



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

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Vivien Canning	Aldbourn Avenue
David Canning	Aldbourn Avenue
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Andrew Mickleburgh	WBC, ETC Representative & Resident, The Delph
Brian Woodridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Heather Cresswell	MS Society & Resident, Adams Way
Toni D'Amaro	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police & Resident, Pavenham Close

Apologies

David Hare	Town & Borough Councillor & Resident
Alan Jutson	Woodley and Earley Lions Club
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident Trusthorpe Road
Mike Smith	ETC Representative & Resident, Northam Close
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, 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 16th January 2023:

The minutes were reviewed and proposed for approval by Andrew and seconded by Brian.

3. Matters arising: 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 according to the Constitution, he needs to receive any nominations of candidates for Chair and Vice Chair before the 1st of May.

4. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities

Toni advised the Police had received in excess of 25 reports concerning youths riding moto scrambler bikes in parks around the area. The Police have identified a number of youths using the bikes and two have been issued with warnings. This has had a positive impact on their behaviour for the time being.

Keyless vehicles are being targeted by Organised Criminal Gangs across the country, so please be aware if you own this type of vehicle. Using physical deterrents such as steering locks, wheel clamps and blocking the keyless vehicle in may help deter car thieves.

Lyndon advised there has been an increase in the use of E-Scooters. Toni advised the current Police guidance is to issue a warning in the first instance.

a) Burglary

3 x Business Burglaries - Fullbrook Avenue, Silverdale Road and Pepper Lane

2 x Residential Burglaries - Squirrels Way and Camborne Close

b) Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

22 reports of ASB - Copperdale Close, Chilcombe Way, Kilnsea Drive x 11, Wyatt Crescent, Gipsy Lane x 2, Easby Way, Marefield, Paddick Drive x 2, Langdale Gardens and The Crescent

1 report of Arson in Mill Lane

10 reports of Criminal Damage - Cutbush Close, Bassett Close, Gabriel Square x 2, Henley Wood Road, Courts Road, Little Horse Close, Easby Way, Silverdale Road and Whitton Close

3 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Colmworth Close, Jay Close and Westminster Way (motorbike)

4 x Thefts from Vehicles – Chatton Close, Station Road, Maiden Place and Chicory Close

1 x Theft of Pedal Cycle - Privet Close

1 x Unauthorised encampment on Mill 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 into the comments box on the NAG's website <https://earleynag.org/entries/general/community-speedwatch-uk>

e) Report on "Have Your Say" event at Silverdale Road on 27th January

Andrew provided an update on the "Have Your Say" event held near Silverdale Road shops on 27 January. Phil and Andrew attended with 2 local PCSOs. 13 residents were interviewed and the main community concerns expressed were speeding, parking, cyber-crime and ASB. Several Maiden Erlegh students gave positive feedback regarding the support they receive from the school around bullying and concerns for vulnerable children.

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

Phil advised he is going to advertise Speedwatch in local magazines such as MERA in an attempt to find more volunteers. MERA are having a Speedwatch presentation at their AGM in May which they hope will create interest in the community. Phil will also speak to Tim Marsh of ACER and local Neighbourhood Watch groups. Unfortunately, people often express interest in volunteering for Speedwatch, but do not actually sign up. Andrew offered to advertise Speedwatch in the Focus newsletter. There is a link and information on how to join on the Earley NAG website.

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? (Colin – MERA)

The group discussed how the 10 mtrs is measured and that this distance is not always adequate taking into consideration the size of current vehicles. Traffic Regulation Orders for double yellow lines can be applied for, but they require a public consultation so can take an extended period of time to be processed.

7 Laurel Park: a) Barrier – proposal to remove this items now the barrier has been installed [operational issues to be addressed directly to WBC] and; b) Saturday traffic and car parking challenges in roads adjacent to Laurel Park – follow up on proposal at January’s meeting to have a separate Zoom Meeting in April, with invited members, to consider solutions that can be submitted to WBC and cc ETC. A document has been circulated to LPFC to ensure that their concerns are known.

Phil expressed his thanks to WBC for putting the barrier in place. He proposed taking this item off the agenda as any operational issues should be addressed directly to WBC. It was also suggested that a Pedestrian warning sign be installed to improve the safety of pedestrians entering the car park.

Phil is going to ask Tim Marsh of ACER to Chair the proposed separate Zoom Meeting to consider solutions regarding the Saturday traffic and car parking challenges in roads adjacent to Laurel Park.

Andrew advised that Civil Parking Enforcement Officers can be requested to attend, but residents need to be aware that everyone who parks on dropped kerbs can be ticketed. Andrew suggested the NAG members contact their 3 local councillors to request CPE attendance and to include the reason for their request.

8 Street lighting – Andrew (WBC) / Lynden / David Canning: a) follow up on last meetings requests; b) LED lights sharp cut-offs produce areas of risk due to poor light

Lynden advised the main offending lights at Chalfont had recently been fixed, but would like to know why it had taken over 3 years to accomplish. Andrew thanked Lyndon for the interest and time he has taken to sort out the street lighting issues. There are 2 main types of faults: those that require the replacing of bulbs and those involving cabling issues. The Council has no authority to deal with cabling matters, they are the responsibility of SSEN. Andrew is trying to get SSEN to appear in front of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to discuss this matter and how to move forward. Some of the outstanding issues are of great concern as they can affect safety. Phil mentioned there is an issue with the *Report It* system on WBC which has the potential to encourage duplicate reporting of faults as items reported as broken are shown as fixed/working on the tool when a Work Order is issued but not yet completed. This could encourage duplicate reporting of faults, which may lead to additional administration costs. Phil will send the details to Andrew following the meeting. This could also potentially relate to the reporting of potholes using the same system. Lynden mentioned someone may need to contact the Salvation Army regarding issues with the light on the footpath next to them. Andrew asked Lyndon to email him the details regarding Streetlight 3A on the footpath along Wilderness Road Near Hartsbourne Road. Phil advised vegetation removal can be requested for lighting issues caused by overgrown trees and a picture can be added to assist in showing the issue.

9 Neighbourhood Watch – Local Schemes -- (Paul/Phil) (David Canning) Parking on verges propose to close off this item. Coronation Community Meeting 7th May Laurel Park (to promote local Neighbourhood Watch Community Schemes)

Phil advised that LED lighting had been discussed in a recent NHW workshop as they no longer light up properties as well as they did in the past. The Police are recommending homeowners use dusk to dawn lighting on their properties to help keep areas of access (such as doors and windows), visible to help prevent burglary.

10 University of Reading – community update – (Molli)

Phil has arranged for the update to be sent to the NAG members as a press release later this evening. The Community Forum is being held this Thursday 16 March, 6-8.30pm and there are still a few spaces if anyone would like to attend.

11 Fireworks – Woodley and Earley Lions (Alan)

Alan is attending a planning meeting today, so this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

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. 15th May 2023 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>	