



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9th March 2009
at Highfield House Hotel

Present: Jerry Gillen- Chair, Sue Hartley – Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, - Bryan Wakely, Josie Brown, Adrian Vinson, Peggy Augier, Steve Connolly, and Allison Shelly

Apologies:, Headley Rossell, Nicolla Martin ,Gillian Gain, Catherine Powell, Julia Brooking, Roret Blue, Cllr. Vincenzo Capozzoli, Simon Hill, Andy Pickles and Jill Baston

In Attendance: -, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Jeremy Moulton, Nick Bacon, Matt Martin - University Liaison, Peter Knight, Jackie Barnes and Matthew Claisse,

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

Matters Arising & not on the Agenda:

- Jerry expressed thanks to Nicolla for the minutes of the last meeting.
- Page 3 - Jerry asked that the planning report be presented in column format.
CK to email template to AV
- Page 3 – 1-2 Bowden Lane are on the same side of the road.
- AOB- there are no formal proposals as yet for more University accommodation. It might be in the strategic planning stage and the notion is to increase the density on existing sites.
- Highfield Lane – there are 5 lights not working 3 of which are on islands and 2 crossing lights are not working. The work on the islands is scheduled to be redone by the company who did the original work at their own expense.
- There was discussion re the safety of the build outs as it is considered that they are potentially dangerous.

Correspondence

As list

University Matters:

Matt Martin

Neighbourhood News will be out in mid April. Matt has visited the house in Highfield Lane with rubbish in the garden and the collapsed wall. He did speak to the occupants who confirmed that they have been trying to contact the landlord re the wall. At the time of his visit there was only one plastic bag of rubbish in the garden.

The Student union elections have taken place and the new president for the next year is Steve O'Reilly.

JG expressed concern at a possible change of viewpoint of the SU re HMOs – this is a matter of concern as there is a meeting at the Civic Centre next week. **JG** to contact Alex to discuss.

There was an incident last week with several students making their way to The Cube chanting obscene songs. It was too early in the evening for the marshalls to be on duty.

Matt commented on the advert in the Newsletter for the water sports facilities at the University and reminded us that there are a lot of other University facilities that are available to local residents.

Common Sense

JG paid compliments to the Hawthorns Team for the work that has been done so far and suggested that HRA might be in a position to offer some financial support. There were concerns raised that the area opposite The Avenue Campus is still scruffy. Some residents of Highfield Road have expressed an interest in becoming part of a conservation area.

Membership

Database 631 households. Paid up membership for 2008 remains at 491 households.

Jerry had two new membership applications.

Finance:

Headley reported the finances are healthy. Sue also had confirmation that we have been awarded a second grant from the Grass Roots Funding.

Planning:

- AV's report as circulated - plus:
- The Planning Sub- Committee has had a virtual meeting.
- There have been no requests for objection to any of the applications on the first page of the list.
- 37 Blenheim Ave- CK to find out if OTRA are to make a formal objection and if they would like HRA to support.
- 33 Highfield Lane- application to build a three bedroom house on land at rear.
- 12 Highfield close – side and rear extension.
- 4 Richmond Gardens- application to remove bay and build at front.
- 28 Brookvale Road- application rejected and enforcement now in progress.
- 12 Russell place – appeal dismissed.
- Objections to 7 Furzedown Road.
- Sainsbury's have sent details of their alterations to plan. No problems with this.
- Matthew Dean was asked to formally request a public enquiry for 28 Brookvale and ask that the issues are heard jointly. This might not be possible. **JG** to formally email MD to request. Although this is an unauthorised conversion there is still advertising and new people are moving in. Has the letting agency a duty of care to tenants? Matthew said that there has been a course held for estate agents to appraise them of their legal responsibilities to tenants and there will be one for letting agents. Unfortunately there are no legal regulations applying to letting agents.
- Granby Grove - there is another family home that has been sold to a landlord and is being extended but it would appear that the extensions are within permitted development rights. Unfortunately the new rules governing this create a problem that the Government doesn't recognise as a problem.
- Portwood Residents' Gardens thanked HRA for support over 28 Brookvale. 12 Russell Place - they are still building a garage and have not demolished the original garage.
- The objection to the application by Bargain Booze was ruled inadmissible as AV does not live in the vicinity and did not state names and addresses of

individual objectors. The law states that an organisation can register a corporate objection but that the applicant needs to know who the objectors are. We will ask Sarah Clover to clarify this for us and **SH** will email to ask her to prepare an answer for the AGM Licensing

- There was discussion concerning whether it is necessary for committee members names and addresses to be given when HRA objects as an organisation. The understanding is that if a person living in the vicinity objects then an organisation can object in support of that resident and does not have to list members individually.
- Adrian is to be named the Planning *and* Licensing Officer for HRA

Newsletter

The Newsletter is being distributed. The format of this issue is slightly different as there is less emphasis on local interest and a greater emphasis on news. We would welcome feedback. Gillian is standing down as editor but is still willing to submit articles for inclusion. Jerry has asked Philip Hoare to submit a piece for the next issue. We have received Grass Roots Funding for the next two issues in addition to the current one.

Website: Tony is re-building the website and when it is finished he will just move the whole thing across. A new section has been created for publishing the planning list and also for putting the agenda up.

NORA

The NORA AGM was a worthwhile journey as there is a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be accessed. NORA represents a large number of people and is a voice to be heard and a force to be reckoned with.

Jerry showed the committee a copy of the Jesmond Newsletter. They have managed to fund paid overtime for the police to man the streets at the time that anti-social behaviour and disturbance. It is unlikely that we could do the same as Hampshire constabulary are laying off officers but it might be possible to fund PCSOs. It would be helpful if the Students' Union were able to help with funding.

Our organisation has been helpful to the knowledge and experience base of NORA with details of our two successful appeals. **SH** is sending details to put onto the NORA website.

Neighbourhood Panel Feedback

This was a Police initiative. Sue and Adrian attended. It was an interesting meeting although not very well attended by community representatives. Statistics show that

the number of assaults has risen and that it is mainly children on their way home from school and this is considered less serious because of the time of day that it takes place which is between 2-4 pm. The police were asked to supply a map of the hotspots of offending.

AGM Prep

There will be no ordinary committee meeting in April because of the AGM. The speakers have been booked into Highfield House Hotel for the night and will be taken to dinner at Ceno's prior to the meeting. Jerry will not be presenting an annual report as it was included in the newsletter. Volunteers were sought to man the doors and collect membership fees. Josie and Peggy volunteered to assist Nicolla. Invitations will be issued to the Chairs of neighbouring RAs.

Luncheon Club

Jerry has proposed a luncheon club to meet on a monthly basis to offer reasonably priced meals and a social function for residents. He asked Jamie to price a menu.

Summer Event

It is suggested that a Hog Roast would be a good idea for early September. Bryan will seek costing for this. **CK** will email the contact details.

Christmas Party

12th December is the preferred date but the Church Hall is not available. Provisionally book the Pavilion prior to Phil taking a look to see if it is suitable.

Any Other Business

- Roselands Gardens – the road marking and lighting have been done.
- Nick Bacon thanked Vincenzo and the current administration for assistance over the residents' parking scheme. Thanks were also expressed to all the councillors who helped with this project.
- There is an exhibition at the Oceanography Dept, Dock Gate Four, on Saturday 10.30 – 4.00 pm.
- Matthew Dean has spoken to the MD of Orchard homes re the Wickes site. The original social housing group has withdrawn and a local group are in talks re taking over. Matthew has received an assurance that there will be no cutting of quality and that work should start at the beginning of next year.

- There is to be an initiative re fly boarding by estate and letting agents. The first step is to write to all agents. Best practice from the rest of the country will be used and the initiative will start in Highfield, Portswood and The Polygon.
- Paul Nichols has been standing in as acting Head of Planning and has now agreed to take the position permanently.
- MD has also looked at the house in Highfield Lane but thinks that there is little that can be done.
- Vincenzo has spoken to Lin Hand about the rough sleeper and she thinks that legal action could be taken.

The meeting finished at 9.35.