



Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 22 November 2021
Zoom

Present

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| Jim Willis | Chair & Resident |
| Phil Marsh | Resident, Marefield |
| Hazel Bell | Resident, Sibson |
| Sarah Chaplin | Resident, Marefield |
| Helen King | Resident, Marefield |
| David Canning | Resident, Aldbourne Ave |
| Rav Heer | Resident, The Manor |
| Jean Hackett | Earley Community Orchard |
| David Hare | Town & Borough Councillor & Resident |
| Zoran Matic | Wokingham Borough Council |
| Clive Jones | Wokingham Borough and ETC Councillor |
| Rose Kayani | Resident, Ramsbury Drive |
| Dan Bunting | Thames Valley Police |
| Simon Botham | Thames Valley Police |
| Karen Collins | Thames Valley Police |

Apologies

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| Mike McKenzie | Resident, Salcombe Drive |
| Alan Jutson | Woodley and Earley Lions Club |

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. Apologies were received from Mike McKenzie and Alan Jutson.

Clive Jones asked to address the meeting at this point in order to thank Jim on behalf of Earley Town Council for the absolutely wonderful job he has done while chairing the Earley NAG Community Forum. Clive also advised that Jim had been nominated for the Earley Awards for 2021 and will receive recognition for his contribution to the area.

2. Minutes from previous Zoom Meeting 20 September 2021:

The minutes were reviewed and accepted.

3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities

a) Road Safety & Speeding

This will be discussed under agenda item 5. New Speedwatch process.

b) Burglary

1 x Business – Chalfont Way

7 x Residential – Colmworth Close, Pond Head Lane, Saffron Close, Kensington Close, Sutcliffe Avenue, Allendale Road and Elm Road.

c) Anti Social Behaviour

22 reports of ASB – Camborne Close, Langdale Gardens, Beech Lane x 2, Egremont Drive, Maiden Place x 5, Knossington Close, Huntington Close, Northbourne Close, Chalfont Way, Shinfield Road, Wokingham Road, The Delph, Ramsey Close, Phillips Close, Ratby Close, Durand Road, and Marefield.

21 reports of Criminal Damage – Paddick Drive, The Delph, Maiden Place, Betchworth Avenue, Henley Wood Road, Langdale Gardens, Hawkedon Way x 2, Southwold Close, Collins Drive, Radstock Lane, Kitwood Drive x 2, Flamborough Close, Rosewood, Durand Road, Chalfont Way, Hollym Close, Faygate Way, Hillside Road and Fleetham Gardens.

9 x Thefts from Vehicles – Rushey Way, Collins Drive, Wychwood Crescent x 2, Henley Wood Road, Reeds Avenue, Gabriel Square, Moorhen Drive and Betchworth Avenue

2 x Thefts of vehicles – Chatton Close and Leighton Court

10 x Thefts of Pedal Cycles – Wyatt Crescent, Shinfield Road x 4, Whiteknights Road x 3, Chalfont Way and Marefield.

Dan advised there had been a rise in reported ASB involving banging, kicking and knocking on doors and patrols are being planned for affected areas and times.

Current crime prevention advice as we go further into winter is to stay lit and try to make your house look occupied as most burglaries are opportunist. There appears to be some organised activity in nearby Woosehill and a lot of investigative work is being done around it.

Some of the reported criminal damage involves the throwing of bricks and domestic disputes. Maiden Place is being patrolled when the team is on duty.

Members of the group expressed concerns around the increased usage of electric scooters. Simon advised it is a national issue and the Force policy is still to educate, but they can be seized.

Simon and Dan thanked Jim for his contribution to the NAG and the local community on behalf of Thames Valley Police.

5 New Speedwatch process:

The community will have control of the process and sessions can be held without police presence. If anyone wants to suggest a location for a session, please let Jim know. Roads suggested during the meeting: Rushey Way, Carshalton leading down to Meldreth and Cutbush Lane.

6 New Chairman required:

Jim is making his escape to the country, and this means the NAG will need to elect a new Chairperson. A note will be sent out to the group asking for volunteers.

7 County Lines:

Simon advised there are some concerns regarding county lines in the area, but there is a strong tasking team in place to disrupt this activity and to put closure orders, etc. in place.

8 WBC Proposal for multi-purpose pitch at Laurel Park

The group discussed the pros and cons of having the multi-purpose pitch at Laurel Park and whether it should be lit and have CCTV as it will attract people. There are ongoing discussions with the Football Association over where it should be located (Laurel Park or Chalfont Park as an alternative.) Dave has asked for a consultation to be held with residents before it is built.

Any other business:

a. Change of times for gate opening at Laurel Park:

The closing time has changed to 5pm and there has been no further information from WBC regarding the gates. Dave advised he will chase this up again.

There have been issues with cars blocking footpaths and parking on double yellow lines on Marefield when the Saturday football matches are on. Cars are blocking the dropped kerbs for drives and there is no room for emergency vehicles to pass through. Should managers and parents monitor the parking and assist by meeting and greeting? Dave advised he will speak to Andrew regarding asking CPE to come down Marefield on match days.

b. New dates for future meetings: this was deferred until the new Chair is in place.

c. Community Orchard: Jean advised all is ok at the moment and they are about to plant replacement trees in the areas with gaps.

d. The Fireworks Display was heavily attended this year. Some youths managed to get behind the firing line, but were swiftly dealt with. Some group members asked whether the display could be moved to Woodley next year. There will be a debrief of the event in January.

e. Zoran advised he is relocating to Emergency Planning, so a new person will be replacing him.

f. The group members thanked Jim for his contribution to the NAG and wished him luck with his relocation.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

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| 1009B | 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 | Message posted on the Earley Residents' Forum – 964 members of Forum | All minutes are now available for viewing online. |
| 0909F | McDonalds Litter – 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 | Community & Youth Meeting - our minutes are now being used as part of the report to this committee. | Meetings: | Chair/Vice Chair to attend when available |
| 0909C | Date, Time & Location of next meeting: 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. | 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 jw@bankingadvice.co.uk | 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 101 (01865 841148), if it is an emergency dial 999 . If in doubt report it. |
| 1704A | Reading University Community Event – 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. |

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| 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> | |
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