



## Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes

Monday 30 November 2020

Zoom

### Present

Jim Willis	Chair & Resident
Clive Jones	Wokingham Borough & ETC Councillor
David Hare	Town & Borough Councillor & Resident
Andrew Mickleburgh	ETC Representative & Resident, The Delph
Phil Marsh	Resident, Marefield
Helen King	Resident, Marefield
Mike Mackenzie	Resident, Salcombe Drive
Prinal Shah	Reading University
Chris Bassett	EASI
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Road
Alan Jutson	Woodley and Earley Lions Club
Alf Wojtasz	Resident, Strand Way
Jean Hackett	Earley Community Orchard
Simon Botham	Thames Valley Police
Julie Susel	Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police

### Apologies

William Luck	Resident, Easby Way
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**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:**

Jim welcomed the attendees to the NAG's Zoom meeting and reminded everyone it was being recorded. An Apology was received from William Luck.

### **2. Minutes from previous Zoom Meeting 19 October 2020:**

The minutes were reviewed and accepted.

### **3. Matters arising:**

Mike asked for an update regarding the robbery on Wokingham Road and Julie advised she would address this issue in the Police Update.

### **4. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities**

#### **1. Road Safety & Speeding**

Karen advised she had received an update from the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator at the Joint Operations Unit (Speed Safety) Roads Policing confirming they are continually risk assessing the situation, but there is to be **NO COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH** activity until it is deemed that it is safe to do so.

#### **2. Burglary**

1 x Commercial – University of Reading  
4 x Residential – Henley Wood Road, Cassia Drive, Fakenham Close and Wickford Way

#### **3. Anti-social behaviour**

1 x Robbery – Compton Close

9 x reports of ASB – Station Road, Laurel Park, Collins Drive, Barn Croft Drive, Maiden Place, Egremont Drive, Kilnsea Way, Marefield and Cinnamon Close

13 x reports of Criminal Damage – Silverdale Road, Rushey Way x 5, Finch Road, Langdale Gardens x 2, Wilderness Road, Allendale Road, Thyme Close, Lambourne Gardens

13 x Thefts from Vehicles - Mill Lane x 6, Maiden Place, Ramsbury Drive, Fleetham Gardens, Beech Lane, Aldbourne Avenue, Harcourt Drive and Sibley Park Road

1 x Theft of Motor Vehicle – Avalon Road

2 x Thefts of Pedal Cycle – Wokingham Road and Avalon Road

Julie advised she is concerned that reports of ASB have increased and read out a few received over the past month. Laurel Park has been affected, with the goal posts being pulled down and reports of 5-10 young people with 3 motorbikes smoking cannabis and playing loud music quite late at night. A similar report of youths was received for the Station Road car park. Collins Drive has ongoing ASB issues and the Neighbourhood Policing Team are looking at doing a problem-solving profile there. There have been reports of youths smoking cannabis in the Maiden Place youth shelter and groups of youths refusing to leave the local Sainsburys. There was only one report of eggs being thrown at a house on Halloween. The PCSOs have been going out and about in the area trying to engage with youths and dealing with Covid breaches. There is a dedicated police car working 24/7 responding to reports of Covid breaches. Jim reported that some of the staff at WH Smith in Maiden Place are not wearing

masks. Julie will ask the PCSOs to go and speak to them. Clive advised there was no Perspex barrier at the counter, and he would take this up with the Council. Jim mentioned the caretaker had put out a fire in the bins and there were masses of silver nitrous oxide canisters on Lower Earley Way plus little plastic bags have been appearing in the area. Jean advised there were lots of silver canisters at Maiden Place near the Church end and under the tree. Julie confirmed the team are keeping an eye on a group of youths who have been causing issues in the area. Jim mentioned that residents of Liberty House have reported groups of youths at the closed end of Cutbush Lane who may be receiving deliveries of drugs. Julie advised that reports of drug dealing have increased, Dave asked whether it was more blatant at the moment and Julie replied that she thought it was.

Simon advised the Priority Crime Team are investigating the reported robbery on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November and are being assisted by the British Transport Police.

Mike asked if there had been an update on the Wokingham Road robbery and Julie advised that the aggrieved had described the offender as an Asian male, so his dashcam footage had been ruled out as it showed an elderly man in a grey tracksuit. She thanked Mike for his assistance.

Alan mentioned there had been reports of keyless entry cars being stolen. Julie advised that TVP have seen an increase and it has also been increasing nationwide. Simon advised they had not seen a large increase in this area as yet and it is important that people keep their keys secure and use a signal blocking pouch. Simon mentioned the following week is TVP's Burglary Intensification Week and there will be extra patrols and resources across the area.

Clive advised that vegetation in Swallows Meadow had recently been destroyed by the new land owner. The landowner has claimed that an environmental survey was carried out and did not even find a mouse in the area. However, local residents believe there may have been a badger sett in the area and Clive has asked the borough ecologist to visit the site to see if they can find evidence of it. If they find evidence, they will be coming to the police and asking them to act. Simon advised the Rural Crime Officer is part of his team and would deal with any issues that are found.

Jim advised the issues at Liberty House have reduced and are clearly under control. Liberty House are controlling the parking of visitors in Strand Way.

## **5. Maiden Place Youth Shelter**

Jim advised some of the local residents have asked about getting rid of the shelter and wanted to know what the police thought of this. Julie advised they have spoken to ETC and WBC about this in the past. She believes the youth want to stay there and if there was no shelter, they would either congregate in the nearby flat stairwells or on the children's play area. The council are keen that there is a youth provision in the area and she believes there is a small minority of youths causing issues, not the majority of them.

## **6. Fly tipping and damage to cycle path fencing**

Jim advised a barrier has recently been put around the damaged cycle path fencing and the fly tipping at the end of Lower Earley Way has been removed.

## **7. Laurel Park Football Club goal posts – damage**

Jim asked Ian to provide an update on the goal posts. Ian advised they have not been able to identify those responsible. There was a group of 20-30 youths there on Halloween and at some point all of the goal posts were pulled down. No motorbikes or tyre tracks were reported on the field. They asked the council to keep the posts down during lockdown and they should be going back up at some point this week. The club put a message out asking for information, but nothing further has come through. Andrew asked that a note is put out after the meeting encouraging residents to report matters of concern to the police on 101. Jim advised he would get something put out on social media.

## **Any other business:**

Alan advised that Santa's Sleigh will still be doing the rounds as they have now had relevant permission from the Local Borough Council, SAG and the Police but will not be stopping as their insurance will only allow a slow drive by. The routes will be published on Facebook and they are hoping to get donations online.

Ian advised they received some feedback regarding parking down Kilnsea Drive and confirmed the club is doing their best to encourage considerate parking on match days. Football was planned to resume and there should be 9 games. Improvements have been made to the pitches recently and hopefully a regular program will be implemented. Phil advised that some people are parking over dropped curbs on Marefield making it difficult for residents to manoeuvre in and out of their drives and asked if the club can put something out requesting people not to park over or right on the drop.

Dave thanked Julie for dealing with a recent racial incident and asked how it would be recorded. Julie advised it would be recorded as a racially aggravated public order because the victim perceived it as racist.

Jim asked Chris whether there was any update on the bins being emptied. Chris advised it had not been too bad lately and litter picking frequency has increased.

Mike mentioned that the size of the bin at The Three Tons entrance to Sol Joel should be increased. Jim suggested he email [localities.environmental@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:localities.environmental@wokingham.gov.uk) and ask them to change the bin.

Prinal advised that university students who want to go home have a period between December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> to get tested.

Jim advised WBC have asked the NAG to send out Covid champion notices over the next 6 weeks. One notice is attached to the end of the minutes and one to the minutes email.

Andrew advised the lights on Chalfont Close are now working and he had received some lovely feedback from a resident who has been using the report it system. He also said there is a significant issue with overflowing bins in some parts of the area due to household rubbish being put into them. Someone has also been dumping big bags of rubbish next to the bins which the council is investigating. Andrew has asked MERA to put an appeal for people not to dump their household rubbish in their next newsletter. Alf advised an additional dog bin would be helpful in Dinton Pastures. Jim suggested contacting [localities.environmental@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:localities.environmental@wokingham.gov.uk). WBC advised that there is no funding at present for additional bins but would like to remind people that dog waste bags can be placed in normal council litter bins.

Helen asked whether there was any update on the gate. Clive advised he would ask for an update. Phil asked if an update on the 20mph program could be provided at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:31pm. Jim wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

**Next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

1009B	<b>NAG website</b> is up & 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>	Message posted on the Earley Residents' Forum – 964 members of Forum	All minutes are now available for viewing online.
0909F	<b>McDonalds Litter</b> – McDonalds have CCTV. The fly tipping has been resolved for now with signs being provided by Wokingham Borough Council. Peter Baveystock has been asked to keep a close eye on this.	Regular meetings will be held with the Area Manager and Health & Safety Representative from the Franchise Head Office. The Management has been reminded of their litter picking commitments. The fly tipping issue has now reduced with the CCTV signs, which have been placed on lamp posts leading to the back yard.	We are grateful for the attendance of staff at our meetings and it is clear that the litter issues are improving across the area. The restaurant is also taking registration numbers of any vehicles entering in to the back yard and recording them in to their daily log. No further fly tipping at present. We will keep under review.
1204C	<b>Community &amp; Youth Meeting</b> - our minutes are now being used as part of the report to this committee.	Meetings:	Chair/Vice Chair to attend when available
0909C	<b>Date, Time &amp; Location of next meeting:</b> Meetings will be held monthly on a Monday at 7.30 – 9.00 pm on zoom at the present time.  Following dates have been booked.  <b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	Please note the new meetings dates, times and location  Agenda issued a week before the meeting if you would like to add a discussion point please email to <a href="mailto:jw@bankingadvice.co.uk">jw@bankingadvice.co.uk</a>	NB: It is imperative that if you are concerned about an issue ie 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 is being committed call <b>101</b> (01865 841148), if it is an emergency dial <b>999</b> . If in doubt report it.
1704A	<b>Reading University Community Event</b> – The next event to 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 ie parking.	Sarah Gardner - Community Relations Officer	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.
0310C	<b>Community Payback</b> – If there are any areas in the community that members feel need clearing, tidying, the Project Community Payback may be able to assist (offenders doing community service). A caution has been placed upon usage as Health & Safety will often be a barrier.	AV would request that the Community Payback scheme is engaged to whitewash the subways at Marefield & Gypsy Lane.	Community Payback & young offenders are being used to clear litter on Lower Earley Way East & West.

0310F	If any members that have any problems with rubbish fly tipping etc, they can contact Peter Baveystock, Waste Services Wokingham Council – WDCT: 0118 9746000	It has been identified that the litter and fly tipping has increased around the area. If you see any please report it to Peter immediately who will arrange for it to be removed.	This service is very effective and efficient and should be used at every opportunity.
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Hi residents associations, community and neighbourhood groups,

We are writing to you about some of our latest Covid-19 data, which shows that cases are most prevalent in highly populated areas within the borough. This includes Wokingham town centre, Winnersh, Woodley, Earley, Shinfield and Twyford.

It is very important that we continue to encourage the right behaviours, follow social distancing advice, and adhere to the rules under Tier 2 (High) restrictions. This is crucial for keeping cases down and to avoid us moving to Tier 3 (Very High) on the next review date (16 December).

As such, we are asking those of you in the areas listed above to help us promote the following messaging:

Reduce our number of social interactions – the fewer people we meet, the less the virus spreads

- Wear a face covering where we are required to do so
- Wash our hands regularly with soap and warm water, especially before we leave home and when we return
- Make space from others, ideally two metres
- Self-isolate when we are asked to (please note, [support payments](#) are available to those who are eligible)
- Get tested if we have symptoms
- Keep our homes well ventilated, especially if someone within our household has tested positive or is showing symptoms

We understand it has been a tough and long year for many, but unfortunately the virus is still spreading across the borough and we cannot get complacent with these behaviours.

Please do let us know if you have any questions, or if you need any further support.

Finally, don't forget that you can access the latest data on Covid-19 cases in Wokingham Borough, and neighbouring Local Authorities, on the [Berkshire Public Health website](#).