

Draft Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 11th August 2014
Welbeck Avenue

Present Roger Brown, Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Simon Hill, Stephen Connolly, Chris Klewe, Nadine Johnson, Bryan Wakely, Alison Shelley.

Attending Adrian Vinson.

Apologies John Bradshaw, Councillor Matthew Claisse, Councillor Linda Norris, Councillor Paul O'Neill, Nicolla Martin, Keith Reed, Headley Rossell.

1. Welcome Roger Brown welcomed the members present and thanked Alison Shelley for hosting the meeting.
2. Julia Brooking
Roger Brown and Jerry Gillen paid tribute to the support and work that Julia had given to HRA both as a member and later as Vice Chair. It was agreed that HRA should contribute £100 to the Charity chosen by Julia's relatives. Caroline Knight would be asked to include an article in the next newsletter.
3. Proposed development of Highfield House Hotel.
The Chair outlined the proposal for consultation put out by Galliard, the owners of the Hotel.

Demolish the bulk of the hotel building leaving Ceno's restaurant and build 144 student rooms with cooking and bathroom facilities in a three storey quad shaped building with a central courtyard. The foot print of the new development would be within the present site, but there would be little parking available. The development was likely to take about 4 years.

There was substantial discussion from members present with the main points being:-

The hotel was trading with a good profit margin and its loss would be a substantial blow to the local Community. There is no other local hotel within easy walking distance of the University.

The proposal was a private venture not associated with the University which might well result in poor management.

Highfield already has an excess of student accommodation.

The development would adversely affect other existing local building.

The lack of parking would create extra traffic problems, particularly when students came and went for each term.

Overall this proposal was considered to be the wrong building in the wrong place.

It was agreed that the Chair would write to the developers with a view to inviting them to reconsider the entire scheme.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.