

Chairman's Report of the VR2 GA of 17.02.23

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear members of our VercoR2 association,

It is with great pleasure that I have taken over the Presidency of this noble association in 2023, and I would like to thank my predecessor, Andreas Sauer, once again for his support and wise counsel during 2023.

Your committee took the opportunity to reiterate the mission and objectives of our association:

Vision

Harmonious and sustainable development of Vercorin, taking into account the interests, concerns and opinions of all VercoR2 members.

Objectives

- To further increase the number of VercoR2 members (123 paid-up members)
- To continue to establish a constructive dialogue with Vercorin's political, tourist and cultural authorities
- Define a financial support policy that provides added value for VercoR2 members (art, culture, sport, tourism, young people, infrastructure)
- Financial support (sponsorship, donations, financial backing) for projects or events in Vercorin that are accessible to all.

In terms of **communication**, our 1st objective was to invest in equipment to increase our presence at events in Vercorin.

- Purchase of 2 beach flags for VR2 events or those we support.
- Creation of flyers to increase our impact with second-home owners (the Municipality will send flyers to all second-home residents who pay the tourist tax).

Our 2nd "**communication**" objective is to be known as an active association that defends the interests of VercoR2 and to become a key "partner" with local entities. The committee members are represented in the various associations as follows:

- SDV (Vercorin Development Society) Stéphane Favre Michel Minnig
- VTSA (Vercorin Tourism Ltd Co) Jacques Perret Arthur Fivaz
- Télévercorin O. Gétaz Chairman of the Board Ms Anne Laure Vaudin
- Municipality contacts and exchanges O. Gétaz with Municipality's President Sylvie Masserey Anselin
- AnniviersR2 annual meeting O. Gétaz, Michel Mathys, President of the AnniviersR2 association. The meeting provided an opportunity for the presidents to exchange useful information and to consider strengthening links between AnniviersR2 and VercoR2, for example by organising a joint event.

You can find all this information on our VercoR2 website.

Plouf Festival: the festival was well organised (by the paragliding club). VercoR2 contributed CHF 500 and gained a certain amount of visibility thanks to the new beach flags installed on the site.

R2-SDV get-together: the meeting was a success and well attended, which should encourage us to take part in similar events in the future, either with the SDV or with others. For 2024, the meeting will take place in the garden of the Fondation Vallet museum, with guided tours of the museum beforehand. Save the date, **Saturday August 17th 2024**, with an aperitif followed by a raclette at the sheep park. More information to follow.

The idea has been accepted that a VercoR2 event should be organised every summer, after mid-August, to exchange ideas and have a good time in a convivial atmosphere.

We will also be helping to part-finance a bench on the new platform at the start of the paragliding run (Tour du Mont). The Parapente Club Vercorin will also contribute to the funding, as will the Municipality towards the installation costs. Inauguration planned for 2024.

VTSA

We have expressed our disappointment with the latest guest cards, which are unattractive and complicated to use. OG expressed the wish to return to a simpler, more user-friendly system. (Same as Anniviers R2, too expensive).

The "Services for taxpayers" were not satisfactory, even though the R2 contribute approximately CHF 450,000 a year to tourism infrastructure. The VTSA management initially wanted to reduce the budget for "Services for those subject to the tourist tax" from CHF 50,000 to CHF 35,000. In the end, the Board accepted JP's proposal to maintain the budget of CHF 50,000 for 2024. The VTSA is now awaiting proposals from the R2s for the 2024 budget. (It will have to be spent!).

FVSR 2 (Valais' Federation of Second Home Owners' Associations) O. Gétaz has contacted the "Fédération Valaisanne des R2". Our application has been accepted. (CHF 200 per year). AGM 23 March 2024 with "carte d'hôte" as the main theme.

Local authorities :

We would like to thank Sylvie Masserey Anselin, President of Chalais Vercorin, for the attentiveness shown by the local authorities on the subject of VercoR2. Things are moving forward and being put in place with the interests of the VercoR2s in mind. Let's be grateful for that.

Footpaths on the Mont

Following the registration of permanent easements, it is now possible, following the work carried out during the summer of 2023, to leave from the Bourgeoisie picnic area and reach La Crevache via a path "derrière le Mont", or to reach Les Crêtes and the impasse du Mont. The route will be signposted in spring 2024. Another option is under consideration, which will leave near the impasse des Vornys to join the Crevache, as was possible in the past; we need to be patient as negotiations to register rights of passage are under way.

Allocated taxes BASIC WATER TAX AND BASIC SEWAGE and WASTE TAX

The new regulations were presented at the primary meeting in December 2023. The VR2s should benefit from the same conditions, **with a weighting coefficient** as the R2s in Val d'Anniviers.

One thing is certain: Vercorin is short of water and we have to get it from our "neighbours". This means that water meters will have to be installed in all new buildings in the medium term. The new regulations stipulate that all new buildings must be fitted with water meters, as must equipment for collecting roof water.

See: <https://www.chalais.ch/commune/chalais-info-69.html>

The basic waste tax has been reduced by 30% to CHF 155.50 (formerly CHF 221.70). The reason for the decrease is that the account was in the black.

Waste Centre

After a difficult start, the centre is now operating correctly. There is still a computer problem with the cards for holders of several dwellings (the Municipality has not provided more than one card per owner)

The old waste collection centre has reopened for green waste only.

We're looking for solutions for the Eco-points, especially the one at the entrance to the village, which isn't a great place to visit, but nothing concrete has been done yet. If we have any ideas, please pass them on to the appropriate people.

Energy Transition, Possible Subsidies for VR2

The local authorities are going to create an energy transition fund of CHF 1 million to renovate, insulate, change windows, etc. and equip all the local authority's public buildings with photovoltaic panels, among other things. The savings made in the future will go into a fund that will enable homeowners and VR2s (I hope) to benefit from subsidies. The regulations will also be presented at the primary meeting in December 2023.

Creux du Lavioz

Pending investment in a new "restaurant", the Municipality has decided to invest in the sanitary facilities at Le Creux du Lavioz by renovating and extending them.

Information Websites

Various ideas were exchanged on how best to communicate what's going on in Vercorin, as there are several websites, with some redundancies:

- Chalais info: <https://www.chalais.ch/commune/chalais-info-69.html>
- Tourism office
- Verconews: <https://www.vercorinnews.ch/>
- Development society
- What about our VercoR2 site?

What communication strategy do we want to put in place via our site without duplicating the others? Your committee will be brainstorming on how to bring our site to life and make it attractive. If you have any ideas or comments, please let us know: info@vercor2.ch

Conclusion:

In the future, O. Gétaz would like to see greater consultation with our partners (the Municipality, SDV and R2) and for our association to be recognised as an influential partner.

The idea is that we should work "all together" for the good of Vercorin's tourism development in the broadest sense of the term, by defending our interests as "secondary residents". We're on the right track and I'm receiving more and more requests for consultation on tourism and infrastructure issues. Together, we can achieve great things for Vercorin, for its year-round and second-time residents, and for the tourists who come to spend some quality time in the sublime setting of Vercorin.

Before I finish, I would like to thank all the members of my committee for their commitment and for all the work they have done during 2023. I would also like to thank our Past President and founding member of the VercoR2 Association for his confidence and for the smooth handover of his position as President.

"Happiness and confidence are the most beautiful things you can wear" Taylor Swift artist and singer

That's what I'd like to wish everyone here at the end of this afternoon, and I'd like to thank you for your attention.

Olivier Gétaz, February 17th 2024