



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th September 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present - Jerry Gillen - Chair, Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Bryan Wakely, Alison Shelly, Josie Brown, Peggy Augier and Matthew Claisse

Apologies Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Headley Rossell, Julia Brooking, Roret Blue, Cllr Matt Dean, Jeremy Moulton, Rafeal and Sarah and Adrian Vinson

Attending Matt Martin, Jenny Arnold, Bert Baker, Billy FitzJohn – Pres SU, Emily Rees -SU Vice Pres, Jean Wawman and James Cox- EBRA, Susan Collins, Peter Knight and Cllr Vincenzo Capozzoli.

Minutes of the July meeting agreed.

Matters Arising

Correspondence

- Email from HMO Lobby
- Letter re 5 Shaftesbury Ave
- Letter re Boldrewood
- No response to letter to Prof Nutbeam

Susan Collins

Susan gave a short presentation to the meeting about a solution to the problem of the proliferation of sales and lettings boards outside blocks of flats. This comprised of a purpose built system to display a number of signs in a neat display. The display unit would be solar powered, designed to be in keeping with the area and put in strategic places that would be decided at the design stage of any new build. Estate agents would rent a space and would be given a code to unlock a space to display their sign. The units would be supplied free of charge and revenue would be raised by rental charges levied on the estate agents.

University Liaison

Matt

- The weekend after next is moving in weekend.
- The bus station at the University will open next week.
- Neighbourhood News will be out on 20th September
- Matt told the meeting that he is taking voluntary severance and will be leaving his current post to undertake teacher training. Jerry wished Matt every success in the future and thanked him for the hard work that he has put in in his current role. He also asked if Matt was being replaced and suggested that if he was the replacement should be given more authority than Matt had. James Cox also gave his appreciation to Matt. Sue also paid tribute to all the hard work Matt has done for HRA members.
- Jerry asked if the liaison meetings were going to be reinstated.
- The question of rubbish being left in front gardens was raised. Vincenzo said that the Council will take action if notified. The meeting felt that landlords should be fined if the council had to step in to remove rubbish. Vincenzo said that he would look into this. Emily mentioned that the SU runs a recycle campaign in the summer and this should take place next summer.

Billy

- Billy reported that during Freshers week there will be an emphasis on encouraging students to be good neighbours. They will also be told that there is no street drinking in Southampton.
- Emily explained that there will be a new system of student support in Halls of Residence.

Membership

Nicolla is away.

Finance

- Headley is away and so it has not been possible to reconcile the finances for the Summer Event but Bryan thinks that we might have made a small profit.

Planning

Report as circulated by Matthew.

- Pending – 9 Merton Road- re-application which is similar to the original
- 4-6 Hartley Avenue- appeal

- 12 Russell Place- we have supported PRG. This is an enforcement in a Conservation Area re painting windows. Contravention of this undermines Article 4.
- 14 Westwood- retrospective application re use as a 14 bed HMO- objected.
- Northcote Rd. Objected- Hearing on 21st Sept.
- 1 Highfield Lane- extension of time limit.
- Contacted enforcement re a house in Upper Shaftesbury Ave.
- Development in Sherbourne, Merton etc. is getting out of hand.

HMO Legislation

The Government is seeking to repeal existing legislation and insisting that Councils can use Article 4 Directives. This is however too time consuming and expensive for councils to do. Milton Keynes council is applying for a Judicial Review and has asked for support. Jerry asked that HRA agrees to allocate some funds towards costs. We are also asking the council to formally support this and will be asking all residents associations to pledge some financial support. Alan Whitehead is laying down an Early Day Motion to try to hold any changes up. It is not compulsory to put legislation before committee but it is Parliamentary Practice. The combination of events might make them reconsider.

Jerry asked that Vincenzo be a link with Matt Dean and Jeremy Moulton. Vincenzo said that Jeremy had been on the phone to London partners.

After a great deal of discussion the committee agreed unanimously that should it become necessary we will pledge some money. This will be discussed with Headley.

SU Cube

- The application for an extension of hours was refused. Billy said that he has sent out an email to say that they will not be appealing this decision. He said that he does see the bigger issue and is convinced that we can make progress in re-establishing a good relationship between the SU and HRA. He will be looking at the marshalling scheme.
- James Cox said that there had been 98 written objections to the application 2/3 of which were from Highfield residents and the cost of opposing the application will be met between HRA and EBRA.
- It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged to discuss issues.

Emily

- Emily told the meeting about the residents' support officers that will be in Halls of Residence between 6 pm and 8 am. This will be useful in getting the message about community relations across. The wardens will be contactable. Emily will do a piece about this for the Newsletter.
- She also talked about Make a Difference Day on 31st Sept. They will be sending out letters to ask people what they think community volunteers should be doing.

Newsletter the next newsletter will be delivered week beginning 1st November. We have got plenty of contributions for this next issue.

Website- the website is down at the moment as it has been hacked. It is not a simple job to rectify and Tony will do it as soon as he has the time.

AOB

- Jerry paid tribute to Rafeal and Sarah for the success of their festival last weekend. They will supply a piece for the newsletter.
- Summer Event- the numbers were down but it is not clear why this was. The music and food were ok and the bar was a success. Uptons very kindly adjusted their charge for the numbers and Pearsons subsidy was the same.

Lessons

- The bar cut down the workload for the committee
- People felt that the ticket price did not represent good value for money (Hog v Lamb)
- The marquee is suitable for about 80 people.
- The emphasis should not just be on profit
- Any profit should be kept in a social fund to assist in next event

Winter Event

- Jerry has been in talks with Graham Archer about a joint Church/HRA Event. The Church Hall has two Saturdays free. Jerry has obtained a quote from Vujon Indian Takeaway of £600 for 100 people to include plates, cutlery and staff.
- Josie had said that she wanted to resign from the committee but has been persuaded to remain as a sleeping member.

- The Highfield has new landlords and they want to make the pub into a family friendly venue. They have a new chef and menu and would like input from residents to inform what they do. They are very keen and Peggy asked us to give them our support. Jerry will visit. The car wash outside the pub has closed as it did not have permission.
- PRG tennis courts are being relaid.
- Bryan will speak to the Church Hall manager to find out how long they can keep the dates for us. A sub-committee meeting will be held.
- The Crown and Sceptre, the Gate and the Stile have been bought by the University to be turned into car parks.
- The Phoenix Film Theatre has moved to the Cube.
- EBRA has sent objections about the Boldrewood site. There is some mystery about what is going to happen on the site as there is an application to change the annex into office use.
- The Rangoli project is taking place at Portswood School on 23/24th September.
- Alison said that she thought that the Community Festival was fantastic and if they hold another one perhaps HRA could have a stall.

The meeting closed at 9.30

The next meeting will be held on Monday October 11th