



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th February 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen- Chair, Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell - Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Adrian Vinson, Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier, Roret Blue and Julia Brooking

Apologies Peter Knight, Andy Pickles, Rafeal Persaud and Allison Shelly

Attending Jean Wawman (EBRA) Steve Wilcox (EBRA), Matt Martin (Uni), Graham Linecar, Common Sense, Jackie Barnes (PRG) and Charlie Perrin (SCC Safer Communities Team)

Minutes of the last meeting agreed - proposed by Steve and seconded by Roret.

Matters Arising 38 Granby Grove-. Adrian said an objection was lodged, though he felt that the case was not strong

Correspondence

- We have received a letter from HIWCF (Grass Roots) requesting a £50 donation- the Government will match fund what they raise. We have received grants from this group.
- There has been considerable correspondence with Andy Pickles but following a meeting with Jerry the matter has now been resolved.

University Liaison

Matt

- It has been a quiet time for complaints- there has been noise reported in Sirdar Road and also at a bus stop in Welbeck Ave.
- The Neighbourhood News will be out soon.
- Matt will chase up a short piece about the new VC for our newsletter.
- There has been another Operation Batcombe.

- Jerry thanked Matt, Steve O'Reilly, EBRA and the local Police for helping to put together the bid for additional policing. This was unsuccessful but there may be another route that can be tried.

Charlie Perrin

Charlie is part of the Safer Communities Team and in that role addresses the problem of rowdy behaviour. She met with a group from EBRA to address behaviour of students going to and from Halls of Residence. Charlie was involved with setting up Operation Batcombe as part of the commitment to multi-agency patrols along with Sophie Evans, local beat officers, city Patrol. This gives a high visibility presence on the streets late at night. Enforcement action can be taken if necessary and warning letters will be sent to anyone found misbehaving. However residents feel that stronger action is needed to act as a deterrent. On the last O B people were found urinating in the streets and carrying alcohol in the streets as well as being drunk and disorderly. As there were no arrests the report of the operation would not be useful in proving the disturbances at any future licensing hearings. If there were arrests for these offences then it would serve as a deterrent.

Taxis and night buses are causing a noise problem outside Halls of Residence and the OB Team were able to witness this.

OB will take place on key dates for events at the University and will cover Highfield, Polygon and Glen Eyre. The aim is to keep students safe as well as it has been demonstrated that students are 2^{1/2} times more likely to be victims than non students. The police will continue to work with the marshalling scheme.

It was also felt that there should be wider representation on the Neighbourhood Panel and there might be merit in combining the smaller groups into a larger one.

Concern was expressed for the number of flyers handed out on University premises and fly posted advertising cheap drink. Charlie will speak to The Cube about this. There is a Tackling Alcohol Partnership who have a project to address this problem. There is an ICE (in case of emergency) Bus that helps young people in trouble. Charlie works with 6th Form colleges to highlight the alcohol problem.

Although the bid for additional policing failed Lottery Funding might be available.

University Community Grant

Common Sense was awarded the grant of £500 that they applied for. It will be used to clear the space opposite the Avenue Campus - perhaps to make a space for young children and also a sitting area. Headley would like to be involved with the financial side of this. Students will be helping with the work and Graham will be liaising with the Common Management. Ideally the work will commence before the end of winter.

Thanks were expressed to Matt and Kate Thorpe for their help in preparing the bid.

Provisional dates for working parties are:

- Wednesday 24th Feb - pm
- Saturday 6th March - am
- Wednesday 10th March - pm.

Membership

There are 502 paid up households at present with 28 renewals for February.

Finance Finances are healthy.

- The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and they were approved. Bryan proposed and Julia seconded.
- The committee also approved the donation of £50 to HIWCF

Planning

Report as circulated.

- 1 Crofton Close- the hearing went as well as could be expected and we are awaiting the outcome.
- The HMO report is very good news. The Use Class Order will be changed and an HMO will now be defined as 3 or more unrelated people living together and will require planning permission. The definition under planning and housing will now be the same: this should take effect from April. Future conversions into HMOs will require planning permission but the Council must have the right policies in place to make this effective.

Sue proposed a vote of thanks to Jerry for all the hard work and tenacity that he has demonstrated in pursuing this matter. Jerry said that this victory demonstrated the value of residents and communities working together for a common cause and expressed thanks to the National HMO Lobby and NORA.

- A number of the committee had received letters from Alan Whitehead about this in response to letters written to him.
- 51 Heatherdene Road- planning refused.
- 16 Blenheim Gdns- withdrawn
- 24 Abbots Way- representation re impact on frontage.
- 22 Donnington Grove- we have received no representation.

- There was discussion re Temporary Events Licences- this is on the NORA AGM agenda and might be a future agenda item for HRA.

Newsletter

We have had some good articles submitted and we have sold the advertising space. The copy goes to Uni print on 22nd February.

Website

The website requires some updating. - (post meeting note- work has been done)

Highfield Map

There was discussion about the content of the map but we may not change anything as we have it under licence from the Ordnance Survey. Roret offered to check the index. East Bassett also has an updated map.

Summer Event

Jerry will contact PRG re available dates and will also speak to Pearsons re sponsorship. He will need to find a team of willing volunteers to put on any event as the previous team would like a break this year.

AGM

This is on 15th April. The speakers are to be Prof Adam Wheeler, Sarah Clover and a representative from the Police.

AOB

- There was a misunderstanding between Jerry and Rafeal concerning the nature of Rafeal's community group. After discussion this has been resolved. Jerry emphasised the need to use group email wisely.
- Concern has been expressed re parents dropping children at St Winfred's School who are taking their children out of their vehicles on the road side instead of the pavement side. This is dangerous and we will write a letter to the head teacher expressing our concern. **CK.**
- There is a meeting on Wednesday of the NSC Forum (CAF) at the Sports Centre re the concern by residents for the Council's plans to seek a contractor to run the Sports Facilities. An assurance will be sought that any changes will not affect residents' rights to use the facilities. Concern was also expressed

that Portswood Rec is not included in the list of sites. This will be raised on Wednesday.

- There are still places available for the committee dinner at Mango's on 24th Feb. Nicolla has extended the invitation to the Street Reps.

The meeting closed at 9.20

The next meeting is on 8th March