

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Friday 13th April 2018. 8pm
Epping Hall, St Johns Road, Epping. CM16 5JU

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

It has been a very great honour to be Town Mayor this year, more particularly as I am the 4th generation Mayor/Chairman of my family. It has been a tremendously busy year and the Town Council has achieved and celebrated so much.

I have been so lucky in that this year saw the 80th anniversary of Rotary's inception, 40th for Probus, 100th for Epping WI and 70th for the Evergreen club; a fantastic year for all the associations.

The Epping Town Show in July was a great success and well attended. Other events through the year included Epping Arts Society exhibitions, the Horticultural Society's Show, the Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church, the Christmas Market in the High Street with wonderful Christmas lights and the welcome return of a Christmas Tree on the Piazza. The Combined Churches held a very festive Christmas lunch on Christmas Day. We have had the Proms on the Green and Carols on the Green, as well as a Youth Market and the Remembrance services and Parade organised by the Royal British Legion, supported by the Epping Forest Pipers Band. The Friends of Swaines Green will be hosting their annual May Fayre this year. The YES awards are scheduled for April. Epping in Bloom provided colourful displays within the Town and won an award from Anglia in Bloom. I was also very proud to collect a Quality Award with the Town Clerk on behalf of Epping Town Council, who earned this accolade through the Essex Local Council Award Scheme.

The Town has been fortunate to have been regaled by the Epping Forest Band, Air Cadets and Army Cadets; a credit to the Town. I was pleased to represent the Town at a festival in our twinned town in Eppingen Germany, showing we are truly international.

All the local schools have joined in Epping activities including entering the annual Mayor's Christmas Card Competition, won by George Mawson of

Coopersale Hall School. I was also pleased to attend the opening of many shops, businesses and restaurants. The Council continues to support the much-loved weekly Market and the refurbishment programme for our local playgrounds. I would like to thank all our market traders for their loyalty and commitment to our special market.

I also led a group of 8 people on a 14,000 feet Skydive in support of the Heart of Epping Project, something I am glad I only had to do once in my Mayoral year.

I have unveiled historic Blue Plaques to the Silley family and to Sidney Hills to commemorate their excellent services to Epping and we have seen the unveiling of the Listening Bench in the St John's Church grounds.

The Town Council has been involved in many projects, including monitoring and responding to Epping Forest District Council's emerging Local Plan, Epping's Neighbourhood Plan, the proposed refurbishment and improvement of the Jack Silley Pavilion and Stonards Hill Recreation Ground and the creation of the anti-social behaviour/ community policing working party. We have repainted the precious lettering on our War Memorial and a rededication service will be held. Negotiations relating to the old St John's Junior School site are continuing towards a conclusion, and that conclusion will be reached when the Council feels the proposed development will be in the Town's best interests.

I must thank my fellow town councillors, Beverley Rumsey, our Town Clerk, and all the Town Council staff, including our very hard working grounds team. I must also thank the Mayoress, Hilary, for her support and the people of Epping, who have contributed their time and efforts to make my Mayoral year a very successful and special one.

Tony Church

Tony Church, Town Mayor

Town Mayor
Mr A Church
Deputy Town Mayor
Mr N Avey

Members:
Mrs C McCredie
Mr G Scruton
Mr J Whitehouse

Mrs D Baird
Mr H Pegrum
Mr J A Smith
Mr M Wright

Mr L Burrows
Mrs B Scruton
Miss H Whitbread

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Town Council's Planning and General Purposes Committee acts as a consultative body in respect of any planning application which is received by the District Council which falls within the Town. It has been my pleasure to chair this Committee throughout the year.

2017 has seen a continued increase in the volume of planning applications considered by the Committee. We have reviewed 158 separate development proposals over the year and made recommendations to the District Council on each of them. I am pleased to report that in the main, the District Council has agreed with our recommendations, where the Committee has made an objection to a development proposal. In making its recommendations, the Committee endeavours to reflect the views of the Town's residents, where objections have been lodged against a development. We hope the Committee offers a unique local view on applications, based on details which may not be available to the District Council. Our key aim is to preserve the unique character of the Town.

In particular we have tried to resist attempts to demolish good properties to provide flat developments or the loss of bungalows as they are turned into houses. In some well publicised cases we have been successful in these aims. The Committee welcomes residents who wish to attend meetings to put their views across regarding developments. We try to maintain an informal atmosphere where residents are welcome to speak with the Committee and I hope more residents will use this forum to make their points of view known to the Council.

Nigel Avey

Chairman, Planning Committee

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have also had the pleasure to chair the Neighbourhood Planning Committee. This Committee has continued to work on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for the Town. Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan has been good, albeit a lot of time has been spent scrutinising the Local Plan, which has now been issued by the District Council in its submission form. The Town Council has formally responded to the Inspector of the Local Plan.

While the Town Council welcomed amendments to the Local Plan, which broadly reflected comments it had made in respect of the original draft, there are still reservations about issues in the Local Plan such as the actual delivery of infrastructure. The Town Council continues to be concerned about the level of development planned for the Town in the Plan and the lack of detail on certain key issues.

As the Neighbourhood Plan sits beneath the Local Plan, we will not be able to finalise its contents until the Local Plan has been subject to scrutiny by the Inspector. However, work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that to the greatest possible extent we reflect residents' views on how Epping should develop in the future and continues to be an attractive place to live.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank co-opted members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee who have given up their time to assist on development of the Plan. Without their efforts and the hard work of the Council officers, we could not have driven the Neighbourhood Plan forward.

Nigel Avey

Chairman, Neighbourhood Planning Committee

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Mr N Avey (Chairman)
& Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio)
Mrs B Scruton (Vice Chairman)
Mrs D Baird
Mr L Burrows
Mrs C McCredie
Mr G Scruton
Mr J A Smith
Mr M Wright
Town Mayor (ex-officio):
Mr A Church

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
Mr W Towers - Recreation & Amenities Manager
Mr A Clark - Groundsman
Mr M Patience - Groundsman
Mr D Manning - Groundsman
Mr B Jones - Caretaker (Epping Hall)
Mrs J Tappenden - Caretaker (Epping Hall)
Mr P Morton - Caretaker (Jack Silley) Mr M Allen - Market Manager

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2017/18

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY						
2017/2018	Council		Planning & General Purposes		Corporate Governance Advisory, Extraordinary and Neighbourhood Planning	
	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned
Avey, N (Deputy Town Mayor)	7	9	10	16	4	7
Baird, Mrs D	6	9	9	16	2	2
Burrows, L	9	9	13	16	5	6
Church, A (Town Mayor)	9	9	13	16	5	7
McCredie, Mrs C	5	5	10	11	3	1
Pegrum, H	9	9	(3)	(16)	1	2
Scruton, Mrs B	7	9	14	16	5	6
Scruton, G	7	9	14	16	5	3
Smith, J A	9	9	16	16	2	3
Whitbread, Miss H	7	9	(1)	(16)	2	2
Whitehouse, J	8	9	(4)	(16)	5	2
Wright, M G	9	9	15	16	5	6
Spillman, D Town councillor until 16 th June 2017	2	2	2	3	0	1

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.

Meetings from 9 May 2017 to 23 January 2018 inclusive

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2017/18 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2018/19

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL	2017/18		2018/19	
SUMMARY & ESTIMATES				
	GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET
Service & Committee Support	167290	166390	171910	170810
Loan payments	102416	102416	102416	102416
Grants	4650	4650	4650	4650
Events & Publications	34620	31320	33620	30120
Public Halls	43130	-4370	44768	-2232
Market	66870	-19130	73456	-12544
Cemetery	7640	-36360	7660	-32340
Parks & Maintenance	197590	191040	201520	194970
Public Toilet	7690	7690	7570	7570
Allotments	800	-1700	1450	-1250
Street Furniture	2300	2300	2000	2000
Leases	2301	-1499	2301	-1499
Capital Projects	13000	13000	0	0
Neighbourhood Planning	6000	6000	2000	2000
War Memorial	100	100	100	100
Total	656397	461847	655421	464771
Less				
Transfer to (+) from (-) reserves		84		1168
PRECEPT + LCTS GRANT		461931		465939

COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

RECREATION GROUNDS/PLAY AREAS:

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

Epping 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

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:

Town Show, Christmas Market, Continental Markets
Consultee for Planning & Highways matters within the Town

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Epping Town Council have a three-year Action Plan which details Council's priorities between 2016-19. Amongst those for 2018/19 are the refurbishment project at Stonards Hill Recreation Ground and progressing the Neighbourhood Plan towards completion.

The work to Stonards Hill Recreation Ground will be a large project, involving the refurbishment of the Jack Silley Pavilion, including the changing rooms, and adding a cafe extension. This will be delivered largely from section 106 money (allocated through Epping Forest District Council's planning system) and hopefully additional grant funding.

Epping Town Council were able to assist with reducing the number of dwellings Epping will have to accommodate through Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan process. We now need to work on the details for Epping through the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan which is just about Epping Parish. Epping Town Council have successfully received the maximum government grant for Neighbourhood Planning (£14,400 to date), meaning less spent from their own budget.

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, providing community hiring facilities, 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 (recently repainted), care of the Bakers Lane toilets, management of Bury Lane cemetery, Epping Town Show and the Christmas Market. We have a rolling programme of playground refurbishments and have just provided a new playground at Parklands, Coopersale.

CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

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





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