



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12th July 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present - Jerry Gillen - Chair, Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Alison Shelly and Roret Blue

Apologies Headley Rossell, Josie Brown, Peggy Augier, Matthew Claisse, Julia Brooking, Peter Knight and Adrian Vinson

Attending Matt Martin, Jenny Arnold, Bert Baker, Billy FitzJohn – Pres SU and Cllr Vincenzo Capozzoli.

Minutes of the June meeting agreed.

Matters Arising

Correspondence

- SASH Newsletter

Summer Event

- Brian reported that we needed 51 paying guests to break even. It looks that this might be achievable at 52 likely and possibly more.
- Uptons have said that a reduction in numbers is not a problem.
- Jenny has agreed to liaise with Veronica re the erection of the marquee.
- It was agreed to have tables of 6 instead of 8.
- All documentation will be handed to Brian.
- Caroline will print the table names and seating plan on Saturday morning.
- Brian will let helpers know what time they will be needed.

University Liaison

- Matt told the committee that things have been quiet as University Summer break has started. There have been a couple of reports of noisy parties when students have returned to sign tenancy agreements.
- 5 Crofton Close - details of Information and Advice Centre at S U has been passed to tenants.
- Estates have clarified the situation re the moving of the disabled parking spaces outside the Nuffield Theatre. The work has begun and the slope from the top car park to the lower area is being reduced and the disabled spaces will be near the top of the slope.
- The Council Housing Dept has asked for a formal meeting with the tenants of No 5 Crofton Close
- Billy will ask at the SU if anyone would like to attend the Summer Event.

Membership

Monthly rolling figure 353 and total membership 496.

Finance

- Finances are healthy.

Planning

Report as circulated by Matthew.

- Julia has expressed concern about a planning application for 6 Regents Court. This is a second floor extension. Although the date for objections, 8th July, has passed Jerry will still write.
- RE HMOs- grounds for objection are as follows:
 1. It is contrary to National Policy – PPS3
 2. It is contrary to the Core Strategy -16
 3. It is contrary to Housing Policy – H4
 4. It is contrary to the emerging policy for the LDF from the council

Guidance on this will appear in the next newsletter.

- 4 and 6 Hartley Ave and 9 Merton Rd. The application for these adjoining properties has already been objected to by Adrian. This is going to the panel

on 20th July with no 4 to be heard at 3.30 and no 6 at 4.00. There will be representation from neighbours and Roret will be briefed to speak. Vincenzo will attend to represent the ward. It is thought that the concentration of HMOs in this area is in the region of 85%. A survey needs to be done to ascertain an accurate percentage.

- It would appear that the new Government is attempting to overturn the legislation re HMOs. Jerry has written to the Housing Minister asking him not to make changes.
- Adrian Vinson will be putting a motion to the Council re lobbying the Government to retain an opt-out approach to the regulations governing planning permission for small HMOs - it is on the Council's agenda for Wednesday.
- Jerry has met with Paul Nichols who explained that it is not possible to introduce new policy without following defined procedures and this can take up to 2 years. The Council is debating this matter. It has stated a willingness to target rogue landlords and to prosecute. It will have to pick cases carefully to ensure successful prosecutions which will send a clear message to other landlords.
- 48 Roselands Gardens- there has been an application to vary condition 5 in connection with a hedgerow. Jerry and Vincenzo will write.

Newsletter This has now been delivered and has received a positive response. Some members have reported that they did not receive a copy. Caroline will email Tudor and let them know.

Website- nothing to report. Tony knight sent apologies that there are some items waiting to be uploaded and this will be done later in the week.

AOB

- Vincenzo told the meeting that Cllr Samuels is standing down and the Council is in the process of electing his replacement. Jerry asked Vincenzo to let the successful candidate know that we would be happy to welcome him to an HRA meeting.
- Jerry said that he had been told that the "hooks" in the current Core Strategy would be sufficient to enable the new legislation to be implemented. He will arrange a meeting with Cllr Dean and others after the Government's decision about the new legislation.
- Development in Merton Rd. The new house is occupying space from two gardens in Blenheim Gardens however on the plans it is only showing the

garden of one property- this is inaccurate and plans should be accurate. Vincenzo will make enquiries.

- Bert Baker thanked the committee for the help that he has had with his planning objections.
- The new Life Sciences Building is ready and it is being occupied.
- Lizzie from the volunteering dept. has still not heard from Graham or Simon re what they would like in terms of help for the project. Caroline will remind them.
- Jerry has been approached by another post grad student who is doing work on HMOs. Jerry is meeting with her and Vincenzo, who has also been approached will try to meet wither at the same time.
- Billy FitzJohn told the meeting that he had just sent out an email to local neighbourhood groups to ask them to attend a meeting on July 27th to discuss the SU's application for an extension of hours for the Cube until 3.00am every Friday. This news was greeted with dismay by the committee and Billy was told that this would be vigorously opposed by this and other groups. We were very disappointed that this has once again become an issue as it has every year for the last few years. A causal link has been shown, and acknowledged by the licensing committee, between the closing hours of the Cube and disturbance to local residents as a large number of people leave the night club. The committee felt that it was a shame that Billy had been sent alone to deliver this news and should have been supported by members of the permanent staff.

The meeting finished at 8.55

It was agreed that there will be no meeting in August unless anything contentious arises.

The next committee meeting will be on Monday Sept 13th