



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 20th January 2025**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Tim Marsh	ACER & Resident, Milton Road
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Zahra Colwill	Resident, Highfields
Moses Iyengunmwena	ETC Councillor & Resident, Swepstone Close
Jerry Carbon	WBC, ASB Team
Rose Kayani	Resident, Ramsbury Drive
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Road
Jamie Simpson-Holland	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Nicholas Elson	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police
Apologies	
Mark Ashwell	WBC Councillor for Sports & Leisure
Mike Smith	ETC Councillor & Resident, Northam Close
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident, Trusthorpe Close
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
Toni D'Amario	Neighbourhood 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. The apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes from the previous Meeting on 18th November 2024:

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

3. Matters arising

Phil advised he was not available for the next NAG Meeting on the 10th of March and asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting. Rose Kayani kindly offered to chair the meeting in his absence.

The NAG AGM has been moved to the 19th of May and Phil will be available for selection as Chair for the 2025/26 period, but after that, will not stand again for family reasons.

Phil reminded members that Planning (or speculation thereof) is outside the scope of this meeting, including the Playing Pitch Strategy. Once any development is placed on the planning portal for public comment, the NAG may review it from a crime and safety perspective.

4. AOB: (proposals for consideration from attendees)

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) relating to the violent kicking of front doors by youths and excessive dog barking at a property were proposed by two of the attendees. As there was a representative from the WBC ASB Team present at the meeting, it was decided to combine these two proposals with the TVP update under item 5b.

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

Jamie provided an update on the crimes reported from 16th November 2024 to 17th January 2025.

a) Burglary

1 x Business Burglary – Silverdale Road

1 x Residential Burglary – Station Road (attempted)

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

4 reports of ASB – Junction of Carshalton Way/Fleetham Gardens, Hillmanton, Gabriels Square and Henley Wood Road. Reports related to issues with people smoking drugs, young people making noise at an address and a neighbour lighting fires close to a fence.

8 reports of Criminal Damage – Highfields, Gabriels Square, Stanton Close, Felixstowe Close, Station Road, Langdale Gardens Hillside Park and Elm Road. Reports related to a neighbourhood dispute regarding boundaries, damage caused by tenants, damage to cars and a fence.

3 x Shopliftings – 2 x Silverdale Road and Fleetham Gardens. The PCC has brought in Op Retail to help tackle and address shoplifting.

No reported Thefts from Motor Vehicles.

2 x Theft of Motor Vehicles – Chittering Close, and Chilcombe Way.

2 x Theft of Pedal Cycle – Shinfield Road and Chalfont Way.

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>

Jamie advised a closure order had been imposed on local property which had been causing ASB and drug issues. No one can access this property for three months unless they have a right to. The Wokingham neighbourhood teams recently completed a weekend of E-bike and E-scooter operations with many warnings issued throughout the weekend. The Earley PCSOs have been contacting and visiting local retailers to register them for DISC - an

information-sharing platform to help retailers report and access information about crime. This is proving to be very successful.

Rose advised a member of her family has been experiencing ASB due to excessive dog barking on Beech Lane. They have two young children and have not been able to enjoy their garden or sleep properly since September. Jerry advised there was an ongoing case regarding excessive dog barking locally, but due to the current investigation, he was not able to divulge any further information. The ASB team have to obtain their own recordings and evidence and must ensure any prosecution is robust enough to stand up to judicial scrutiny. This process can take some time to complete as a result.

Phil advised the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), Matthew Barber, has set up a mediation service and he will send details to Rose.

Zahra advised she had been having issues with her front door being violently kicked for the past 5-6 weeks. It is happening on different days and at different times, with no real pattern to it. Her partner confronted a tall youth on a bicycle who had come on to their property during the half term with two friends. He asked them what they were doing and had they come to kick the front door. They denied it and he asked them to stay away and it hasn't happened again for about a week now. Zahra has reported it to the police and has also found out that neighbours have had cameras installed because they were suffering from the same type of incidents. Phil advised he will send her some links from Neighbourhood Watch with information and advice.

Action – Phil to send out links to Rose and Zahra.

6 MERA – local update

Colin advised they had met with Yuan Yang, the MP for Earley & Woodley. They asked her to lobby for the new hospital and were able to discuss local concerns with her such as issues with obstructions caused by parking on pavements/verges and expressed their concerns over proposed housing targets which is a threat to our rural area. They discussed concerns around E-bikes and E-scooters and the proposal for improved car parking at Laurel Park. They mentioned concerns around the noise caused by fireworks and apparently a petition was presented to Downing Street requesting that firework decibels are reduced. They also discussed safety concerns around Maiden Erlegh School - in particular where pedestrians cross the road between the betting and carpet shops as they believe more action should be taken in that area. Another meeting with the PTA is being arranged around this issue.

7 ACER – a) follow up on parking and subsequent 13 & 14 Bus diversion – b) local traffic issues, speeding with damage to parked vehicles, c) incidents of vandalism in Whitegates examples: i) new bus shelter on London Rd / The Drive had paint daubes and was cleaned up by ETC only for the bench to be broken and set alight. ii) the Hightree notice board recently replaced has had to be taken down as the Perspex was damaged. ETC is working on both.

Tim advised all the items mentioned above now need to be taken up with higher authorities. Phil advised he will therefore remove items a), b) and c) from the agenda.

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

Linden advised SSEN had been out to look at the issues on Beeston Way again and Phil asked him to send the details so he can take a further look into it. Moses advised the last time he checked the lights at ASDA, there had been some improvement, but there are still a few lights requiring attention. Phil advised he will send information on reporting faulty lights to the attendees so they can report ones in their area.

Action: Phil to send information out to the NAG subscribers.

9 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)

Phil advised Mark is still looking into the options for parking. It does not appear that Traffic Officers have been attending on Saturdays as planned and Phil will report this back to Mark. Phil advised the police had been called out just before Christmas due to obstructions caused by the traffic at the junction of Marefield and Sibson. Phil asked whether the Neighbourhood Team could consider patrolling the area during the busiest times if resourcing allows on Saturday match days: between 8:30am & 9:30am at the Sibson/Marefield junction and between 10:00am & 11:00am at the Marefield junction. A video from last Saturday was forwarded to WBC and TVP showing the issues caused by the large number of cars. Jamie advised he would make a request for police presence. Phil also mentioned that cars have been parking in the bus stops on Rushey Way.

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

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

11 University of Reading – community update (Molli)

There was no update at this time.

The meeting closed at 8:37 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. 10 March 2025 19 May 2025 14 July 2025 8 September 2025 10 November 2025</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 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>community@reading.ac.uk</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>	