



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes  
Monday 13th May 2024**

**Present**

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Tim Marsh	Chairman of ACER, The Whitegates Residents Association
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Moses Iyengunmwena	ETC Councillor & Resident, Swebstone Close
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident, Trusthorpe Road
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Lane
Paul Adkins	Chair of Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police

**Apologies**

David Hare	WBC Councillor
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
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 previous Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024:**  
The minutes were proposed for approval by Colin Mair and seconded by Tim Marsh.
- 3. Matters arising: AGM Section 8 of the Constitution – Nominations and Election of Chair and Vice Chair to be received by 1<sup>st</sup> May be email to [Contactus@earleynag.org](mailto:Contactus@earleynag.org)**

Phil had invited nominations for the Chair of the NAG to be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May via [contactus@earleynag.org](mailto:contactus@earleynag.org) in line with the constitution. He did not receive any, but was happy to move that forward. Phil Marsh was proposed for the position of Chair of the NAG by Tim Marsh and Colin Mair and this was seconded by Ian Jobson and Moses Iyengunmwena.

**4. AOB (proposals for consideration from attendees)**

No proposals were suggested.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**a) Burglary**

1 x Business Burglary at the Square, Chalfont Way where the fire exit door had been left insecure.  
2 x Residential Burglaries – Finch Road and Tamarind Way.

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

5 reports of ASB – Hornbeam Drive x 4 and Carland Close. Several of these involved reports of people suspected of smoking weed and one involved a car blocking a driveway.  
3 reports of Criminal Damage – Fleetham Gardens, The Delph and Englefield Place. A brick wall had been vandalised and graffiti sprayed on a back gate.  
2 x Shopliftings – Wokingham Road and The Parade, Earley. In one report, the shoplifter had been detained. The PCC has brought in Op Retail to help tackle and address shoplifting.  
4 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Caraway Road, Pond Head Lane, Mill Lane and Amber Close. One report involved theft of number plates and others mentioned people trying door handles on driveways.  
2 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Rhodes Close and Knossington Close. One moped and one e-bike.  
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>

Prior to the meeting, David Hare had provided information regarding two incidents at the Crescent Centre next to Loddon Valley Police station. A group of youths were on the back patio waiting for someone to come out and had become macho and aggressive when a member of staff asked if they were OK. The Neighbourhood Team has suggested staff should call further incidents in on 101 or 999 if they feel unsafe or threatened. The other issue was regarding a car that had been left in their car park awaiting recovery. The team advised they would pop over and speak to the staff and suggested if this occurred again, to call 101 and report the details.

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

Colin reported that Gina Frost from the ASB Team had attended the MERA AGM and gave a very good presentation. Phil advised the previously reported dog related noise nuisance issue in his area had been addressed by the ASB Team, but could not be resolved at this time.

**7 Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme) – (Phil)**

Phil advised four people are currently registered and another three have not yet completed the course. He is hoping to start sessions on Rushey Way soon.

**8 MERA – local update**

Colin advised there were not as many geese this year, but they have published advice to residents around keeping geese off their lawns by having long grass or putting in a barrier. MERA will keep pressure on ETC and WBC to come and clean the droppings up due to the health risk. Colin advised they had a question at their AGM regarding parents leaving their car engines running while waiting to pick up their children. It needs to be made clear that

this is illegal. Phil suggested Colin contact the local councillor for the area and bring it back if there is no resolution.

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

Tim advised traffic issues at the bottom of the drive, especially on Fridays, had improved recently. He had made some enquiries and discovered some attendees had been coming in from outside of the immediate area. On Fridays, members of the Muslim community have now been hiring a hall in Wokingham which appears to have eased the situation. ACER is currently arranging a meeting with members of the community to address the issues. Tim mentioned that speeding is still a problem in the area, especially late at night.

**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) Residents report ongoing traffic mounting the pavement on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, to avoid obstructions. Vehicles queuing to enter and exit Marefield on Rushey Way. Review at the meeting.**

a) Saturday Traffic issues are still on hold until the WBC Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is published in the Local Plan Update (LPU). This is not likely to occur until after the local elections. 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. Ian advised WBC had completed a survey on the pavilion and some urgent works were required. Hopefully, WBC will take a holistic approach around all related issues following publication of the PPS.

b) Residents reporting ongoing traffic violations. Phil expressed his thanks to Laurel Park Football club for their efforts in improving signage and informing and encouraging drivers not to cause obstructions and prevent pedestrian access on Saturdays when football games are scheduled. He also expressed his thanks to the local policing team for their engagement on recent game days. Ian informed the meeting that LPFC is committed to continuing to alert users to park safely and responsibly in the surrounding area, maximising allocated parking at Maiden Place as indicated on [LPFC's website](#).

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

Linden advised not much progress had been made. There is an issue with the sign lights on the Rushey Way roundabout leading down to Beeston Way, which has been reported. Yet again, once the repair has been booked for a reported fault, the map no longer shows it as faulty. This could lead to unnecessary duplication of reports and should be addressed. There is still an issue with the lighting at ASDA which should illuminate the steps coming down from the road to the parking lot. Moses offered to look into the outstanding issues. Phil asked Linden to send him the numbers and pictures for the faulty lights and he will pass them on to Moses.

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

Paul advised Neighbourhood Watch week is during the first week in June. It was suggested that Neighbourhood Watch and other local partners could share a stand at the LPFC Fun Day on Saturday 29th of June. Paul mentioned he would like to work on a project around safe spaces in parks, etc. He would like to take a multi-agency approach around this issue. Tim and Colin suggested Paul write an article around this for inclusion in the MERA/ACER joint magazine and they would also help advertise Op Courage (Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service run by the NHS), through their magazine and social media channels.

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

No updates at this time.

**14 Fireworks – Laurel Park FC Youths Sports Foundation (Charity # 1183357) – Parked until the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Ian advised plans are being put in place for this year's event.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

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. 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.</p> <p>If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call <b>101</b> or report online.</p> <p>In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, dial <b>999</b>.</p> <p>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</p> <p><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:</p> <p><a href="https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/">https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/</a></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>	