



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12th October 2009
at Highfield House Hotel

Present : Jerry Gillen- Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell Treasurer, Adrian Vinson, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan, Wakely Josie Brown and Roret Blue.

Apologies : Andy Alderson, Andy Pickles, Rafeal Persaud, Matthew Claisse, Cllr Vincenzo Capozolli, Cllr Steve Sollitt, Cllr Matthew Dean, Alison Shelly, Julia Brooking and Peggy Augier.

Attending: Peter Knight, Matt Martin and Jenny Arnold.

Minutes of the last meeting: agreed with the alteration that Nicolla did not offer to man a recruitment stand in Waitrose.

Matters Arising

- We have received a contribution from EBRA towards the cost of instructing Sarah Clover in respect of the SU Licensing application. Headley will raise an invoice. Adrian will complete to necessary paperwork in connection with our objection to a likely appeal. **AV**
- 62 Sirdar Road: the date for objections had passed by the time Adrian received the minutes.
- Westwood Road: a letter was sent.
- Correspondence: We have received a postcard thanking us for the hog roast. Also, Nicky Bradshaw emailed her appreciation.

University Liaison

- There is a new Vice Chancellor, Don Nutbeam. Jackie Booth has taken over from George Clegg as Student Union General Manager.
- Contrary to some reports the number of students at the University remains the same as last year.
- Operation Batcombe took place during Fresher's Week. Matt and James Cox both assisted and it was clear that there are inadequate police resources for this. There were 2 PCs and 1 PCSO. They maintained high visibility between

Bevois Valley and Glen Eyre. The situation is not helped by the discontinuation of The City Patrol. The Local Neighbourhood Panel takes place next week and this issue will be raised and also the possibility of using Special Constables in future. It has been noted that there has been some attacks on foreign students and the possibility is that these are racially motivated.

Membership

There are 519 paid up households at present. Nicolla agrees that a recruitment stand in Waitrose might be good way to encourage more members to join but would not like to man it herself.

Finance: Finances are healthy.

- We are waiting for a bill from No5 Chambers and have to complete a monitoring form for the Grass Roots grant.
- It was agreed that HRA would cover the cost of MS Office for the Chairman's computer.
- No expenses have been received yet for Sarah's recent visit.
- We need to write a cheque for the appeal this week and it needs to be delivered tomorrow. **AV**

Planning:

Report as circulated.

- Hill down Road- re-submission- no objections received.
- Heatherdene Road- retrospective application for detached fitness suite- no objections have been received.
- 14 Westwood Road- major redevelopment. We have received a request to assist with objections to this application. There is also some concern about access at 90-92 Cambridge Road and so a letter has been written in support of the objections.
- 95 Welbeck- New planning application to turn a detached garage into a 1 bedroom bungalow with parking. Adrian will visit the property and will raise an objection if it is deemed necessary. **AV**
- 24 Abbots Way- an appeal has been lodged against the refusal for replacement windows. PRG are dealing with this.
- 73 Sirdar Road- there is to be an appeal- we have objected.
- The Cube- the application for extended hours on Friday and Saturday night was refused. However, they were granted an extension to last entry time. Sarah's advice is that we need to lodge an objection in case they appeal, which is most likely, or we could be bypassed in further decision making. This could always be withdrawn if the SU does not appeal. (post meeting note they

have lodged an appeal) Adrian will write on behalf of HRA and EBRA. We will need to ask EBRA for a further contribution. **AV**

- Re Heatherdene Road- it is likely that the adjacent houses are HMOs and that the neighbours further away have not been notified.
- There was discussion about the paving over of front gardens. This does not require planning permission as long as a permeable material is used and the property is not in a conservation area. We need to seek clarification from the Planning Dept.
- Tuesday 3rd November is the date of the Brookvale Road hearing- Sarah will not be able to attend but will write up our presentation. We will need a good attendance. Jenny will liaise with PRG Residents. We have requested the papers from the Council.
- 1 Crofton Close- Sarah is booked for this hearing on 19th January. There was discussion concerning the need to retain her ourselves if she could be retained by the Council. After discussion it was decided that it would be wise to retain her ourselves as there could be a conflict of interests if the Council wanted to negotiate a deal.

Newsletter

We are in the process of collating all the material and we plan to start delivery on Monday 9th November. This gives a month before the children's Christmas party. There will be an advert and an application form in the newsletter.

Website Tony offered his apologies for the lack of any real progress in the last couple of weeks but he has been very busy working away from home.

Hog Roast

- It was suggested that next time we try to get a date earlier in the year. It was not possible this time as there were not many dates free.
- A complaint was received about us removing the electronic equipment the following morning however we understood that this had been agreed with the people coming in the next day and it was removed by the agreed time. There was also discussion re the cleanliness of the hall. Caroline and Bryan were left to clean and tidy up. They thought that they had done a decent job with the exception of leaving 3 bags of rubbish in the kitchen. This was a mistake and in future we must remember to take all rubbish away. Also we need to ensure that there are enough people willing to help with the clearing up.
- With the exception of the above matters the Hog Roast was deemed to have been a successful and enjoyable event.
- Jerry suggested that next year: PRG might like to join with HRA to put on a summer event however PRG are holding their own to celebrate 100 years of the Pavilion.

Brickfield Road

A public meeting re the possibility of a Residents Garden in Brickfield Road was well attended. It was suggested there is a problem with the idea of a temporary garden as the cost versus benefit might not add up. Adrian advised that negotiating with the Council for part of the land to be set aside for public benefit but the proximity of Portswood Rec might work against this.

Christmas Dinner

It was agreed that we would book Ceno's for our Christmas Dinner for Thursday 3rd December.

JG

CAF-

The CAF AGM takes place on Thursday 15th October.

AOB

- Nicolla asked if any help was needed for the children's party. Jerry said that he was seeing Phil and would ask him. Last year he handled the tickets etc. Help is usually needed on the day. Allison is helping Phil with the arrangements.
- PRG are encouraging their members to join HRA also in their newsletter.
- Sue was interviewed by an independent company re the Grass Roots Fund Grant that we received. She gave very positive feedback and it was a simple process. She also suggested they speak to Nicolla and Allison.

The meeting ended at 9.05.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th November