



## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

**12 AUGUST 2013**

**HIGHFIELD HOUSE HOTEL**

**Present:** Roger Brown, Jill Baston, Steven Connolly, Headley Rossell, Simon Hill, Nadine Johnson, Jerry Gillen, John Bradshaw, Peggy Augier, Nicolla Martin

**In attendance:** Elly Newman

**Apologies:** Caroline Knight, Keith Reed, Jacky Barnes, Julia Brooking, Alison Farmer

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Roger welcomed members, and Elly Newman from Solent University, who attended to present draft plans for the new website.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

The date of next meeting should read 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### **3. Matters arising**

Morrisons will not proceed with plans for the former Blockbuster site because of the short lease.

### **4. Website – Elly Newman**

Elly is a soon-to-be 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at Southampton Solent University.

She explained that the intention is to create a website for HRA which will be appealing to outsiders as well. Ideas include links to other RAs, articles, old photos, famous residents, interviews with visiting notables (possibly conducted by media students). Local discounts could be displayed, encouraging new members to join. An improved search engine was necessary so that contacts are easily found. Her design is based on the HRA leaf logo.

The aim is to be live by October at the latest. Elly will provide monthly updates at the very least, and can work on an 'as needed' basis as well.

Members made further points which Elly will take into consideration. She will report back to the September meeting.

Roger thanked Elly, saying that the project was proceeding on the right sort of lines.

## **5. Avenue tunnel**

Simon had circulated an email to committee members, describing SCC's project for the tunnel.

- The SCC case is that more water is needed in the boating lake for the benefit of the great crested newt. The creature is designated 'rare' because it is scarce in the rest of Europe, though not in UK.
- A 450ml pipe is proposed to carry the water, which will take up half of the existing footpath. The tunnel is heavily used, both by people on foot and cyclists.
- Simon considers that the plans will be destructive, but wishes to give other members an opportunity to judge for themselves before we consider any action by HRA.
- A site meeting including the three councillors and the project leader will be arranged for September.

## **6. Reports**

### *Finance*

Healthy. Our bank, Lloyds in the High Street, will be merging with TSB. We need therefore to create a new account with Lloyds in Portswood.

### *Membership*

Nicolla has rationalised the database from 630 down to 560 paid up members, a more realistic level. The rolling total is 327.

### *Planning*

- Jerry will meet up with Bryan to discuss keeping an eye on planning applications as they come in.
- Jerry reported back on a meeting between NORA and the DCLG. Senior planners have agreed to meet with NORA annually. Jerry will circulate a written report of the meeting when available.
- Roger met with Cllr Jackie Rayment to discuss potential updates to the SPD. Simon will assist Jerry in writing up our suggestions to present to

planners. We are looking for a 10% threshold across the city, with a 100m radius on HMOs.

- The owner of 5 Crofton Close will appeal against SCC's decision that the property may not be used as an HMO.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal on Grosvenor Road is awaited.
- Roger will meet again with Cllr Rayment in September. He is arguing for permitted development rights to be removed from HMOs.
- Simon reported that the Portswood Cycle Shop application, for a block of flats, has been refused.

## **7. AOB**

- Peter Etheridge from Holly Hill phoned Jerry with the information that a Keep Fit Club for older people will be closed by SCC.
- Steve has learned from Sainsburys that they have a meeting room open to local groups, which is free.
- The Highfield pub has closed. We need to watch for early information of any proposed future uses.
- The next meeting will be on 9 September.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.