



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 10th October 2011
At Highfield House Hotel.

Present: Jerry Gillen - Chairman: Sue Hartley - Vice Chairman: Headley Rossell - Treasurer: Nicolla Martin: Roret Blue: Steve Connolly: Keith Reed: Bryan Wakely: Peggy Augier and Alison Shelly.

Attending: Cllr. Matthew Claisse: Jenny Arnold: Martin Moore, EBRA: Sandra Lochhead, Chairman Portswood Central RA: Helen Kemble PCSO: Laila Ridley: Pamela Sobkowiak: Simon Hill: Sophie Ghatreh and Kayleigh Kent (Journalism) Southampton Solent University.

Apologies: Nadine Johnson: Caroline Knight, Secretary: Frankie Fry, SU Officer: Julia Brooking: Jo Sage: Derek Willis, Cllr. Adrian Vinson and Cllr. Vincenzo Capozzoli.

Minutes of the September meeting: Taken as read and accepted by Sue Hartley and Alison Shelly.

Matters arising:

- The licensing seminar being held in Birmingham, in November, will **not** now be attended by the Chairman, as it is a 3-day event and will be too expensive.
- Still awaiting a written piece from PC Andy Alderson / Mark Lewis for the next newsletter.

Correspondence: Covered in the report.

SU & University Liaison:

Jerry, Sue and Caroline are due to meet Tessa Harrison the new Head Registrar on Tuesday 1st November.

Important contact:

To report problems the SU liaison officer advises the following:

CONTACT DUTY MANAGER. E-mail: dutymanager@susu.org Mobile phone: **07412 068 331**

<u>Membership:</u>	Rolling paid up membership, January – October	402
	Overall paid up membership, including Nov + Dec	517
	Database remains at	633

Finance:

The Association's finances are healthy. There have been two lots of professional fees paid. The next newsletter does not have any sponsor.

Planning & Licensing:

- Report as circulated.

HMO consultation:

Jerry's update on the meeting with the Council.

1. There is to be a citywide threshold.
2. Those Wards already suffering from high concentrations of HMOs will be declared areas of restraint and allotted a threshold of 15%. As these already far exceed that figure, it should in effect mean protection from any more.
3. Those wards / areas were identified as Bargate, Freemantle, Bevois, Portswood, Swaythling, Highfield and Bassett.
4. For the rest of the city there would be a threshold of between 20 and 30%! I tried hard to obtain a uniform figure across the city but Planning and Housing would not accept this, saying there would be an increased demand for this type of housing and they have to go somewhere. Nevertheless, I am hopeful we may finally settle on no more than 20%.

5. The SPD would say for any Planning application there could not be a new HMO within a 50-metre radius of an existing one.
6. The issue of parking for an HMO will be covered by the new parking policy and should control the number of cars allowed for any individual property or incur a planning refusal.
7. The new SPD should be published in the next couple of weeks and will be subject to further formal consultation.
8. Needless to say, the Landlords were completely opposed and have said they intend to challenge both the A4D and the new SPD. The best that can be said of the University and Student Union was that they were ambivalent.
 - There will be a further meeting with the Council in the coming weeks. All the above is subject to the current and on going consultation and were just some of the matters discussed.
 - Consultation with the University and the Students' Union Halls of residence over previous undertakings not to hold additional late night activities, or attract outside business. The Halls now come under the Students' Union and not the University.
 - It was confirmed that to remove the front gardens for parking area, must be of permeable material.
 - 34, Oakmount Avenue's tree is protected.
 - Landlords with neglected properties can be reported to the Planning enforcement officer.
 - Council believe approximately 400 people on benefit allowances may need to move to HMOs.
 - Cllr. Claisse advised the University wished to build 1,000 purpose build places for students within a 5-mile radius, which could be as close as Eastleigh. A developer would not produce cluster accommodation such as Bolderwood.

Southampton Solent University, department of Journalism:

Sophie Ghatreh and Kayleigh Kent, both come from Cornwall. They have been given Portswood area to research. The Solent University produces a fortnightly paper called, Solent Splash University newspaper, one can purchase for £1.00 at any bookshop. The articles Sophie and Kayleigh produce, count towards their degrees. It was suggested when Caroline returns from leave, perhaps the three of them could arrange a meeting to discuss a possible involvement with the Association's newsletter.

Newsletter:

The autumn newsletter is at the printers now, producing the draft. It will be delivered during the week starting 7th November, which is a month before the Childrens' Christmas Party. The advert for the winter event being held in March must be included.

Common Sense:

Simon had attended the City partnership meeting where there were about 100 people and he said that he really did not get the full picture of it. There were eight themes, business and organisation, greening Southampton etc., he was not able to speak to anyone, as it was so crowded.

It has been confirmed that to remove the hedgerow along the Avenue Campus, formal Planning permission is required. One needs a form from the Planning department if the hedge is less than 30 years old, which it clearly is less. Permission can take over a month, which means the contractor that has been booked for the 12th November will have to be postponed and Mr. Dyer Slade notified, as he will have to block off the parking spaces and re-arrange the bus service and traffic. Cllr. Claisse said that he and Cllr. Capozzoli would do what they could, to help.

Web site:

James Hughes, the web designer, has the site up and running. The minutes from our monthly meetings, once approved, are recorded. The childrens' Christmas party is on the website. Mr. Hughes's fees are £10.00 a month and include hosting. The site will become interactive too.

Winter Event:

Gandhi, 211 Portswood Road, is the venue for the Associations' winter event to be held on Wednesday, 7th March 2012. The event will be included in the next newsletter. Maximum of 80 tickets to be sold at £10.00 per ticket. There will be a cash bar. No children under 16 years. Nicolla has offered to sell the tickets. Bryan to confirm the date with Gandhis.

Committee event

Jerry has arranged for this event, with partners, to be held at Mangos for a Thai Tapas with wine tasting. The meal is to be a decent, as in amount of tapas. Cost £20.00 per person. To be held on Tuesday, 29th November 2011. 26 Tickets available from Nicolla.

Childrens' Christmas party:

This popular event will be held at Portswood School, 3rd December, 2 – 5pm. Cost £5.00 for members and £7.00 non-members, Father Christmas, party games etc., Alison has everything well organised. Tickets from Phil and Sarah.

Any other business:

- Sue reminded everyone present that she and Jerry (Chairman and Vice Chairman) were working out their notice and hopefully someone will come forward by the AGM, which is usually held in April to fill these positions.
- PCSO Helen Kemble confirmed that the drug trafficking round Roseland Gardens had stopped as several groups had now become involved.
- Jenny Arnold confirmed that Portswood Residents' Gardens were officially a Conservation area and has produced an Appraisal and Management Plan.
- Alison raised the issue, of the lack of manners and consideration by some students whilst walking up Welbeck Avenue towards the University, whilst parents and children were on the pavement often forcing them into the wall or off the pavement. She also reminded everyone that the University held a market day on Mondays outside the Cube. It is very good and open to the public.
- Peggy said that the burglaries and car break-ins were on the increase and that she telephoned the University to advise the students not to leave their laptops and computers on show, to draw the curtains. The pathway beside the school was the popular route.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting Monday 14th November, 7.30pm, at same venue.