



Highfield Residents' Association

Summer
2019



www.highfieldresidents.org.uk

highfieldracomms@gmail.com

Dear Members and Residents,

This will be a brief report and update on where we are currently as I covered most things at the AGM and not a great deal has changed since then. Nevertheless as always, Planning matters continue to be the single major concern for most people, with the effect of HMOs and the behaviour of their occupants on local residents, a matter of on-going frustration. We have recently had a number of complaints about "end-of-term" parties with unruly and anti-social behaviour, all of which we have taken up with both the University and the Council. As an Association and indeed even as a community there is little we can do it would seem, as any potential action is necessarily after the event by which time the culprits will have moved on. Of course it would help if The Police would attend such complaints but generally they won't and even if they did there is little they can do it would appear. The Local Authority and Environmental Health are actually those most directly responsible for dealing with these matters and of course they are not on hand at the time and after the event it is too late anyway. The other suggestion I would make is to make sure you have the Landlord's personal number and contact him/her direct as he/she is ultimately the responsible person under the terms of his License, if he/she has one in the first place of course!

A minor victory in a long running dispute over a property in a Highfield Conservation Area is the eventual Appeal Decision with regards to the front wall of the property, which the Inspector has held to be in contravention of the Conservation Area, plus the unauthorised removal of a tree covered by a TPO; we urge The Council to take vigorous Enforcement action on both matters as this follows a series of breaches of the original Planning Permission for the property.

Another matter covered separately in this edition, is the cancellation of a revised entrance to the northern entrance to The Little Common when a more direct route was recommended by local residents.



HRA Summer BBQ



Pavilion @ Portswood Residents' Gardens



Sunday 28th July

12:00—17:00



Application form on back page or online at:
<https://highfield.eventbrite.com>

Join the HRA

- * We represent your interests and campaign on local issues
- * We check local planning and licensing applications
- * It is only £5 a year per household
- * You get access to lots of local discounts
- * Membership is open to all (form on back page)

Baffi Pizza

10% discount

Ceno Restaurant & Wine Bar

10% discount off food and drinks (when taken with food)

Coffee#1

10% discount off food and drinks

Crafty Fox

10% discount on food and beer

Elizabeth House Hotel

10% off hotel rates (except those published by booking agents)

10% off food and drink (with meals only).

Ghandi's Restaurant

10% discount off food and drinks

T. Greenslade Fresh Fish Ltd

10% discount on locally caught fish, Fridays 9am – 1pm, opposite Waitrose

Highfield House Hotel

10% off the best available rate

Innervation Hair and Beauty

10% discount on Tuesdays

Kohinoor of Kerala Restaurant

10% discount off food

Kuti's Brasserie, Oxford Street

20% discount on midweek & non anniversary days

La Baronia

Sunday to Thursday inclusive, 10% off food

Mango Thai Tapas Bar & Restaurant

10% discount off food

MGB Fitness – It's Personal

One free week local fitness studio training— Inc. 3 training sessions

Nuffield Southampton City and Campus Theatres

10% discount off all main house productions; Studio Theatre programme; film/live screenings

Portswood Cycles

5% discount off bike purchases ; 10% off servicing & parts

Simply Eat Co

10% discount

Trago Lounge

10% off hot drinks and cakes , weekdays 9:00 – 16:00

... More benefits online

*Terms and conditions apply; Members must present a valid HRA membership card.

Nationally as part of NORA (National Organisation of RAs) we continue to lobby Government for changes to the Appeal system, to make Enforcement more effective and to introduce regulation for Short Term lets à la Airbnb, but unfortunately with the hiatus that is Government at the moment there seems little political will to deal with such day to day concerns of the country at large! A plague on all their houses!

Lastly, I will not serve another term as Chairman and urge potentially suitable candidates to make themselves known to myself or members of the committee.

I wish everyone a good summer and look forward to seeing many of you at our summer Event on 28th July.

-- Jerry Gillen

My new neighbours in Winn Road

One chilly January evening this year, as I walked into Winn Road from the Avenue, I was alerted to the sound of an owl calling. The sound was a familiar 'twit twoo' call (actually tawny owl females 'kewick' and males 'hoohoo'). A sense of foreboding overtook me, and the pace of my walk increased, as I checked over my shoulder for any strangers lurking in the shadows. I can only blame watching too many late-night Hammer horror films.

Since that evening the owls have been very vocal in Winn Road as it nears the Common. In fact, they seem to have taken a liking to the large horse chestnut tree outside my balcony window but I'm fairly sure they are not nesting there. However, after consulting Google, I found out that tawny owls will nest in a variety of places, including tree cavities, old crows' nests, squirrel dreys, the forks of tree trunks, and even rabbit holes. They nest early in the year, with eggs appearing about March, hatching in April and owlets leaving the nest in May. So maybe some of the noise during the night is coming from hungry owlets.

The tawny owl is a nocturnal bird of prey, that takes advantage of its fantastic night vision to quickly catch its prey. They prey on small rodents such as voles and mice; also eating insects and small reptiles.

These recent encounters have reawakened my interest in birds - a passion that began with my parents buying me the Ladybird book when I was just nine years old. The Common is a great resource for bird lovers, and this Spring I have seen a variety of woodland species, including blackcaps and greenfinches. Last year I am convinced I spotted a kingfisher flying over the ornamental lake.

One of the strangest and most unexpected birds I have seen recently in Southampton was when walking through Queens Park, next to Platform Road, where I heard the shrill screeching noise of the ring-necked parakeet. They are hard to miss both visually and as a result of their loud call. I last saw them on the River Thames near Richmond, but now they seem to be spreading south, and there are concerns about their potential impact on native bird species such as woodpeckers, starlings and nuthatches, through competition for nest holes.



The newly arrived ring-necked parakeets are very colourful and very exotic, but they are also very noisy. On that note, I'm rather glad my new immediate neighbours are tawny owls.

-- Ken Burtenshaw

Southampton Common Forum

The Forum continues to make progress. The public consultation on a new charitable foundation to work with the City Council on the implementation of the new Common plan showed overwhelming support for the initiative, and the Forum Management Committee is now considering the next steps. The Forum has published working group reports on the Rejuvenation of the Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre and Green Travel and Safety; work continues on Landscape and Toilets issues. The Forum has undertaken an extensive survey and audit of green travel across the Common. This informed a Green Travel Workshop which was held in partnership with the University of Southampton and the City Council on 24th April, and of which a report is available. The volunteering programme has continued with fortnightly litter picks, with 128 bags of litter and rubbish so far removed from the Common.

On the Forum's initiative the Council has installed new water bottle fountains at the Hawthorns and in the new Play Area. The Forum has helped to facilitate a review of the Council's plan for a 'new' entrance at the north-east point of the Little Common. Finally, the Forum has commissioned various videos, most notably in partnership with Solent University students, to promote and inform the



general public of different aspects of the Common. These can be viewed on the Forum's Youtube channel and the Forum's activities can be found on the website.

southamptoncommonforum.org.

--Roger Brown

Dementia Action

The Portswood and Area Dementia Action Group was established three years ago and is an active group of 10 people with a passion for making this area dementia friendly. There is a programme of activities for people living with dementia and their carers across the area – see below.

During Dementia Action Week in May 2019, we supported and contributed to a city-wide dementia festival in Palmerston Park.

This was a very successful event and the weather was kind to us. The photographs are from this festival. We also ran a 'Memories of St Denys' event in Portswood Library in May and mapped out all the shops we could remember from the 1960s. There are no doubt more memories still to be shared. Forthcoming activities:

* Supper at the Brewhouse and Kitchen, Highfield Lane, Highfield. First Tuesday of each month: 6pm to 8pm. This event welcomes people



Judith Swaffield, Alision Hughes and Katherine Barbour at the Southampton Dementia Festival, May 2019

living with dementia and their carers to have some time together in a friendly environment. People can have a full meal, a snack or just a drink. All are welcome. Join us for a while to see what it is about. The next four dates are: 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September, 1st October 2019.

* Memory Café led by Admiral Nurses. First Wednesday of each month at Highfield Church Centre: 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

* Occasional movie afternoons. The next one is Wednesday July 17th at Highfield Church Centre.

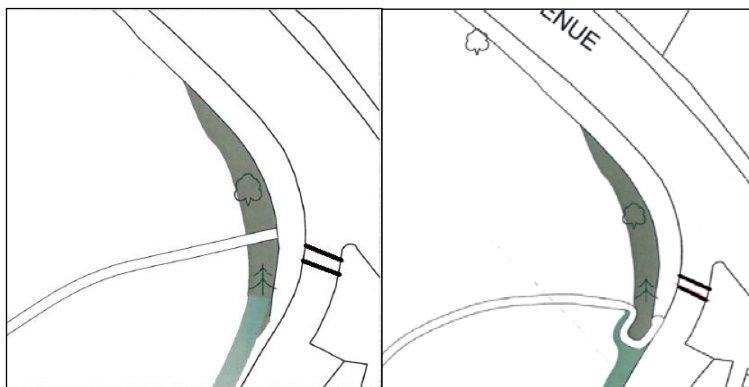
* Picnic on the Common: Following a successful picnic in August 2018, we are holding this event again this year on Friday 6th September, from 3pm to 5pm, on the Little Common by Highfield Road. There is parking for 2 hours in Omdurman Road. Do join us for some shared tea, games and a quiz.

If you would like to get involved with this group or attend any of our events, please contact one of the Co-Chairs: Katherine Barbour, kjbm37@gmail.com, 07763 863360; Erica Roberts, revericarob@gmail.com
--Katherine Barbour

Northern entrance to Little Common

HRA, Common Sense and SCAPPS, have just achieved a major victory in preventing an entirely inappropriate Council proposal to realign the north access route to the Little Common; near the Highfield Avenue/Lane/Road intersection. The council proposal is to create an S-bend path with embankment around a tree. HRA propose reinstating the original straight path; albeit keeping it further from the trees, so it aligns with the existing pedestrian road crossing.

HRA and Common Sense submitted the proposed plan, along with a Chartered Arboriculturist & Arboricultural Consultant report, to the Council under the Small Projects scheme and understood their recommendations had been accepted, so were completely taken aback when an alternative version, which would have made access more difficult, especially for wheelchair or perambulator



HRA supported proposal (Left), Council proposal (Right)

access, was about to be implemented without any prior consultation with the local community.

Historically this access, which had been in use for over a 100 years, had been directly opposite and more or less in a straight line from the northern part of Lovers Walk leading across to The Carriage Drive, another recent success having now been opened up for pedestrian use by the Common Sense volunteers. This entrance was blocked off with railway sleepers and realigned to

CommonSense
 Southampton Little Common

2nd Saturday of the month

Volunteers needed

Join the mailing list

<http://southamptoncommon.org/contact/maillinglist>



HRA would like to see the restoration of the original path shown above

its present off line position and dilapidated state.

HRA is grateful to Cllr John Savage for his support and intervention in having the Council scheme cancelled and for our proposed scheme to hopefully now be re-considered.

The HRA preferred solution is to align the existing road crossing (below) with the original straight path (above) for easy access to the common for all users.



Existing pedestrian crossing which would align with the original path

St Denys Repair Café

Tucked away near the railway line, is the St Denys Community Centre which houses the Repair Café from 10.30 am to 1 pm, every other month on the 3rd Saturday of the month. On a cold March morning, there I met Claire Pickering, the Co-ordinator, to learn of this fascinating place where broken items get fixed!

Claire had previously visited the Freemantle Repair Café, in existence for several years, and thought it amazing. Suddenly, she found herself organising the first Repair Café on this side of Southampton, which was trialled in May 2018. Although the



Eleanor Gough (Receptionist) and Claire Pickering (Co-ordinator)

opening clashed with the Royal Wedding and the FA Cup Final, 30 people attended that morning!

Based on the Freemantle model, it is well structured with a welcoming receptionist, Eleanor Gough, who asks customers to complete a 'Repair Log' form and issues a 'queue' number. When a repairer becomes available, she makes the introductions. In the interim, customers can avail themselves of the really scrumptious 'home made' cakes and drinks on sale. The cakes are mainly provided by the St Denys Day Service cooking group for people with learning disabilities.

The Repair Café has 26 volunteers which includes many highly skilled repairers who give their time and expertise for free. They specialise in electronics, computers, electrical, sewing, jewellery, clock and bike repairs.

There is an endless fund of repair work to do, such as clocks without chimes; zips to replace; broken laptops, radios, printers, bikes, lamps to repair; and beads to re-string. If something cannot be fixed on the day, advice is given on sourcing spare parts. Some products cannot be salvaged but at least a diagnosis can be made. The Repair Café has invested in several large boxes of tools, bike equipment and sewing machines. The St Denys Community Association charge a reduced rate for hall hire. To pay for this, they rely on donations from satisfied customers who leave money in a tin on the front desk as they depart. There is no compulsion, just the hope that happy customers will oblige. They usually do.

Customers return their forms to Eleanor on departure with their comments. By the end of the morning, over 50 forms had been

completed. It had been particularly busy with upcycling having prevented many more items from going into landfill, which can only be good for the planet.

--Nadine Johnson

HRA Summer BBQ tickets

Purchase online: <https://highfield.eventbrite.com>

Or complete the form below.

Non-Member (Adult) _____ X £12each

HRA Member (Adult) _____ X £5 each

HRA Member (Under 18's/Child) _____ X FREE

PRG Member (Adult) _____ X £5 each

PRG Member (Under 18's/Child) _____ X FREE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

HRA/PRG membership number: _____

I enclose a cheque for £.....:.....

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Martin Benning, 21 Leigh Road, Highfield, SO17 1EF.

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Highfield Residents' Association membership application form

I / We would like to join / renew membership of the HRA

Name(s) of adults _____

Email _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel No. _____

I give my positive consent for the HRA to use and store my personal data & to send me newsletters & other communications: **YES / NO**

I enclose my membership fee of £_____:_____ (£5:00/ household) and a voluntary donation of £_____:_____. Thank you.

The signatory of this form is responsible for signing on behalf of all individuals in the household who live at the above address.

Send to: Membership Secretary, 5 Marlborough House, 2A Oakmount Ave, SO17 1BX; or can be dropped into Highfield News.

Cheques should be made payable to **Highfield Residents' Association.**

Please do not send cash through the post.

HRA's Data Protection Policy: <http://highfieldresidents.org.uk/dpp19.pdf>

Signed _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____