



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 18th November 2024**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Mark Ashwell	WBC Cllr for Sports & Leisure
Clive Buckland	Park Warden Sol Joel Park & Resident, Church Road
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Tim Marsh	ACER & Resident, Milton Road
Helen King	Resident, Marefield
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Mike Smith	ETC & Resident, Northam Close
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident, Trusthorpe Close
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Road
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police

Apologies

Debra Taylor	Resident, Mawbray Close
Toni D'Amato	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 9th September 2024:**
The minutes were proposed for approval by Colin Mair and seconded by Ian Jobson.

3. Matters arising: E-Scooters and the law

No matters were reported.

4. AOB: (proposals for consideration from attendees)

No proposals were requested.

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

Simon provided an update on the crimes reported from 10th September to 15th November 2024.

a) Burglary

5 x Residential Burglaries – Courts Road, Meadow Road, Wokingham Road, Silverdale Road and Ramsbury Drive. There are currently no emerging or associated patterns with these burglaries. There have been historic increases at this time of year due to unlit houses.

There were no reported Business Burglaries during this period.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

2 reports of ASB – Mays Lane and Skelmerdale Way. Reports related to issues with the installation of a CCTV camera and young people banging on doors.

3 reports of Criminal Damage – Mays Lane, Chelwood Road and Faygate Way. Reports related to damage to cars and a front door due to fireworks.

1 reported Shoplifting on Silverdale Road. The PCC has brought in Op Retail to help tackle and address shoplifting.

2 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Danehill and Station Road. Both reports relate to stolen number plates, which has also been a national issue.

1 reported Theft of Motor Vehicle from Fair Lawn Green.

5 x Thefts of Pedal Cycle – Chalfont Way, Shinfield Road x 3 and Whiteknights Road. Efforts have been made to target harden bike sheds to deter thefts. Criminals are becoming more sophisticated in their methods, such as locating and removing GPS trackers from bikes.

1 x report of a dangerous dog, following which a Community Protection Notice (CPN) was issued.

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>

Simon advised there had been a marked increase in anti-social behaviour over the Halloween and Bonfire Night periods. There is now a dedicated unit for tackling shopliftings which should assist with improving the reporting of them. The Ministry of Justice is currently reviewing the laws around shoplifting.

If there is an emergency or a crime is in progress, please dial 999; otherwise, call 101 or report online.

Phil advised he would distribute a copy of the Neighbourhood Watch WIDEN campaign after the meeting.

6 MERA – local update

Colin advised some residents had complained of personal fireworks being too loud. He reported that Yuan Yang, the new MP for Earley & Woodley will be attending their next meeting and they are hoping to discuss local concerns with her such as issues with parking on pavements/verges, concerns over proposed housing targets and that E-bikes and E-scooters should be registered, taxed and insured. Also, they will discuss proposals for improved car parking at Laurel Park, with a direct access road from Rushey Way (not via residential roads).

7 ACER – a) follow up on parking and subsequent 13 & 14 Bus diversion – b) local traffic issues, speeding with damage to parked vehicles, c) incidents of vandalism in Whitegates examples: i) new bus shelter on London Rd / The Drive had paint daubes and was cleaned up by ETC only for the bench to be broken and set alight. ii) the Hightree notice board recently replaced has had to be taken down as the Perspex was damaged. ETC is working on both.

Tim advised buses were still being blocked from their routes as a result of Friday night parking issues at the Mosque and asked whether there was a procedure in place for requesting assistance. Simon advised the Neighbourhood Policing Team would assist when they are on duty and resourcing allowed. There are also concerns over the recent increase in vandalism and arson at the bus shelter on The Drive. Mike advised Earley Town Council had funded that particular shelter. There were concerns around the lighting of bus shelters as some were in dark areas and it was suggested that better lighting might deter people from vandalising them.

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

Linden reported that the lighting at ASDA was still an issue. Phil advised he would write to Moses for an update on his discussions with the store management. The lights on Beeston Way were recently repaired by SSL, but are now off again. Phil mentioned the roundabout at Carshalton Way had finally been repainted to a good standard.

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)

Mark advised he had been aware of the traffic issues since 2015 ([Reading Chronicle Article](#)). He is hoping to find a community solution, but it isn't proving easy. He's recently visited the area and met with the various clubs, groups, and organisations with a vested interest. He is currently looking at short-term solutions that could be implemented before the end of the year. In the short term, Traffic Officers have been asked to attend for the next four Saturdays to help alleviate some traffic issues. Traffic Officers can issue tickets if parking restrictions are in place but cannot deal with obstructions, which is a police matter. WBC will also conduct feasibility studies into a handful of options for parking away from Marefield. Ian advised that Laurel Park Football Club has been looking into options such as access to other facilities and sites to support the increase in the number of local children wanting to play football. Mark confirmed he will also look into long-term solutions for the traffic and parking issues and shall furnish an update at the NAG meeting on 20th January.

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

Phil advised he has been involved with setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Reading area. He advised Reading Police reported a 15-20% reduction in crime in areas where schemes have been set up. He said if anyone knows of any areas or Resident/Housing Associations that would like to set up a scheme, Phil is happy for them to email him directly for assistance.

11 University of Reading – community update (Molli)

Phil advised Molli had sent him a new programme of public lectures to forward to members of the group.

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

Ian advised a few lads had forced their way through the fencing on the night of the event and one was on an electric bike, but they managed to escort them off the field. There was one minor medical incident which had occurred outside their perimeter on Rushey Way and they had sent their first aid team to assist. There was no support from local policing as both teams were unavailable, but they were able to run the event without it. The attendance was up from last year and the takings for charity were good making the event successful. Ian advised it will probably be the last Fireworks event they will hold as it is just becoming too difficult to run due to an increasing amount of rules and regulations and challenges with obtaining insurance.

The meeting closed at 8:42 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. 20 January 2025 10 March 2025 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>	