

Approved Minutes of Committee Meeting
Held on 10th March 2014
Highfield House Hotel

- Present Jerry Gillen, Nicolla Martin, Headley Rossell, Nadine Johnson, Stephen Connelly, Bryan Wakely, Chris Klewe, John Bradshaw
- Attending Councillor Adrian Vinson, Councillor Matthew Claisse, Jacky Barnes PRG, Roret Blue USA, Tom O'Connor PRG, Nick Bacon, David Gilani VP SU.
- Apologies Roger Brown Jill Baston, Councillor Linda Norris, Julia Brooking, Keith Reed, Alison Shelley, Simon Hill Caroline Knight, Claire Gilbert VP SU

1. Welcome and apologies
The committee welcomed Tom O'Connor, Trustee of PRGT
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising
Jerry Gillen confirmed that he had not as yet received a reply to his last letter to Councillor Letts.
4. Building Bridges Project
Jerry Gillen reaffirmed that this was a project between HRA and the Southampton University Students Union, (SUSU), with the aim of improving communications between them and local residents. Its main focus would be on improving personal safety, security of properties, the reduction of various nuisances such as litter and noise and a general cooperation between local residents and students. A grant had been obtained to cover additional costs. The project would be launched at a reception on 26th March at 7.00pm in the Bridge Bar to which all committee members are invited.

The treasurer was asked to consider the likely cost of two joint events with SUSU and the costs of the personal alarms that would be presented to local students.

The committee were asked to consider and choose from a selection of logo's for the project.

The committee were joined by the SUSU president who gave an account of the effort they were making to help students, especially in their first year at University.

He explained that new students rarely new their rights when it came to renting accommodation and agreed that the plethora of letting signs around the area was detracting from the environment. **David Gilani agreed to send details of**

the SU survey of Landlords and Letting Agents which included a league table of his members experiences. He would also forward a 'link' which we might also be able to access.

5. Little Common

Jerry Gillen reported that substantial clearance work has been carried out in preparation for the council grass cutters to work on the area

6. AGM

This would be held on Thursday 24th April 2014 and have the same general format as last year.

The committee were asked to come up with questions that could be put to the Panel members. Likely areas to be covered would include Council policy on HMO's, any plans the university had for expansion and student accommodation and halls of residence and how the police are dealing with the present level of crime in the area.

This would be followed by refreshments.

7. Reports

Planning Jerry Gillen reported on his discussion with Councillor Shields about HMO's. and felt that the Council were looking to increase their number to above 10%. In the discussion that followed, Cllrs Vinson and Claisse both supported the 10% limit on HMO's and said there was no evidence that more were needed. There seemed to be a lack of substantive data on the the actual number of HMO's in Southampton with estimates ranging from 7 to 12,000. It was suggested that we consider supporting a survey to obtain the facts.

Various local planning applications and appeals were considered and discussed.

Following meetings with all our local MPs, our views on the lack of adequate Enforcement measures available to Local Authorities and the possible introduction of Stop Orders campaign has been passed on to Government Ministers by our local MP's.

Finance The treasurer said that these were healthy and that the grant of £9,600 had been transferred and is all allocated to the various projects approved.

Membership Nicolla Martin gave membership numbers in the usual format

Data base records	560
Paid up total	438
Rolling paidup	68

8. AOB

The matter of traffic congestion in Portswood was raised again and that the traffic lights need rephrasing.

9. Reserved business
There was no reserved business

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm