



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th June 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present - Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell - Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Matthew Claisse, Julia Brooking and Roret Blue

Apologies Jerry Gillen, Josie Brown, Peggy Augier, Allison Shelly, Peter Knight and Vincenzo Capozolli

Attending Cllr. Matt Dean, Matt Martin, Jenny Arnold, Bert Baker and Adrian Vinson.

Minutes of the March meeting agreed with amendment to Matt Martin piece.

Matters Arising Julia has asked for a copy of Sam Ing's thesis proposal but has not received it yet.

Matthew Claisse the committee was asked to vote to accept Matthew onto the committee as Planning and Licencing member. This was approved unanimously.

Correspondence

- Letter re planning application for a wood store for a house in Crofton close

University Liaison

- Matt told the committee that the official end of the University term is this week.
- Jerry attended the VIP Reception for the SU Ball and wished his thanks to the SU to be recorded. He also said that he was very impressed with SU President Steve O'Reilly's presentation.

Steve has received some negative press re the application to extend the hours at The Cube but his achievements should be noted.

He negotiated an extension of opening hours at the Library and also encouraged student volunteering in the community. Credit should also go to the students who have undertaken this community activity.

- There was a bar crawl through Portswood which was privately arranged and attracted a lot of students.
- There has been an increase in complaints about parking as students have brought their cars to load up their possessions.
- There is to be a meeting between the SU President and members of Matt's team for training next week.
- There has been an end of year collection of items that can be recycled this year. It was on a trial basis and will be reviewed to ascertain what was useful about it and what didn't work.
- There are some University Open days coming up. The next one is 3rd July. There will be a park and ride scheme from West Quay.
- The Uni-Link Bus Station at the University is to be remodelled. It was suggested that in the main this development is very good but the disabled parking spaces have been moved further away from the Nuffield.
- Cllr. Dean said that the project is to be jointly funded by Blue Star, the University and the Council and that proposed cuts to the Local Transport Plan are likely to be about £1 million so all LTP projects will have to be re-considered. It would be disastrous for Highfield if the project cannot proceed. There is to be a meeting next week on Friday.

Membership

The membership rolling total is 248 and current paid up membership stands at 483.

Bryan has met with Rafeal and he has said that he resigned from the committee because of the pressure of his other work with his community group. He wishes to remain a member of HRA.

Finance

- Finances are healthy.
- A grant application has been made to Community Chest for £5000. This will be useful for off-setting the cost of the newsletter if successful.
- An application has also been submitted to the Co-Op for £1900 for miscellaneous expenses.
- The cheque has arrived for £500 for Common Sense- the invoice has yet to come. The volunteering team are awaiting a response from Graham Linecar re what work needs to be done.

Planning

- 4 and 6 Hartley Ave and 9 Merton Rd. The application for these adjoining properties has already been objected to by Adrian. Unfortunately it would appear that each property is being dealt with separately by 3 different planning officers. They need to be made aware that this is to be one large property.
- 33 Highfield Rd. An application for an extension of time has been made. It still has two years to run. Apparently there were some errors in the original documentation and these need to be cleared up. As we objected to the original application we will be asking why the extension might be deemed appropriate.
- The new legislation on garden grabbing will have a positive impact for Highfield.
- 8 Sherbourne Road- extended.
- 72 Westwood Rd. Concerns have been expressed about the future of this house as an extension has been applied for. Under new legislation it cannot legally become an HMO without licensing.
- Roselands Gardens – a planning application has been submitted for 2 large chalet houses at the back of no 53. The proposed buildings are too close to the existing property. Matthew Claisse will object and Cllr. Dean will help Bert write a letter of objection. He will also look into the possibility of a protection order on the old apple tree.
- The old people's home site has been empty for 2 years now. **JG/MC** will write to Anchor homes to ask what they plan for the site.
- 14 Westwood – no application has been submitted.
- 22 Granby Grove – the house has been extended to the side and is touching the adjacent property. No application has been made and this must contravene building regulations. **MD** will investigate – Roret will email details to him.
- 1-3 Blenheim. There has been contravention of the conditions by work continuing into Saturday afternoon. There is no out of hour's enforcement service but Environmental Heath can be contacted if there is a noise or safety issue. The Enforcement Officer has given his number to concerned parties. There is to be an inspection by the Enforcement Officer with the Conservation Officer next week. Our thanks to the Council Officers for their help are recorded.

- Sainsbury's - there is an application pending for a petrol station in Swaythling.
- A motion was put to the committee to petition the Council **to** implement areas of restraint and thresholds. There was a great deal of discussion about this with opposing ideas about whether this is possible within the Core Strategy. The CS has committed the Council to looking at the legislation re small HMOs. Council Officers are looking at this seriously to see if existing policies are strong enough. A meeting has been offered to Jerry and other interested parties, such as the HRA Planning Sub-Committee, with Paul Nichols.

Adrian stated that in his opinion we should write as we were told that the CS had sufficiently strong enough hooks if the Use Class Order was changed. Now we are being told that it would need new policies not just attached to CS.

After discussion the committee voted to postpone petitioning the Council until after the meeting with Paul Nichols.

Newsletter This is currently with Uni-Print and will be sent to Tudor on 17th June for distribution to start the following week. Sainsbury's have confirmed that they will sponsor the next edition.

Website- nothing to report.

Summer Event

- The plans are all in hand.
- Phil has secured two people to help.
- Pearsons wish to reserve a table to purchase in addition to the one they have already.
- Bryan is away soon so there needs to be another sub-committee meeting.

AOB

- There has been an increase in inconsiderate parking in Portswood.
- Traffic Wardens were seen in Portswood at night when most of the problems are in the daytime.
- Members are very discouraged by the HMO problem.
- Bryan reminded committee members to buy their tickets for the summer event.

The meeting finished at 9.20

The next committee meeting will be on Monday July 12th