

EARLEY

TOWN COUNCIL



PRECEPT FOR 2019-20

Earley Town Council is a local council. It sits in the tier of local government closest to its residents and Town Council Officers and Councillors work hard to deliver high quality services to the people of Earley. The Town Council precept (annual charge) is the part of residents' Council Tax which funds services provided by Earley Town Council. In 2019-20 the precept for a Band D household will be £74.14, a modest increase on 2018-19 of 3p per week per household.

Earley Town Council Services

Parks and Public Open Spaces

Earley Town Council has its own in-house team of grounds staff and Park Rangers which enables it to maintain its land to a very high standard. The past 12 months has seen an increasing number of visitors and hirers to **Sol Joel Park**. Popular facilities at the site include the skate park and parkour areas, and a soft ball team have now joined the numerous cricket and football teams that use the Town Council pitches on a regular basis. This year we completed the installation of junior play equipment, an exciting addition to the toddler section and the all-inclusive play area. The park's playground is now an outstanding feature of the area and visitors travel from far and wide to make use of it.

This coming year the Town Council intends to upgrade the play equipment at **Meadow Park**, hopefully using some of the funds received from developer contributions in Earley. Town Council staff continue to maintain the recently resurfaced **BMX track** in Paddick Drive. Recently Earley Town Council has made substantial investment in major plant and equipment in order to further improve the grounds maintenance service delivered.

Earley Town Council is in the unusual, but fortunate, position of being responsible for a **Lake and Nature Reserve**. Our Park Rangers, Water Bailiffs and an exceptional band of volunteers work hard to ensure that the site is well maintained and a welcoming place for visitors, anglers and wildlife. Conservation work is regularly undertaken to preserve and enhance the flora and fauna and activities such as bat walks, moth recording and ecology talks take place at the Interpretation Centre.

Community Centres

The Town Council is responsible for four community centres in Earley; **Radstock Lane**, **Maiden Place**, **Centrepont** and **Silverdale** and will continue its ongoing programme of maintenance and improvements. Between them various types of rooms are available for hire both for regular bookings or one-off functions. Youth activities are delivered from two sites; Centrepont is home to a new youth club on a Friday evening whilst at Silverdale, in addition to a thriving youth club, the popular bike workshop is held twice a week and the music fusion project, in conjunction with Rock Academy, has been an outstanding success. The Council intends to obtain further funding in order to continue delivering the music fusion project for another two years.

Help Shop

The **Help Shop** based at the Town Council Offices has direct links with Wokingham Borough Council and allows local residents to access many of the services offered by Wokingham, including applications for travel passes, payment of Council Tax and purchase of refuse and garden bags. Earley Town Council also provides free dog poop bags to Earley residents. Our friendly Town Council staff deal with approximately 12,000 enquiries a year, illustrating what a vital service the Help Shop provides.

Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, RG6 5UL
Open: Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 4.30pm

Town Clerk: Jo Friend BA(HONS) PSLCC

www.earley-tc.gov.uk



0118 986 8995



administration@earley-tc.gov.uk

Cemetery and Allotments

The Town Council operates **Mays Lane Cemetery**, offering provision for burial and interment of ashes as well as a special area for child burials, an area specifically for Muslim burials and a Garden of Remembrance.

The Council's **Culver Lane Allotment Site** remains popular, interested residents are welcome to put their name down on the short waiting list. Following the success of the recently introduced smaller plots the Town Council will soon be offering 'starter' plots, reduced size plots which offer gardeners the perfect introduction to having an allotment or provide a winding down option for allotment holders finding their current full size plot a bit of a struggle.

Representation

Earley Town Council meets regularly throughout the year, either as Full Council or in its particular Committees. In 2019-20 Full Council will meet on 15th May 2019, 19th June, 31st July, 16th October, 27th November, 19th February 2020 and 1st April. Members of the public are welcome to attend and meetings feature a short period at the beginning in which questions can be put to the Councillors. Details of **dates, meeting agendas and minutes** can be found on the Earley Town Council website.

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on issues around planning in the Earley area. Its **Planning Committee** meets monthly to consider and comment on planning applications. These comments are submitted regularly to the planning authority, Wokingham Borough Council, for their consideration.

Local Community

Each year Earley Town Council awards local charities and organisations a number of **grants** to assist them in their work with Earley residents. Town Councillors sit on the boards of various local organisations and report back to Council on these groups' activities and any issues they may be facing.

Councillors and Officers have been increasing their involvement in and support of **community events** and this is something we wish to expand in the future. Earley Town Council organizes the annual **Green Fair**, which is held at the Nature Reserve in August, and supports the annual **Huge Earley Litter Pick** (HELP). The Town Council also participated in the wonderful **Scarecrow Trail** which took place over the autumn half-term, putting 'Bert the Chimney Sweep' up on the roof of the Town Council Offices and floating 'Jeremy Fisher' on a boat in the lake. This year saw the first Town Council **Christmas Celebration** events when children from various local primary schools, and a band from the Salvation Army, sang Christmas songs for passers-by in the foyer at Asda in Lower Earley. The three evenings were a huge success which we intend to build on next year.

Earley Town Council offices are based in Radstock Lane, we are always happy to hear from our residents and customers. Contact us on 0118 986 8995, email us at administration@earley-tc.gov.uk or visit the Help Shop. More information is available on our website www.earley-tc.gov.uk

Earley Town Council Budget Details 2019/20

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2018/19				BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019/20		
Income	Expenditure	Net Expenditure		Income	Expenditure	Net Expenditure
234,192	229,673	(4,519)	Community Facilities	262,886	202,469	(60,417)
33,431	211,045	177,614	Parks & Play Areas	30,900	205,039	174,139
40,307	48,130	7,823	Highways & Street Furniture	11,739	25,106	13,367
21,923	571,882	549,959	Help Shop, Grants & Admin	18,862	638,852	619,990
0	144,150	144,150	Capital & Projects	0	137,700	137,700
0	15,000	15,000	VAT Liability	0	15,000	15,000
329,853	1,219,880	890,027	Total Expenditure/Revenue	324,387	1,224,166	899,779

Budget Summary 2019/20

Estimated Opening Balance at 1st April 2019	491,029
Precept	881,817
Precept Support Grant	2,802
Less: Net Expenditure Budget 2019/20	899,779
Budgeted balance as at 31 March 2020	475,869