



**Highfield Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009**  
**at Highfield House Hotel**

**Present:** Jerry Gillen - Chair, Sue Hartley – Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, - Headley Rossell, Bryan Wakely, Nicolla Martin, Adrian Vinson, Peggy Augier, Steve Connolly, Catherine Powell and Allison Shelly

**Apologies:** Cllr Matthew Dean , Cllr. Vincenzo Capozolli, Cllr Jill Baston, Cllr Steve Sollitt, Andy Alderson, Josie Brown, Julia Brooking, Simon Hill, Andy Pickles and Rafael Persaud

**In Attendance:** Katherine Brookfield, Nick Bacon, Roret Blue, Matt Martin - University Liaison, Peter Knight, Bert Baker, Jenny Arnold, David Ely, Maureen Pullen and Denise Long of Highfield Cres. & Holyrood Ave., Martin Moore and Tony Edgeley

**Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed.

**Matters Arising & not on the Agenda:** there are several items in progress.

**Correspondence**

- No list this month as most of correspondence was relating to planning.
- There was a request to start a Scrabble Club – this can go in next Newsletter.
- An email re disturbance at mini-roundabout in Brookvale Rodd.

**Summer Event**

Bryan has done costings for the various options for this event. The preferred option is a Hog Roast, no wet weather covering and for people to bring their own drinks. This would limit the number of tickets to 70 as that is the maximum number allowed in the pavilion.

The Events sub-committee will meet to take this forward.

**Land Use PhD**

Katherine Brookfield gave an overview - notes below:

Katherine's background:

Consultancy roles in regeneration and property industries

Advice to various orgs

Informed PhD topic choice

### 3. Land use – what is it?

How we develop / don't develop land = different land uses; different functions / purposes land can serve – e.g. housing, retail, cultural attractions, recreation ground, industrial etc

Neighbourhoods – can be characterised by single or more mixed / diverse land uses

### 4. Aims of PhD

How planning policy treats issue of land use

Explore the views of local residents on land use

### 5. Planning policy

Gradual shift in policy – from seeing single use as preferable to more recent view which sees, on certain occasions & in certain areas merit in mixing land uses – said to support sustainability and promote quality of life

Want to explore residents' views on land use at neighbourhood level

### 6. Participants

Looking to recruit individuals from Tenants and Residents Associations who would like to take part in the research

Informal interviews to explore views on land use

About 1.5 hrs

Anonymity of participants

Provisional timeframe late Sept 2009 – Feb 2010. Subject to change according to take up and getting the go-ahead from the University

Very flexible about when to conduct the interviews (date / time)

Would organise a convenient place to meet

Looking to gauge 'in principle' interest in taking part – no one would be committing to anything!

Email / letter to flag up an 'in principle' interest in taking part

## **University Matters:**

### **Matt Martin**

- Neighbourhood News will be out in end of May to early June.
- There is to be a new Director of communications and Marketing.
- The exam season starts on 12<sup>th</sup> June and the term ends on 19<sup>th</sup>.

- There have been some problems with noise from early deliveries at Avenue Campus and Highfield Halls but that has been sorted. There has been a problem in Alma Road but that has been tackled with multi agency approach, with the University, the Police and the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team.
- There has been a problem with a student house in Holyrood Avenue with objects being thrown into neighbouring gardens. Matt will visit the property and the neighbours have been advised to contact the police on 101 and to keep a diary of events.
- Students moving out of a property are experiencing difficulties in recovering their deposits. A new cohort of students has already signed to take over the property at 5 Crofton Close and is unaware that the previous tenants are having problems. The approved list of accommodation is not published until February when students have already signed up for contracts for the following year. What can be done about this? Students have been advised not to sign contracts without having them looked at by the SU.

### **Highfield Map**

We require a new print run of the maps of the area which are sponsored by the Crown Inn. Tony Edgeley has spent considerable time creating a new file and bringing the maps up to date following the demise of Sector Services. He is still working on a version that can be electronically transferred but in the meantime has given Jerry paper copies which can be taken to the printers.

Jerry expressed gratitude to Tony for all the hard work that he has done on this project.

### **Application to join the Association**

A number of householders whose area does not come into the designated HRA area have already joined the association. This is permissible according to the Constitution. However these members would like the area to include their roads. There was considerable discussion about this. It was decided that anyone can join the association so people from those roads can join. If they wish their roads to become part of the areas covered then they could canvass the residents and if there is sufficient interest this could be tabled and formally accepted, assuming there were no objections, at the next AGM.

### **Winn and Westwood Roads**

David Ely updated the meeting on the situation re these two roads. At present there is considerable parking along these roads which is bound to get worse following the decision to restrict parking in Cemetery Road. Also there is a lot of speeding along these two roads. David is concerned that not enough is being done to combat these problems and is in communication with the Council about this. He has also asked for

paperwork from 2000 onwards under the Freedom of Information Act so that he can ascertain what has been said and done in the past.

### **Membership**

Database 631 households.

Paid up membership for 2008 remains at 491 households.

Paid up memberships for 2009:

<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Agm</b>	<b>273</b>

A note of thanks goes to Mr. Rafael Persaud, who encouraged 25 households within the area of Portswood, to join HRA. This has not altered the overall database, as the new 25 households, replaced people who have moved away from the area.

### **Finance:**

Headley reported the finances are healthy.

### **Planning:**

- AV's report as circulated - plus:
- Extension in Merton Road- this seems to be a hotspot for applications for extensions.
- 37 Blenheim - letter was sent in support of OTRA. Application was refused because of proposed fence. A new application has been submitted for the hard standing and the widening of the drive.
- 33 Highfield Road - approved with a range of conditions. 28a Brookvale - the appeal will be heard on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Adrian to find out what representation the council will have.
- 1 Crofton - this has gone to enforcement.
- 7- 8 Furzedown - awaiting the result of the enquiry.
- There appears to be an application for a late night takeaway on the premises of the Rose Road Charity Shop. Adrian to investigate.

## **Newsletter**

We are planning to have a summer edition of the newsletter to come out at the end of June.

**Website:** Tony is still working on re-building the website and when it is finished he will just move the whole thing across. Jerry asked that the new map be put on the new website.

## **Any Other Business**

- There has been a spate of burglaries in the Holly Hill and Bassett areas. The Police were informed and then contacted Jerry to tell him the news that he had passed to them.
- Nicolla requested a print run of welcome letters and street reps list.
- There has been a spate of drug dealing around Roselands Gardens. Please contact the police if you see anything suspicious.
- The children's Christmas Party is going to be held at Portswood School on 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- Adrian reported there seems to be a policy to encourage planning decisions to be made under delegated authority. He will check what is necessary to get decisions at committee level.
- There is a new warden at the Residents' Gardens: his name is Steve Richardson.
- Concerns were expressed over the Core Strategy and the definition of a family unit. A family unit is a 3 bedroom dwelling and that does not necessarily mean a house. 30% of an area has to consist of family units but that means that 70% does not. This is however an improvement. Requests for consultation have just been recorded as complaints, which is not satisfactory.

The meeting closed at 10.00.

Next meeting will be on June 8th