

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2022/23



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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Thursday 20th April 2023. 6.30pm. Main Hall, Epping Hall, St Johns Road, Epping, CM16 5JU.

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

It has been an honour to represent Epping Town as Mayor for the second time and I thank my fellow councillors for their diligence in fulfilling their duties and supporting me. As Chair, my role has been to ensure that the Council promotes and protects the social and historic aspects of our town that residents of Epping, Coopersale and Fiddlers Hamlet value.

During my year I have attended a number of community events, too numerous to mention and met many good people working tirelessly for the benefit of the community. The Fire Service is one organisation that serves the community and I had the honour of presenting the on-call firefighters with their Queen's Platinum medals.

The protection and viability of our Charter Market continues to be a priority and I have met on a regular basis with a group of councillors to review the market activities. Thanks to our faithful traders, our market offers an excellent shopping experience to compliment the shops and traders in our High Street. I had the pleasure of unveiling a blue plaque on Aves Optometrists to celebrate nearly 800 years of market trading in Epping.

The weekend of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations was very busy. The Town Council organised entertainment and the lighting of the Beacon, which was lit by our Deputy Lieutenant Hugh Pegrum. Sadly our dear Queen passed away on the 8th September and I read the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III on 10th September. A service of Remembrance was held in St John's Church.

This year was the 40th anniversary of our twinning with Eppingen in Germany. The Town Council hosted a celebration in Epping Hall and we were delighted to welcome their Oberburgermeister and a group of councillors, as well as friends from the Town of Eppingen.

The Epping Society suggested it would be nice to have a tree planted to remember Freeman of Epping Denys Favre, who worked tirelessly to protect the history and environment of Epping. An oak tree is now growing in his honour on Stonards Hill recreation ground.

Epping Town Council look after five playgrounds in Epping and Lower Swaines playground was the next on the list for refurbishment. Over the years, we have tried to run a rolling programme of playground refurbishments and this is the fourth one we have done in the last six years. Playgrounds are very expensive and cost thousands of pounds. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the Town Council to obtain funding for playgrounds and so in order to be able to replace it, we needed to come up with a Plan. Back in 2019, the Town Clerk asked the Town Council if they would consider helping to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to work with Council on funding for the playground, as charities are able to access different funding streams. This was agreed and from early discussions round a table of how this playground should look, Epping Playground Association raised £176,000, much of this coming from local businesses and organisations. I was delighted to open the playground and have the opportunity to thank all those involved including Qualis for providing some Section 106 money. There are numerous other functions that the Town Council is responsible for and I would draw your attention to the summary of these on page six of this report. By working with partners, both staff and councillors work hard to get things done. On behalf of all the councillors, I would like to thank our Town Clerk and all our staff for their commitment and hard work both in the office and outside in our green spaces.

Barbara Scruton

Barbara Scruton, Town Mayor

Town Mayor:

B Scruton

Deputy Town Mayor:

C Burgess

Members:

N Avey

S Baker

J Duffell

R Griffiths

C McCredie

H Pegrum

G Scruton

M-L Whitbread

J Whitehouse

M Wright

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; 164 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. We have also objected to the practice of developers purchasing a single house and applying for its demolition and construction of new houses. In limited cases this may be acceptable. However, we have seen cases which are clearly over-development and damage the street scene around the site. In equal measure we have resisted the loss of bungalows. The District Council has often not shared our view in these cases, but we will continue to object to such applications whenever they arise.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Where Epping Town Council's Planning Committee objects to an application, we are required to attend the District Council's 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 have been advised that the Inspector has now confirmed to the District Council that their Local Plan is sound. It is now open to the District Council to adopt the Local Plan, which will occur (if agreed) at a District Council meeting in March. As a result, we hope to finalise the Neighbourhood Plan and submit the Plan to the District Council for review as part of the adoption process.

We hope the Neighbourhood Plan will progress to a conclusion over the coming months.

May I thank residents and councillors who have sat on the Committee over the last few years and for all their hard work in producing a Neighbourhood Plan which we hope residents will be happy to accept when the Plan is put to a local referendum.

I must also thank our Neighbourhood Planner Martin Small, who has ensured our Plan complies with planning law.

We have invited residents to input at every stage of the process and have worked hard to protect our Town and its character and amenities for the future.

Nigel Avey Chairman, Neighbourhood Planning

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

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

COUNCIL OFFICERS

B Rumsey - Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
K Harrigan - Finance & Cemetery Officer
R Wright - 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
J Tappenden - Caretaker (Epping Hall)
P Morton - Caretaker (Jack Silley Pavilion) L Pottle - Caretaker (EH & JSP)

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 2022/23

<u>COUNCILLORS'</u> <u>ATTENDANCE SUMMARY</u>						
2022/2023	Council & (ExtraOrdinary Council)		Planning & General Purposes		Corporate Governance Advisory & (Neighbourhood Planning)	
	Held	Actual	Held	Actual	Held	Actual
Avey, N	10 (1)	8 (0)	16	12	2 (1)	2 (1)
Baker, S	10 (1)	8 (0)	16	14	0	0
Burgess, C (Deputy Town Mayor)	10 (1)	7 (0)	16	12	2	2
Duffell, J	10 (1)	7 (1)	(0)	(0)	0	0
Griffiths, R	10 (1)	7 (1)	(0)	(0)	0	0
McCredie, C	10 (1)	8 (1)	16	12	0 (1)	0 (1)
Pegrum, H	10 (1)	8 (0)	(0)	(0)	0	0
Scruton, B (Town Mayor)	10 (1)	8 (1)	16	14	(2) (0)	(2) (0)
Scruton, G	10 (1)	7 (1)	16	13	2	2
Whitbread, M-L	10 (1)	8 (1)	(0)	(0)	0	0
Whitehouse, J	10 (1)	10 (0)	(0)	(0)	0	0
Wright, M G	10 (1)	9 (1)	16	15	0 (1)	0 (1)

Where 0 is given, the councillor is not a member of that Committee.

Meetings from 8 Mar 2022 to 2 Mar 2023 inclusive.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2022/23 & BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2023/24

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL	2022/23		2023/24	
SUMMARY & ESTIMATES				
	GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET
Service & Committee Support	208000	207400	235000	234600
Loan payments	102416	102416	102416	102416
Grants	4650	4650	650	650
Events & Publications	34120	29620	22320	15320
Public Halls	53950	3450	92380	19380
Market	40700	-4800	41470	-3530
Cemetery	5700	-40300	5720	-40480
Parks & Maintenance	231200	224600	263950	256220
Public Toilet	11560	11560	9680	9680
Allotments	1600	-2400	1400	-2780
Street Furniture	1800	1800	1800	1800
Leases	2001	-7199	2001	-7399
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood Planning	3000	3000	2000	2000
War Memorial	100	100	100	100
Total	700797	533897	780887	587977
Less				
Transfer to (+) from (-) reserves		4517		1536
PRECEPT + LCTS GRANT		538414		589513

COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

RECREATION GROUNDS/PLAY AREAS:

Stonards Hill recreation ground/play area
Lower Swaines recreation ground/play area
Ivy Chimneys recreation/play area
Frampton Road recreation ground/play area
Parklands, Coopersale play area
Brook Road recreation ground

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

Consultee for Planning & Highways matters
within the Town
Epping Town Neighbourhood Plan

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

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. We have partnered with the City of London Corporation to plant an oak tree on the Town Green as part of the extension of the Queen's Green Canopy and provided a blue plaque in honour of our Royal Charter market. Many residents have joined us at planning meetings to express their views, where we have continued to analyse planning and tree applications in Epping Parish. Now Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan has been approved by the inspector, we are progressing the Town's Neighbourhood Plan towards conclusion. This document is the result of eight years of partnership working by residents and councillors and will form one of the key Planning documents for the Town once approved. We have been working with Epping Playground Association since 2019 to deliver an exciting new playground refurbishment at Lower Swaines recreation ground and we are delighted that everyone's hard work has paid off. The Town now has fantastic new play and recreation facilities at Lower Swaines. Epping Town Council continue to support Epping in Bloom with their work on the community garden at Market Garden Terrace (beside M&S). We have provided a new Town Sign at Tower Road green on the approach into Epping and refurbished the Town Sign on the main Green, adding the market charter. We look forward to supporting businesses during the major cycle event Ride London Essex in May and leading the King's Coronation events for the Town over the coming months, as we did with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the Summer of 2022.

CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

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Website: www.eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk

Email: info@eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk

Twitter: @EppingTown

Facebook.com/@epping.towncouncil

TALK ABOUT EPPING

Town Magazine

Spring, Summer,

Autumn, Winter

Epping Town Council publication



Some of the many things Epping Town Council are responsible for (from top to bottom, left to right):

- 1) One of our Town's two handmade and crafted Town Signs.
- 2) Epping Christmas Market (and Monday Market).
- 3) Epping Town Show.
- 4) Epping Eppingen Town Twinning, 40th anniversary celebrations.
- 5) Stonards Hill recreation ground playground and all facilities.
- 6) The refurbishment of Lower Swaines playground in partnership with Epping Playground Association.



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