

# Findon Valley Society

Registered Charity 267009

## Findon Valley Society AGM

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005, All Saints Church Hall, Cissbury Drive

**Apologies** – Received from Sheila Davis & Helen and Graeme Brooke.

### Introduction

Meeting started at 8.00pm, Vice Chairman welcomed all attendees, and apologised for absence of Chairman. Wished our Treasurer a speedy recovery from his recent operation, and special thanks to our Honorary auditor, Gerry Rosen, who has both independently prepared & audited our 2004 Accounts. Angela Giles will stand in as temporary Treasurer until Robert is better. 2004 Accounts were presented & accepted – proposed by David Morgan & seconded by John Langridge & Susan Smith.

David Morgan & Susan Smith thanked for their hard work in areas of A24 Traffic Management & Safer Routes to School in conjunction with the Vale School. One achievement so far is that the pedestrian traffic lights have now been re-set giving people more time to cross.

Many thanks also to the rest of the committee & Road Reps in the great work they have done, especially Clifford Barnard who is now looking after our notice board outside the Library.

2004 AGM minutes were accepted, proposed by John Langridge & seconded by Ray Welch

### Committee Re-election

All the existing committee were re-elected. Proposed by Simon Danett & seconded by Theresa Morgan. The Vice-Chairman is planning to take 6 months sabbatical leave. David Goncalves of PC Help was also invited onto the Committee, adding his IT skills to our base.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Langridge	President
Leroy Bryan	Chairman
Rebecca Bailey	Vice Chairman
Ray Welch	Planning
Robert Walker	Treasurer
Dianne Culling	Membership Liaison
Angela Giles	Secretary
Rosemary Hook	Committee
David Morgan	Committee
Betty Quinnell	Committee
Susan Smith	Committee

### A24/A27 Update – David Morgan

Still campaigning for a Puffin crossing to replace old Pelican, and a new crossing near the Surgery. On A24 the only acceptable solution at the moment appears to be Keep Clear markings. David encouraged people to write into the council to complain about the Offington Traffic Management Scheme, which proposes to block entry into Offington Avenue from the A27/A24 roundabout, to prevent this being used as a rat run, but also will stop local people getting into Worthing. Please write to :-

Ian Morley - Senior Engineer Traffic Management  
The Grange, Tower Street, CHICHESTER, PO19 1RH

### Q&As from Reg Green & Tim Loughton

- A27 at Grove lodge – why here & not at A24/A27 roundabout ?  
Reg replied that it doesn't make sense to him, was covered in meeting chaired by Tim Loughton, but no-one seemed to have taken into account the impact of the Sainsbury's lights
- What is the cost of the Grove lodge traffic lights ?  
£395,000 but seems to be useless for pedestrians

- Teville Gate - demolition is now underway & swimming pool & multiplex cinema is planned

#### Vale School – Sports Hall Proposal – Debbie Smith & Alison Starkey

Swimming pool is no longer financially viable, and stricter H&SD regulations have led to its closure. The current school hall is too small for the 640 pupils who attend the Vale School. School want to build a bigger hall (approx size of 2 badminton courts plus changing rooms, showers & Dance Studio), but to get funding from Sports England, they have to demonstrate that the hall is for the use of the whole community. Initial proposal has been submitted and they are waiting for acceptance. Hall will not be used in the day by residents, but will be opened up for use in the evening with users parking in the school car park.

Residents were against proposals by school on the following grounds:-

- Are we being conned again – swimming pool was supposed to be for the use of local residents but was never opened up
- Parking problems at the Vale School need to be sorted out before this venture is even considered
- Local residents opinions were not taken into account
- Concerns re noise from the Dance Studio

#### Neighbourhood Watch – Ivor Webb

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme brings people together & creates a sense of community, whilst giving peace of mind to the more vulnerable. The scheme in the valley covers 800 houses in 25 roads, but a number of roads are still not covered – volunteers needed please ! Ivor warned about distraction burglaries, & the value of locking doors in the summer when you are in the garden. Ivor left a wealth of literature for people to take away, and advised people whose houses are difficult to find in hurry at night to invest in an illuminated sign for £24 for the local association.

#### Sussex Fire Service – Mark Osborne, District Commander

Mark was previously Worthing Station Commander, with responsibility for the Valley. He is now the Adur District Commander. Mark started with a brief history of the Fire Service, outlining the recent technological developments, including a state-of-the art fire resistant helmet that reflects heat. Since the 2004 Industrial action the Fire Service now provides all manner of rescue services (eg floods, chemical spills & RTAs). They also work with the Police to reduce crime & disorder, and are locally involved in schemes to work with problematic youngsters in the Worthing area. Martin Burrell, the Chief of the Sussex Fire Service, has presented his 5 year strategic plan which tells the community what they can expect from the Fire Service (available in libraries & on internet). Includes:-

- Integrated risk management plan to identify hot spot areas for fires & criminal activities
- Enables Fire Service to target resources & people (rapid intervention vehicles as first response in rural areas)
- Home Fire Safety checks – free to all householders in West Sussex (includes free smoke alarms, highly recommended)

Fire Service are also trained to deal with Terrorist threat, they are one of only 12 recognised search & rescue units in the UK, trained in the US & UK for all matter of attacks & disasters, and have travelled all over the world to use their skills.

Mark left plenty of interesting leaflets for people to take away.

Vice Chairman thanked Mark for his interesting talk & concluded the meeting with the items below.

#### Canal Trip

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon - we have organised a private charter trip on the Wey & Arun canal on the 50ft longboat the Zachariah Keppel that cruises the idyllic Loxwood Link section on the Surrey/West Sussex border. Only 10 places left – please see Ray Welch urgently if you would like to come along.

#### Proposed New Crossing on A24 for Limetree Surgery

Volunteers needed to count people crossing at this point to ascertain need for new pedestrian controlled crossing. 2 hour slots 7am to 7pm Friday & Monday in May – dates to be determined. Please see Susan Smith or Ray Welch if you can help with this.

#### Newsletter Distributors

We still urgently need both road reps and/or volunteers who are prepared to help deliver our twice-yearly newsletter. Selection of roads needing to be covered are The Heights, Ashfold Avenue and the new development, most of Findon Road, Vale Avenue & Vale Drive and most of the roads south of this on the gallops side of the Valley. If you can help to deliver newsletters contact Angela Giles on 873934 or by e-mail on [angelagiles@ntlworld.com](mailto:angelagiles@ntlworld.com).

Meeting finished at 9.00pm.