

FINDON VALLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Established in 1936. Web site: www.findonvalley.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

**All residents of Findon Valley are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Findon Valley Residents' Association
Free Church Hall on Friday 25th April, 7.15 for 7.30 pm start.**

What's the Residents' Association For? Is it Just a Talking Shop?

Read On!

Findon Valley Residents' Association was formed in 1936 by (only) 23 residents to oppose the erection of a factory in the Valley, and to protect and promote the interests of residents in the area.

During its existence the Association has pressed for, and obtained many improvements to amenities and public services, including the scheduling of The Gallops as an open space, the provision of the Children's Playground, the Zig-Zag Path from Vale Drive to Bost Hill, Public Toilets, the Branch Library and the Bus Shelters.

In 1962, the Association successfully conducted a campaign halting further development east of Hollingbury and Sullington Gardens. Subsequently, the Developers were allowed to construct Long Meadow and Shepherds Mead and build on the west side only. The Association then negotiated the donation of the remainder of the land, extending those boundaries up to the National Trust land and Worthing Golf Club, to Worthing Corporation as an open space.

Subsequently, The Association secured the dedication of the two public footpaths leading to Cissbury Hill, the installation of the Pelican Crossing, improved street lighting in Findon Road, and in April 1975, after 5 years of campaigning, the opening of the Television Relay Station on West Hill, thereby improving reception throughout the Valley.

In 1987, we successfully pressured WSCC County Highways into installing safety bollards every 200 yards along the Findon Road. Much more recently, we have forced County Highways to stop pretending that these are "pedestrian refuges". (They are much too narrow for that purpose.)

In the last few years The Association (acting alone) has greatly reduced Findon Road south-bound congestion by getting the Highways Agency to install "Keep Clear" markings at Offington Corner, and in concert with Vale School has had installed the light-controlled crossing on Warren Hill. (We are still badgering the Highways Agency over promised safety improvements here.)

We have also badgered County Highways into installing safety improvements to "The Pelican" (better light phasing, the safety barriers and greatly improved pedestrian "footfall") and got them to remove their

ridiculous sign at Offington Corner northbound, which read "A24 Speed Route Management Scheme." We have also made them get their speed limit signage right at Kings Parade.

Additionally, we were instrumental in getting the Surgery to change its inconvenient appointments system.

We were successful in closing Kings Parade for the Late Night Shopping Event on Friday 14th December further improving on 2006. Many families attending were appreciative and have encouraged us to work and focus on this occasion for 2008 and future years.

Participating shops were also appreciative. All of this can only encourage a desirable neighbourly environment for all concerned.

The event also supports the local Hospice and KWASH through donations – declared objectives of FVRA.

What we are presently working on

- Foremost is a second light-controlled crossing at "The Surgery". (Incidentally, we have now persuaded County Highways to stop referring to this as "The Library" crossing. All elderly residents on the west side will understand!) This project has now moved from "nowhere" to "next budget".
- More crossovers on the east side for residents with shop-mobility needs. (See below.)
- More dog-litter bins on the east side.
- Getting the bus stop and shelter moved to somewhere less congestive and more safety related.
- Continuing with the "Late Night Shopping" initiative in December.
- A "30mph" through the Valley – or at least for the length of Kings Parade.
- Dangers posed by HGV's unloading in the main carriageway.
- Stopping unsociable residents converting their front gardens into builders' yards.
- Preventing the parking of large boats in the roadway.

"Shop mobility" cross-overs

We are in negotiations with County Highways to improve the positioning and gradient of dropped kerbs for the benefit of residents in wheelchairs and mobility vehicles.

Priorities are:-

1. The "Fiveways" junction at LTA and the Cissburies.
2. Also, changes here to traffic priorities via road markings to improve driver visibility and hence pedestrian and mobility safety.
3. The Surgery and surrounding kerbs.

County Highways are presently conducting a safety audit in regard to all of this.

Why we need you

We aren't just "a committee". We all have specific jobs, which we are expected to get on with. Sadly, presently there are more "jobs" than people to do them. So, if you'd like to contribute, please contact any of the below. If you are not already a member, please contact Doreen or Maggie, or call in at the Post Office and fill in a form to join the Association. Subscriptions are merely £2 p.a. per household, or £1 for single occupancy. How's that for value?

Your Committee

		Telephone:
President:	Leroy W. Bryan	877622
Chairman:	David Goncalves	877649
Vice Chairman:	Brian Oliver	872070
Secretary:	Pam Pilbury	266279
Treasurer:	Donna Denham.	877649
Membership Secretary:	Doreen Tickner	262746
Membership Records:	Maggie Winter	262038
Social Sec:	Betty Quinnell	877440
Planning Officer:	Vacant	
Traffic A24/A27:	David Morgan	877288
Traffic/ Publicity:	Susan Smith	262595
I/T Webmaster: (PC HELP)	David Goncalves	877770
South Downs Representative:	Rosemary Hook	877060

You will note from the above that we currently have a vacancy for a Planning Officer. This role is at present being undertaken by our President. Additionally, the Treasurer and Secretary will both be standing down at the AGM. We therefore will have three vacancies on our Committee, and if you are willing to undertake any of these roles and be of service to your community, please contact our Chairman, David Goncalves.

Membership

Regrettably, a number of roads were not covered by a collector for 2007. We are exclusively dependent on your subscriptions, so if your address is one of those affected could you please pay it in at Findon Valley Post Office or at PC Help.

We are without subscription collectors for 15 roads in the Valley, and have a pressing need to fill these vacancies.

So, how about volunteering? It requires only a couple of hours **per year**, and is an excellent way of getting to know your neighbours and fellow residents. Especially if you are "fairly new". At the AGM, we will announce the date of a "get together" for all existing collectors and anyone else interested or who just wishes to know more about the Findon Valley Residents Association.

Thank you to all members and collectors for your continued support.

Doreen Tickner (Membership Secretary)
Maggie Winter (Membership Records)

Message from your Chairman

It is with great regret that I have to report that our secretary Pamela Pilbury will be retiring from secretarial work after the AGM, and our Treasurer Donna Denham will be stepping down due to other commitments. Their input, expertise and professionalism over the last couple years has been a huge asset. I would like to thank them on behalf of all of us for their hard work and wish them every happiness in the future. I would also like to thank all of your committee for their unstinting contribution over the last year. I am very much looking forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Costs and Income

We have inescapable costs. Printing and distribution, insurance, (yes, insurance!) registration fees, etc. We also donate to KWASH and Chestnut Tree House. Our sole income comes from subscriptions.

To have a future, the FVRA needs to have income exceeding expenditure. Last year it didn't. So, could just a few of you please heed Doreen & Maggie's appeal, above?

Our other need is to add some "new blood" to the committee to take it forwards through the 21st Century. As you can see this includes Secretary, Treasurer and Planning Officer.

And we also need some fresh lines of thought on the committee. So, and even if you are "new" to the Valley please contact any of us prior to the AGM. I can promise you that you will not be bored!

David Goncalves
Chairman

Stop Press

The Second (Surgery) Crossing. Here's an extract from a recent e-mail from County Highways. "The scheme has been included in next year's works programme, however we are still awaiting confirmation of budget allocation (anticipated by mid to end March)."