



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11th October 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present - Jerry Gillen - Chair, Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Peggy Augier, Steve Connolly Julia Brooking, Roret Blue and Matthew Claisse

Apologies Bryan Wakely, Alison Shelly, Josie Brown, Nicolla Martin, Headley Rossell, Jenny Arnold , Cllr Matt Dean, Cllr Vincenzo Capozzoli and Nick Bacon

Attending Barry Taylor – Sainsbury's, Billy FitzJohn – Pres SU, Cllr Adrian Vinson, Peter Knight, Ann Wardle, Mike and Anne Olin and colleagues from the Highfield PH

Minutes of the Sept meeting agreed.

Matters Arising The grant application to the Co Op was unsuccessful

Correspondence

- Still no response to letter to Prof Nutbeam

University Liaison

Billy

- Billy told the meeting that he is not aware of any plans to replace Matt.
- The two Freshers' weeks have gone well. The Rag Fest raised over £1500 for local charities. The Bun Fight was oversubscribed and people had to be turned away. For the Freshers' Ball coaches were provided to take people to and from the venue.
- Ben would like to hear more from residents about what could be done to mitigate noise and disturbance.
- Leaflets will go out re the Hush Campaign.
- Billy was asked if anything could be done to target second years as they move from hall to houses in the community. They will be leafleted and talks will be held in halls. It would be a good idea to start giving the message out at the end of the first year.

- The issue of rubbish removal was discussed. There was campaign this year and it was successful.
- The SU is telling students not to panic about signing up for rented accommodation just yet. It was suggested that use of approved accommodation should be encouraged.
- HRA and EBRA are arranging a joint meeting with the SU.
- Jerry asked Billy to convey his disappointment at the lack of reply from Prof Nutbeam.
- There was concern expressed at the possibility that Matt's position might not be filled. Also if it is filled the position should carry some seniority and more authority.
- Billy has spoken to James Cox re problems at Glen Eyre Halls.
- Some incidents of shouting and bad language have been reported. It was mentioned that not all bad behaviour is students and that it is difficult to differentiate.

Sainsbury's

Barry Taylor gave a presentation on the plans for the new Sainsbury's. The full text of this is in the Newsletter.

A revised plan for a larger store has been submitted. This is due to the failure to get anyone to take on the medical facility. The new store would be 50 thousand square feet. Ideas to include a community centre are being discussed. Changes to the type of housing now include more family homes but otherwise the rest of the plans remain the same. There is also an application for a petrol station in the space currently occupied by the Chrysler Garage.

Concern was expressed that the proposed increase in floor space would cause an increase in traffic. This will be considered when determining the new application. This will go through the Council's usual planning process. The Council officers could take the view that it is a minor variation or could put it before the panel in which case local residents would have an opportunity to express their views. Questions were asked about how the news of the new plans are being disseminated. There have been talks about establishing a street market in Portswood and Barry indicated that Sainsbury's would be supportive of this. There have been rumours that the new store could put Waitrose out of business but Barry indicated that Waitrose is trading well and there has been no indication that this is being considered. Concern was expressed about traffic of heavy vehicles during the building process but Barry said that their contractors had to adhere to Considerate Contractors Scheme.

The Highfield Pub

- Mike Olin told the meeting about his plans for the Highfield. The full text is in the newsletter.
- The matter of the carwash was also discussed. Mike has submitted a planning application for this.

Membership

- Nicolla is unable to attend but reports that membership stands at 403 households.

Finance

- Headley is away but reports that finances are healthy

Planning

Report as circulated by Matthew.

- Applications for HMOs have been refused under new legislation. The Government is being challenged over their plans to undo the legislation.
- 72 Westwood Road- 50% increase in size. At present it is a family home.
- 48 Ripstone Gardens- a letter will be sent
- 15 Ripstone Gdns- a letter will be sent
- **Adrian** will write to the VC in his position as Councillor re the lack of liaison. He will ask if someone could be appointed on a temporary basis.

Newsletter

All the newsletter copy has gone to Uniprint and after proof reading will go to Tudor for distribution during the week beginning November 1st.

Website

Caroline explained that the website had been hacked in the summer. Tony had to take it down as it posed a threat to the server. When he tried to reinstall it and run a program to determine what had been done to it the website disintegrated. This means that it will have to be completely rebuilt. There are two options: either pay a professional to rebuild which is likely to cost at least £1200. The other option is to

wait for Tony to have the time to rebuild it for free. This will take time as he has not got much free time at the moment.

Testimonial Certificates

Jerry has suggested that it might be a good idea to award testimonial certificates to people or organisations who have helped HRA. If this is deemed something that HRA would like to do Caroline can design and produce these at very little cost.

Winter Event

There has been no decision as yet re whether the Church would like to join HRA to put on a Curry evening. Until we have confirmation from the Church we cannot proceed. Someone suggested that we could put an HRA event on in The Highfield to help give them some support.

AOB

- People said that there was a feeling of disappointment with the Council as the area is degenerating. However it was pointed out that the Council have refused several applications for new HMOs in the area. If addresses can be provided the planning sub-committee will investigate.
- Jerry expressed disappointment that the Council have declined to support the judicial review process instigated by Milton Keynes.
- Some people expressed the view that the original plans for the Sainsbury's store are large enough and there is a lot of concern that the petrol station will increase traffic to unacceptable levels. We need a dialogue with the planning officers. **AV** will ask about this on behalf of HRA. We would need to object to get the application heard by a panel. Is there any possibility of the petrol station being put on the main site? **Post meeting note.** Sainsbury's have considered this but it was not viable.

The meeting closed at 9.30

The next meeting will be held on Monday November 8th