



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 10th March 2025**

Present

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| Rose Kayani | Resident, Beech Lane |
| Helen Elderfield | Resident, Marefield |
| Hazel Bell | Resident, Sibson |
| Sarah Chaplin | Resident, Marefield |
| Zahra Colwill | Resident, Highfields |
| Linden Morgan | Resident, Elm Road |
| Toni D’Amaro | Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police |
| Elena Ispas | Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police |
| Karen Collins | Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police |

Apologies

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| Phil Marsh | Chair & Resident, Marefield |
| Colin Mair | MERA & Resident, Lakeside |
| Mark Ashwell | WBC Councillor for Sports & Leisure |
| 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:

Rose welcomed the attendees. The apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes from the previous Meeting on 20th January 2025:

The minutes were proposed for approval by Zahra Colwill and seconded by Helen Elderfield.

3. Matters arising: a.) the meeting will be chaired by Rose Kayani, and b.) AGM Section 8 of the Constitution – Nominations and Election of Chair & Vice Chair to be received by 1st May by email to: Contactus@earleynag.org

Rose kindly chaired the meeting in Phil's absence.

The NAG AGM has been moved to the 19th of May and Phil will be available for selection as Chair for the 2025/26 period, but after that, will not stand again for family reasons. In accordance with AGM Section 8 of the Constitution, please ensure any nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair roles are received by 1st May by email to: Contactus@earleynag.org

4. AOB: (proposals for consideration from attendees)

This item was moved to agenda item 12.

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

Toni provided an update on the crimes reported from 21st January 2025 to 10th of March 2025.

a) Burglary

1 x Business Burglary – Church Road

No reported Residential Burglaries

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

3 reports of ASB – Hornbeam Drive, Beaconsfield Way and Silverdale Road. These reports related to issues with people smoking drugs.

2 reports of Criminal Damage – Hillside Park and St. Clements Close. Reports of damage to a wall caused by a van and damage to an alarm.

34 x Shopliftings – Toni advised PCSO Elena has been visiting local retailers to assist them with signing up to DISC, an information-sharing and reporting platform funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) which allows retailers to report and access information about crime such as shoplifting and anti-social behaviour (ASB). A core part of the PCC's Retail Crime Strategy is to make reporting shoplifting offences easier and more efficient for retailers. This has led to a significant increase in the number of reported shopliftings. There are two prolific known offenders with investigations and arrest plans being put into place.

2 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Hawkedon Way and Felixstowe Close, relating to stolen number plates.

2 x Theft of Motor Vehicles – Wickham Road and Dane Hill where a vehicle was left there for repairs.

1 reported Theft of a Pedal Cycle on Whiteknights Road.

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>

Toni advised he had been contacted by a Roads Policing Officer who is keen to help with any hotspot locations which are brought to their attention. Attendees suggested the following roads for holding Speedwatch sessions: Highfields, Kilnsea Drive, London Road, Chatteris Way and Beech Lane.

Toni advised the neighbourhood teams are continuing with their E-bike and E-scooter operations and there is a new policy to seize scooters with the level of prosecution depending on the age of the offender. He mentioned the teams are planning an ASB operation soon and to please report any issues to TVP. Some of the NAG members mentioned recent reports they had seen on social media regarding people staying at the asylum seeker hotel. Toni advised there had been arrests and the neighbourhood teams have been visiting the hotel and liaising with the asylum seekers staying there, some of whom are providing English lessons to the others.

Rose mentioned the issue which had been raised in the previous meeting regarding a member of her family who had been experiencing ASB due to excessive dog barking on Beech Lane. The property next to them has 11 dogs. Her family member has two young children and have not been able to enjoy their garden or sleep properly since September.

6 MERA - local update

There was no update at this time. Rose would like to know the time their AGM and regular meetings are held and how to join the association.

7 ACER - local update

As the above agenda item, there was no update at the time of the meeting. The ACER AGM is scheduled in March, but the time had not been confirmed. Following the meeting, Tim March confirmed there was no local update.

8 Street Lighting – [ASDA footpath] – (Linden / Cllr Moses Iyengunmwena)

Linden advised the lights at ASDA (Chalfont Close) were scheduled to be fixed today and the council owned ones on the road have still not been fixed. Rose raised the possibility of sending a strong letter to the ASDA management team copying in their Head Office giving them a two week deadline to respond with a follow-up email if no response is received.

9 Laurel Park: - “Saturday Matchday Traffic” safety in surrounding roads, review the success of any new mitigations put in place or proposed by WBC (Cllr Mark Ashwell)

Attendees mentioned that Laurel Park FC have been advertising for additional players. It does not appear that Traffic Officers have been attending on Saturdays to monitor the traffic/parking situation or that the police have been able to patrol the area during the busiest times on Saturday match days (between 8:30am & 9:30am at the Sibson/Marefield junction and between 10:00am & 11:00am at the Marefield junction.) The attendees discussed the possibility of requesting a meeting directly with Mark Ashwell at WBC to try and progress the options being considered. Rose suggested the residents in the area could contact WBC and ask if they qualify for a concession on their council tax.

10 Neighbourhood Watch – Coordinators from Local Schemes to have their input – (Paul/Phil Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association)

Phil advised that he is happy to assist anyone who wants to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and they can email him at chairperson@earleynag.org

11 University of Reading – community update (Molli)

There was no update at this time.

12 AOB

Rose commented that if there is an item on the agenda, an update should be forwarded to the Chair in the event of absence.

Rose mentioned she would like this area to have an interfaith group. Interfaith is when different faiths/religions get together and collaborate to make things happen and bring unity, diversity and service to the community. Rose advised she is a member of the Baha’i faith, a worldwide religion which is the only faith/religion who believe in and accept all other religions. Members can learn more about this faith online. Karen offered to contact the head of the Bracknell Interfaith Group to see if they can offer any advice on setting up a group in Wokingham.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

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| 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. 19 May 2025 14 July 2025 8 September 2025 10 November 2025</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> | |