

To: Earley Town Council

From: Mayor of Earley

Subject: Mayoral Visits

Date: 3rd October, 2022

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The last two months have been quite busy with Mayoral visits. I have represented Earley Town council at the following events: -

- Readibus AGM. The AGM was well attended; this, I believe, was the first physical public meeting that Readibus had held for two years. There were a number of long service awards given out. I was also particularly pleased to see four other Mayors at the AGM – this demonstrates how important the local community feel the services that Readibus provide are.
- Earley Green Fair. I was particularly impressed with the mix and the large number of stalls that were present. I want to, especially, acknowledge those who arranged the fair and managed the day; this was really well done. The participation at the fair by many Earley residents (and others from outside of Earley) was good to note. It was really a family event.
- 1996 (Earley) Squadron air cadets. The air cadets are now based at Bader Hall in Woodley. Even though I was there for an evening, I was very impressed by how well the evening was organised and the commitment of everyone involved to support the parade. It was evident, observing the cadets, how eager they were to participate and learn.
- Reading Football club community event. The community event was fishing at Maiden Erlegh lake for school children. I applaud the effort the Football club make annually to engage with the youngsters in Earley. I had not realised how many different fish species are in the Lake. One of the youngsters caught up to six over the two hours that I was there.
- Book launch. This was a book written by the daughter of a poet (who is seen as a national hero in Pakistan – and a communist). Having briefly looked through the book; I found it to be quite personal; it must have been very cathartic to write such a book. I was touched by some of the personal memories shared between a daughter and a father.
- Maiden Erlegh School. The Headmaster took me on tour around the school and introduced me to the different classrooms and to some of the pupils. What came across was the care the school has taken to teach pupils based on their particular needs. I was also pleased to see smaller class sizes. Maiden Erlegh has always had a good reputation as a school, and I am glad to see that the standard of pupil care, education and engagement with the local community is being maintained.
- Citizen Advice, Wokingham AGM. It was pleasing to see the difference they are making in the community. I can also say that the Trustees at Aisha mosque are very pleased with the mobile advice unit going to the mosque monthly (which I helped to arrange). I have also introduced CAW to the Sikh Gurdwara, located on London road, to see how they can assist them.

- Trinity Concert Band. My wife and I were invited to the Anniversary concert at the Great Hall, Reading University. I was glad to note that Earley Town council and Earley Charity have given grants to the band. A worthwhile cause. The evening was very captivating, and the programme choice was very entertaining. My evening favourite was Waterloo Sunset which was led by an Alto saxophone (as I play the Alto saxophone but badly).
- Berkshire Vision AGM. This was held at Wokingham Cricket club. Again, they offer valuable service to those affected by sight problems in our community. The work they do is very commendable. We were lucky to hear from a partially sighted athlete, a young lady who won the Gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in the triathlon. Very impressive.
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation AGM. This was held at the Art Centre in Bracknell. This service provider is key to providing mental health services across Berkshire.

Due to work pressure, I could not attend a couple of events that I believe Councillor Caroline Smith, in her role as Mayor of Wokingham, attended.

As Mayor, I have also reached out to as many of the ethnic minority communities in Earley as I could to engage them. Unfortunately, there is a perception by a few that little effort is made to engage some members of the community.

Cllr. Tahir Maher
Mayor of Earley