



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 9th September 2024**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Tim Marsh	ACER & Resident, Milton Road
Moses Iyengunmwena	ETC/WBC & Resident, Sweptstone Close
Mike Smith	ETC & Resident, Northam Close
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident, Trusthorpe Close
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Road
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police

Apologies

Pauline Jorgensen	WBC & Resident, Cutbush Lane
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Alan Jutson	Woodley & Earley Lions
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Uzma Saeed	Wokingham IAG & Resident, Toseland Way
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
Toni D'Amaro	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 8th July 2024:

The minutes were proposed for approval by Colin Mair and seconded by Tim Marsh.

3. Matters arising: E-Scooters and the law

No matters were reported.

4. AOB (proposals for consideration from attendees)

Linden mentioned he recently had a near miss with an E-Scooter ridden by an adult wearing a Royal Mail vest. Colin advised the licences of E-scooter rental operators were being revoked in Madrid as they were not meeting their licencing agreements. Karen advised the main complaints received by the PCC and the Chief Constable relate to E-Scooters and E-Bikes and the police are transitioning from educational warnings to enforcement. She mentioned the Neighbourhood Team had drafted a letter providing information around the laws of using E-Scooters and E-Bikes, and the consequences of being convicted. The letter will be shared with all local schools with a request to distribute it on to parents. Karen will look into including the letter with the minutes. 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. Karen asked the attendees to report issues with E-bikes and E-scooters on the TVP website to allow the police to build an intelligence picture around locations and times to allow the planning of targeted patrols if required.

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 9th July to 9th September 2024.

a) Burglary

2 x Residential Burglaries – Allendale Road and Ramsey Close.

There were no reported Business Burglaries during this period.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

4 reports of ASB – Bottisham close, Lower Earley Way, Chilcombe Way and Marefield. Reports related to groups of young people smoking cannabis, cars racing between roundabouts and youths riding e-bikes and e-scooters around a park.

2 reports of Criminal Damage – Mill Lane and Harcourt Drive. Both reports related to damage to cars.

5 x Shopliftings – Silverdale Road, Chalfont Way, Church Road x 2 and Wokingham Road. The PCC has brought in Op Retail to help tackle and address shoplifting.

3 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Silverdale Road, Mill Lane and Chelwood Road. One report involved a smashed window to take a rucksack. Please ensure your car doors are locked.

2 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Wokingham Road and Elm Road. One theft was keyless.

1 x Theft of Pedal Cycle from Chalfont Way.

1 x Wildlife Crime was reported on Lower Earley Way. PCSO Elson spoke to the landscape company responsible for cutting back bushes and trees who advised they performed daily wildlife risk assessments checking for wildlife and nests. If any were found, the area would be left until October. As it is private land, the owners are free to determine their own decisions.

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 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. Ian mentioned the club had received reports of a rough sleeper in Laurel Park.

6. Cllr Moses Iyengunmwena requests that he provide an update on his actions from the previous meeting early, as Moses has another appointment later in the evening.

This will be discussed under agenda item 11.

7 Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme) – (Phil)

Unfortunately, we are unable to set up a local citizen Speedwatch team. So, Phil advised the group the Police need to know the roads, locations and times the public would like them to hold sessions. Please drop Phil a line with any roads and the places along them that would benefit from a Speedwatch session. This information will be passed to the PCSOs in the neighbourhood policing team for consideration.

8 MERA – local update

Colin advised they wrote to Earley Town Council after they noticed the geese preferred to gather on the grass area that had been cut short for the Lower Earley Green Fair. They are encouraging ETC to keep grass areas short and any other actions they feel might encourage the geese to stay closer to the lake. There is a new cleaning contract coming into effect in 2026 and they have written to WBC asking the council to include the cleaning of paths between May and August. They have written to Yuan Yang, the new MP for Earley & Woodley to congratulate her and ask for support with concerns around parking on pavements, parking around Maiden Erlegh school and on Marefield. They also feel that E-bikes and E-scooters should be registered.

9 ACER – a) following up on parking and subsequent 13 & 14 Bus diversion – b) local traffic issues, speeding with damage to parked vehicles – update on the outcome of local meetings with all parties.

The traffic around the mosque continues to be variable and often there are no traffic wardens in sight. They are still trying to set up a meeting with all concerned parties, but have not been successful as yet. The new bus lane in the area is causing continuous congestion issues. ACER is interested in knowing whether the police were consulted prior to the implementation of the bus lane.

10 Laurel Park: Saturday Traffic safety surrounding roads, review the success of any mitigations put in place by WBC and LPFC (Hillside Councillors/LPFC)

Ian reported the club is no longer providing any guidance on parking locally following repeated attempts to find alternative parking solutions with WBC. He advised the club has been trying to arrange a meeting with all interested parties so a solution can be found. The club may be able to assist with funding issues. Phil suggested Mike write to the Earley Town Council clerk to ascertain whether parking advisory signs could be put up in Marefield. Ian said he will advise Mike and Phil of weekends when they expect to have a large number of fixtures. Phil asked Moses to request visits from the Parking Enforcement Team between 10am and 12 noon on match days.

11 Street Lighting – [ASDA footpath] Linden

Moses advised he has been speaking to ASDA regarding their faulty lighting issues. Linden advised some of the car park lights are still out and the steps up to the road are starting to need some maintenance. The lighting issues on Beeston Way are finally being addressed, and WBC still needs to find a way to keep reported jobs open until they are fully resolved. Phil asked Moses if he can ask WBC to provide a list of all SSE outstanding issues. The Elm Lane roundabout sign has been replaced, but is being obscured by foliage (to be reported to WBC by Linden)

12 Neighbourhood Watch – Co-ordinators from Local Schemes to have their say -- (Paul/Phil) –

Phil advised a meeting is still being planned for November.

13 University of Reading – community update – (Molli)

No update at this time due to the start of the new semester.

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

Ian confirmed everything is in place for this year's event.

The meeting closed at 8:59 pm.

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. 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>	