

**HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 11 November 2019
At Highfield House Hotel 7.30pm**



Committee members present: Martin Benning (Stand-in Chair), Ken Burtenshaw, Steven Johnston, Steve Connolly, Nicolla Martin, Dave White, Nadine Johnson, Barbara Claridge

Attending: Cllr John Savage, Cllr Gordon Cooper, Nick Bacon, Kate Fay (UoS), Jon Walsh (UoS), Emily Harrison (President SSU), Sue Ingham.

1. **Welcome, declaration of interests:** Martin opened the meeting and welcomed all HRA members and guests. News of Jerry is that he is making steady progress and had felt well enough to take a short recuperation break

2. **Apologies:** Jerry Gillen, Roger Brown, Adrian Vinson, Tom O'Connor, Angela Seymour, Cllr Lisa Mitchell

3. **Minutes and Amendments** of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2019
The minutes had been circulated previously.
One amendment - 10) Vegan café at October Books open Mondays not Fridays

4. **Matters Arising:** 8) Kate Fay to check what messages had gone out to students this term about bins on the street

Kate reported that there had been a staff shortage in the Student Comms Team. There had not been any 'bins' reminder to students as yet. There is to be a department meeting soon and it will be decided then what communication needs to be sent out to students living off campus. (Action: Kate to report back at next HRA meeting)

Jon showed a council lamp post bin reminder correx poster which informed which day of the week the bin collection was. However, this information did not give differentiated dates for general waste and re-cycling. Any residential road could request this. Hon Sec will advertise this and collate a road response and send to SCC. (Action HonSec)

After this item there was a general discussion about the



wider issue of bins, re-cycling, overflowing refuse, SCC bin contracts, the need for a National Strategy for waste collection and disposal, resulting in a general feeling of frustration

5. **Presentation: Emily Harrison** – Southampton University Students' Union President –
The Students' Union: Environmental Goals and Sustainability

Martin introduced Emily to the meeting.

Emily gave a detailed presentation explaining that the focus of sustainability and setting of Environmental Goals had come from the students themselves. The university had over 300 clubs and societies and environmental issues were high on their agenda.

On 20 November there was to be a joint statement about the sustainability strategy and on 4 December a Sustainability Spotlight Event.

Emily also highlighted that under her presidency there was to be a focus on working with the community. Emily was a member of the SCF Management Committee and there were plans for student volunteers to be involved alongside SCF in volunteering on the Common and at The Hawthorns.

Martin thanked Emily for her informative and encouraging presentation

[Link to Emily's Presentation](#)

A short question and answer session followed. The main points being:

A suggestion that the students themselves could run an information campaign in Highfield so that students became aware:

- that they might be living next to families in residential streets
- that anti-social behaviour, especially late at night, had a negative effect on community relations
- that it was a social responsibility to look after refuse bins and to re-cycle according to the city council regulations
- that it would be a powerful message if the student body did this themselves rather than University staff

Cllr Savage asked about the level of contribution university staff and students made to aviation travel. Jon replied that it would now be possible to collate data as travel bookings were now in 'one place'. The possibility of a university-closed cycle hire scheme was being explored. Cars were discouraged on the university site.

This raised the issue of university parking in nearby residential streets and that residents sometimes struggle to park by their own house. Although perhaps controversial, the proposed university multi-story car park would ease the residents' street parking problems as some staff members and mature students had no option but than to travel by car. A decision about the car

park has not yet been finalised. Ken Burtenshaw asked if the students were engaging with the General Election. Emily described several events in the next few weeks to engage the students in the election.

Martin again expressed a vote of thanks to Emily.

6. **University Liaison** including HRA Correspondence and issues raised by members (supporting paper circulated with the Agenda) *(KF and JW responded)*

a. Student behaviour suggestion (Bristol University)

There was much discussion around this topic. The university does not operate a scheme like that at Bristol University which had been in the news recently. Jon reminded the meeting that loud music and all forms of anti-social behaviour were the responsibility of the City Council rather than the University or the police. Incidents should be logged. It is useful if there is some photographic evidence and important to differentiate between students and other young people hitting on a quiet street to play football etc. so as not to assume that it is always the student population. Cllr Savage suggested it was important for residents to speak to the students and attempt to engage in 2-way conversations. Students are transient in a neighbourhood and Sue Ingham suggested that residents could always introduce themselves at the start of the new term in September to welcome and integrate students into their community. However, the university representatives were sympathetic to the needs of residents regarding serious and repeated anti-social behaviour. Such student behaviour could also be reported to Jon Walsh, as the university does have a policy for dealing with such cases. Emily explained that the university holds annual Residents Fairs around January and this may be a good opportunity to talk about residential communities in Highfield and how students could integrate and contribute positively to where they are living for a short period of time. Steven Connolly suggested it would be interesting for Emily to return to a future HRA meeting to report back on how the sustainability focus had developed and what it had achieved. (Action: HonSec to invite Emily back in late spring 2020)

b. Student behaviour – Discussion of this subject was covered as part of 6.a. (above). Some members of the meeting expressed frustration that these problems were on-going over many years and nothing seemed to improve. It would be a great step forward if the students could take on a good-neighbour-campaign with their own student body.

Southampton City Council, 'make a complaint about noise and disturbance':
<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/environmental-issues/environmental-health/noise/make-a-complaint.aspx>

Southampton City Council, 'make a complaint about loud music':
<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/environmental-issues/environmental-health/noise/loud-music.aspx>

Southampton City Council out of hours noise and disturbance number:
Telephone: 023 8023 3344

Contact University Jon Walsh: J.K.Walsh@soton.ac.uk

Contact University Kate Fay: K.L.Fay@soton.ac.uk

c. Hawthorn Road

Again, much discussion around this topic. The HRA member had already been in frequent contact with Jon Walsh. They described serious near-misses, bad driving, pollution, cars going too fast, burst water mains, heavy site traffic (new university buildings) and that there was a primary school on Hawthorn Road. They asked if the Councillors could take this forward as an issue. Could there be a 20mph limit on Hawthorn Road? At the moment there is only a *20 is Plenty* sign. Jon agreed to look into any problems being caused by university-specific traffic. Hawthorn Road was not suitable as a main university access road as it was small and residential. Their lives were being seriously disrupted. Burgess Road is wider and much more suitable for university access.

Post meeting action from Cllr Savage:

Reply from: Vanessa Veal Business Relationship Manager | Balfour Beatty Living Places

"As you have identified the HGV's and works vehicle traffic appears to be mostly connected with the university development on Salisbury Road. As these works are now mostly completed the traffic should soon return to normal levels. Otherwise the documents submitted for planning permission state that 'site access for construction deliveries will be via Salisbury Road, from University Road, from Burgess Road', so planning enforcement may be able to take action if issues are still on-going I have copied Karl in so that he is aware and if you are notified that issues persist then please let Karl know.

The service road itself isn't highway, so not something we would be able to consider for traffic calming. For the connecting highway roads, as with all requests for road safety improvements, they would be included as part of the annual safety review process. Although there doesn't appear to be any recorded injury accidents within the last 5 years and as such they almost certainly wouldn't be prioritised for funding for any traffic calming as will be competing for limited funding against locations with a cluster record of incidents.

Our asset team have carried out a site inspection to look at the condition of the carriageway. They have identified that Chamberlain Road has two areas that would benefit from structural patching, otherwise it is in fairly good condition. The road will be added to our list of potential future patching sites.”

Kind regards, Vanessa

Vanessa Veal, Business Relationship Manager | Balfour Beatty Living Places

7. Reports

- a. Finance (*MB*) – no change in finances
- b. Membership (*NM*) – Data base = 498; paid up in 2019 = 435; rolling membership since January 2019 = 379
- c. Planning issues (*AS*) – Angela had prepared a Planning report for November. There were no items raised in relation to planning

8. **Website / Facebook** (Nadine Johnson) (*NJ*) – Nadine reported that all was going well. She was revamping the ‘useful links’ section of the website. Facebook had 309 followers; 246 likes so 555 followers/likes in total

9. **Newsletter:** November 2019 edition (*SJ*) – Steven reported that this was in process and that distribution copy should be ready for Nicolla to collate by 18 November.

10. A.O.B

- a. Nicolla brought up a concern raised by a HRA member about a near miss with a student cyclist with no lights and with a foreign student at a pedestrian crossing who seemed unaware of road safety. He had been in contact with the University Vice Chancellor and had received an extensive reply from the Director of Health, Safety and Institutional Risk, on behalf of the V-C, stating university concern, their policies and their immediate response.
- b. Steven Johnston raised the issue of the danger of speeding cars and heavy goods vehicles on Highfield Lane and the danger to young school children even though there was a zebra crossing near the school. He would like the zebra crossing to be replaced with a Pelican crossing.
- c. Cllr Savage reported that the Little Common North Entrance bridge and new path should be completed by the end of this week.

- d. Barbara reported some good university news. Recently she had been greatly helped by security staff outside the university swimming pool who moved her locked bike to a more secure stand and re-locked it because so many bikes had been stolen recently.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53pm

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 9 December at 7.30pm, Highfield Hotel.**

Message from HRA HonSec

If you live in a road where residents create problems by leaving bins on the pavements and you would like the bin poster attached to your lamp posts as a reminder, please e-mail me before the next Committee Meeting.

State your name, address and the name of your road with postcode. I will collate the responses and send them to the Council.

