



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 16 January 2023**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Helen Elderfield	Resident, Marefield
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Sarah Chaplin	Resident, Marefield
Bob Collins	The Knapp, Earley
Viv Canning	Aldbourn Avenue
Elaine Haworth	Aldborune Aveune
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Alan Jutson	Woodley and Earley Lions Club
Ian Jobson	Laurel Park Football Club & Resident Trusthorpe Road
Andrew Mickleburgh	WBC, ETC Representative & Resident, The Delph
Brian Woodridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Heather Cresswell	MS Society & Resident, Adams Way
Tim Marsh	Chairman of ACER, The Whitegates Residents Association
Rose Kayani	Resident, Ramsbury Drive
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Toni D'Amato	Neighbourhood Officer, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Thames Valley Police & Resident, Pavenham Close

Apologies

Jean Hackett	Community Orchard & Resident, Beech Lane
Norman & Pauline Jorgensen	Wokingham Borough Councillors & Residents
Elena Ispas	Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police
Simon Botham	Neighbourhood Sergeant, 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 14th November 2022:

The minutes were reviewed and proposed for approval by Andrew and seconded by Brian.

3. Matters arising: Meeting Etiquette – to be voted in

The new Meeting Etiquette was unanimously voted in.

4. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities

Toni advised a Section 61 has been issued today to the travellers in Woodley.

There has been a spike in residential burglaries by cross border Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involving family gold. If residents are approached by tradespeople offering services, please be vigilant and research it carefully before agreeing to have work carried out.

The number of reported incidents of ASB have reduced, which may have been affected by the recent cold weather conditions.

Phil said he had been asked to bring up exchanges taking place between vehicles in Maiden Place car park and he has asked the person to report these so there is a record. Toni asked if anyone witnesses this type of behaviour to please report it to the Police either online or via 101.

a) Burglary

8 x Residential Burglaries – Durand Road, Cinnamon Close, Aldbourne Avenue, Hilmanton, Sage Close, Lancaster Gardens, Ramsbury Drive and Hillside Road.

b) Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

5 reports of ASB – Maiden Place, Elm Road, Ilfracombe Way, Harrington Close and Toseland Way.

1 report of Arson in Lakeside, Earley

8 reports of Criminal Damage – Beech Lane, Mays Lane, Whitton Close, Toseland Way, Chesterment Way, Elm Road, Station Road and Paddick Drive.

3 x Thefts of Motor Vehicle – Highfields x 2 and Silverdale Road

2 x Thefts from Vehicles – Regent Close and Maiden Place

There were no reported Thefts of Pedal Cycles between 14.11.23 and 16.01.23.

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) Update on proposed "Have Your Say" event at Silverdale Road on 27th January

The Have Your Say will be held near Silverdale Road shops on 27 January. Phil and Andrew will attend with local PCSOs.

5 Speedwatch (Lower Earley Scheme) (Phil, David Canning) a) importance of 20MPH Zones b) management of illegal parking and consequential damage to verges.

Phil thanked Ian for advertising Speedwatch on the Laurel Park Facebook page. Four volunteers are still needed for the group to become active. Viv and Elaine expressed interest in helping due to issues they are having in Albourne Avenue and Phil advised he would send an email to David on how to join the scheme.

Andrew thanked Ian for advertising the scheme and asked if he could advertise it again as it sometimes takes several requests for people to see it. Andrew recommended the attendees take a look at the site and sign up for the training which is really good. There is a link and information on how to join on the Earley NAG website. Concern was expressed over the parking at the junction of Ramsbury Drive and Wilderness Road obstructing views. Cars often park on the grass verges which causes damage to both the verges and carriageway. WBC have been contacted about this on a number of occasions. Andrew advised WBC has been asked to investigate the drainage issues and lack of kerbs on Ramsbury Drive, but due to the current economic situation, is not likely to be addressed in the near future. He asked members to use the online report it system for potholes and drain blockages.

6 Laurel Park: a) Barrier (residents opening/closing) and b) Saturday traffic and car parking. Update – Mike ETC (Barrier) and Andrew (WBC) and; b) Saturday traffic and car parking

Andrew confirmed the order for the automatic barrier had been placed and the work was planned to start in January. Phil asked whether a question regarding the gates could be raised at council meetings again. Andrew advised it was too late for the next meeting, but significant progress had been achieved on this matter. The trial to leave the gates open for a period of time had been cancelled.

The group voted on two proposals regarding the continued discussion of Saturday traffic and parking issues during NAG meetings:-

(i) The parking at Laurel Park on match days should be considered at a separate meeting run by WBC – If agreed by a vote, the members of the NAG will complete a brief report to be forwarded to WBC for consideration (cc Earley Town Council).

The vote was 4 for and 6 against the proposal with other members abstaining. This proposal was rejected.

(ii) Continue ongoing discussions on the NAG Agenda to find a solution until the parking issues are resolved (proposed by resident members)

The vote was 7 for and 1 against the proposal with other members abstaining. Therefore, this motion was carried.

Andrew asked whether the residents of Marefield could propose some ideas around the parking issues.

Ian asked how the ongoing discussions will work going forward. Phil will share a document with the group which everyone can add their points to. The group can make future decisions on whether to continue these discussions.

7 Street Lighting – Andrew (WBC) / Lynden / David Canning a) follow up on last meetings requests; b) LED lights sharp cut-offs produce areas of risk due to poor light

Andrew advised the council is reliant on SSEN for all cable issues and matters. They aim to carry out repairs within 28 days.

The Report it system on WBC can be used to report overgrown trees as well as lighting issues. Please do not use 'Fix my Street.'. Phil advised he is happy to make a report of all issues members have reported and to take it up with the Council providing such issues have first been logged with WBC and no reply was forthcoming within 28 days.

8 Neighbourhood watch - Local Schemes (Paul/Phil/David Canning) a) Drone Activity

Drones have been reportedly circulating at night. Toni advised the police had not received any concerns.

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

bracknellandwokingham.nhw@gmail.com

9 University of Reading - community update (Molli)

Molli advised there was a Have your say on the ECMWF headquarter plans.

Public Exhibition: Wednesday 18 January 2023, 15:00-19:00pm at Meadow Suite, Park House, Whiteknights, University of Reading, RG6 6AQ

Public Webinar: Thursday 19 January 2023, 18:00-19:30

Phil will send out the full update to the group following the meeting.

10 Fireworks – Woodley and Earley Lions (Alan)

Alan reported a debrief meeting had been held the prior week and he will make contact with Sgt Simon Botham to arrange a debrief with the Police. Phil advised that silent fireworks do not exist, there are ones which have lower decibels than those commonly used in displays. Phil to provide Alan with the link to the company in Sonning that supplies lower-decibel fireworks.

The meeting closed at 8:51pm.

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. 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 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. If you are suspicious or a crime has already been committed call 101 or report online. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, 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>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>	
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