



**AEM/19/5** *Electors' Time.*

Mr R Kelly, representing the voluntary organisation Earl Shilton in Bloom, (ESiB), expressed on behalf of the Town's '*Bloomers*' their grateful thanks to the Town Council and townsfolk for all the support and encouragement that led them to the award of a 2018 Regional Britain in Bloom Gold Medal. Through the Town Mayor, all cllrs reciprocated their thanks to ESiB for consistently making the Town a better place to live and work throughout the seasons.

The Town Mayor thanked all present for their attendance, contributions and closed the meeting in good order at 7.23 p.m.

**ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING 2018/19 – TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

Over the last year Earl Shilton Town Council has worked through its programme as agreed at meetings. There are the perennial matters which occupy our time, such as the Sustainable Urban Extension which continues to limp and lurch to nowhere in particular. The Borough Council officers and members meet regularly with the developers, but there appears to be no actual movement and no agreement on such things as the amount of affordable housing. This continuing impasse means that we are still no nearer to getting our new pavilion, and our plan for the building stays stored away, and the capital sum put aside for the project sits in the bank, until such time as the promised funding from the S106 comes on stream. Our meetings with the Earl Shilton Town Team have been focussed on ways to improve Earl Shilton Town Centre and a little headway seems to have been made in respect of the privately owned car park behind the Wood Street shopping arcade, but whether these discussions continue with the changeover of members at HBBC remains to be seen.

The Dalebrook Farm Gypsy & Romany Traveller Site has not progressed and has in fact regressed. The second area to be given planning permission has overrun the three year point without any work within that permission having been carried out. Regarding the first part, none of the conditions regarding sewage treatment and drainage have been met, and any work which has been completed has deteriorated to such an extent that it will all need renewing. Basically it is an eyesore, when seen from Clickers Way, but fortunately, now the hedges have greened up along the side of the B road, it is pretty well hidden from that direction. There have been various 'visitors' over the year, including an invasion in June. The current occupants are referred to by the owner as his manager and her children. We are still not convinced that the situation with their use of the septic tank at the bungalow is acceptable under the regulations. We continue to lobby HBBC on the matter.

The third of our perennial trio is our search for office premises. Last year I reported that we had made a final decision to build on our own land at Weavers Springs Park. However, in September, somewhat 'out of the blue', we were approached by Members and Officers of HBBC to consider the 1<sup>st</sup> floor office space at the Library, and the use of the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor for our meetings. Discussions have continued over the months and we are now waiting on the final Heads of Term documents arriving at our solicitors from the County Council legal department. This is all part of the new arrangements at our Library, which includes the change to a Smart Library, and finally a Public Toilet for Earl Shilton. This latter item is thanks to the determined efforts of our former Borough Councillor and current County Councillor Janice Richards. We are convinced that the solution to our need for more office space and an adjacent meeting room

will also be a means to extend the life of our Library as a community facility for years to come.

This year has seen three housing developments being worked on in Earl Shilton. The major one, the Westfield Farm site, saw major roadworks at the end of Heath Lane, which changed the traffic flow from what we were used to. How quickly we get used to something like that, and now it seems to me as if it was always that way. This development will see approximately 350 new homes built.

A second development on Heath Lane, by a local developer will provide another 26 homes. Off Birch Close the 14 homes development has begun, and the amount agreed for the easement on Maple Way Park will contribute to the new hard pathways we have resolved to provide. The three developments all provide some affordable housing, in fact the whole of the Birch Close development falls into this category. I'm sure that by this time next year we will see a huge change to an area which was mainly green fields, but homes are needed locally and things move on. We have very little in the line of brownfield sites for development in Earl Shilton. Having said that another development project completed is the new Residential Care Home on the High Street. This is a prestige building on a site which had long been a blot on the main road through our town. The inside of the building is as impressive as the outside.

There was a redevelopment completed during the year - the former home of North Wilshire Carpets the old Co-operative Village Hall on the High Street. This has been converted into a convenience store and café with three apartments on the upper floor. The building was one which was on our Heritage Buildings List, and true to their word, the Borough Council planning department impressed upon the developers that the building should be developed keeping this in mind. This was achieved with very good results. The only sad thing about this is that it left Earl Shilton Amateur Boxing Club without a base, and we are still endeavouring to solve this problem.

As I have just mentioned our Heritage Building List I can report the completion of our Heritage project to provide a Heritage Board in the town centre, much of it based on buildings on the list. It has taken some time, about 3 years in actual fact, but we now have a reference point in Earl Shilton which not only informs residents and visitors of historic and interesting details of the local area, but also aims to encourage walking the featured trails. Last July a green plaque was unveiled in Station Road to commemorate Tommy Brown, a seaman, who helped to capture an Enigma code book from a sinking German U boat, and also a Blue Plaque has been installed but not yet 'unveiled' to commemorate Trevor Storer and Pukka Pies, which were first launched onto the market from the old bakery on the High Street.

Our friends at Earl Shilton in Bloom continue to brighten our streets and Town Centre with their impressive planters and hanging baskets, and this year they

achieved even greater success by winning the gold medal in *the East Midlands in Bloom competition*, despite the long, hot Summer which was such a challenge to their watering rota.

We continue our financial support of the Neighbourhood Watch worker, Helen Cobley, and she works really hard providing information for the community through her network of almost 50 co-ordinators. The Early Intervention Worker, Lynn Adderley, is doing so much good work with our young people from her base at Heath Lane Academy, and she has more than fulfilled our expectations and we are committed to supporting this much needed community role into the future. Our regular community events have again excelled this year, due in no small part to the commitment of the committee so well chaired by Cllr. Debbie Almey.

The Picnic in the Park and Shilton by the Sea benefitted from the best Summer weather we've had for some years and attendance increased at both. The Town Show proved as popular as ever with all age groups, and the Christmas Lights Switch On attracted bigger crowds than ever, with the appearance not only of Santa, but also local group Fourth Avenue, and of course we had snow thanks to our own snow machine. Remembrance Sunday had increased importance in 2018, being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice. Attendance at our service has been increasing year on year, and having the road closure in place for the service, the traffic noise which used to so disturb this time of reflection is almost eradicated, and people can now remember in safety and security. We joined in the National Battle's Over Celebration of Peace on this anniversary, and our beacon lighting on the Castle Mound was much enhanced by the Kibworth Band and the excellent lighting effects provided by the Earl Shilton Scouts. An estimated 300 plus people attended this impressive 'Son et Lumiere'. There followed an evening of poetry, music and singing in the Parish Church.

Our current members of staff will soon to be taken to full strength when our new head of ground care joins in June. We have had almost a total change of personnel, with only our Town Clerk, Mark, still being in place from last year. Angie our former office assistant decided to retire in September, but as you are no doubt aware, she decided that she loved us so much she wanted to work alongside us a member of council. Laurence Denis who had worked on the groundcare team for several years decided a month or so ago that he would leave to start his own business. Chris Seymour also retired after his long term health problems. Our foray into the world of apprenticeships did not work out, and it was decided that it was important that we had a stable team and we now have Shaun and Rob with us, and they are working very well together, although it is challenging for them until we have our H.O.G. with us. In the office we have had the addition of Carrienne, as Office Clerk, and Anne, as Office Assistant, both of whom started last Autumn, but have quickly proved their worth. I think that no employer these days has a totally smooth ride with employees, and we

still have legacy issues to contend with. However, I am confident that within the next year, we will be on a totally even keel.

What does the future hold for us? I would hope that very soon we will be operating from a new office base that we will have consolidated our staff positions, and it would be good to think that the S.U.E. may have made a leap forward towards commencement, but I will not be holding my breath on that one. The rest will be up to you. We have had a 50% change in membership of the Town Council, several of our stalwarts have retired for one reason or another. It will be an interesting time for us all. I would hope that the community of Earl Shilton and their interest will be our prime concern, as that is why we are here, and that we are able to work together to that end.

I will finish with my Shakespearean quotation:

*"This above all: to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Though canst not then be false to any man."  
Hamlet, act one, scene three.*

Allee  
CHAIRMAN

## MAYORAL VISITS 2018/2019

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### 2018

- 10<sup>th</sup> June - Picnic in the Park including service at St. Simon & St. Jude Parish Church
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Armed Forces Day Service & Parade Leicester Cathedral
- 7<sup>th</sup> August – Shilton by the Sea
- 18<sup>th</sup> August – St Simon & St Jude Summer Fair
- 30<sup>th</sup> August – Opening of St Simon & St Jude Church of England Primary School (Formerly Weavers Close C of E Primary School)
- 1<sup>st</sup> September – Earl Shilton Town Show
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Earl Shilton in Bloom Celebration
- 7<sup>th</sup> October - County Service Leicester Cathedral
- 20<sup>th</sup> October - Hinckley Model Railway Exhibition (Ass. With ES Scouts)
- 20<sup>th</sup> October - HBBC Mayor's Charity Lunch HRFC
- 4<sup>th</sup> November RBL All Age Remembrance Service at St Simon & St Jude Parish Church
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Service
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – 'Battle's Over' Beacon Lighting and Evening of Remembrance at St Simon & St Jude Parish Church
- 12<sup>th</sup> November – Schools Remembrance Service
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Olive Everson at Bethel/Bethesda Care Home
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Opening of refurbished Heathfield School as Newlands Community Primary School
- 25<sup>th</sup> November – HBBC Mayor's Carol Service at St Mary's Church Hinckley.
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Lights Switch-on
- 7<sup>th</sup> December – Elmesthorpe Parish Church Christmas Lights
- 15<sup>th</sup> December – Earl Shilton Independent Chapel Christmas Tree Festival
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas visit to Park House Grange Care Home
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas visit to Bethel/Bethesda Care Home
- 18<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch at Age UK

### 2019

- 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Concordia Pantomime
- 6<sup>th</sup> March – Presentation of award to Craig Perkins - Earl Shilton Amateur Boxing Club
- 14<sup>th</sup> March – HBBC Mayor's Civic Service at St Mary's Church
- 16<sup>th</sup> March – HBBC Mayor's Fundraiser at Hinckley Golf Club
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Official Opening of refurbished premises of G Seller & Co. Hinckley
- 28<sup>th</sup> March – LCC Chairman's Charity Fundraising Dinner at County Hall
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – HBBC Mayor's Chinese evening at Kiki Wong's, Hinckley
- 11<sup>th</sup> April – HBBC Civic Dinner at The Dog & Hedgehog, Dadlington

