



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes  
Monday 14 November 2022**

**Present**

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Linden Morgan	Resident Elm Road
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Alan Jutson	Woodley and Earley Lions Club
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident Trusthorpe Road
Mike Bradshaw	Resident, Loddon Bridge Road
Andrew Mickleburgh	WBC, ETC Representative & Resident, The Delph
Brian Woodridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Heather Cresswell	MS Society & Resident, Adams Way
Jean Hackett	Community Orchard & Resident, Beech Lane
Tim Marsh	Chairman of ACER, The Whitegates Residents Association
Rose Kayani	Resident, Ramsbury Drive
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
Toni D'Amato	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police & Resident, Pavenham Close

**Apologies**

Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police
Mike Smith	ETC Representative & Resident, Northam Close

**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 to the meeting. The apologies are listed above.

### 2. Minutes from previous Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022:

Jean pointed out the date should be corrected to **11<sup>th</sup> July 2022** in the heading for Item 2. The minutes were reviewed and proposed for approval following this correction by Andrew and seconded by Linden.

### 3. Matters arising:

Policing ACER community area: Simon confirmed North Earley, the area for ACER (The Whitegates Residents Association), has historically been covered by the Woodley Neighbourhood Team due to the location. The Earley and Woodley teams work closely together and are aware of community issues in both areas. Tim confirmed that ACER will attend the Earley NAG meetings going forward.

Maiden Place ASB: Andrew advised following an initiative by Steve the Caretaker, the management team have kindly offered the use of the former pet shop/post office as a hub for the WBC ASB team. This will increase visibility and hopefully have a positive impact when the unit becomes available. Cutting back vegetation has increased visibility around the youth shelter. Toni advised the team conducts patrols around the area and incidents of ASB have reduced over the past few months. Andrew confirmed that Civil Parking Enforcement have been attending to help reduce parking on the yellow lines outside the shopping centre. A fine of £200.00 was recently issued to someone who fly-tipped in Maiden Lane.

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

Simon advised the Neighbourhood teams were kept busy over the fireworks weekend, but the inclement weather may have helped reduce the amount of reported ASB. The ASB team have been supportive and have used their CCTV van around the area. Several concerning reports have been received of bricks being thrown over the wall at the leisure centre and this is currently being investigated.

#### a) Burglary

1 x Business – Chalfont Way

4 x Residential Burglaries – Westall Street, Fullbrook Avenue, Hilmanton and Lancaster Gardens. One of these reports may be changed to criminal damage following further investigation. There do not appear to be any concerning series at the moment.

#### b) Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

17 reports of ASB – Maiden Place, Easby Way, Elm Road x 2, Tabby Drive, Gipsy Lane, Aldbourne Avenue, Kinsea Drive x 2, Chalfont Close, Church Road, Woodmere Close, Rustington Close, Red House Close x 3 and Lakeside. Some of these incidents were related to fireworks being set off.

7 reports of Criminal Damage – Courts Road, Parker Court, Mays Lane, Mill Lane x 2, Shinfield Road and Whiteknights Road.

1 x Theft of Motor Vehicle – Pepper Lane

7 x Thefts from Vehicles – Tickhill Close, Wokingham Road x 2, Waring Close, Maiden Place, Carshalton Way and Silverdale Road

Quite a few of the above reports involved registrations plates being taken and Simon asked everyone to please ensure these thefts are reported.

9 x Thefts of Pedal Cycles – Chalfont Close x 5, Chalfont Way, Silverdale Road x 2 and Tabby Drive

There is a lot of educational crime prevention work ongoing around the thefts of pedal cycles across the area.

1 x Unauthorised Encampment on Mill Lane

Linden asked if there was an update around the operation at the Sportsman. Simon advised several individuals were arrested on the evening of the incident but had no further update at this time.

### **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>

### **e) Feedback from "Have Your Say"**

Phil reported on the Have your Say event held at Maiden Lane on November 4<sup>th</sup> supported by PCSO Elena Ispas and Andrew. Phil has published data showing the results of the survey conducted on the day. Andrew thanked Phil for processing the data from the day and Elena for her support at the event. He advised he was surprised by the number of people raising concerns about telephone and internet scams, including senior citizens. Phil advised the NAG has considered supporting the elderly with preventing cybercrime. Andrew proposed holding Have Your Says on a regular basis around the area with the next one potentially at the end of January or early February at the Sliverdale Road shopping area inviting along the bike marking team, MERA and ACER.

## **5 Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme)**

Phil advised he has taken over the Speedwatch Co-ordinator role for the LE Group and needs more volunteers in order to get it fully operational. NAG members are welcome to join the group. Ian offered to post information on the Laurel Park Facebook page.

## **6 Laurel Park: a) Barrier (residents opening/closing) and b) Saturday traffic and car parking.**

### **Update – Mike Smith ETC (Barrier) and Andrew (WBC) Ian (LPFC)**

Phil advised he has asked for the car park to be swept and the drains to be checked. Ian believes there is a blockage further down the drain. Andrew advised he had been alerted to the drain issues and will raise this with Eddie.

Andrew believes the orders have now been placed for the equipment needed for automatic bollards – high and low levels. The existing height barriers are to be kept with an emergency key and keypad available. Two speedbumps and improved signage have also been requested. Andrew confirmed that creating an additional car park is no longer being considered due to WBC funding constraints.

The members discussed whether CPE should be requested to attend on match days to review parking issues. Ian confirmed the club has increased their social media messaging regarding match day parking to both home and visiting teams and they have staggered the kick-off times. Ian advised he will remind/request players to clean their boots when leaving the pitches.

## **7 Neighbourhood Watch – Local Schemes**

Paul Adkins is the Neighbourhood Watch Area Representative for Bracknell & Wokingham and Chair of the Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

If anyone is interested in joining Neighbourhood Watch or starting their own scheme, please contact:

[bracknellandwokingham.nhw@gmail.com](mailto:bracknellandwokingham.nhw@gmail.com)

## **8 Orchard – anti-social behaviour update (Jean)**

Jean advised the orchard is fine at the moment with no issues of vandalism. The fruit disappeared and has hopefully benefited the local community.

## **9 Fireworks – Woodley and Earley Lions (Alan)**

Alan reported the fireworks should provide a good financial result. Between 4-4.5k people purchased tickets. There was a medical emergency prior to the gates opening and sadly, one of the volunteers subsequently passed away. All of the emergency medical protocols and plans put in place for the event worked. Unfortunately, there was an increase in confrontations due to the police having to leave and a non-resident threatened one of the volunteers. It was suggested that the club could request feedback from residents via a letter drop for an

earlier road closure from 5pm. Phil advised he would be happy to assist with the consultative letter drop for Marefield and its associated side roads. Mike advised the Lions need more volunteers and support. Phil suggested putting this in the letter drop.

## 10 AOB

- Email update from Molli Cleaver, Community Relations Manager University of Reading:  
I have created a community mailing list for termly updates, if anyone would like to receive these please can they email me at [community@reading.ac.uk](mailto:community@reading.ac.uk) so they can be added?  
Save the dates - the next Community Forum is being held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 6-8pm, location TBC. I will share the registration form once it opens in the new year.  
The University is hosting a brand-new Community Festival on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May on Whiteknights Campus. I will share more details about the day once plans have been finalised.
- Linden advised there are still outstanding lighting issues. Andrew confirmed many issues are caused by cabling issues. SSEN have visited some sites and tried to rectify the issue, but have failed in many cases. He has asked them to appear before the Scrutiny Management Committee to determine what their obligations are. Please can residents use the WBC online system to report street lighting issues. The council's main number 0118 974 6000 can be called if residents do not have access online.
- Ian advised he has received feedback regarding the 3G pitch proposal and it was decided to discuss this issue outside the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

1009B	<p><b>NAG website</b> is up &amp; 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></p>	<p>Message posted on the Earley Residents' Forum – 964 members of Forum</p>	<p>All minutes are now available for viewing online.</p>
0909C	<p><b>Date, Time &amp; Location of next meeting:</b> 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. 16th January 2023 13th March 2023 15th May 2023 10th July 2023 4th September 2023 13th November 2023</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 <a href="mailto:chairperson@earleynag.org">chairperson@earleynag.org</a></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. If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call <b>101</b> or report online. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, dial <b>999</b>. If in doubt report it.</p>

1704A	<p><b>Reading University Community Events</b>  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>	Molli Cleaver - Community Relations Manager	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.
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><a href="https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/">https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/</a></p> <p>Use this to report the problem or see if already reported.</p>	This service is highly effective and efficient and should be used at every opportunity.	