



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 12 September 2022**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Caroline Smith	ETC Representative & Resident, Northam Close
Mike Smith	ETC Representative & Resident, Northam Close
Pauline Jorgensen	Wokingham Borough Councillor & Resident, Cutbush Lane
Norman Jorgensen	Wokingham Borough Councillor & Resident, Cutbush Lane
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Andrew Mickleburgh	WBC & ETC Representative & Resident, The Delph
Brian Woodridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Heather Cresswell	Resident, Adams Way & M.S. Society
Rose Kayani	Resident, Ramsbury Drive
David Hare	Town & Borough Councillor & Resident
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Paul Adkins	Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association (Via Zoom)
Susan Stonehard	Resident, Instow Road
Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police & Resident, Pavenham Close

Apologies

Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Jean Hackett	Community Orchard & Resident, Beech Lane
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
David Canning	NHW & Resident, Aldbourne Avenue
Tim Marsh	Chairman of ACER, The Whitegates Residents Association

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 the previous Meeting on 12th September 2022:

The minutes were reviewed and proposed for approval by Andrew Mickleburgh and seconded by Colin Mair.

3. Matters arising:

Maiden Place ASB / Policing ACER community area – cover off in point 4.

4. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities

Karen advised Operation London Bridge (The funeral for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II) has had a significant impact on resources. There is an operation running alongside to ensure the Police maintain a reactive response to events and incidents during this period so that frontline resources can maintain their service to the public. 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.

a) Burglary

1 x Business – Pepper Lane

4 x Residential Burglaries – Mawbray Close, Ratby Close, Wokingham Road and Lakeside

Karen asked the NAG members to ensure their properties are kept secure as one of the reported burglaries may have had an insecure rear door. Please be mindful of the value of items in your house, gold, jewellery, etc. and if possible, find an alternative storage solution such as a safe deposit box away from home. Try to make your house look occupied, especially when the clocks go back.

b) Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

8 reports of ASB – Hilmanton x 2, Mill Lane, Maiden Lane Centre, Maiden Place, Bridport Close, Kilnsea Drive and Pond Head Lane

3 reports of Criminal Damage – Wychwood Crescent, Henley Wood Road and Chilcombe Way

5 x Thefts from Vehicles – Shinfield Road, Silverdale Road, Station Road, Somerton Gardens and Hutton Close

3 x Thefts of Pedal Cycles – Strand Way, Shinfield Road and Station Road

1 x Unauthorised Encampment off Shinfield Road

Karen mentioned there had been an increase in thefts of high-value keyless vehicles nationwide. The Police are advising the public to use physical deterrents such as steering locks and parking in a way that blocks keyless cars in.

c) County Lines issues

Karen advised that a dedicated Tasking Team uses 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>

Andrew asked whether the number of people signing up for Thames Valley alerts had increased following their communication with residents. Karen advised she would check the numbers.

5 **Speedwatch Andrew + Phil to update on LE group**

Phil advised he has taken over the Speedwatch Co-ordinator role for the LE Group and needs 5 more volunteers in order to get it operational. NAG members are welcome to join the group.

Andrew advised his discussions with ETC around being a Speedwatch focal point have stalled for now.

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)

Mike advised he and Caroline had met with Ian to help understand the issues around car parking, the equipment and the barrier. The WBC ASB Team has been asked to put Laurel Park on their patrol plan. Pauline was advised in August that ETC have decided they no longer want to manage the pavilion or the car park and it had been added to the patrol plan. WBC are looking into CCTV and automatic barriers, but this is at the design concept stage and will be dependent on budget.

Hazel advised the volunteers are still opening and closing the gates every day.

Karen will chase up with Simon regarding speaking to Julie about the history of Laurel Park crime issues when the gates were left open.

7 **Neighbourhood Watch – Making contact**

Paul Adkins advised NHW has evolved with the times and is not only helping the community with burglary prevention, they also advise on preventing and reporting fraud, cyber fraud, street crime and violence against women and girls. They have recently launched their Active Bystander Campaign advising how to intervene safely if there is an incident on the street (RUOK being an active bystander) They actively encourage the community to report crime with the ultimate aim of building better communities. Paul is the Neighbourhood Watch Area Representative for Bracknell & Wokingham and also the 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, Paul can be contacted on:

bracknellandwokingham.nhw@gmail.com

NHW are independent volunteers, but work closely with and support the Police.

Andrew suggested that NHW be included in any Have your Say events which should be restarting. Phil suggested they are included in online events too.

Caroline asked whether video doorbells and CCTV are helpful in Neighbourhood Watch. Paul advised they can be very effective in providing evidence for crimes as long as regulations from the Information Commissioner's Office is followed. Phil thanked Paul for joining the NAG this evening.

8 **Orchard – anti-social behaviour update**

Jean provided the following update prior to the meeting via email: *The orchard trees, like others, are suffering from the lack of rain, despite help in watering provided by the EEG Wednesday volunteers. Many have produced fruit this year, but much of it has disappeared, hopefully to the benefit of the local community. When necessary, essential maintenance e.g. pruning, weeding, is being done by a small group of volunteers on the second Saturday of each month.*

9 **Fireworks – update Woodley and Earley Lions**

Phil advised he has asked for volunteers from local roads for the Fireworks evening.

10 **AOB**

- Andrew provided an update on Maiden Place (Item 3) Vegetation has been cut back and the wall will be lowered to improve the view of the youth shelter. David advised there had been slow progress on the wall due to sickness issues. Fly-tipping posters have been put up and one person has already been prosecuted and fined. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Officers have visited a number of times and have issued tickets to drivers parking on the double yellow lines near Sainsbury's. Andrew has asked them to include the area on their patrols. He also received an email offering the use of the former Pet Shop as an ASB hub.
- Rose advised she has been having issues with her recycling and Mike offered to speak to her about it.
- Hazel asked when the volunteers will receive an update on the Marefield situation and the councillors advised they are looking into it.
- Andrew advised that 6 sites were identified for the 3G pitch and a consultation is currently taking place around Maiden Erleigh School.

- Molli reminded the group about the University's Community Forum on Tuesday 27th September from 5:45 to 8:00pm. Phil asked for members who were interested to email him and he would forward the details. Andrew highly recommended attending and advised that you be prepared to participate.

The meeting closed at 8:34pm.

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>Message posted on the Earley Residents' Forum – 964 members of Forum</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.</p> <p>14th November 2022</p>	<p>Please note the new 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 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.</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>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>	