

GORING RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
AGM October 18th 2018
Committee Report to Members, presented by Peter Hall

GRA Committee 2017-18

At our AGM on April 20th 2017, these GRA Members were elected to the committee:

Chairman Eleanor Millward, Hon. Secretary John Gough, Hon. Membership Secretary Alan Wilcox, Hon. Social Secretary Alison Chapman, Hon. Web Manager Peter Hall and committee members Margaret Horton and John Hodges. The position of Hon. Treasurer was vacant.

During the year, the committee co-opted Herbert Herrmann as Hon Treasurer and Peter Robinson as a committee member. Also, Margaret Horton stood down during the year,

In numeric terms, here is a summary of our actions:

- 3 newsletters written
- Website updated every few days
- 14 committee meetings
- 2 sub-committees - Social Programme and Membership
- 8 social events
- 1 Beach Clean organised
- 3 Road Warden Drinks meetings
- 2 self-funded committee dinners
- 1 social outing with road wardens

Your committee would like to thank our 42 road wardens for collecting subscriptions, distributing membership cards, delivering the newsletters and signing up new members, Debbie Ramsey our new caterer, Philip Webber the caretaker at St Mary's Church Hall and Steve and Tony Denyer at Denyers News for their help and support. Most importantly we'd like to thank you, our members for your support.

Our actions and accomplishments are summarised under three headings:

- Preserving the Amenities of Goring
- Promoting Community Spirit
- Communicating with Members and Residents

Preserving the Amenities of Goring

a) Monitoring Planning Applications

Each month we review the planning applications submitted to Worthing Borough Council (WBC). In the last year we have supported members by objecting to four applications:

- Extensions to a house in Sea Lane - application refused by WBC
- Access arrangements for new properties being built behind the Verandah Café in Goring Road - application granted by WBC
- Use of open land behind Juno Close accessed from Martlets Way for storage of contractors equipment - this retrospective application is still pending.
- Single storey extension to Methodist Church - this application is pending

Land Behind Juno Close



Properties behind The Verandah Cafe



b) Monitoring commercial property sales and new traders

In additions to monitoring the arrival of new traders in our retail parades, we are particularly interested in the future use of major sites such as Courtlands in Parklands Avenue. This property was sold in 2017 and a new tenant is being sought.

Courtlands



Example of New Retail Tenant -Aldsworth Avenue



c) Traffic Flow in Slip Road - Mulberry Shops

In a survey in 2017, GRA Members urged for a one-way system in the slip road on the south side of the Goring Road shops. GRA proposed this to West Sussex County Council. Apparently, Sainsbury would object. No action is planned.

d) Alerting the Council to Misuse/Abuse of Goring Greensward

There have been many examples in the last year including unauthorised camping, fires and a group of travellers breaking in to set up camp. Each example has been reported to Worthing Borough Council. The committee continue to press for signage and prompt responses.

Camping



Travellers



Camping



e) Supporting members with specific issues.

Committee members are pleased to help members with various issues. Our help usually amounts to signposting the member to someone who can 'make a difference'. The 'About Us' page on our website includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions (and our answers).

f) Engaging with other community groups

Our Chairman meets with other local groups to explore items of mutual interest. These groups include Goring and Ilex Conservation, Neighbourhood Panel and our Goring councillors.

e) Organising GRA's first beach clean.

On June 2nd, about 60 GRA Members of all ages took part in the first Beach Clean that we have organised. Debris was collected from the beach between George V Avenue and Sea Lane Café. Thanks must go to Worthing Borough Council for the loan of equipment and for collecting the sacks within an hour of completion.



Promoting Community Spirit

Your committee organised and ran 8 very successful social events including our Charity Quiz, Skittles Evening, our first Murder Mystery Evening and the ever-popular Jazz Evening.

There were coach trips to Windsor and Winchester Christmas Market as well as a super Christmas lunch for GRA Members.

Funds were raised for our two charities Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust and Canine Partners.



Communicating with GRA Members and Residents

Your committee prepared three newsletters to keep members informed during the year. Our three noticeboards (Toby Carvery, Mulberry Shops and Sea Lane Café) were regularly updated. Our website was updated every few days and we now get over 1,000 visitors/month.

The 312 members who have signed up to receive email communications from GRA can rest assured that their information is safe and protected in accordance with a new policy developed by the committee under the General Data Protection Regulations which came into force during the year.

We publicised our activities by providing information and pictures to the local press and on social media.

The Year Ahead



The most important action we plan in the coming year will be to review and comment on the Local Plan 2016-2033 which is about to be published for consultation by Worthing Borough Council. We will alert members to its publication and encourage them to submit individual responses.

We have reviewed an early copy and are encouraged to see that the open spaces of Goring Gap (south of the railway) and Chatsmore Farm (north of the railway) are to remain as undeveloped. There is likely to be development in Martletts Way, Barrington Road and Titnore Way.

Other priorities for the coming year are:

- Encouraging correct use of Greensward - we will work with WBC, councillors and Goring and Ilex Conservation Group on areas of concern including illegal camping, litter, kiteboards, cycling, fires, noticeboards etc
- Monitoring Planning Applications
- Supporting our Members - by responding to questions and concerns
- Adopting a GRA Logo - we have arranged a competition for design students at Northbrook College
- Planning our 75th anniversary celebrations - November 2019
- Raising funds for our 2018/9 good cause
- Implementing Upgraded and Redesigned website
- Encouraging members to meet each other by attending events in our Social Programme

Thank you for your continuing support.

Goring Residents' Association Committee
October 18th 2018