrows, L Deputy Town Mayor	9	9	16	17	3	3
Church, A	7	9	12	17	2	4
Pegrum, H	7	9	(1)	(17)	1	2
Scruton, Mrs B	8	9	14	17	3	4
Scruton, G	9	9	16	17	3	3
Smith, J A	9	9	16	17	3	3
Spillman, D	8	9	15	17	2	2
Whitbread, Miss H	8	9	13	17	1	2
Whitehouse, J	9	9	(2)	(17)	0	2
Wright M D Town Mayor	9	9	14	17	4	5

CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

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 Twitter: @EppingTown
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/eppingtowncouncil

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2015/16 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2016/17

	2015/16		2016/17	
	GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET
Service & Committee Support	179730	179610	174638	173738
Loan payments	102416	102416	102416	102416
Grants	5300	5300	4500	4500
Events & Publications	25750	22250	35600	32300
Public Halls	41474	-26	44355	-3145
Market	63735	-21265	67170	-17830
Cemetery	6425	-37575	6320	-31180
Parks & Maintenance	180929	168207	175560	169010
Public Toilet	6620	6620	7330	7330
Allotments	1250	-1050	800	-1600
Street Furniture	2300	2300	2300	2300
Leases	1101	-2699	1151	-2649
Capital Projects			20000	20000
Neighbourhood Planning			5000	5000
War Memorial			100	100
Total	617030	424088	647240	460290
Less				
Transfer to (+) from (-) reserves		16547		-20
PRECEPT + LCTS GRANT		440635		460270
FINANCIAL RESERVES (YEAR END)				
General Fund		178861		161825
Asset Fund		78396		78396
Capital Fund		57699		49699
Election Fund		2500		6393
War Memorial Fund		2838		1558
Vandalism Fund		20047		10000
Stonards Hill Project Fund		40000		40000
Christmas Lights		9000		13500
Total reserves		389341		361371