



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 10th November 2025**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Mike Smith	ETC Councillor & Resident, Northam Close
Caroline Smith	WBC Councillor & Resident, Northam Close
Nicola Brock	ETC Councillor & Resident, Brandon Avenue
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Tim Marsh	ACER & Resident, Milton Road
Rose Kayani	Resident, Beech Lane
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident, Trusthorpe Close
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Zahra Colwill	Resident, Highfields
Dzhuli Bogdanova	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police

Apologies

Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Road
Tahir Maher	ETC Councillor
David Hare	WBC Councillor
Sheena Matthews	ETC Councillor
Paul Adkins	Neighbourhood Watch Area Representative
Moses Iyengunmwena	ETC Councillor & Resident, Swepstone Close
Mark Ashwell	WBC Councillor for Sports & Leisure
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
Toni D'Amaro	Neighbourhood Specialist officer, Thames Valley Police
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police

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 and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes from the previous Meeting on 8th September 2025:

The minutes were proposed for approval by Colin Mair and seconded by Tim Marsh.

3. Matters arising: Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2026 – 9th March up to 11th May (skip January)

This proposal was carried with no objections. Phil confirmed the requested amendments to the minutes of the meeting on 14 July had been made. Mike asked for clarification regarding the size of the group of males reported using the bus shelter for exercising near Kilnsea Drive. It was reported as large and Dzhuli confirmed there were between 10 to 15 people involved.

4. AOB: (proposals for consideration from attendees)

Mike asked for clarification regarding alleged sexual assaults in the car park of the asylum hotel as well as reported ASB. Phil advised the police will address this in their update.

5. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities: a) Burglary; b) Anti-social behaviour; c) County Lines issues; and d) Road Safety / Speeding

Dzhuli provided an update on the crimes reported from 8th September to 10th November 2025.

a) Burglary

3 x Business Burglaries – Wokingham Road and Pepper Lane x 2

3 x Residential Burglaries – Meadow Road, Silverdale Road and Aldbourne Avenue – one report involved copper stolen from a shed.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

33 reports of ASB – reports included motorbikes/mopeds being ridden on footpaths around the area, large groups of youths shouting in the streets and letting off fireworks, the smell of drugs and houses being egged around Halloween. Of note: several e-scooters were seized during this period.

18 reports of Criminal Damage – several relating to cars being damaged.

1 reported robbery of a school bag on Wokingham Road

1 x Making off Without Payment – Chalfont Square

27 x Shopliftings across local retailers. PCSO Elena has been visiting local retailers to assist and encourage them to sign up to DISC, an information-sharing and reporting platform funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) which allows retailers to report and access information about crime such as shoplifting and ASB. A core part of the PCC's Retail Crime Strategy is to make reporting shoplifting offences easier and more efficient for retailers. This has led to a significant increase in the number of reported shopliftings, but there are still constraints and barriers within retailers with regard to uploading CCTV footage.

3 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Wychwood Close, Nutmeg Close and Lambourne Gardens

3 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Tamarind Way, Rushey Way and Chalfont Way

15 x Thefts of Pedal Cycles – Wokingham Road, Chalfont Way, Courts Road and 12 reports relating to the University

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 (team to suggest potential Speedwatch Locations with times) – Cllr Caroline Smith will raise potential local Speedwatch Opportunities.

Dzhuli advised the police's capacity to conduct speeding sessions was limited at the moment due to training constraints and injuries.

Caroline advised she is trying to find volunteers for Speedwatch and would like everyone to highlight roads where they feel sessions are needed. Phil advised there is an existing Earley Speedwatch group and

only two roads are currently approved and authorised to hold sessions: Rushey Way at the Marefield bus stop travelling in the direction of ASDA and Church Road.

Karen confirmed the Thames Valley Police repeat offenders' compliance rate currently stands at 96.61%. This ratio is based on drivers who have received the first letter from us not going back through the CSW system within a 12 month period.

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>
The following roads have been previously nominated for sessions: Highfields, Kilnsea Drive, London Road, Chatteris Way and Beech Lane.

With relation to the question around violence and assaults, Dzhuli advised it was important to note that Police UK (where figures are published) group violent and sexual crimes together. She advised there had been reported assaults and arguments between service users at the asylum hotel and that even if there is no physical assault, if someone feels threatened enough to believe that an assault could happen, it is recorded as assault. Mike advised he was concerned about people being incited by social media posts around this issue.

Rose asked whether cycling on footpaths was permitted. Dzhuli advised it is not, but this is difficult to enforce. With regards to electric bikes and scooters, the police teams have been running operations and seizing them when they can.

6 Laurel Park: "Saturday Matchday Traffic" safety in surrounding roads, review the success of any new mitigations put in place or proposed by WBC (Cllr Mark Ashwell, WBC) Cllr Caroline Smith will address the meeting on this subject.

Caroline advised she has been liaising with Mark and will be setting up another meeting to review the situation. If anyone has any concerns or would like to make an input, please contact Caroline.

7 WBC – ASB – Feedback on noise nuisance report in Beech Lane (Cllr Mike Smith)

Mike advised he contacted the ASB unit with the reference provided by Rose. He received feedback that insufficient evidence had been obtained at that point to make a substantive case. They are planning to do additional recordings, but the bar required to bring a case is very high.

Phil explained the stages his insurance company advised were required to bring prosecutions in these types of cases.

8 MERA – local update – a) 20mph limit on the entire length of Silverdale Road, Sevenoaks Road, Avalon Road, Radnor Road and Meadow Road; and b) Street light on Lakeside and Silverdale Road have been out of action now for some months.

Colin advised MERA have reservations regarding 20mph limits on long stretches of road as they can tempt motorists to overtake. Phil advised he felt smiley SIDs were more effective as they make motorists think that they are doing something wrong. Caroline suggested smiley SIDs be promoted for areas where Speedwatch is not suitable. Karen advised the Department of Transport guidance states 20mph limits require traffic calming measures to be effective and speed limits should not be set in isolation otherwise there is likely to be continued non-compliance. Colin advised he is part of the Active Travel working group at WBC who met last week and spent time going through proposals. He mentioned several street lights on Silverdale Road and Lakeside had been out of action for some months. The electricity company are responsible for the repairs and they are taking time to action their requests. Mike advised he will try and chase this up. Mike also advised overhanging branches and foliage can be reported to the council; however, WBC are currently trying to balance their budget.

9 ACER – local update – DYL's not observed or ticketed – Local Parking congestion CCTV suggested.

Tim advised there are still problems with parking at the mosque. The double yellow lines are not being observed or ticketed at the moment. They are waiting for the next meeting with the mosque, residents and highways department which is chaired by the MP.

10 Street Lighting – [ASDA footpath] – (Linden / Cllr Moses Iyengunmwena)

There was no further update at this time.

11 Neighbourhood Watch – Coordinators from Local Schemes to have their input – (Paul/Phil Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association)

Phil advised Paul had been working on Project Trinity and a Zoom presentation meeting had been set up for 25th November with TVP Reading.

Phil advised he would be happy to assist anyone who wants to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and they can email him at chairperson@earleynag.org

12 University of Reading – (Molli apologies will not be in attendance)

The Community Forum is coming up on Thursday 20 November, 6-8.30pm at Eat at the Square on Whiteknights Campus which is open to all residents. This event is hosted by the Vice Chancellor and is a chance to find out about our local activity, share feedback and explore ways of working together. This is a special Community Forum and will feature a panel of representatives from the University, SU, Reading Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Thames Valley Police. Guests will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The event is free and includes a hot buffet, registration is required. The easiest way to let me know if you'd like to join is to email community@reading.ac.uk

13 Suggestions for encouraging stakeholder attendance at the NAG in 2026 – (Rose)

It would be good if everyone could think about what they can do to encourage more people to attend, improve quality and bring variety to the meeting. Phil advised people can send him an email with their ideas.

The meeting closed at 8:38 pm.

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>Facebook Page link for posts: https://www.facebook.com/EarleyNAG</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>9th March 2026</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 chairperson@earleynag.org</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.</p> <p>If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call 101 or report online.</p> <p>In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, dial 999.</p> <p>If in doubt report it.</p>
1704A	<p>Reading University Community Events The Community Forum is coming up on Thursday 20 November, 6-8.30pm at Eat at the Square on Whiteknights Campus which is open to all residents.</p> <p>Hosted by the Vice Chancellor it's a chance to find out about our local activity, share feedback and explore ways of working together. It will feature a panel of representatives from the University, SU, Reading Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Thames Valley Police. Guests will have the opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>The event is free and includes a hot buffet, registration is required. The easiest way to let me know if you'd like to join is to email community@reading.ac.uk</p>	<p>Molli Cleaver - Community Relations Manager community@reading.ac.uk</p> <p>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>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: 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>	