

## Minutes & Chair's report for Committee meeting

7.30 PM Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 18, Highfield House Hotel

- **Members attending** - Adrian Vinson, Adrian Ford, Nick Bacon, Stephen Connolly, Steve Johnson, Jerry Gillen & Dr James Burgess; in attendance Jon Walsh, University
- **Apologies** – Cllr Mathew Claisse, Jill Baston, Nicolla Martin, Nadine Johnson, Tom O'Connor, Chris Klewe.
- The Chair **welcomed** Dr James Burgess as a new member to the area and accepted his offer to join the committee. He reminded members to register their cars at reception to avoid being issued with a penalty ticket. **(everyone bare in mind for future meetings)**
- There were no **Matters Arising**.
- **University** – Jon Walsh gave his usual comprehensive report on current activities, a *copy of which is attached to this report*.
- **Hawthorns** – the Chair gave a report on the first meeting of the Hawthorns group of the Common Forum, held at the Hawthorns on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August. An initial program of works for tidying up and improving the entrance and courtyard to the Hawthorns was recommended and unanimously agreed by all those present. *A copy of the minutes are attached to this report*.
- **Finances** - the Treasurer reported that finances are healthy and that he had made an application to the Council's Community Chest for a contribution towards our operating costs. There was an outstanding query over our last invoice from Kings Chambers which he and the Chair were dealing with. Adrian reminded members that he needed to stand down from his current duties and we are therefore now looking for a new Treasurer again. The Chair also reiterated the need to fund raise for our Contingency fund.

### **Membership –**

Nicolla Martin reported by email as follows:-

Data base records	470
Paid up total	380
Rolling total	295

- **Planning** – Jill had reported there were no household applications of concern although one has since been raised by PRG (8 Brookvale Rd) concerning an outbuilding extension and they have asked us to lodge an objection. However, of major concern, we have just learnt; The Council’s Highways Dept intend to bring forward an application to widen **Lovers Walk** for use as a cycle route. This is entirely contrary to the policy of The Common Forum at the present time and it appears there has been no liaison between the Highways and Environment Depts on the matter?! (*post meeting note: JG has reported to Roger Brown who will follow up with Cllr Kour*)
- **AOB** – there was discussion over the current Council **Clean Air Consultation** which everyone is encouraged to participate in, although there seemed uncertainty as to the worst cause. The general view was that traffic was probably a major contributor, plus the docks. The Chair reported that he had been threatened with physical assault in Alma Rd by one of our local “serial Planning offenders”: this has also been experienced by members of OARA, the area in question, and has now been reported to the Police.
- **Police** – The Chair made the point that we no longer appeared to have a community link or enjoy attendance by the Police at our meetings, as used to be the case. He has taken this up with the OARA area PCSO who has agreed to pass this on in the hope of re-establishing this.
- **Date of next meeting** - will be Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September (Adrian Vinson gave his apologies in advance)

## **Highfield Residents Association University Liaison**

**13 August 2018**

### **Site investigations**

Following on from our public exhibition on the estate plans, we are carrying out site investigations over the summer; we have informed our closest neighbours. We are making further details public through updates on our website at [www.southampton.ac.uk/estatedevelopment](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/estatedevelopment)

### **Car parking applications**

As I have mentioned previously that we are planning for another public exhibition on the details of the car parking applications, this should occur in the next couple of months.

### **Salisbury Road temporary closure**

We have been granted permission to close Salisbury Road, most applications of this type are for the period of a year. However, our plans are to close it in phases from 15 October 2018 through until 14 January 2019. This will mean that Salisbury road will be closed to traffic including pedestrians and cyclists from 15 October, however it will still be possible to cross it North-South. It will also mean the closure of the Unilink Bus interchange from 6 January 2019 for 8 days.

This is to resurface the road and implement the shared space design on the Salisbury Road end. We are hoping to meet with SCAPPS again shortly to agree some additional work at the junction with the common. The finished road should be much more pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Chemistry refurbishment**

We will shortly be making an application for refurbishment of one of our Chemistry buildings, (B29), this will involve both internal and external works to reskin the building and replace and modernise two floors worth of teaching laboratories. I will shortly be inviting Ward Councillors and nearby Residents (Hartley Avenue etc) to a meeting about the works and would be happy if HRA would like to attend as well. I will also be making information about these works available on our website once dates and arrangements are confirmed.

### **Green transport**

We have invited the HRA Chair (acting) and Deputy Chair to the launch of our new fleet of Unilink Buses. As well as a new livery, our new buses are fitted with the latest and greenest Euro 6 low-emission engines - the cleanest standard for diesel. They also comply with the city's Clean Air Zone targets set to be introduced in 2019.

Based on our 2010 baseline we have managed to reduce staff travelling to campus by car by 7.2 percent and have increased Unilink bus use by 4.6%

We have also recently approved Yobikes' ability to use spaces on our campus. It was possible to park these rental bikes here before, they will now advertise our main campus as a point to park their bikes.

### **Clean Air initiatives**

The University is supporting Southampton City Council (SCC) on working on clean air in a number of ways, here is a brief overview:

1) Taxi operator incentives. We have scoped, and will be delivering, primary research for SCC and New Forest District Council to determine the scale of funding required to support fleet renewal to mitigate economic impact of a clean air zone.

2) Air Quality Working Group. Professor Dame Wendy Hall and the Web Sciences Institute have funded Southampton Connect to work on three topics two of which will help with future work on Air Quality. (SMART city infrastructure and Respiratory conditions) This is supported by the University's Air Quality researcher mapping as conducted by Professor George Attard.

3) EU Science hub. A joint application for EU funding of an innovation camp on the topic of clean growth, facilitating further connections with local authorities and highlighting our expertise.

Dr Mario Brito of the Business School briefed Cllr Hammond in June with initial findings on his research about the perceived risks from changes to environmental legislation for the Port of Southampton.

The University's Dr Matt Loxham also briefed Alan Whitehead MP to support his adjournment debate on 29 March on providing power to ships in port so they do not need to run diesel engines.

We also supported the City Council's 'Clean Air Day' on 21 June, and Dr Wong has ongoing connections with the city supporting the 'metamorphosis project' to encourage more walking and cycling within the city.

## Minutes of August 6th 2018 meeting - Hawthorns Rejuvenation Working Group

Present:

Mac bride

Aaron laishley

**Tanya Bellows – Minute taker**

Lindsay

Kate Martin

Dave Johnson

Jerry Gillan

Trish Spiteri

Before real progress of an overall plan can be made, we need to know;

1. A floor plan of the site
2. who owns the land on which the Hawthorns is situated. (The building itself is almost certainly council owned but there is speculation over whether chipperfields still own the land or whether they leased it from SCC when they had the zoo)

TB has emailed the council already with these questions but received no answer so far, LM is going to ask again and being within the council will hopefully speed up the process.

A focal point was around quick fixes for the front courtyard of the Hawthorns. This is particularly important for several reasons, one of which is to demonstrate to any future funding bodies that we are already making headway.

Quick fixes for the courtyard:

- Clearing overgrown vegetation that is encroaching onto the paving. Including back to the fence to the right of the gate upon entry (there is currently about 2m of space lost to overgrown and untidy plant life).
- bush between the two windows to be cut back, will also allow light back into the building.
- brambles next to portacabins to be cleared

This will create space for more outdoor seating. Which means more customers and more profit. DJ noted that outdoor seating is particularly useful for dog walkers. So another quick fix is to add more outdoor seating.

(Preferred would be the picnic tables made from recycled plastic, as they're low maintenance for wiping clean, longer lasting and sustainable)

- clear the gate of algae
- create a sight line along the path between the playpark and Hawthorns by trimming back vegetation. (Many people don't know the Hawthorns is even there!)
- clear branch that overhangs the gate. This would brighten up the area hugely. LM notes that the branch also appears to have dropped, which is a safety hazard.

Should these quick fixes not be possible using Council staff, then volunteer working parties could be formed. For any major works requiring Chain Saws for example, then a contractor could be engaged for a half/full day which should suffice, as has been so successfully applied to The Little Common. Clearing should be done with sympathetic timing toward nature, ie bird nesting season ends with August. Bearing in mind that improvements to Hawthorns will result in an increase of environmental awareness and education.