

April 19 Newsletter

What has happened since the St Mary's Beacon Room Meeting in November?



Quite a lot! But firstly, we would like to apologise for the delay in getting back to those of you that attended and left your details.

Who are we? Just a few concerned residents that got together because we felt that Ferndown was turning into a free-for-all of development and a rat run for frustrated motorists and HGV drivers who were shortcutting their route from Poole. We were and still are suffering intolerable traffic conditions during much of the day.

What started out with a modest leaflet drop and word of mouth turned into probably the highest turnout of concerned residents in the history of Ferndown

As organisers of the meeting we were overwhelmed by the number of people that attended. We estimate that over 300 people made it into the hall, unfortunately many others left because they couldn't find a seat.

Due to this you will understand that it didn't run as smoothly as we had hoped. The Council didn't represent themselves and only one person, Simon Trueick, turned up from Planning. To be fair to Simon he did his best to answer the residents' questions.

We know that many left just as frustrated as when they had arrived. At the end a number of concerned residents asked the question "What next?".

We gained good coverage in the Echo and in the now defunct Stour & Avon Magazine. Sir Christopher Chope MP couldn't attend due to Parliamentary commitments but received a detailed report from a representative that did attend.

As organisers we continued to meet and eventually Sir Christopher kindly came to a meeting with us at The Angel Inn (many thanks to The Angel for providing a room for this). He recommended that we form a Residents Association to try and unify support and generate *a voice of Ferndown* for all of us that feel ignored by the planners and council. He believed that we can be listened to and can make a difference if we are organised correctly.

JOIN THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Simply email southferndownra@gmail.com . Put "Registration" in the subject line and leave your name(s) and address with postcode. If under 18 years of age, please indicate that on the email. If you are able to offer support in any way, please add that to your email. You can opt out at any time.

To that end we recently formed the **South Ferndown Residents Association (S.F.R.A)**. Why South Ferndown? Because the new ward boundaries will separate the area into Ferndown North & Ferndown South and we all live in the South part. The issues affect everyone though, so we are not exclusive and welcome support from anyone, in whichever part you live. We have also set up a FaceBook page (see over for details).

GOOD NEWS UPDATE!

- Barrett Homes have written and confirmed that they are no longer exploring land at Ham Lane for potential new homes.

- There is a consultation taking place with a view to extend the Ringwood Road 30mph zone from the Glenmoor Rd area to further towards the mini-roundabouts by Haskins. This is still not far enough though to lessen the risk to residents leaving the Holmwood Park development.
- We have been advised by Dorset County Council that the A348 corridor study is now underway with a programme manager appointed just before Christmas. Local transport officers from DCC, Poole and Bournemouth councils are meeting up regularly with the programme manager over the coming weeks. A traffic modelling exercise is also underway to forecast traffic growth from the allocated housing and employment sites and also any sites indicated in the East Dorset Local Plan options consultation which could impact on the A348. The outcome from this will also feed into the study as it is likely to identify congestion hotspots and flag-up specific issues along the corridor.

Moving forward and how you can help

Our objectives remain the same: -

- **Protecting the Greenbelt**
- **Managed and appropriate development**
- **A supporting infrastructure**
- **Traffic and pollution reduction**
- **Making Ferndown better for all**

If you care about your environment, then register with us at the SFRA. The more members there are then the louder our voice.

We also need people to help. This could be just from handing out or printing a few leaflets, but more specialised support can make the world of difference.

Are you experienced in the following and willing to lend a hand?

Web Design - We need a website

Journalism - Professional coverage and newsletters

Book keeping - Management of costs and accounts

Planning Law - We need to speak the same language as DCC and the developers

General Law - To ensure that the SFRA remains compliant with any legislation

Fund Raising - There will be costs to operate

As mentioned, we are just a few concerned residents and like most people we have busy lives. We are learning as we go and this is our first experience of trying to make a positive difference to our environment and to the lives of residents like us. We believe we have so far.

It would be great if you could join with us on the journey to making Ferndown a better place to live. To register, offer help or just ask a question, contact us by email. You can also join our Facebook page for updates.

Facebook Page

Go to: [sfraresidents assoc](https://www.facebook.com/sfraresidentsassoc)

PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND FAMILY. You can request a pdf version of this newsletter to pass on by email. Just ask when you register.

Thank you

southferndownra@gmail.com

