



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

Present Sue Hartley-Acting Chair, Julia Brooking -Acting Sec, Bryan Wakely, Alison Shelly, Peggy Augier, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Headley Rossell, Roret Blue, and Matthew Claisse

Apologies Jerry Gillen, Caroline Knight, Bert Baker, Cllr. Vincenzo Capozolli, Billy Fitzjohn

Attending Cllr. Adrian Vincent, Peter Knight and Declan Hayes.

Minutes of the October meeting accepted as accurate, proposed and seconded by Steve and Peggy.

Matters Arising Dealt with on agenda

Correspondence

- Common Sense – Simon Hill wrote that there will be Working Parties on Saturdays 13th November and 11th December 10.00 –13.00; and on Wednesdays 17th November and 15th December 13.00 –16.00. All are welcome to come along to help and should meet at end of Omdurman Rd. Further information from Simon 02380555394
- CAF AGM takes place Thursday 11th November 7.30pm at Sporting View pub in Sports Centre. All encouraged to attend. Jerry will be applying for grant of £40,000 from the lottery for a survey of HMOs in collaboration with the Council and Loughborough University.
- EBRA letter from Jean Warman to Jerry. This was discussed at some length and it was agreed that Sue would write to Jean expressing the committee's concerns.

SU Liaison no report as Billy unable to attend the meeting

Dr Declan Hayes of Chamberlain Rd was welcomed to the meeting. Incidents that he brought to the committee were on-going problems with which the committee had been dealing over a lengthy period. Committee members informed Declan of the

continuing, strenuous efforts being made by HRA to deal with these problems on behalf of our community.

Declan alerted us to the problems of student noise, anti-social behaviour and car parking in and around Chamberlain Rd. Declan has informed the council and the police about a particularly disturbing incident on 4th November and both will be contacting the relevant students about their behaviour. Declan has written to local residents advising them who to contact if similar drunken antics and criminal behaviour occur again.

The committee expressed once again our grave concern at the university's failure to deal with anti-social behaviour, although Adrian pointed out that the university has no jurisdiction outside its own premises. In the absence of a university or SU representative, there was no university contribution to the discussion. No reply from the VC had been received to Jerry's recent letter. Adrian had also written, in his capacity as a City Councillor, to the Vice-Chancellor concerning these issues. At the time of the meeting Adrian was yet to receive a reply. This lack of response was unfortunately giving the appearance of gross discourtesy. Concern was also expressed that it would appear that the police were either unable or unwilling to give these incidents sufficient priority.

Declan also pointed out loud music from university premises can be heard in the Chamberlain Rd houses late at night, especially at weekends. He is in correspondence with the council about the rules on soundproofing.

Chamberlain and the surrounding roads also suffer from uncontrolled car parking and Declan states they have in effect become a free car park for university staff and students, thus hindering access for residents and delivery vehicles. Graham Muir, Traffic Engineer at the council has agreed that the area will be included in the next amendment to the Bassett, Highfield and Hampton Residents' Parking Scheme, which will be actioned in the next three months.

The committee was sympathetic to the concerns of the Chamberlain Rd residents and agreed to support them in working on the problems discussed.

Membership

Nicolla reported 434 rolling membership and 514 paid up member households. Nicolla has recruited two new volunteer street representatives, Nicole Smith and Gareth Beale of Cranford Way. They will take on Roselands Gardens and the Battlefields Roads, replacing Don Bradnam and Ken Flood. Nicole and Gareth will be invited to attend the next meeting if they wish to do so.

Finance

Headley reported that finances are healthy. HRA has been provisionally awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for events and activities in support of a membership drive.

Planning

Matthew circulated the monthly report before the meeting. There have been no approaches to object to any of this month's applications. HRA is arranging a meeting regarding the Sainsburys application. As objections have to be submitted by 25th November, Matthew will submit an objection on behalf of HRA, which could be withdrawn later depending on the outcome of our meeting. Adrian reported that he had lodged objections both to the proposed petrol station and to the increase in the size of the store. Sue agreed to forward to Adrian emails re dates of meetings.

Newsletter

The current newsletter has been delivered and looks excellent. The children's Christmas party has been advertised and will be run jointly by Alison, Phil Banyard, and Phil's wife.

Website-

The website is still down following it being hacked and is going to need mayor work to re-establish it. Tony Knight may not be available to do this. Declan spoke about having a website in the USA and expressed willingness to work with us on our website. It was agreed that Declan, Steve, Jerry and Tony Knight should form a small working group to deal with this. (Post-meeting note: Declan has already sent round some information about what might be possible)

Winter Event

Bryan is working with Graham Archer, Vicar of Highfield Church to explore a possible joint social event to co-incide with the refurbishment of the Church Centre's large hall. This may take place in March. A curry evening is one possibility that is being considered. Grant funding may be able to be used to support this event and part of a membership drive. Jerry recommends that Penfolds should be invited to run a bar, as they were successful at our previous social event.

AOB

Peter produced an advertising flyer which demonstrates that the City council appears to be advocating excessive and irresponsible drinking.

Adrian reported on the planning for a street market on the pavement of Old St Denys Rd.

Alison reported increased problems of dog mess around Welbeck Avenue and has spoken to one of the culprits. Signage is requested.

Alison reports that the new Trago Lounge is a pleasant venue, and that they want to contribute to the community. Alison will talk to them about an HRA discount.

Declan reported that he was impressed by the police response to an elderly lady in Chamberlain Rd whose house was recently burgled.

Jenny reported that Abbots Way and Russell Place are applying for residents' parking

Bryan attended the opening of the new bus interchange on behalf of HRA and informed us that bus details can be downloaded to I-phone.

Peggy expressed concern about the amount of parking in Highfield Avenue, reducing visibility and making the road too narrow for buses and ambulances. Adrian will investigate further.

Julia reported that she had discussed with Jerry the possibility of the committee meeting for lunch one day to consider strategic planning and succession planning, as several experienced officers would probably be leaving at the next AGM. It was agreed that this would be useful and Julia will send around possible dates for a committee lunch at the Highfield pub.

Julia reported that Veronica White has complained about big lorries using Highfield Lane. Vincenzo has written to Veronica confirming that Sainsburys are obliged to agree a lorry routing plan with the council for the building period and later for deliveries and that this will require them to approach via Thomas Lewis Way and St Denys Rd.

Roret reported that an excessive number of to let boards are appearing again throughout the area.

Sue reported that Jerry had met with Caroline Noakes, MP for Romsey to review recent changes to HMO legislation and to urge the three Southampton MPs to seek an urgent meeting with Grant Shapps, Housing Minister.

The whole committee sent their warmest good wishes to Jerry as he recovers from recent health problems and agreed to send a small gift to be delivered by **Matthew**.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th December at the usual venue