



Highfield Residents' Association
Committee Note in lieu of May Meeting

Chair's Comments: I am delighted to be appointed as Acting Chair. Clearly HRA has to act in accordance with Government policy, hence we have decided to cancel the Committee meetings until September, however, I am hoping to organise a Committee drinks party as soon as the rules permit. Although we did manage to produce and distribute an electronic version of the HRA Spring Newsletter, the July version has been postponed to make things easier for everyone involved in producing the Newsletter to get back to normal routines. Hopefully the next Newsletter will be produced for the end of November and we aim to make this a full printed, delivered edition. Electronic communications / updates will continue to be available on our Website and Facebook pages. Thanks to Nadine who has been working hard to keep us all up to date on local affairs. Committee Notes will be circulated every month.

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/>

<facebook.com/Highfield-Residents-Association>

We are hoping to rearrange the AGM for early autumn. I am very grateful to colleagues who are working with me to keep us open for business. Indeed, and as you will see, the fact that we are not meeting does not mean that we are not still active on several fronts and members are asked to be in regular contact with HRA if problems, particularly any planning issues arise or are brought to your attention.

Unfortunately I shall be out of action for a little while from 13th May because of a major knee operation. In my absence Barbara will be happy to be contacted.

Roger Brown Acting Chair

Secretary's Update: In view of the uncertainty about when groups might be able to meet freely again, it has been decided that all HRA committee Meetings are to be cancelled until September. Meetings will be replaced by a monthly 'Committee Note' such as this, with contributions and reports as normal as possible. After this time, if it is clear to do so, the normal pattern of meetings will be resumed at The Highfield Hotel on the second Monday of each month at 19:30h. Committee members will be notified in advance of the meeting. A committee meeting will be convened earlier than September if there is an urgent need and it is allowable.

The **AGM** has been pencilled in for Thursday 15 October – again confirmation will follow in due course.

At this point in time we are holding the date for the HRA Summer Function on Sunday 26 July as pending. PRG have cancelled all bookings for now at the Gardens and Pavilion, but if social



gatherings are possible by the end of July, it would be nice to offer this social opportunity to members. Details will follow by the beginning of July.

If there is any urgent business, particularly related to Planning issues, please contact Angela, Roger or me as we are still active!

Barbara Claridge Secretary

Councillors' Reports for HRA:

From Councillor Lisa Mitchell - I hope you are all keeping well and I'm sorry we haven't been able to see much of each other recently; however we've been trying to keep going as best as we can with representing throughout these strangest of times.

COVID-19 Response

I've been helping organise Portswood's Mutual Aid group, coordinating volunteers to make sure everyone in our community has what they need if they're isolating and picking up prescriptions for people when they can't get out. If anyone needs help with that kind of thing, please do get in touch.

The council have also set up a Community Hub where we are coordinating our response including the delivery of thousands of essential food packages across the city for vulnerable people. More can be find out at: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/supporting-you/>

Southern Water

We've been in touch recently with Southern Water after a prolonged period of bad odour from the Portswood Waste Water Treatment site. Although this is an issue that usually affects mostly St Denys, I have noticed that the smell is noticeable up on Portswood High Street and sometimes beyond. We were originally told that it was due to delays in work to some new infrastructure. This didn't explain why there was a peak when this work had been going on for some time. They then admitted that there was an increase in waste being treated in Portswood due to issues with infrastructure at the Millbrook site.

Because of the contradictory responses we have now reported the issues to our Environmental Health team at the council who are investigating why the odour issue has become worse and we hope to have a response from them soon.

Local Plan

Thank you for your contribution to the Local Plan consultation (compiled by Nadine Johnson). It was a very interesting submission with some points I had not thought about before. I was particularly interested to read about your priorities regarding the local area and what you'd like to see in and around Portswood.



Because the in-person consultation event was postponed by the onset of COVID-19 crisis, the closing date for making any comments has been extended so if you have any individual submissions you'd like to make you have until May 31st to do so. Alternatively, if you'd like to have a general chat with us about it please get in touch. Happy to email, speak over the phone or even Zoom!

Policing in Portswood

We're aware that there has been a lot of reports of car break ins/damage and shed/outside area break ins. We've been in touch with the local policing team who are aware of the issues and have told us to encourage everyone to report any incidents either by phoning 101 or by using the website. No matter how small the incident is, it gives the Police a good idea of what is occurring where.

Active Travel

You may have seen that cities across the UK are making temporary changes to roads and pavements to make it easier to socially distance whilst walking, exercising and cycling. We have been pushing for something similar in Southampton and we're hoping to see plans this week.

Before the lockdown we made a bid for something called Transforming Cities fund and we found out recently that we were successful. Some of this money will go on improving the routes from Southampton into Portswood and include some improvements to Portswood High St and St Denys Road. We don't have specific details as of yet and there will of course need to be consultation with residents but we are excited about what this funding will mean for travel in and around Portswood.

If there's anything you'd like to talk about or you need any help at this time please do give me a call or email or we can even arrange to have a Zoom chat.

All the best,

Councillor Lisa Mitchell

From Councillor Gordon Cooper

Cllr. Lisa Mitchell has taken over from Cllr John Savage as Chair of Planning although John will remain on the planning committee. Planning meetings will resume in virtual from next week.

Hampshire Waste Recycling Centre (Millbrook) is now open again but with restricted times and access and likely queuing

Parking charges have been resumed in the city centre.



Planning: The Planning Report for May 2020 is attached. Thanks to Angela Seymore for compiling the report, as it is so important to have regular information on current applications.

HRA Officers have recently held discussions and submitted comments to SCC regarding two current applications or re-applications.

Planning Application: 20/00501/FUL 1, Blenheim Gardens was objected

Revised Planning Application: 20/00581/FUL (not yet on the HRA Planning Report), 17 Brookvale Road was supported

Angela Seymour HRA Planning Rep

University Liaison Update for HRA from the University

Greetings from the University of Southampton.

The University went into lockdown in March along with the majority of the country. Our campuses have been reduced to minimal staffing, some staff are required to maintain the campus and some buildings remain open for Covid19 related activities, for example we offered the Nightingale Building for retraining of nursing staff returning to the NHS.

The University has been moved teaching activities online since the Easter break and will continue to teach students remotely for the remainder of the 2019/20 academic year. University staff are working remotely so should you have any need to contact the University please do, I am available to answer any questions.

Most of our students have departed to their non-term time addresses. However, we still have around 1000 students living in our halls of residence who cannot leave for various reasons. We will continue to house those who need to remain. Highfield Hall of Residence is not currently in active use. We are also providing housing for a small number of key workers who require it and former residents of homeless hostels.

You may already have seen in the media the University of Southampton [clinical trial](#) in which our researchers are testing inhaled drugs to reduce the symptoms of Covid19 and I thought you might like to hear of some of the other efforts the University is making to help out with this global crisis.

150 of our final-year nursing students have volunteered for a new scheme of extended clinical placements, to support the NHS in this time of need.



Our final-year medical students graduated last week, several months early, so they can be available for clinical work earlier than in a standard year. Some of our medical students who are further from graduating are volunteering for other clinical roles.

We are releasing staff wherever possible for volunteering opportunities to support the national effort to battle Covid19.

Our engineering and medical students are testing respirators which can be made from off-the-shelf components, to help address the need for protective equipment. You can read the full story [here](#).

And to support the various efforts to combat the novel coronavirus we have launched a Coronavirus Response Fund to attract support from various stakeholders. We are already receiving donations including from our extensive Alumni communities overseas. More information on the fund can be found [here](#).

The University has also donated many thousands of items of protective equipment we already had, to the local Primary care services. Items included gloves, masks, overshoes, coveralls and aprons.

Jon Walsh University Liaison

Finance Report HRA balance is healthy – (awaiting access access to the bank statements). This does not take into account quite a large number of subs and donations that have not been banked due to bank closure.

Our designated fund (savings account) is back to the reserved level.

All the forms are filled in ready to change bank account to the Co-op and once the bank reopens I will make the change.

Martin Benning Treasurer

Membership Report

Database: 498, Paid up members: 386, Rolling: 169

Without a printed Spring Newsletter there have been no new members. May and June renewal notices are currently being prepared

Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary

Report on Website/Facebook (NJ)

HRA social media has been very regularly updated throughout the lockdown period with local and relevant city-wide news, live streaming events and glimpses into local history. The number of Facebook followers is currently 438, an increase of 58 since HRA Committee Meeting of 9 March



2020. The website has a new page: 'Local History'. The 'Police Updates' page will eventually be deleted once the necessary 'Useful Links' information has been transferred across. The former often duplicates 'News' page content.

Spring Newsletter

An electronic version of the Spring Newsletter was emailed to members on 30 April. To extend its reach as much as possible, copies have also been circulated internally within the membership of some other local residents' organisations, group networks and to other contacts. It has also been circulated to the October Books membership, Pearsons local client network, Portswood Mutual Aid WhatsApp group (via Councillor Lisa Mitchell) and other organisations that support the HRA such as the Portswood Dementia Action Group membership as well as via our Local Councillors. HRA Facebook followers were also asked to share it and this alone reached 1487 people. It is estimated that, including members, copies might have reached circa 3,000, although it is obviously difficult to pinpoint how many were outside our normal delivery area.

Nadine Johnson Social Media

Any Other Business

Please mail back any other business, comments or local news of interest to Committee Members and it will be included in the next *Committee Notes*

Barbara Claridge Secretary

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