



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes  
Monday 19 October 2020  
Zoom**

**Present**

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jim Willis     | Chair & Resident                     |
| Rav Heer       | Resident, The Manor                  |
| Zoran Matic    | Community Engagement Officer WBC     |
| David Hare     | Town & Borough Councillor & Resident |
| Phil Marsh     | Resident, Marefield                  |
| Mike Mackenzie | Resident, Salcombe Drive             |
| Prinal Shah    | Reading University                   |
| Rose Kayani    | Resident, Ramsbury Drive             |
| Chris Bassett  | EASI                                 |
| Ian Jobson     | Laurel Park Football Club            |
| Linden Morgan  | Resident, Elm Road                   |

**Apologies**

|               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Simon Botham  | Thames Valley Police          |
| Julie Susel   | Thames Valley Police          |
| Karen Collins | Thames Valley Police          |
| 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 everyone to the NAG's Zoom meeting. Apologies were received from Simon Botham, Julie Susel, Karen Collins and Alan Jutson.

### **2. Minutes from previous Zoom Meeting 7 September 2020:**

The minutes were reviewed. Phil Marsh advised that in AOB he and another resident had asked Andrew to formally add Marefield to the WBC/ETC 20mph Speed Limit Program.

Jean Hackett said that the fencing around one tree in the Orchard was picked up; they had strengthened fence posts and replaced 30 fence posts rather than whole fences.

The minutes were accepted with the aforementioned amendments.

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

Rose asked that it be added to her item under AOB that the vehicle her son witnessed going 30 miles an hour on Beech Lane was a police car. She said this was important as the point she was making is that the sign on Beech Lane is not clear for the police to see let alone members of the public.

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

#### **1) Road Safety & Speeding**

Jim advised the Police are currently undertaking risk assessments for volunteers to resume Community Speedwatch and an update will be provided accordingly.

#### **2) Burglary**

2 x Commercial – Chalfont Way and Sutcliffe Avenue

1 x Residential – Mill Lane

#### **3) Anti-social behaviour**

9 x reports of Criminal Damage – Church Road, Stockbury Close x 3, Paddick Drive, Bradmore Way, Beauchief Close, Bay Close and Rushey Way.

1 x Robbery – Wokingham Road

Mike advised he had sent Dashcam footage to the police following a request on Get Reading after the robbery and was hoping to receive an update. Jim advised his request would be recorded in the minutes and fed back to the police to be monitored and reviewed. Mike suggested the police consider using witness appeal signs in areas where incidents occur to improve witness response. Mike also mentioned there had been reports that a knife had been involved in the robbery.

13 x Thefts from Vehicles – Wilderness Road, Ramsbury Drive x 4, Felixstowe Close, Marefield, Radstock Lane, Felthorpe Close, Maiden Place x 2, Chalfont Way and Adams Way.

2 x Thefts of motor vehicles – Whiteknights and Wokingham Road.

8 x Thefts of pedal cycles – Andrews Road, Chalfont Close, Whiteknights Road x 4, Shinfield Road and Church Road.

Rav advised he had seen reports of an attempted bag snatch about a week ago on a local Facebook group possibly involving masked individuals on either bikes or scooters.

Jim advised the police had recently dealt with a male urinating in Strand Way.

Jim asked the attendees whether they had seen police officers out on the street lately as he had not seen many. Several attendees advised they had not seen PCs, but had seen PCSOs around the area and in parks. Jim advised he is concerned that he is not seeing much police presence in the community at the moment and they appear to be staying inside the station, only coming out in vehicles and disappearing.

Jim asked Prinel how things were going at the University. Prinel advised they have implemented a new Covid system dashboard and it is looking ok for now.

## **5. Litter & other anti-social behaviour**

Chris provided an update on EASI. Following concerns their database of 330 litter pickers was getting out of date, they attempted to contact everyone. The list of streets still needing cover is now down to 14. There are still some common areas which need to be dealt with going forward, but Covid has affected their ability to cover these at the moment. They normally have a big litter pick at Thames Valley Park this time of year and 14 committee members managed to get a large amount of items (cans and bottles) out of the stretch of the Thames in Earley and, also cleared brambles and foliage. ETC have asked EASI to distribute a Covid welfare leaflet to the community and 100 litter pickers have volunteered to deliver them. They have also been working on producing a database of all the recycling points in the area. The plan is to post the information on social media and local community websites. Jim asked if any of the attendees were aware of any hot spots for litter. Phil advised that the litter situation at Laurel Park had improved recently. Ian advised Laurel Park Football Club do a full sweep of the field after the youth games on a Saturday, but there is often litter left after the men's games and they have raised this to ETC. David advised he will make sure the message that the adults are leaving litter behind when the children are not is delivered. Chris advised he will make a note of this and put it on their next agenda. Phil mentioned there used to be a bin near the bench at the access point to Rushey Way (near the roundabout with Kilnsea) and it might help with litter if this is replaced. David offered to speak to ETC about this. Linden commented that some of the bins around Earley are not being emptied and the bottle bank at Chalfont is not being emptied fast enough leading to lots of broken glass being left in front of it. Another bottle bank not being emptied fast enough is the one on Durand Road near the footpath area. Jim advised he would send an email regarding this and anyone who has an issue with full bins, can email the Localities and Environmental team at [Localities.environmental@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Localities.environmental@wokingham.gov.uk) and they will come and empty them. Jim thanked Chris for his time and efforts.

## **6. Orchard Damage**

Jim advised as far as he was aware, the damage reported by Jean in the previous meeting had been repaired and no further damage had been reported. He asked the attendees to make a note of, and report any issues they see when they are out and about around the orchard area.

## **7. Local area lighting**

Linden advised he felt the removal of the unlit bollards on Rushey Way was galling. He questioned whether they were part of the funding for the cycleway and therefore should not have been removed. David asked Linden to email him the details and he will look into it. There are still two unlit bollards on the Chalfont Way / Rushey Way roundabout.

### **Any other business:**

Jim expressed concern there may be an increase in ASB during the October half-term.

The poor road surfacing in some parts of Earley was mentioned.

Phil asked David whether there was any feedback on the 20mph initiative on local roads. David advised ETC were putting in a paper on this, but there is no feedback at the moment. Phil advised that at the previous meeting, he and another resident of Marefield had asked for this to be considered for the access road to the car park and could this be put on the list.

Jim mentioned the sign on the gates to Laurel Park car park will need to be changed from 8pm to 5pm after the clocks go back. There is now an £88.00 release fee in operation.

David advised he had written to Localities and Environmental to thank them for doing a job he told them about last week and felt it was important to thank them when they do a good job.

Jim thanked Prinal for attending and providing an update on the University.

Ian advised they have Covid practices in place and hope they can keep the football going for as long as possible.

Rose asked whether the log in ID will be the same next time. Jim advised it will be different for each Zoom meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm. **Next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

|       |  |  |   |
|-------|--|--|---|
| 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:<br><b>Provisional dates:</b><br>18 November 2020   | Chair/Vice Chair to attend when available   |
| 0909C | <b>Date, Time &amp; Location of next meeting:</b><br>Meetings will be held monthly on a Monday at 7.30 – 9.00 pm on zoom at the present time.<br><br>Following dates have been booked.<br><br><b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b><br><b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>              | Please note the new meetings dates, times and location<br><br>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. |
|-------|--|---|---|