



Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes Monday 8th July 2024

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident, Trusthorpe Road
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Lane
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police

Apologies

Alan Jutson	Woodley & Earley Lions
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
Toni D'Amato	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police

NB: These minutes are a record of what happened in the meeting, what was said, what was discussed, and what action would be taken where appropriate. Some items remain as ongoing from meeting to meeting so that they can be monitored at every meeting. Please be advised that no laptops will be allowed to be used in the Council Chamber and mobile phones will only be allowed to be used by the Police in emergencies.

Points from the Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence:

Phil welcomed the attendees. The apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes from the previous Meeting on 13th May 2024:

The minutes were proposed for approval by Colin Mair and seconded by Ian Jobson.

3. Matters arising: E-Scoters and the law

Phil mentioned he had seen some PCSOs handing out e-scooter leaflets at Maiden Place. He mentioned he had been walking along Rushey Way with his wife recently and they had a near miss with an e-bike. He was pleased to learn that the rider had subsequently been apprehended in Winnersh.

4. AOB (proposals for consideration from attendees)

No proposals were received.

5. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities: a) Burglary; b) Anti-social behaviour; c) County Lines issues; and d) Road Safety / Speeding

Karen provided an update on the crimes reported from 14th May to 8th July 2024.

a) Burglary

1 x Business Burglary at the University of Reading. Four teenage males had gained entry to an unused building through the skylight. Security guards managed to detain one.

2 x Residential Burglaries – Farnsfield Close and Gipsy Lane. One was an attempted break in.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

6 reports of ASB – Paddick Drive, Gabriels Square, Easby Way, Chilcombe Way, Henley Wood Road and Mays Lane. Some reports were related to young people smoking cannabis. One report related to a neighbour mowing 1/3 of a lawn without permission.

3 reports of Criminal Damage on Wokingham Road relating to nuts/bolts being fired at vehicle windows. An arrest was made in relation to bolts being catapulted from a van and investigations are ongoing.

1 x Robbery – Elm Road bus shelter.

3 x Shopliftings – Maiden Place, Silverdale Road and Chatton Close. The PCC has brought in Op Retail to help tackle and address shoplifting.

2 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Marefield and Chelwood Road. One report involved the theft of the front radar unit from a BMW.

1 x Theft of Motor Vehicle – Elm Road which involved a car braking down and being left in a layby.

There were no reported thefts of Pedal Cycles.

c) County Lines issues

There is a dedicated Tasking Team who uses covert and overt tactics to disrupt county drug lines. Their main focus is on protecting vulnerable victims from exploitation.

d) Road Safety / Speeding

If you have any roads or areas you would like to nominate for a session, please add them into the comments box on the NAG's website <https://earleynag.org/entries/general/community-speedwatch-uk>

Karen advised there had been a lot of demand on police resourcing recently to cover the General Election, Ascot and Henley Regatta, and we are also going into the busy festival period. The team had also been engaging with the protest camp at the university. There are patrol plans in place to help tackle anti-social behaviour that may occur during the summer period. Phil mentioned there has been a group hanging out in Laurel Park at dusk and Colin mentioned people who live in Lakeside have complained about the smell of drugs around the lake. Ian advised aerosol cans have also been found at Laurel Park.

6 Follow up on points raised at the March WBC ASB presentation

Phil advised this item will be removed for the next meeting. He provided an update on the house with the previously reported dog related noise nuisance. They had experienced a fire in their extractor fan which was fortunately dealt with by the fire service and the dogs were not adversely affected.

7 Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme) – (Phil)

Phil advised that five people are now registered, but he was unable to organise any sessions due to four of them being involved in the general election. The recent Rushey Way resurfacing has also affected the ability to hold sessions.

8 MERA – local update

In addition to the earlier mentioned complaints regarding the smell of drugs around Maiden Erlegh Lake, Colin advised ETC had sent a note confirming they are planning to clean the pavements due to the geese droppings on an ad hoc basis; there is no further explanation of what this means. MERA are going to wait and see what happens and will get back to them with a petition if needed.

9 ACER – a) following up on parking and subsequent 13 & 14 Bus diversion – b) local traffic issues, speeding with

damage to parked vehicles, solutions?

No further update at this time around the traffic issues at the bottom of the drive, especially on Fridays.

- 10 Laurel Park: - a) Saturday Traffic issues are on hold until the WBC Leisure Playing Pitch Strategy is published in the Local Plan Update [LPU]. b) Football Season has ended and LPFC committed to continue alerting users to park safely and responsibly in the surround area, maximising allocated parking at Maiden Place as indicated on LPFC's website.**

Ian reported the Laurel Park fun day was very successful and parking provision had been made for 200 cars in the top field on the day.

a) Saturday Traffic issues are still on hold until the WBC Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is published in the Local Plan Update (LPU). This will remain parked until the PPS is published so members can see WBC's plans for the Playing Pitches and whether such plans will resolve the current Traffic safety concerns. Hopefully, WBC will take a holistic approach around all related issues following publication of the PPS.

b) Parking at Maiden Place as indicated on LPFC's website. Phil reported he received a call from the Deputy Town Clerk advising they did not realise football attendees were parking at Maiden Place and Phil told them they needed to speak to WBC regarding this. Ian advised this had been agreed prior to him joining the committee and LPFC have asked WBC for an update regarding this as it would adversely affect the club if the provision to park at Maiden Place was stopped.

- 11 Street Lighting – [ASDA footpath] and [Rushey Way – ASDA to Police Station] Linden**

Phil advised Linden had sent a map which marked out the faulty lights at ASDA to Moses and then they sent a further record of all reported incidents in the car park to him. Phil discovered that WBC have a legal obligation under the Health and Safety Executive to ensure ASDA sorts the lighting issues out and they can be fined if they do not act. They are currently waiting for feedback from Moses.

Phil advised he would take an action to follow this up with Moses.

Linden reported the Elm Lane roundabout sign which had been lying on the ground had been taken away and not replaced. Phil suggested Linden contact Moses and ask him to look into this.

- 12 Neighbourhood Watch – Co-ordinators from Local Schemes to have their say -- (Paul/Phil) – [Link to Neighbourhood Watch](#)**

Phil confirmed he had taken on the role of Treasurer for the Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association. Phil confirmed there are still funds available to replace Neighbourhood Watch street signs.

- 13 University of Reading – community update – (Molli)**

No update at this time due to the summer holidays.

- 14 Fireworks – Laurel Park FC Youths Sports Foundation (Charity # 1183357) – update**

Ian confirmed plans are being put into place for this year's event. They are also looking into new fencing options for the event.

The meeting closed at 8:21pm.

1009B	<p>NAG website is up & running. Constitution has been posted along with our terms of reference. In addition the mission statement of the NAG has been inserted. www.earleynag.org</p>	<p>Facebook Page link for posts: https://www.facebook.com/EarleyNAG</p>	<p>All minutes are now available for viewing online.</p>
0909C	<p>Date, Time & Location of next meeting: Meetings will be held bi-monthly on a Monday at 7.30 – 9.00 pm at the Earley Town Council Offices.</p> <p>The following dates have been booked. 9 September 2024 18 November 2024</p>	<p>Please note the meetings dates, times and location</p> <p>Agenda issued a week before the meeting if you would like to add a discussion point please email to chairperson@earleynag.org</p>	<p>NB: It is imperative that if you are concerned about an Issue, i.e. litter or pot holes etc please call Wokingham Borough Council on 0118 9746000 where they will be happy to help.</p> <p>If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call 101 or report online.</p> <p>In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, dial 999.</p> <p>If in doubt report it.</p>
1704A	<p>Reading University Community Events Events will be advised in due course. The University are very welcoming and it is a good opportunity to look around the University and ask any questions or raise concerns with senior staff i.e. parking</p>	<p>Molli Cleaver - Community Relations Manager</p> <p>community@reading.ac.uk</p>	<p>The NAG continues to welcome the support of the University of Reading and would be pleased to see students litter picking around the boundary of the University.</p>
0310F	<p>If any members have problems with rubbish or fly tipping, potholes etc, there is a page on the WBC website entitled Roadworks and outdoor maintenance:</p> <p>https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/</p> <p>Use this to report the problem or see if already reported.</p>	<p>This service is highly effective and efficient and should be used at every opportunity.</p>	