



**Earley Neighbourhood Action Group Community Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday 9th March 2026**

Present

Phil Marsh	Chair & Resident, Marefield
Mike Smith	ETC Councillor & Resident, Northam Close
Colin Mair	MERA & Resident, Lakeside
Hazel Bell	Resident, Sibson
Helen King	Resident, Marefield
Linden Morgan	Resident, Elm Road
Heather Cresswell	Resident, Adams Way & MS Society
Brian Wooldridge	Resident, Reeds Avenue
Toni D'Amaro	Neighbourhood Specialist officer, Thames Valley Police
Karen Collins	Neighbourhood Administrator, Thames Valley Police

Apologies

David Hare	WBC Councillor
Caroline Smith	WBC Councillor & Resident, Northam Close
Nicola Brook	ETC Councillor & Resident, Brandon Avenue
Molli Cleaver	Community Relations Manager, University of Reading
Tahir Maher	ETC 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
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 10th November 2025:

The minutes were proposed for approval by Colin Mair and seconded by Linden Morgan.

3. Matters arising: AGM 11th May, in accordance with clause 8 of the Constitution, candidates for Chair and Vice Chair, please submit your letters of interest by 1st May, and send such letters by email to:

Contactus@earley.nag.org

Phil reminded the attendees he will not be standing for re-election. He also advised he will be here to give his report and will not chair the meeting from that point. The NAG is a great opportunity to sit down with community representatives and once it is lost, it will be difficult to replace.

4. AOB: (proposals for consideration from attendees)

No proposals were submitted for consideration.

5. Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Priorities: a) Burglary; b) Anti-social behaviour; c) County Lines issues; and d) Road Safety / Speeding (team to suggest potential Speedwatch Locations with times)

Toni provided an update on the crimes reported from 11th November 2025 to 9th March 2026, almost a 4 month period.

a) Burglary

2 x Business Burglaries – Shinfield Road and Chalfont Way

6 x Residential Burglaries – Hilmanton, Durand Road, Chilcombe Way, Langdale Gardens, Mill Lane and Gelder Close. 3 of these involved garages or sheds and 2 were attempted burglaries.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

36 reports of ASB – reports included eggs being thrown at houses, E-bikes being ridden antisocially, groups of youths in the streets, people letting off fireworks and the smell of drugs from neighbours.

28 reports of Criminal Damage – several relating to cars being kicked and car windows being smashed.

4 reported robberies, three of these related to shoplifting

3 x Dangerous Dog reports

1 x Making off without payment at The Square, Earley

11 x Vehicles were seized during this time period

26 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.

6 x Thefts from Motor Vehicles – Bridport Close, Chalfont Way, Cutbush Court, Sutcliffe Avenue, Warbler Drive and Lakeside

7 x Thefts of Motor Vehicles – Bridport Close, Conygree Close, Tickhill Close, Radnor Road, Cutbush Court, Lower Earley Way and Rainworth Close

9 x Thefts of Pedal Cycles – Pepper Lane x 2, Whiteknights Road x 3, Shinfield Road, Wyatt Crescent, Chalfont Close and Rushey Way. The majority of reports related 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.

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>

Mike asked a question around local reported violence and assaults discussed on social media. Toni confirmed the police do not run and report these as part of the NAG crime statistics, but the team have done a lot of engagement work in the local area leading to a drop in calls. Phil advised the moderators for social media platforms should monitor and report any concerns with what is being posted.

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) Local contact Cllr Caroline Smith

Phil advised he had not received any further information from Mark, but he had previously advised he was passing the issue on to Caroline. Mike advised Caroline would not be attending the NAG meetings until she had something to report back. He also advised there was no current funding allocation from WSB for a solution. Colin advised he believed the football club had offered to make some funds available. Mike advised the NAG members could ask a question about the current situation at a council meeting.

7 WBC – ASB – (Cllr Mike Smith)

Mike advised there was no further update from the previous meeting.

8 MERA – local update

Colin was delighted to report that the four lights around the bend on Silverdale Road are now working. In regard to parking on pavements and verges, there will be two steps to the legislation which should come in later this year. In the first step, local authorities will be given enforcement powers for obstruction, but it will not include grass verges initially. MERA believes there should be a new junction on the M4 as part of the Loddon Valley Garden Village development in Shinfield. MERA would like to install SID devices and has some funding available.

9 ACER

No update was received at this time.

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

An update was received from Moses after the meeting:-

I checked out the lights at Asda at night yesterday (1st of April). The three lights on Chalfont Close would appear to have been fixed. Only one of the three lights (opposite Romans' office) was not in working order. I have communicated my findings to WBC.

As a minimum, the road is now reasonably lit.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

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

Phil asked if anyone was aware of Neighbourhood Watch signs that need replacing to please let him know.

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 – community update by email as unable to attend (Molli)

No update was received at this time.

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

No further update was received at this time. Phil advised people can send him any ideas to encourage more people to attend, improve quality and bring variety to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:11 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.</p> <p>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>11th May 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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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>	