



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 15 May 2023**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Tim Marsh	Chairman of ACER, The Whitegates Residents Association
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Andrew Mickleburgh	WBC, ETC Representative & Resident, The Delph
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident Trusthorpe Road
Mike Bradshaw	Laurel Park Football Club YS Foundation (Charity)
Alan Jutson	Woodley and Earley Lions Club
Brian Woodridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Heather Cresswell	MS Society & Resident, Adams Way
Liz Clark	Resident, Loxwood
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police

Apologies

Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police & Resident, Pavenham Close
Mike Smith	ETC Representative & Resident, Northam Close
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police
Toni D'Amato	Neighbourhood 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 to the meeting. The apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting on 13th March 2023:

The minutes were proposed for approval by Andrew and seconded by Colin.

3. Matters arising: **AGM Section 8 of the Constitution – Nominations and Election of Chair & Vice Chair to be received by 1st May by email to the current Chair.**

Phil advised that he did not receive any nominations for Chair and Vice Chair before the 1st of May, so he is rolling this forward. He asked if anyone had any questions, and none were offered.

4. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities

Simon mentioned that the police are seeing a current trend where youths are obtaining cartons of eggs and throwing them at cars and houses. The Neighbourhood teams are actively patrolling in areas affected by criminal damage.

a) Burglary

3 x Business Burglaries – Pond Head Lane, Rushey Way and Fair Lawn Green

8 x Residential Burglaries – Station Road, Carshalton Way, Wokingham Road, Ratby Close, Nash Close, Westminster Way, Chesterment Way and Sturbridge Close

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

13 reports of ASB – Finch Road x 2, Silverdale Road, Westall Street, Gipsy Lane x 2, Alder Close, Marefield, Camborne Close, Fleetham Gardens, Paddick Drive, Ryhill Way and Hornbeam Drive

18 reports of Criminal Damage – Gabriels Square, Rushey Way x 2, Marefield, Chalfont Way, Durand Road, Hollym Close, Wokingham Road, Finch Road, Gipsy Lane, Maiden Place, Salcombe Drive, Alder Close x 2, Silverdale Road, Danehill, Paddick Drive and Adwell Drive

1 x Robbery – Church Road

5 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Paddick Drive, Leiston Close, Rushey Way, Sevenoaks Road and Doddington Close. There is still a national trend in the theft of high value keyless vehicles.

5 x Thefts from Vehicles – Mays Lane, Henley Wood Road, Wokingham Road, Chilcombe Way and Ratby Close

1 x Theft of Pedal Cycle – Pepper Lane

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 to the comments box on the NAG's website <https://earleynag.org/entries/general/community-speedwatch-uk>

5. Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme) -- (Phil)

MERA had their AGM last week, and they encouraged their members to sign up for Community Speedwatch.

Andrew advised that he was still happy to place an advert in the Lib Dem FOCUS magazine, and Phil offered to send him an article he wrote for the MERA Magazine. Following the meeting, Phil suggested that the Speedwatch officer could liaise with Andrew on this subject.

6. Vehicles Parked too close to junctions, from Squirrels Way, Sevenoaks Road and Radnor Road residents. The Highway Code specifies not closer than 10 metres. If a resident sees a parked car closer than 10 metres, what should they do? Updates on inconsiderate parking - (Colin – MERA)

Colin advised they are still waiting for a response from their national association on this issue.

7 Laurel Park: a) Saturday traffic and car parking challenges in roads adjacent to Laurel Park – This will be covered in a separate Zoom Meeting on Monday 19th June at 7:30pm.

Phil advised he had received feedback from Laurel Park Football Club and had also spoken to local residents around proposals to help alleviate the parking challenges. Tim Marsh of ACER kindly agreed to Chair the Zoom Meeting and advised the meeting will look at all types of possible solutions, discuss the pros and cons of each, spend some time assessing them and then come back to the table to assign a rating.

Phil proposed sending an invitation to the Hillside WBC councillors to attend the Zoom Meeting. Andrew suggested sending an invitation to two other wards.

Following the NAG meeting, invitations were sent to the Hillside Councillors with a request to forward the invitation to other wards as appropriate.

8 Street lighting – Andrew (WBC) / Lynden / David Canning: a) follow up on last meetings requests.

Andrew proposed that street lighting be taken off the agenda due to the online reporting system. Phil advised he did not want to take it off the agenda as it had been an ongoing item for some time and he believed there was still an issue with the system. Phil asked for Lynden to send the Chair a photograph of only one item, the outstanding bollard. Once received, the Chair will forward that information to Andrew for investigation.

9 Online fault reporting system challenges. Andrew has investigated feedback at this meeting (Phil)

Colin asked whether the online reporting issue where reported items are removed after they have been passed to the relevant teams for repair had been addressed. Andrew said he raised the matter with the relevant team and they advised this should not happen as it is not their process. He also spoke to the IT Team who confirmed there was no technical reason for this to happen and it must be human error. Andrew has raised it with the Executive Member for Highways. He advised he had experienced this issue himself after reporting potholes on Beech Lane. He will continue to push for items to remain on the system until they are rectified.

10 Neighbourhood Watch – Local Schemes -- (Paul/Phil)

Phil advised the NHW Administration system had been updated and he invited NHW Co-ordinators in the Earley Town Council area to the NAG meeting to discuss any issues they may have in their areas. Phil advised that in Marefield and Sibson they had recently experienced attempted thefts of keyless cars and the Police had responded quite quickly.

11 University of Reading – community update – (Molli)

Molli advised not much was going on as the term is finishing the second week of June. They had a couple of issues with cars parked in Ramsbury Drive. They are taking part in the Whitley Carnival on 11th June.

12 Fireworks – Woodley and Earley Lions (Alan)

Alan advised that the Lions will not be hosting the fireworks event this year due to increasing costs, decreasing membership and the growing number of obstructive individuals outside the event site. He confirmed the Lions are happy to assist any organisations who decide to take it on.

Mike advised that LPFC YS Foundation (Charity) will be hosting the event and are researching changes, including access to the event, by considering alternative entry and exit points. They want to make it more of a community event and are inviting other local organisations to get involved. More information should be available regarding this in June. Mike wanted to thank Alan and the Lions for all their efforts in organising the event over the past years – the Lions did a fantastic job.

Phil advised that the NAG is reinstating AOB at the 10th July Meeting. Members will be asked for any AOB items at the start of the meeting, and the Chair will designate at which point of the meeting they will be added. The aim is to reduce duplication and prioritise appropriately.

The meeting closed at 8:15 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>Message posted on the Earley Residents' Forum – 964 members of Forum</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. 10th July 2023 4th September 2023 13th November 2023</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. If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call 101 or report online. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, dial 999. 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>	