



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th May 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen- Chair, Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell - Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier, Roret Blue, Allison Shelly, Julia Brooking and Josie Brown

Apologies Peter Knight, Vincenzo Capozolli, Jenny Arnold and Jackie Barnes.

Attending Sam Ings, Nick Bacon, Matt Martin, Charlie Perrin, Sgt Richard McWilliam, Maureen Tilley, Elly Wong, Betty Stacey, Lorraine Barter and Adrian Vinson.

Minutes of the March meeting agreed - proposed by Sue and seconded by Bryan.

AGM minutes agreed - proposed by Allison and seconded by Peggy.

Matters Arising None

Correspondence

- Letter from Mrs Tilley
- Letter to Matt and Stewart Chandler re anti-social behaviour.

University Liaison

There have been issues with late night noise in Portswood and the Polygon. Charlie Perrin explained that there is new legislation in place under the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 that gives new powers to the Council. House Closure Orders can be issued to close down premises where there is anti-social or criminal behaviour including violence, firearms, excess numbers, constant or excessive noise, prostitution and intimidation. This is a last resort and has not been done in Southampton to date. Some areas are being looked at and this includes the Polygon.

The council can provide CC TV and Dat recorders for residents to record evidence. The input of the residents is key in tackling these matters so it is advisable to call the Police as the calls will be logged and can be used as evidence.

There has also been a lot of disturbance in Bevois Valley and Portswood where some youths broke into a block of flats and did criminal damage. There is noise

between 2-4 am most nights which prevents residents from getting a good night's sleep. Matt and 2 PCSOs have met with residents and an Operation Batcombe is planned for that area in May. Unfortunately there is no CC TV in Portswood and although the Universities have disciplinary procedures in place it is very difficult to identify culprits.

Sgt McWilliam reported that students do get arrested when they are found to be causing trouble and usually do not reoffend.

Charlie agreed to co-ordinate a piece for the newsletter about this.

Matt liaises with Melissa, his opposite number at Solent University and will inform her of tonight's discussion but also wished to point out that none of the examples raised tonight took place within his area of responsibility.

Sam Ings

Sam works for SCC and is a student at Kings College London where he is doing an MA on HMOs. He will be looking at the impact that the recent changes in legislation will have on HMOs and if these changes will deal with the problems associated with HMOs. He plans to assess effects of change positive and negative and will assess the impact of spread of HMOs on communities. He will give questionnaires to landlords and residents and will conduct semi-structured interviews. He is using Southampton as his case study and will consider the implications for other cities. He has agreed to give us progress reports and will write a piece for the newsletter.

NPSB

The area covered by this group was incorporated into the HRA area at their request and HRA was asked to help with a controversial planning application. 24 new members joined the association and we had new maps drawn to show the inclusion of this area. So far none of these members has renewed for this year. We are anxious that the area remains part of HRA and Nicolla has redelivered the renewal letters and maps. Bryan will speak to Rafeal to assure him that we are keen to keep communications open. NPSB is a community group and is not in competition with HRA. Thanks to Elly Wong for her input.

Adrian Vinson

Jerry offered congratulations to Adrian on his re-election to the council. Adrian explained that he cannot remain as a member of the committee as he has to be seen to be non-partisan. He will continue to support HRA and attend meetings when possible as one of our local Councillors.

Membership

Membership is very slightly down on last year at the same time and the current paid up membership stands at 477.

Finance

Finances are healthy.

A grant application has been made to Community Chest. This will be useful for off-setting the cost of the newsletter if successful.

Planning

Adrian has lodged 4 objections

- 13 Merton Road
- 3 Blenheim Gardens
- 16 Blenheim Gardens- a different application has been submitted.
- 10 Grosvenor Road.
- No application has been lodged in respect of 14 Westwood Road.
- Permitted development only applies to domestic dwellings and therefore does not apply to HMOs
- Adrian is still receiving correspondence from the planning dept. This needs to be changed.

Summer Event

- This will be on Saturday 17th July in PRG. Manhattan Marquees, the music, the bar and Upton's have also been booked. It would be helpful if people started to buy their tickets.

Newsletter

The next newsletter is due out in the middle of June allowing a month to advertise the summer event.

Website

The website was updated following the last meeting and now carries an advert for the summer event and a downloadable booking form.

AGM

There was a general feeling of disappointed with Simon Higman's contribution. Although he did give an idea of the vision for the future of the University the way he handled the problems that local residents have with late night noise and disturbance was felt to be dismissive. We all appreciate the University and many of us have past

and current connections with it but this does not mean that repeated disturbances can be ignored.

Jerry asked the committee to consider the format for future AGMs.

AOB

- We were asked if we had objected to the planned new Sainsbury's. We did not as we thought that it would be an asset to the area. At that time we did not have Waitrose. Sainsbury's have been very supportive of HRA.
- It has been noticed there has been an increase in the amount of dog mess on our pavements. Allison will do a piece for the newsletter.
- At the AGM Gillian Gain asked if there was any other method of communication we could use in addition to the website and the newsletter.
- We have space on the committee for 2 new members.
- We were reminded about the party on June 12th in PRG to celebrate the centenary of the Pavilion.

The meeting finished at 9.35

The next committee meeting will be on Monday June 14th