

FINDON VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity 267009

Findon Valley Residents Association AGM

Friday 27th April 2007, Free Church Hall, Findon

Apologies – Donna Denham, Brian Oliver, PCSO Shauna Bowen.

Introduction

The meeting started at 7.30 pm. The Chair welcomed all present, and in particular, Tim Loughton MP, County Cllr Colin O'Neill, Cllr Reg Green, Cllr Graham Fabes, and PCSO Eddie Mitchell, who had brought along a report from PCSO Shauna Bowen.

The Chair reported with great sadness the passing of the FVRA's long-standing President, John Langridge, and recorded the Committee's gratitude for the time and commitment he had given to the Society. A short prayer was said in his memory.

The Chair wished the Vice President Leroy Bryan a speedy recovery from his recent ill-health, and good health for the future.

He stated that, since the Newsletter had been issued, he had been asked to stay on as Chair, and with the Committee's support, he had agreed to do so.

Committee Election

The Chair announced that the Committee were prepared to stand in their existing positions, and proposed Leroy Bryan as President and Brian Oliver as Vice Chair. There were no offers to stand for the vacant post of Planning Officer, and no further nominations for the Committee. Mr Tim Loughton took the election for the Committee, and the Committee was duly elected –

President:	Leroy W Bryan	Chairman:	David Goncalves
Vice Chairman :	Brian Oliver	Secretary:	Pamela Pilbury
Treasurer:	Donna Denham	Membership Sec:	Doreen Tickner
Social Secretary:	Betty Quinnell	Traffic – A24/A27:	David Morgan
Traffic/Publicity:	Susan Smith	IT (PCHelp)	David Goncalves
South Downs Rep:	Rosemary Hook	Planning Officer:	VACANT

Audited Accounts

The Chair thanked Donna Denham for the excellent balance sheet, a copy of which was before the meeting, and also thanked Lance Allen who had audited the accounts.

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 17th May 2006

Proposed by Stan Thistle, seconded by Him Harrington as correct, and unanimously agreed.

Matters arising

Bus shelters. It was noted that vandalism had occurred to bus shelters in the Valley. Currently, they were all intact, and had been for some time.

Congestion in service road. Abandoned cars outside Lyles and the greengrocers had been removed.

Service Road. The issues caused by vans and trucks entering the service road had been reduced by the erection of a sign stating unsuitable for HGVs.

Cissbury Court. A member raised the issue of HGVs parking outside the entrance to Cissbury Court, obstructing the view of anyone emerging, which was very dangerous. The vehicles parked adjacent to the No Parking notice. The Chair stated that the Committee was investigating the situation. Cllr Green suggested that the registration numbers of the vehicles should be taken and reported to the police.

Minutes of the Autumn Meeting held on Wednesday 15th November 2006

Proposed by Jim Shandell, seconded by Phil Coles as correct, and unanimously agreed.

Matters arising

Durrington Cemetery. The Chairman reported that, since Ian Rudkin, Cemetery Registrar, had agreed to lock all gates, there had been no further vandalism. Cllr O'Neill added that the gates had also been increased in height, making access more difficult.

Buses. The Chairman stated he had written to the bus company regarding the No 1 bus asking for a later bus service. He had been advised that each service was currently being reviewed, and they would take his comments into account.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman stated that a number of members had approached him regarding the lack of dog bins on the east side of the Valley. As a multiple dog owner himself, he sympathised with the problem, especially over the last few months when owners had had to walk the streets as the fields had been far too muddy to even entertain the idea of exercising dogs there. He had written to the dog warden requesting more dog bins. This was denied due to lack of funds. So the FVRA offered to pay for them, but they stated they couldn't afford to collect the waste. He wrote to them again stating the environmental health risk aspect of the problem. Currently there was only one man employed for the collection of dog waste bins in the Worthing area. Employing a second person would be extremely costly. However, they had agreed to look at other under used dog waste bins in the Worthing area and possibly relocating them in the Valley.

The Dog Warden, Mr. Munro, reminded owners that it was law for them to clear up after their dogs and that they would be patrolling the area to catch offenders. He stated that: "If a dog fouls a public place and there is not a dog bin near to hand, the dog's owner should either take the faeces home with them or to the nearest park and put it into a dog bin. It is an unreasonable expectation that the Council locate dog waste bins on every street corner so that dog walker do not have to go too far." Clearly that had not been requested, but certainly a couple more on the east side would ease the problem. Members could stay up to date on the latest position by visiting the website www.findonvalley.org

The FVRA also received concerns relating to the unsightly and inappropriate mobile phone mast planned for the junction of Findon Road and Cissbury Avenue. Members may have read the article in the Herald stipulating the FVRA's opposition to the 11.70meter high monopole. A combined effort by Sue Smith from the school and the FVRA produced over 1000 signatures in four days against the proposal. The Chairman stated he was pleased to announce that it was rejected, but he was sure they would be back with another location, and the FVRA would be there to fight them off!

The FVRA was in the process of planning another Late Night Shopping event which would be bigger than last year. It was hoped to close the road and utilise the entire parade. The FVRA were also working on a Fete for 2008 to celebrate its 70th birthday the previous year. All the local societies and groups would be included.

The FVRA website had become more and more popular. It was one of the many methods used to communicate with members. The "Latest" page contained information on the issues the FVRA was dealing with on a monthly basis.

With regard to the dog bin issue, Cllr Fabes reported that he too had asked five years previously for under-used dog bins to be re-located, to no avail.

A member asked if any action could be taken in relation to an increase of bonfires in the Valley. It was noted that one bonfire had continued for 24 hours, which was in breach of the by-laws. Cllr O'Neill stated that such incidents should be reported by 'phone to the Environmental Officer. The telephone number was 221064, and would be placed on the website.

A member stated that there used to be signs about dogs fouling the pavements; she had noticed a large amount of dog waste recently.

The same member also referred to the potholes in local roads; the Chairman stated that such potholes were being monitored and would be dealt with. David Morgan added that Cllr Tex Pemberton was collating information on potholes.

Another member raised the issue of the noise emanating from the west side of the Vale Avenue area usually in August/September each year; this year, she had heard the noise in April. The Chairman responded that there is a charitable event, which takes place once a year, and the noise would cease by midnight. The Chairman stated he would speak to the organiser of the events and information would be placed on the website and FVD for members as to when the event was going to take place.

Membership Report

The Chairman thanked Doreen Tickner, Membership Secretary, for her work, and asked collectors, if they had not already done so, to collect their books from Doreen after the meeting. All collectors were now issued with identification, and members should ask to see that identification before paying their subscriptions. Subscriptions could also be paid after the meeting, or at the Post Office, or PCHelp. Some members at the meeting offered to act as collectors; roads still requiring collectors were:

Franklands Close

Kearsley Drive

PCSO Report

PCSO Eddie Mitchell referred to the written report from PCSO Shauna Bowen (Appendix 1). It was noted that anything requiring Police action should be reported to 0845 6070999.

Congestion and Road Safety Report

Warren Road Protected Crossing. David Morgan stated he had sought information as to why the lights were not working from the Highways Agency. He had also pointed out that the crossing had been installed at the worst possible point, and had asked for some warning notices to be erected.

Pelican crossing, King's Parade. David Morgan stated that the build out from the kerb, which had now been completed, had not been installed where requested, ie in an easterly direction between King's Road and Findon Road. It improved the situation, but did not help people with pushchairs at 8.30 am. He had written to ask why the build had taken place as it had, but had received no response to date.

Second crossing near the Surgery. Still waiting to hear.

30 mph through the Valley. The first speed measuring exercise in November had proved faulty, and a second monitoring of traffic was taking place.

Mobility Cross Overs. David Morgan pointed out that people in shoppers, particularly on the east side of the Valley, were forced to ride in the road, particularly in Cissbury Avenue where it crossed with Lime Tree Avenue. A meeting had taken place in December which he and Leroy Bryan had attended, with an officer from the Authority. The matter was being pursued.

"Keep Clear" at the roundabout. The situation was improving all the time.

Congestion. Nothing had been heard from the Council about action to ease congestion on the main road.

30 mph signs. 30 mph signs had been installed on King's Parade.

Offington Lane. Re-surfacing was now taking place.

A member commented that it would be dangerous to force HGVs on to the main road; DM responded that was not recognised by the Highways Agency.

A member stated that HGVs parked to the right hand side of the drive into Cissbury Court, which was very dangerous. David Morgan responded that he had asked for the bus stop to be moved, which would help, but to no avail. Constant pressure was being maintained on the authority. The Chairman stated that the matter would be discussed at the next FVRA meeting.

Cllr Fabes warned members that motorists were using the car park on the corner of Offington Lane and Poulters Lane as a drive through to avoid the traffic lights, causing danger to pedestrians.

The Chairman thanked David Morgan.

Mr Tim Loughton MP

Mr Loughton addressed the meeting – for full details, see the FVRA website.

Cllr Colin O'Neill

Cllr O'Neill referred to the possible problems with the siting of the new crossing at the roundabout at Offington Corner. He stated that the situation with regard to congestion would remain until at least 2016, which was when the Government were indicating a by-pass might be constructed. He was a member of a committee looking at the possibility of small improvements that could be made to the A27/A24.

Cllr Reg Green

Cllr Green stated he was still pressing for the Teville Gate development, although at present officers believed it was not financially viable. He referred to the improvements that had been made to try to prevent parking by the school, and stated that, if there were still problems, members should take a note of the numbers of the vehicles and advise him, so that action could be taken. In response to a question, he advised that weekly refuse collections would continue.

DM confirmed that regular site meetings had taken place regarding the siting of the Pelican crossing, but the agreement reached had not been followed.

Cllr Graham Fabes

Cllr Fabes noted that the FVRA had no planning officer, but stated that, if there were any planning problems, he was on the Planning Committee, and would be willing to advise/help. He could be contacted at home. He added he was also on the Licensing Committee, which dealt with taxis, off licences, etc.

The Chairman thanked the guests for their input.

Any other business

The Chairman advised that the Lime Tree Surgery Patients Groups AGM would be taking place at 7.30 pm on 23rd May at the All Saints Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.