



Highfield Residents' Association
Committee Note in lieu of July 2020 Committee Meeting

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/>

<facebook.com/Highfield-Residents-Association>

Chair's Comments:

When you read the following Committee Notes it will be apparent that although the HRA Committee is not meeting, that hasn't prevented positive support of our members this month.

The Summer Get-together and barbecue, pencilled in for Sunday 26 July at Portswood Residents' Gardens, will not go ahead at this time. It is hoped that a social of some kind of social can be organised later in the year if the Government gives the all clear for such events.

HRA do not normally hold a Committee Meeting in August so there will be no Committee Note until September unless urgent matters come to our attention.

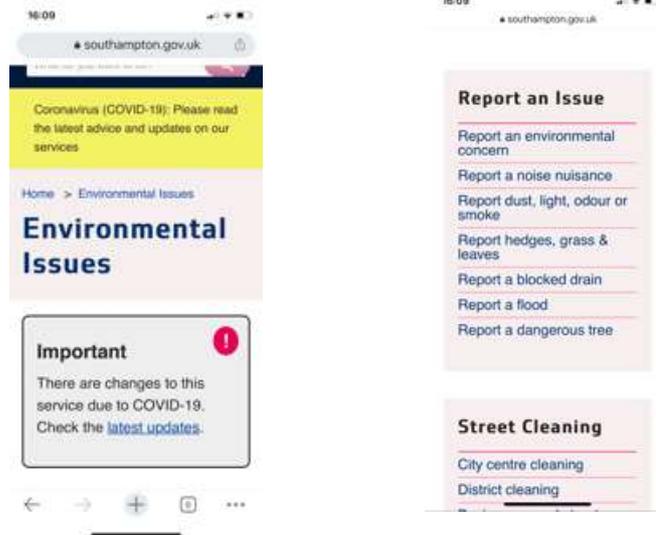
In the meanwhile, I would like to wish all HRA members a good couple of months, hopefully of fine weather and a gradual return to more normal times..

Roger Brown Acting Chair

Secretary's Update:

This has been an extremely busy month with many emails arriving in my inbox. I have replied to everyone listed below and this has sometimes resulted in further communications.

1. 15/06 advice request from an HRA member regarding HMO rubbish dumped on pavement
2. 15/06 a member sharing information 'Local Priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team':
<https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90244932/Neighbourhoods>
3. 21/06 HRA Sec copied in to an HRA member e-mail to local councillors reporting excessive litter, cars parked on double yellow lines and risk of fire from portable barbecues used and discarded on the Common (Omdurman Road, Highfield Road and Common in General)
4. 22/06 An HRA member asking if HRA had received any reported noise environmental issues concerning their property. Advised contact with the council through these pages on the Council website:



5. 22/06 Cllr Cooper sent HRA notice of Balfour Beatty works on the Hill Lane and Portswood Road experimental cycle lanes. This information was posted on HRA Social Media
6. 22/06 An HRA member asking us for advice on how to approach noisy neighbours while working from home – replied with the SCC Environmental Pages for reporting incidents (as above)
7. 23/06 copy from Simon Buston SCC to enquiry 3 above which was both swift, very helpful and positive

“Dear XX

Thank you for contacting Southampton City Council regarding the illegal parking on Omdurman and Highfield Roads and associated issues on the Common.

I have copied in Parking Services to make them aware of these issues as I do not manage this service.

Regarding the other issues you raise.

I will make the Street Cleansing team aware of the increased littering in Omdurman and Highfield Roads.

Portable barbeques are a real issue for us during the summer months. We have very clear guidance on our website about the use of barbeques, however many people choose to ignore this. The council has started to reintroduce enforcement officers, who will deal with littering and fly tipping. However, it is hoped that as the service expands they will be able to advise people about the safe use of barbeques as well.

Hope this update is of use

Kind Regards

Simon Buston, Operations Manager, Central District City Services, Southampton City Council”



8. 24/06 Jerry Gillen informing me he had received an HRA Consultee letter regarding a Planning Inspectorate Appeal in Highfield (15 Oakhurst Road 2 bed detached house). HRA objecting.
9. 24/06 (via Nadine) An HRA member asking for support regarding his complaint of speeding traffic in Westwood Road in that the road has become a rat run for motorists cutting through from The Avenue to Portswood with vehicles racing at speeds up to 60/70 mph. Secretary to write to Councillors (see 11. below) and Iain Steane, Transport Policy Team leader, Green City and Infrastructure SCC
10. 25/06 forwarded email from HRA Planning Committee Member from Angela Seymour. An HRA member had written seeking HRA support for objection to the Planning Inspectorate Appeal (8. above). Lengthy correspondence with the HRA member.
11. 26/06 Simon Buston reply to HRA Sec with the link to the page containing information on BBQs <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/parks-open-spaces/parks/parks-a-z/b-parks.aspx>

This has now been posted on HRA Social Media

12. 27/06 A second HRA member reporting excessive traffic and speeding on Winn and Westwood Road. Question was this exacerbated the temporary speed limit and cycle lane on the Avenue, it seems there has been a clear change. Stating that we should protect the city arteries as free-flowing routes and discourage traffic from residential areas (such as Highfield), whereas it would appear this scheme is achieving the opposite.
13. 29/06 Local residents (x 2 couples) but not HRA members, asking for support and advice (via Angela) for an HMO Planning Application objecting to a change of use of a family house into an HMO in Bassett Crescent East. Appeal 14 July (now deferred) As there is no longer a Residents' Association in Bassett, Jerry has site-visited and been advising on how best to prepare their case.
14. 29/06 to 10/07 Frequent and on-going contact from HRA members and some non-members giving, sharing and seeking information regarding their preparation of their objection case for their Planning Appeal Inspectorate replies regarding 15 Oakhurst Road (see 8. and 10. above)
15. 08/07 Enquiry from a Bassett resident seeking historical information about the name 'de Gruchy'. Passed to Nadine to ask the SEE Southampton Tourist Guides' contacts. There was an interesting reply:

"There are two schools of thought on who the Lane was named after:

- a) *Papermaking was one of the industries carried out by Huguenot refugees from France after arriving in England in the 17th century. In 1688, James II granted a charter to the Company of White Papermakers which at that time consisted of 15 members, 9 of whom were members of Huguenot families and 3 of whom - Adam de Cardonnel, Ellias de Grouchy and Claude Bordier, lived in the Southampton area. Ellias de Grouchy became Sheriff of Southampton and then Mayor of Southampton in 1682.*



b) *Francis de Grouchy (1870-1944) was a Philosopher who lived in Southampton.*

If anyone knows more please pass on to either Nadine or me!

16. 10/07 Jerry reported that on his usual 5K route around The Common that day, he had nearly been wiped out by an electric scooter, the first time he had actually seen one on The Common. The Secretary will therefore make contact with SCC to report this problem, hopefully before it becomes the norm.

Southampton City Council Coronavirus Residents' Survey.

HRA members are urged to complete this survey and make your views known. Follow the link below.

Information from the council website:

"In these unprecedented times, it is crucial that we keep connected with how the residents of Southampton are feeling about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It is important that we have a good understanding of how residents are interpreting guidance, how the pandemic is impacting on residents' lives, and the concerns that you may have during this time. This feedback will in turn help us to inform our local response.

In April we ran a couple of residents' surveys to understand how you were feeling early on in the lockdown. As measures are currently being eased, we would like to know a little more about how you are doing, and your priorities over the next few months.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this survey for us:"

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/council-democracy/have-your-say/coronavirus-survey.aspx>

It is a very comprehensive survey with opportunity to feedback your views on a range of current local topics.

Barbara Claridge Secretary



Councillors' Reports for HRA:

Active Travel

As you'll be aware a number of schemes have now been rolled out to increase walking and cycling in the wake of COVID-19. These schemes came about after government urged us as a council to take swift action. That is why these schemes have been done under emergency traffic orders rather than having a consultation first. That said you can feedback on the schemes as they are ongoing. The ones in and around Portswood are temporary at first for 6 months. You can feed by getting in touch with us as Councillors or emailing traffic.orderslegal@southampton.gov.uk

The Council have also been using the commonplace app. This is to feedback on schemes but also so that you can tell us where there are issues with social distancing or getting around on foot or by bike. You can do this through this link <https://southamptontravelmap.commonplace.is/comments>

Southampton Mutual Aid Thank You

I know that a number of you have volunteered as part of the Mutual Aid effort in Portswood and have been helping to deliver shopping and prescriptions to neighbours. We were very busy in the first months but as things start to die down a bit I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who has made sure that people in Portswood have been well supported. We have definitely been one of the groups with the most and most active volunteers even helping out other areas when they've needed it.

Councillor Lisa Mitchell

Labour Member for Portswood Ward

Planning:

The Planning Report for July 2020 is to follow

Angela Seymour (HRA Planning Rep)

University Liaison

Hello from the University of Southampton, I hope everyone is staying well.

Here is a brief over view of what is happening at the University, if anyone has any specific issues they would like to raise or questions they would like answered they can email me via j.k.walsh@soton.ac.uk or any issues regarding students in the community can be sent to local2u@soton.ac.uk

Campus re-opening

Our Campuses have started to slowly re-open for those who have to be on them, for example lab workers. Additionally it is our intention to welcome students back to the city from late September you can read a fuller statement on that from [our Vice Chancellor here](#)



End of year waste

The University co-ordinated with Solent University and the City Council to arrange additional collection around the end of contract point as it coincided with lockdown easing. Along with co-ordinated messages to students this should have helped alleviate the issue of end of year waste. Sadly, there was little to now recycling options available due the current crisis but hopefully by next June we will be in a position to encourage greater recycling of student household waste produced when they move out of a property.

Covid19 work

Mass testing pilot

As you may have seen on the news the University are working directly with the City Council and NHS in the city to assess mass testing feasibility. The saliva based we are trialling is non-invasive and allows collection of samples from entire households.

More information is available [here](#):

Vaccine trials

You may have seen on regional news that The University of Southampton is conducting clinical trials to support the University of Oxford's Jenner Institute in its attempts to develop a vaccine. More information on the first round is [available here](#)

Treatment trials

University Spinoff company Synairgen are expanding their trial into inhaled drugs as part of a treatment for those who contract Covi-19, to alleviate symptoms, [more information available here](#).

Additional Covid Related work

There are a huge number of Covid-19 related stories from the universities, for example Professor of clinical neuroanatomy Roxana Carare is leading a community-based sewing project to produce facemasks for those who work in supermarkets and pharmacies. You can find many of research and community [stories here](#).

Finally a community Swimming group based out of the Red Lodge pool group has contacted the University to see if we can support their attempt to purchase more time and whilst I am not in a position to give University support I did agree I would forward on their request to community groups there is more information available on their [crowdfunder page here](#):

Jon Walsh University Liaison

Finance Report:

HRA finances remain in a healthy position. There are few outgoings as we are not hiring meetings rooms etc. Membership renewals are still arriving. The reserve fund stands at its target level.

Martin Benning Treasurer



Membership Report:

Database	498
Paid Up Members	387
Rolling	231

Please remember to renew your membership when it is due

Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary

Report on Social Media

Website: we continue to copy 90-95% of all Facebook posts onto the website so non-users of Facebook can still follow us, although not always in real time.

Facebook: we currently have 473 followers, an increase of 13 since the previous Committee Note in June 2020. Please think of posts to send us for publishing!

WhatsApp crime reporting and SOS group: HRA has set up a WhatsApp group for reporting crime and SOS incidents across parts of Highfield. It is currently in the early stages and has 6 residents' groups represented and a further two groups are providing and receiving crime information, although not currently connected. The aim is to exchange information on incidents and suspicious happenings quickly and simply so that people in our local area have increased awareness and are more vigilant but, additionally, to facilitate the tracking of perpetrators of crime and contribute to witness reports across community group boundaries to inform the bigger picture.

The geographical area initially being covered stretches from Blenheim Avenue through to The Avenue Campus, Highfield Lane (the whole Lane), to Church Lane/Welbeck Avenue and any offshoot roads in between. It is hoped to expand the area at a later date. Anyone who wishes to join the group, including anyone in Highfield who is outside the current geographical area, please contact Nadine Johnson who is setting it up with a view to it ultimately being self-running.

Nadine Johnson Social Media



Any Other Business

Please mail back Any Other Business, comments or local news of interest to Committee Members and it will be included in the next *Committee Notes* planned for September 2020.

Barbara Claridge Secretary

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