

7.3 Representatives on Other Bodies

Borough Parish Liaison Forum

On 26th July 2023 I attended a meeting of the Borough Parish Liaison Forum, representing Earley Town Council amongst representatives from Woodley, Wokingham Town, Arborfield, Twyford, Sonning and other local councils.

We agreed for Cllr Mike Smith (WBC) to chair the meeting, with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) being represented by Cllr Stephen Conway and several council officers.

The first discussion was about waste management and highlighted the concerns around bins. Cllr Conway assured all present that what had already happened was a mistake; a consultation is due to take place in Aug/ Sept and our respective Councils were all encouraged to 'get the word out'.

We had presentations by WBC's Highways teams, with positive feedback on issues such as potholes and speeding. WBC has had fewer reports of potholes than this time last year (a positive metric as Spring is when potholes are mostly likely to develop). The team wanted to stress that the app Fix My Street was not an ideal way to report potholes, and every effort should be made to use Wokingham Borough Council's own website.

Local residents are also being encouraged to sign up for the SpeedWatch scheme, where they can undergo some online training and volunteer to use speed capturing machines to help keep our roads safe. Cllr Andrew Mickleburgh (WBC) has more information on this if anyone is interested.

Lastly, Cllr Stephen Conway and officers have asked for input into the Community Vision programme. This is a scheme to bring together community stakeholders to better inform and understand future policy. I am in the process of trying to get more information for this.

These Borough Parish Liaison Forums are hoping to meet quarterly in the future.

Cllr Ryan Browne

Earley Town Council