



Highfield Residents' Association Highfield crime information sharing WhatsApp group

Terms of Use

1. General

1.1. This Group was set up by Highfield Residents' Association (HRA) for members to share information on crime and anti-social behaviour incidents across community group boundaries in Highfield, in order to raise awareness, encourage greater vigilance, increase reporting and reduce crime.

1.2. The Group is not a substitute for reporting crime.

Members should not take the law into their own hands and should always report any crime incidents through the established police channels, so that the police can build up evidence of significant anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, ascertain any hotspots and direct or increase their patrols accordingly. See *Crime Info Group* web page on how to submit an online police report and other information: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-info-whatsapp-group/>

1.3. We request that members:

- are polite and respectful of each other, including HRA and the police,
- do not use misleading or false information,
- do not make defamatory statements about a person, organisation or other,
- keep WhatsApp Group posts professional and factual at all times,
- keep within the law.

The Association is non-political, non-sectarian and non-discriminatory and all posts should adhere to this.

1.4. Members are entirely responsible for their own postings.

2. Membership

Members should normally be representatives of local road groups, community or area groups.

Individuals not representing a group can be admitted if they have specialist knowledge which could be of benefit to the Group or for other exceptional reasons.

Admission will be determined by HRA. To enquire about joining, email: highfieldracomms@gmail.com

3. Management

The Group is managed by HRA Committee Member - Nadine Johnson, who reports to the Chair of HRA.

4. Third Party Information

From time to time, HRA may provide information derived from third parties. These are posted in good faith and offered for the benefit and interest of members. Care is taken to select appropriately from trusted sources but it is not possible to check all the details for accuracy and completeness. Any enquiries about third party posts should be made to the contacts embedded within the posts.

5. Privacy and Data Protection

5.1. Members' data

HRA takes all appropriate security measures to ensure that members' data is protected and secured in accordance with the latest data protection legislation, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR).

HRA's Data Protection Policy is designed to protect members' personal data held by HRA. Members are asked to read this Policy carefully. See Policy here: <http://highfieldresidents.org.uk/dpp19.pdf>

Members should not share the personal data of other members outside of the Group unless permitted to do so by individual members. This includes existing viewable data such as names, mobile phone numbers, photos and any other personal data that is posted or listed within the Group.

Members should not use other Group members' personal details to make personal contact with them, unless permission is granted by the individual member(s).

5.2. Data posting and sharing, including photos, images and CCTV footage

5.2.1. Members should not post any photos, images or CCTV footage taken of suspects or any other person, whether the persons are suspected of being involved in a crime or not. Under Data Protection legislation, clear consent is required. Additionally, if the image/CCTV footage is associated with an alleged crime and/or criminal accusations are made and it is shared in other WhatsApp Groups or on other platforms, this could lead to a legal challenge by the persons concerned and HRA's reputation could be compromised.

Posting images/CCTV footage of a suspect can also cause problems with ID evidence and the prosecution process later on. For example, when a witness makes an ID in a line up, the defence will have been told how many other times the witness may have had access to an image of the 'offender' and, if the witness makes a positive ID, it will be argued that this was down to them seeing images that swayed them into choosing that person, rather than from their own recall. This could involve HRA in any relevant Court case that might arise.

Photos/images/CCTV footage of suspects should be given to the police.

Only photos, images and CCTV footage of suspects and people in general that have been published by the police may be posted in the Group.

5.2.2. Photos, images and CCTV footage that do not involve people, such as external shots of premises, can continue to be posted in the Group. However, to comply with data protection laws, members who do not own the image/CCTV footage must first obtain the permission of the owner before posting it.

Comments on the images/CCTV footage must be purely factual, for example: “a shop window is broken” but not “someone’s smashed this shop window causing criminal damage”.

In the event that HRA or the Group are challenged, we - HRA and the Group - will not indemnify the person(s) who took the photo/image and/or video(s).

5.2.3. All crimes have a legal defence and, even if it appears obvious, no assumptions should be made when giving descriptions of a suspect. All descriptions should therefore be given without accusations such as: “this man was breaking into my car”. Instead, the description should be written merely as a suspicion, such as: “**it looked like** this man was breaking into my car “

5.2.4. Assumptions of guilt by association should be avoided. This could be potentially libellous.

5.2.5. The names of suspected individuals and organisations should never be posted, either directly or indirectly. This could lay the Group open to accusations of libel.

5.2.6. Members should not post any address details other than street or road names; the names of the town or city and the areas therein and, if relevant, the country.

6. Signing up to the Terms of Use

All those joining the Group for the first time should sign, date and print their name on the form overleaf to indicate that they agree to abide by the Terms of Use for the HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield, and return the whole document to HRA.

All members of the Group who have already signed a Terms of Use, will be deemed as having consented to any updated Terms of Use that are subsequently posted in the Group.

7. Non compliance

HRA reserves the right to remove from membership of the Group anyone who does not adhere to the above.

A link to these Terms of Use is found here: <https://highfieldresidents.org.uk/whatsapp-terms-of-use.pdf>

If you have any questions on the above, please contact HRA on email: highfieldracomms@gmail.com .

HRA will keep the Terms of Use under review.

For those joining the Group for the first time

Could you please sign, date and print your name below, to indicate that you agree to abide by the Terms of Use for the HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield, and **return the whole document** to: Nadine Johnson, email: highfieldracomms@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Signature:

Print name:

Date: