

# FINDON TODAY

## Community Facilities and Wellbeing

### 1. Medical and Care Facilities

#### 1.1. Nightingales Surgery

A surgery takes place at Nightingales Sheltered Housing monthly or fortnightly. This is provided by the Limetree Surgery in neighbouring Findon Valley and is currently only available to residents of Nightingales. Limetree is the nearest surgery and is 1.7 miles from the village centre.

#### 1.2. Nightingales Sheltered Housing

The property is owned by Arun District Council who are responsible for allocating residents. The facilities are managed by Family Mosaic, a national housing association, and cater well for those with mobility issues. There is no resident warden, with support being provided via a helpline.

#### 1.3. Home Care

Personal Budgets - West Sussex County Council Social Services can provide parishioners in Findon with a personal budget or direct payments to support independent living if they meet the criteria. Other Services available include short-term support for rehabilitation, meals on wheels, short breaks and equipment or adaptations for the home. West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group can also provide Personal health budgets to children, young people and adults in Findon if they are eligible for continuing healthcare.

#### 1.4. Vale House

One of the first independent fostering agencies in the UK, they offer safe, caring and successful placement for children and young people. Situated in Findon Court on the southern edge of Findon on the A24 they do not participate in village life. A planning application was approved in July 2013 to the South Downs National Park Authority to accommodate six children at the premises, but no mention was made for provision for overnight care. In June 2014 another planning application was made to provide overnight accommodation for children in association with the current use for child fostering services, this time no mention was made for how many children. It appears that no decision has yet been made.

## **2. Independent Living**

### **2.1. Housing**

Nightingales provide independent living for the elderly, and caters for residents with mobility issues.

### **2.2. Supporting Independence Ltd**

Based in the village, Supporting Independence Ltd provides person centred support to people with learning difficulties, autism and/or mental health needs by assisting them to integrate in their community, and engage with all community facilities. The organisation is a registered provider of care with the Care Quality Commission.

### **2.3. Transport**

Bus transport is the responsibility of WSCC. Stagecoach and Metrobus services are run commercially. There is a regular bus service through the village, and 60% of passengers from the parish use concessions.

Arun Co-Ordinated Community Transport is a registered not for profit charity based in Ford near Littlehampton. Founded in 1996 it became a registered charity in 2000. The organisation offers a wide range of transport solutions for clients (around 4,000 a month) to visit doctors, dentists, hospital or other appointments, but who have difficulty using public transport due to a mobility or visual disability, illness, frailty, age or other impairment. The service includes minibuses, wheelchair accessible vehicles and volunteer car schemes. As well as conveying clients to their respective appointments, the charity also organises weekly minibus trips to local visitor attractions, restaurants and shopping centres. Around 13 residents of Findon use the service on a regular basis.

### 3. Recreation

#### 3.1. Village Hall

The Village Hall was built and opened in 1938, and since that time remained in constant use. There are currently approximately 10 local organisations using the facility on a regular basis, with several other organisations using it on an ad-hoc basis. In 2013 the parish residents were asked to vote on proposals on developing the hall. The options were to either:

- a. Demolish the existing hall and build a new one incorporating extra parking
- b. Retain the existing hall with an extension at the rear plus car parking

The outcome of the referendum was to retain the existing hall. Resulting from this, the Village Hall Trust Committee was setup to manage and maintain the hall. 87% of those who completed the questionnaire considered the hall was important to the village.

#### 3.2. Glebelands

An area of land behind the Village Hall which was purchased by the Parish Council approximately 3-4 years ago.

On the land is the pre-school building, basketball court and a small wooded.

#### 3.3. Pond Green

Information to be provided

Action: **Ross**

#### 3.4. Nepcote Green

Registered as a Village Green. The Wattle House, situated on the green is owned by the Parish Council and used for storage of equipment used at the annual Sheep Fair

Further information to be provided

Action: **Ross**

#### 3.5. Homewood Playground

The green, sometimes known as 'The Park', is a small, unfenced, grassed area at the north end of the village. At the entrance to Homewood is an area surrounded by low wire fencing with gates either side and inside, play equipment for small children. Just outside the fencing is one larger piece of equipment for older children. The much used green is primarily used for children to play and for dog walking. It is owned and maintained by Arun District Council. 35% of village residents use the green, and 75% consider it important.

#### 3.6. Church

St John the Baptist Church of England church was founded in the 11th Century, and is set apart from the village on the west side of the A24. It is of a good size and its mixture of new pews and chairs can easily accommodate up to 200 people. 51% of the parish use the church either regularly or occasionally and 56% consider it is very important to the village.

### 3.7. Swimming Pool

The pool is a unique facility, unusual for a village the size of Findon. It is a heated, outdoor pool, built by village residents in 1966 for use by the village. Although situated on the premises of St John the Baptist primary school, the pool is owned and run by a committee of volunteers who are responsible for maintenance, water quality, a rota of first-aid-trained supervisors, membership, pool hire, publicity and fundraising.

The pool is open at set times from May to September, on weekdays and Saturdays, subject to the weather and supervisor availability. The pool is also available for private hire when not open to the public.

As many as 40 swimmers can be accommodated at any one time and the pool is used by many Findon families on a regular basis. 33% of parish residents use the facility and 76% consider it a useful facility.

### 3.8. Cricket Club

Findon has a cricket club which was formed in 1897 and plays on their own ground, situated just outside the village centre. The ground is owned by the club and is in trust. The duty of the Trustee's is to ensure the continuing use of the ground for cricket. Cricket is played on both Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer as well as on the occasional evening. There are approximately 500 members of the club of which 62 are parish residents. 20 of those are playing members, 18 of which are juniors. 75% of those who completed the survey considered the cricket club to be an important community facility (Very Important: 45%, Quite Important: 30%).

### 3.9. Allotments

At present there are 9 allotments in Findon provided by the Parish Council but 4 of these are shared giving a total of 13 plots. A private arrangement has been made with a local landowner who has provided some ground for allotments but there is still more need for allotments for villagers. Some investigation is being made to ascertain if land could be available for more allotments within the village. There are currently 12 residents on the waiting list.

There is also an area of land owned by Arun District Council behind Homewood which has been utilised by adjacent residents as an allotment, apparently without the formal approval.

In the Village Survey 6.4% of villagers use an allotment occasionally or regularly but nearly 63% thought that it was very important or quite important that allotments should be provided within the village.

### 3.10. Basketball Court

The Basketball area situated behind the Village Hall is undergoing a conversion into a multi sport pitch for both football and basketball. The local primary school would have secured gated access when using the pitch. The community would have open access at all other times. 10% of the parish use the facility as it stands, with 54% considering it important.

### 3.11. Mobile Library

The mobile Library comes to Pond Green every other week on a Wednesday 10.30.11am. Although only 16.5% of residents use this service, 73% considered it important.

## 4. Education

### 4.1. St John the Baptist School

There has been a school in the village since the 1830's. The school caters for 4-11 year olds, and there are currently xxx pupils, of which xx% are children of parish residents. The school is well respected and its popularity has an impact on the village in terms of parking, transport and property availability.

Confirm number of pupils and percentage of parish children, plus any waiting list numbers

Action: **Richard**

### 4.2. Findon Pre-School

Findon Village Pre-school is situated in the heart of the village and caters for 2 - 5 year old children during the school term time. There are 4 qualified members of staff who provide a curriculum for the children based on the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage guidance and are inspected by Ofsted. The Findon Village Pre-school offer a morning session with the availability of a lunch club, an afternoon session or a full day session. Approximately 50% of the children attending live in the parish. In the Village Survey 12% of villagers use the Pre-school regularly or occasionally but 72% thought that it was very important or quite important to have the facility in the village.

### 4.3. Messy Church

Messy Church brings children and their families together, involving fun with Christ centered values, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. The movement started in Portsmouth in 2004 and in Findon it is held once a month, after school during term time. A similar format, Messy Den, is continued on two Sundays of each month, during the morning service at St John the Baptist Church.

### 4.4. Lambs Tails

Lambs Tails is a group activity for 0-4 year old children, accompanied by parents or carers, and meet one morning a week in the Village Hall. It is run by parent volunteers, and is part of the Findon Children and Family Centre, an initiative run by West Sussex County Council.

### 4.5. School Buses

School bus services are provided to transport pupils to and from Angmering School, The Towers in Upper Beeding, and Steyning Grammar School.

## 5. Assets of Community Value

### 5.1. Properties

- o The Post Office
- o Peckhams Butchers
- o Wintons (former Grocery)
- o The Gun Inn
- o The Village House
- o St John the Baptist C of E Primary School

### 5.2. Local Green Spaces

- o Pond Green
- o Homewood green and play area
- o The green area at The Oval
- o Small grassed area on west side of Horsham Road
- o Cricket field
- o St John the Baptist School playing field
- o All grass verges and road edges, including open areas at village entrances
- o Open areas at the five entrances to the village from the A24
- o Central area filled with large trees and scrub in Cross Lane where the road divides forming a slip road. Owned by the highways agency.
- o Central area of trees between Paddock Way and Westview Terrace
- o Lane/track from A24 to High Street forming part of the Monarch's Way
- o Sussex twittens between Holmcroft Gardens and High Street, between Cross Lane and High Street and between Soldiers Field to Ivy Arch Close through Pony Farm
- o Footpath along Convent Gardens/Nepcote Lane (signposted controversially 'Private Footpath')