

# EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



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**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** Thursday 7th March 2019. 6.30pm entry. 7pm start.  
Epping Hall, St Johns Road, Epping, CM16 5JU.

## TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

It has been a great honour to serve as Mayor and Chairman of the Council this year and follow in my father's footsteps, albeit I am not planning a second term!

It has been another extremely busy year for the Town Council. It is only when you become Mayor do you appreciate the enormous amount of hard work that takes place behind the scenes to keep the Council running and the real dedication of the Town Clerk and her staff in achieving so much with limited resources.

The Mayoral year started with the Town Show which was blessed with glorious weather. Attendance was high and everyone had a great day. It was particularly fun to hold a dog show again as part of the Show. Other events I have attended as Mayor have included the Epping Art Society exhibitions, the Epping Horticultural Show, Epping Primary School's 10th birthday event, the Christmas Tree festival and Christmas Market. There have been Proms on the Green and Carols on the Green. All the ingredients of the vibrant community which is Epping.

Of special note were the Remembrance Sunday events organised by the Royal British Legion. In particular, the Remembrance Service at St John's Church was very poignant as we remember those in the community who gave up their lives for our freedom. It was also a great pleasure to be piped at several events, including the Remembrance parade, by the Epping Pipe Band.

I was also very proud to represent the Town on a visit to Eppingen, our twinned town in Germany. This is a very long standing and important relationship for Epping and long may the

Twinning Association flourish.

In addition to its normal work, the Town Council has been engaged on a number of projects this year. One of the most important has been the refurbishment of the Jack Silley Pavilion which is nearly finished. The planned café in the Pavilion will open shortly and we hope this will be enjoyed by residents and visitors to Stonards Hill.

As residents will know, the original plan for the St John's site is now defunct. However, in conjunction with the District Council we are hoping to be involved in the development of a new leisure centre on the site, which will replace the Sports Centre in Hemnall Street. This is an extremely important project for residents, who have long expressed a wish to have a leisure centre and swimming pool in the centre of the Town.

We are also undertaking a wide-ranging review of the Monday Market in Epping. This is to ensure the future of the Market and where possible make it more popular and sustainable in the future. We are also assessing how we may offer other specialist market events in the High Street to ensure that it remains vibrant and attractive both to residents and visitors to the town.

I must thank my fellow councillors, the Town Clerk and all the Town Council's staff for all their hard work and support they have given me. I would also like to thank the Lady Mayoress for her support and all the people we have met during my term, which has made it so interesting, rewarding and enjoyable.

*Nigel Avey*

Nigel Avey, Town Mayor

**Town Mayor**  
**Mr N Avey**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**  
**Mr G Scruton**

**Members:**  
**Mr A Church**  
**Mrs B Scruton**  
**Mr J Whitehouse**

**Mrs D Baird**  
**Mrs C McCredie**  
**Mr J A Smith**  
**Mr M Wright**

**Mr L Burrows**  
**Mr H Pegrum**  
**Miss H Whitbread**

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Town Council's Planning and 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 this year from the large number of applications the Committee has reviewed. In total we have reviewed 147 proposals and made recommendations to the District Council in respect of those applications. A change to the planning procedures 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 Deputy Chairman, Councillor Barbara Scruton for appearing for the Town Council on these occasions.

In making our recommendations, the Committee carefully considers planning issues which arise.

We also try to 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 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.

While the Committee does not object per se to flat developments we will continue to carefully consider any which we believe will affect the fabric and feel of Epping as a market

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

town in a rural setting. On this occasion the District Council's Development Committee agreed with our objection and the application was refused.

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. While Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan was subject to delay due to a legal challenge the Committee utilised the time to hone Epping Town's Neighbourhood Plan, which is nearly in its final form.

We accept that the Neighbourhood Plan must mirror the Local Plan, which has now been submitted for inspection. In particular, we have not amended the sites identified in the Local Plan for development. In particular we have chosen not to add sites for development, as the Committee wishes to protect as much of the 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 that subject to the progress of the Local Plan, we will be able to submit the Neighbourhood Plan for inspection both by the District Council and residents in 2019.

*Nigel Avey* Chairman, Neighbourhood Planning

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### MEMBERS

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

## 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 & Administration Officer  
Miss S Turrell - Funding Research Officer  
Mr W Towers - Recreation & Amenities Manager  
Mr M Patience - Groundsman  
Mr S Willsmore - Groundsman  
Mr D Manning - Groundsman  
Mr B Jones - Caretaker  
Mrs J Tappenden - Caretaker (Epping Hall)  
Mr P Morton - Caretaker (Jack Silley)  
Mr M Allen - Market Manager

## COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2018/19

| <b><u>COUNCILLORS'</u></b><br><b><u>ATTENDANCE SUMMARY</u></b> |                |         |  |         |   |         |
|--|----------------|---------|--|---------|---|---------|
| <b>2018/2019</b>   | <b>Council</b> |         | <b>Planning &amp; General Purposes</b> |         | <b>Corporate Governance Advisory, Extraordinary, Neighbourhood Planning</b> |         |
|  | Actual         | Planned | Actual                                 | Planned | Actual  | Planned |
| Avey, N<br>(Town Mayor)  | 9              | 9       | 12                                     | 17      | 9   | 10      |
| Baird, Mrs D   | 7              | 9       | 13                                     | 17      | 4   | 4       |
| Burrows, L   | 8              | 9       | 5                                      | (1)     | 8   | 9       |
| Church, A  | 5              | 9       | 4                                      | 17      | 2   | 10      |
| McCredie,<br>Mrs C   | 9              | 9       | 15                                     | 17      | 6   | 4       |
| Pegrum, H  | 6              | 9       | (5)                                    | (0)     | 4   | 4       |
| Scruton,<br>Mrs B  | 9              | 9       | 17                                     | 17      | 8   | 9       |
| Scruton, G<br>(Deputy Mayor)                                   | 8              | 9       | 15                                     | 17      | 5   | 5       |
| Smith, J A   | 9              | 9       | 17                                     | 17      | 5   | 5       |
| Whitbread,<br>Miss H   | 7              | 9       | (2)                                    | (0)     | 4   | 4       |
| Whitehouse, J  | 9              | 9       | (5)                                    | (0)     | 8   | 4       |
| Wright, M G  | 8              | 9       | 15                                     | 17      | 5   | 9       |

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 8 May 2018 to 22 Jan 2019 inclusive

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2018/19 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2019/20

| <b>EPPING TOWN COUNCIL</b>              | <b>2018/19</b> |               | <b>2019/20</b> |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>SUMMARY &amp; ESTIMATES</b>          |                |               |                |               |
|   | <b>GROSS</b>   | <b>NET</b>    | <b>GROSS</b>   | <b>NET</b>    |
| Service & Committee Support             | 171910         | 170810        | 193130         | 192030        |
| Loan payments                           | 102416         | 102416        | 102416         | 102416        |
| Grants                                  | 4650           | 4650          | 4650           | 4650          |
| Events & Publications                   | 33620          | 30120         | 34080          | 29830         |
| Public Halls                            | 44768          | -2232         | 46435          | -3065         |
| Market                                  | 73456          | -12544        | 53020          | -14980        |
| Cemetery                                | 7660           | -32340        | 5780           | -38220        |
| Parks & Maintenance                     | 201520         | 194970        | 208750         | 202150        |
| Public Toilet                           | 7570           | 7570          | 6000           | 6000          |
| Allotments                              | 1450           | -1250         | 1600           | -1200         |
| Street Furniture                        | 2000           | 2000          | 2100           | 2100          |
| Leases                                  | 2301           | -1499         | 2001           | -1799         |
| Capital Projects                        | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0             |
| Neighbourhood Planning                  | 2000           | 2000          | 4000           | 4000          |
| War Memorial                            | 100            | 100           | 100            | 100           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>655421</b>  | <b>464771</b> | <b>664062</b>  | <b>484012</b> |
|   |                |               |                |               |
| <b>Less</b>                             |                |               |                |               |
| Transfer to (+)<br>from (-)<br>reserves |                | 1168          |                | (8427)        |
| <b>PRECEPT + LCTS GRANT</b>             |                | <b>465939</b> |                | <b>475585</b> |

## COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

### RECREATION GROUNDS/PLAY AREAS:

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

### 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 completed the refurbishment of the football changing rooms at the Jack Silley Pavilion and built a new café extension on the Pavilion. During the coming year, Epping Town Council plan to open the café for the benefit of all users of Stonards Hill recreation ground and visitors. We are also looking to add outdoor fitness equipment and a new outdoor table tennis table will be arriving shortly.

Epping Town's Neighbourhood Plan will progress and will hopefully be finalised over the next year. Our residents will be very involved in the final stages of the Plan, as it will be publicly examined. Epping Town Council have successfully received the maximum government grant for Neighbourhood Planning (£17,000), 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, 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.

For some months, Epping Town Council have been working hard behind the scenes to make changes to Epping's Monday Market which will support our traders and hopefully boost the market. This work will be ongoing and we hope to make Epping's Monday Market a real destination. The Monday Market is crucial to the character of our historic market town and that work will be a key priority over the coming months. We have Town Council elections in 2019, so May will be a busy month and 2019 another exciting year.

## 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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