



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes  
Monday 13th November 2023**

**Present**

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Tim Marsh	Chairman of ACER, The Whitegates Residents Association
Heather Cresswell	MS Society & Resident, Adams Way
Brian Woolbridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Alan Jutson	Woodley & Earley Lions
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident Trusthorpe Road
Tahir Maher	ETC & Resident, Lowestoft Close
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Lane
Mike Bradshaw	Laurel Park Football Club
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Helen King	Resident, Marefield
Toni D’Amaro	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police

**Apologies**

Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police
Mike Smith	ETC Councillor
Melanie D’Jong	ETC Councillor
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading

**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 to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The apologies are listed above.

### 2. Minutes from previous Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

Phil apologised for the delay in circulating the minutes prior to the meeting. They were proposed for approval by Tim and seconded by Colin.

### 3. Matters arising: AOB (Proposals for consideration from attendees).

There were no matters arising. A supplementary agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting. With regards to AOB, traffic issues in Marefield and Sibson were proposed; however, this issue was already on the supplementary agenda.

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

Simon provided an update on the crimes reported since the previous NAG meeting.

#### a) Burglary

1 x Business Burglary – Silverdale Road

2 x Residential Burglaries – Sutcliffe Avenue and Witcham Close. These are not believed to be linked and no emerging series have been seen.

#### b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

7 reports of ASB – Gabriels Square x 2, Station Road, Rowan Court, Meadow Road, Collins Drive and Chalfont Way. Simon advised the team are still seeing anti-social riding on electric scrambler type bikes and are reviewing the legislation around them. A handful of incidents also involved the throwing of eggs.

7 reports of Criminal Damage – Rushey Way x 3, Ramsey close, Tabby Drive, Silverdale Road and Somerton Gardens. There is no emerging pattern at this time.

3 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Harcourt Drive, Silverdale Road and Kelton Close.

The above includes theft of number plates and there is ongoing investigative work around this issue.

1 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Maiden Place

7 x Thefts of Pedal Cycles – Whiteknights Road x 2, Pepper Lane, Shinfield Road, Wokingham Road, Church Road and Pond Head Lane. Some thefts have been from the University and the team have visited to provide crime prevention advice and education around this issue to the students.

#### c) County Lines issues

There is a dedicated Tasking Team who use 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>

Tahir asked whether the Police were seeing any issues following the situation in the Middle East. Simon advised a national operation had been set up for all police forces to engage with and record any incidents of hostility within their local communities. There have been 3 recorded incidents so far across the Bracknell and Wokingham Local Policing Area (LPA) which were not specifically targeted or organised and mainly involved graffiti.

**5 Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme) -- [Link to Community Speedwatch](#)**

Phil advised there had been no further update or feedback on this issue. The NAG still requires volunteers to join their Speedwatch scheme. Please let Phil know if you are able to support this important initiative. Phil is still planning to contact the Speedwatch Co-ordinator regarding how to recruit volunteers for the summer period.

**6 MERA – local update**

Colin advised most concerns are around parking, particularly cars parked too close to junctions. MERA was not able to find national support or campaigns around this issue, so they are concentrating on specific incidents that their members are most concerned about. The parking issue also includes damage to verges. Colin asked whether there was any further information around national campaigns for banning parking on verges following the implementation in London. Simon advised he not seen any specific update on this at the moment.

**7 ACER – a) follow up on parking and subsequent 13 & 14 Bus diversion – b) local traffic issues, speeding with damage to parked vehicles, solutions?**

a) Tim advised there had been more activity around the affected area with traffic wardens ticketing cars since the last meeting which is quite positive and he had not received any recent reports of residents stuck in traffic. He spoke to one of the councillors who attends the mosque about the park & ride and shuttle system they were going to use at Thames Valley Park and was advised it had not worked due to time constraints. Speeding is still an issue and they are trying to recruit volunteers for their Speedwatch group.

b) Milton Road update. Simon advised he will discuss this further with the PCSO who had attended and will look at whether a section 59 can be considered and also if there is any footage available.

**8 Allotment Association – access to Culver Lane allotment – vehicle obstructing entrance – solution?**

A vehicle had been parked/abandoned near the allotment entrance which had prevented deliveries. This had been successfully removed and resolved after reporting it to both the police and council. Simon advised that a seven day order can be requested if certain criteria is met and the vehicle will be removed by the council following this.

**9 Laurel Park: - a) Saturday Traffic issues are on hold until WBC Leisure report published – b) Ongoing traffic violations 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

a) Phil read out the below reply from council officers which had been received by Councillor Alastair Neal on 19<sup>th</sup> October:-

*“The Council has now completed the Borough Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and intends to formally adopt the document in due course. Being a borough-wide report, looking at future playing field provision in all towns and parishes, it is a supporting document to the Local Plan Update (LPU) and as such will be considered by the Council alongside LPU towards the end of this year. It is not envisaged that the PPS Action Plan is set in stone, and we will be required to regularly review the document in order to ensure that that we continue to have a deliverable approach to meeting the identified needs. i.e. once the LPU is published, the supporting documents, including the PPS, can also be published.”*

Phil advised he had looked at the council’s website and the publication date for the LPU was stated as before the end of November. Tahir offered to look into when the Local Plan Update will be published.

b) The group discussed the high amount of traffic and violations on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Unfortunately, the TROs were not being observed, and someone had left the scene after hitting a parked car. Enforcement officers have been asked to attend, but they do not appear to be available over the weekend.

Ian advised the club has invested in a sign to try and prevent people from parking on the lower field access hashing in the Car Park (adjacent to the children's play area), as this area is needed for emergency vehicle access. He stated that the football club do not police the walkways. Ian mentioned he had recently driven down Marefield on a Saturday when football was not in session and had, in his opinion, observed numerous parking obstructions. Phil advised that he had written to the council to ask for Marefield to be included in their 20mph consideration study of roads around the borough, but there has been no further follow-up on this. Tahir advised that he shall inquire about the status of such 20 MPH requests.

- 10 Street lighting – follow up on last meeting’s action on Salvation Army’s faulty lighting, solution?**  
Phil had followed up Lyndon’s report on the faulty streetlights with the Salvation Army and was advised they were having issues with their supplier. If there is no resolution by the next meeting, he will pass the details and correspondence over to the council and ask them to follow it up.
- 11 Neighbourhood Watch – Co-ordinators from Local Schemes to have their say -- (Paul/Phil) --**  
[Link to Neighbourhood Watch](#)  
Co-ordinators will be invited to NAG meetings to discuss any issues they may have in their areas.
- 12 University of Reading – community update – (Molli)**  
There were no updates at this time.
- 13 Fireworks – Laurel Park FC Youths Sports Foundation (Charity # 1183357) – Ian**  
Mike advised they’d had a successful Fireworks evening and received a lot of positive feedback around the event. The changes made to entry/exit points to accommodate residents were well received. The police presence on the night was appreciated as there were some issues and confrontations with spectators outside the boundary. The club have learned from the event and some changes will be made next year, in particular with the type of lighting that was used. The attendance numbers were down this year which was likely due to both the weather and the cost of living. Phil advised he thought the club’s communications around the event were outstanding.

The meeting closed at 8:23pm.

1009B	<p><b>NAG website</b> is up &amp; running. Constitution has been posted along with our terms of reference. In addition the mission statement of the NAG has been inserted. <a href="http://www.earleynag.org">www.earleynag.org</a></p>	<p>Facebook Page link for posts: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EarleyNAG">https://www.facebook.com/EarleyNAG</a></p>	<p>All minutes are now available for viewing online.</p>
0909C	<p><b>Date, Time &amp; Location of next meeting:</b> 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. 15 January 2024 11 March 2024 13 May 2024 8 July 2024 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 <a href="mailto:chairperson@earleynag.org">chairperson@earleynag.org</a></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. If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call <b>101</b> or report online. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, dial <b>999</b>. If in doubt report it.</p>

1704A	<p><b>Reading University Community Events</b>  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  <a href="mailto:community@reading.ac.uk">community@reading.ac.uk</a></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:  <a href="https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/">https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/</a>  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>	