



**Highfield Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009**  
**at Highfield House Hotel**

**Present** Jerry Gillen- Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Adrian Vinson, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Josie Brown, Rafeal Persaud, Alison Shelly, Peggy Augier and Roret Blue.

**Apologies** Headley Rossell

**Attending** James Cox (EBRA), Stephen O'Reilly (PRES SU), Peter Knight (SFRA), Matt Martin (Uni), Cllr Vincenzo Capozolli, Sarah, Mitesh and Bhavini Patel, Amy Powell (Uni Student) and Jenny Arnold (PRG).

**Minutes of the last meeting** agreed with the alteration that it is Don not Derek Nutbeam.

**Matters Arising** none.

**Correspondence**

- We have registered a formal complaint re the handling of the appeal on 28a Brookvale Road.
- The Planning Dept. is holding a Customer Open Day on 13<sup>th</sup> November from 11am – 2.30pm.
- Licensing- we have received a letter from our barrister expressing dissatisfaction with the way we are being treated.

**Children's Party**

Allison reported that the arrangements are going well and tickets are selling. No additional help is required on the day.

## **University Liaison**

### **Matt**

- Neighbourhood News is due out next week. - please let Matt know if you don't receive a copy.
- There is to be a Community Liaison meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December in Science Services Building which is opposite the Sports Centre.

### **Steve**

Steve informed the meeting the Students' Union will be withdrawing their appeal for a 3.00 AM liquor License with a view to reapplying sometime in the future. He acknowledged that there is work to do with local Residents' Associations and if a causal link is proved they will have to work to try to reduce nuisance. Jerry expressed gratitude for this. Adrian shares James' concern re the annual aggravation and also concern that at present the appeal is still in play and also that the letter from the magistrates was a copy of the letter from the Council referring to the appeal. He will seek formal notification. There is also concern that the magistrates have not acknowledged the appeal sent in by James, on behalf of EBRA, and Adrian. Adrian was disappointed when he rang to make enquiries there was a very complex phone system and when he did get hold of a member of staff they didn't seem to understand the responsibilities of the dept. HRA and EBRA to have a meeting in private to discuss the way forward.

Jerry drew everyone's attention to the email he circulated with a link to a film on YouTube re HMOs in Swansea.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Caroline has drafted a short statement re equal opportunities which the committee approved.

*We confirm that our organisation does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status. We are non-political, non-discriminatory and committed to be welcoming to any member who shares our aims and objectives.*

This will be added to the Constitution at the next meeting which will be designated a Special General Meeting.

## **Membership**

There are 513 paid up households at present.

**Finance** Finances are healthy.

## **Planning**

Report as circulated.

- A complaint has been lodged re the council's handling of 28a. The response received misses the point of the complaint. Adrian was told by Gateway that the file would be available to view but when he went to the offices he was told he needed to give 48 hours notice. The file was disorganised and only one of the documents of interest was found. There was no copy of the recent Council statement and no-one was able to provide this.
- The hearing went well but at the end of the hearing Anne Greaves the Council's senior legal officer in planning appeared hostile and reluctant to discuss the next appeal. Jerry was told it was the council's case and more or less that it was none of our business. The Council has instructed Sarah Clover. Adrian wrote to ask that we be joined in under rule 6. This is at the discretion of the Planning Inspector and was rejected as it is only usually done for large organisations or major planning applications.

There have been three objections lodged

- 95 Welbeck- garage conversion
  - 14 Westwood- major redevelopment
  - 51 Heatherdene - retrospective application for a fitness suite in an HMO
  - 62 Sirdar- withdrawn
  - Dr Jenkins has bought the house next door to the Dykes and will be submitting a planning application.
  - Mr Patel- has applied for a change of use for 28 University Road to become a pharmacy. He presented a handout to the meeting and his website can be viewed at [www.thegrovepharmacy.co.uk](http://www.thegrovepharmacy.co.uk)
- . The committee wished him luck with his new venture.
- It would appear that the Local Constabulary does not see written objections to appeals. It would be a good idea to take these objections to the Neighbourhood Panel meetings. The Police have said that they will take details of people they stop in relation to anti-social behaviour.

## **Newsletter**

The newsletter has been printed and has gone to Tudor for distribution in the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Website**

Due to pressure of work Tony has still not managed to do much work on the website. Jerry was advised that when people stop him in the street with comments about the

website that he should encourage them to email in so that specific enquiries can be addressed.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Ceno's is booked for our Christmas Dinner for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Nicolla will collect the money which is £25 per head and £5 float per person.

### **AOB**

- There is to be a meeting with NORA- date tbc.
- We have been given a licence to have our own map.
- Elly Wong has advised of a grant from Safer and Stronger Communities Fund.
- It was suggested that we could apply for this to follow the Newcastle scheme for obtaining additional Police cover by paying for overtime. Sue, Matt and James have volunteered to join Jerry on a sub group committee to look into this. Jerry has spoken to Tony Rowlinson, who is the senior officer for Portswood, and he will convene a meeting with Charlie Perrin of the Council's ASB Team. It could be a major step in dealing with noise and nuisance but it would be imperative to have the University and the SU on board. At present we do not know the likely cost of such an enterprise but we know we can apply for up to £40,000. We could put it forward as a pilot project. Historically the University has said that they were willing to give funds for a marshalling project so it is possible that they might be able to assist. James said that there would need to be an action plan, clear terms of reference and input from the University.
- There is to be a production of A Day in the Life of Joe Egg on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November in the Nuffield annex.
- Adrian will send the information re 14 Westwood Road to Peter Knight for the Federation Meeting.
- All relevant information should be taken to the Neighbourhood Panel Meetings. The main areas of concern seem to be: street drinking, parking on double yellow lines and rowdy behaviour. Concern has been expressed about the recent attempted abduction.
- The question of how members contact us was raised. Contact details are on the welcome letters and we can be contacted via the website.

The meeting closed at 9.10

The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> December