



Highfield Residents' Association
Committee Note in lieu of Dec 2020 Committee Meeting

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/>
facebook.com/Highfield-Residents-Association

Acting Chair's Comments:

HRA's honorary officers continue to work hard on the Association's behalf and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and continued enthusiasm. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Roger Brown Acting Chair

Secretary's Update:

A reminder to sign up for email updates for the:
[Transforming Cities Fund - Portswood and Swathling](#) as details are to be released in the new year.

Also: SCC are also promoting safe cycling via a Winter Wheelers free cycling webinar:
https://www.lovetoride.net/southampton/pages/info?page=2_covid

Nadine and I would be grateful for some feedback on the reorganisation and ease of use regarding the revised Planning Page on the HRA Website: <http://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/planning/> (see Committee Note p.5). Please take a few minutes to check this out and send comments to Nadine or me – we are particularly interested in what might be missing!

Barbara Claridge Secretary

Councillors' Reports for HRA:

There are no reports this month.

Planning:

The Planning Report for November/December 2020 is attached.
If any HRA member wishes to search SCC Planning Applications or to make comments here is the link:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/>

Angela Seymour (HRA Planning Rep)



University Liaison

Southampton University response to Government plans for students and Christmas.

Following the Government's announcement of a 'student travel window' the University has further developed plans for the safe departure of many of our students for the forthcoming winter break.

We have been co-ordinating with public health teams in Southampton and Hampshire and with public transport providers in both the city of Southampton and Hampshire.

Key points to be aware of are as follows:

- The Government has asked Universities to move all teaching online from 9 December. All teaching that cannot be delivered online will be rescheduled or replaced.
- The Teaching timetable is a key mechanism for managing staggered departures.
- We expect our students to follow Government guidance on travel during the current lockdown period, which will mean not travelling home from Southampton or Winchester before 3 December.
- We are advising students who intend to leave for the winter break to delay doing so until after their last timetables on-campus class or teaching session
- Students are being reminded that they should take part in our COVID-19 saliva testing programme. We will be advising students to take two tests: one 10 to 11 days before they plan to travel and another 2 to 3 days before they intend to travel.

Support for students who wish to stay at the University

We are looking at support for the greatly increased number of students who chose to stay with us over the Christmas period. Students are of course welcome to stay at university. Those who do stay are invited to take part in a range of free activities as part of the [Virtually Together](#). The plans for which facilities will be open on campus are in progress and we will provide further updates on this in the coming days, including in the [student FAQs](#).

Post-Christmas plans

University teaching will resume on 4 January. We are planning that this will include elements of in-person on-campus teaching and will ask students to plan to be in Southampton or Winchester to be able to engage with that. If the government issues guidance that changes our plans about in-person on-campus teaching, we will be in touch with further details as soon as possible.

The university will continue to support all students during the winter break, regardless of whether they have left Southampton or Winchester or if they remain here with us. The [Student Support Hub](#) can help answer queries regarding fees and funding, accommodation, visas and can offer help with student wellbeing.



Further Southampton University Student Update - Returning to campuses in 2021

When to return

We have set out **three categories** below, that we advise you to review to help you decide when you should physically return to campus in 2021. Please consider the options below carefully and **choose which category applies to you.**

1. If you have face-to-face teaching scheduled from week commencing **4 January**, you are expected to return to campuses in time for that teaching.
2. If you have in-person assessments in **January**, you are expected to return so you can be present at those assessments.
3. If neither of the above options apply to you, we are advising you to return to campus in time for the start of semester 2, which is from **1 February**.

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More: Southampton University signs up to national commitment to support local communities

The University of Southampton has confirmed its commitment to help and support communities in Southampton and the surrounding region by signing a national agreement –pledging to form closer links with local people and organisations.

As a signatory, the University will now work to produce a Civic University Agreement in partnership with local authorities, communities and partner higher education institutions.

Southampton, a top 20 UK institution, ranked 90th in the world*, joins over 60 other UK universities which are committed to producing similar agreements as part of a national initiative in response to a key recommendation by the [Civic University Commission](#) – an independent inquiry set up by the [University Partnerships Programme Foundation](#) to explore how universities can successfully serve their local areas.

Through developing its own Civic University Agreement, the University will encourage collaborative action to combat and overcome the challenges facing local communities across Southampton, Eastleigh, Test Valley and Winchester.

[Professor Mark E. Smith](#), President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton, said: “The University supports a huge range of activities in Southampton and Winchester, from our substantial contribution to the arts and culture in the region, to outreach by our academics and support for local groups. We are pleased to be exploring how we can work jointly with Solent University and University of Winchester, to even better understand our local area and what it wants from its universities to strengthen our civic role still further. Southampton’s research, education, alumni and outlook are global, but we are rooted in our community.”



The University of Southampton will review its connections to the local area, analyse where it is already working effectively to address needs, and identify how it can further support and contribute to collaborative solutions, as a positive force for change.

Richard Brabner, Director of the UPP Foundation, commented: "Whether it's the economy, environment, culture, health, or of course education, universities have an indispensable role in helping their local communities thrive. This role is to the benefit of local communities, but also to universities, as their own success is bound up with the success of the places that gave birth to them.

"We are therefore delighted the University of Southampton has pledged to prioritise its civic mission – putting the needs of its local community at the heart of its future. At a time when the region will be recovering from the pandemic, Southampton's civic impact has never been more important."

The University's civic and community-engaged work already reaches into wide-ranging areas of society, such as: health and wellbeing, arts and culture, education, learning, enterprise, the environment and sustainability, volunteering and outreach and public engagement. Key civic initiatives the agreement will concentrate on, include:

- The Arts at the University of Southampton, supporting the creative and cultural life of communities through the Southampton 2025 UK City of Culture Bid, Southampton Cultural Education Partnership and Connecting Culture research programme for children and young people
- Responding to the challenges of Covid-19, in both public health and economic recovery: from creating innovative support technology, to local trialling of Covid-19 saliva testing with communities/ schools and supporting the development of potential vaccines, as part of the global effort
- Developing new ways of responding to environment and sustainability issues aligned to the Southampton Green City Charter, in order to meet zero net carbon initiatives.

*According to QS World University Rankings 2021

As always if you have any further questions please do get in touch.

Jon Walsh,

Head of Public Affairs, University of Southampton



Finance Report:

There is a fairly healthy account balance. Annual public liability insurance for the association has been taken with Zurich. This does not include cover for volunteer work on the Little Common (Common Sense Group) as no activities are possible at present. Once it is appropriate to undertake voluntary work on the Little Common, additional insurance will be taken.

Martin Benning Treasurer

Membership Report:

Database	498
Paid up members	361
Rolling	329

Please remember to renew your membership when it is due

Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary

Social Media Report - November/December 2020

Website

Barbara Claridge (Hon Secretary) and I have completely revamped the Planning page of the website (link below) which has not had a wholesale review since it was created in 2014. These major changes include easier access to HRA planning data both current and historic, links to Southampton City Council planning pages, links to HMO information and the public register of HMO properties in Southampton. The HRA planning page also includes a special 'rolling news' section with information from the National Association of Residents' Associations (NORA); a similar separate section for HRA monthly Planning Reports; and a third for 'Other planning information (National, Southampton City Council and HRA)'. <http://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/planning/>

Facebook

We now have 581 followers, an increase of 18 since the October Committee Note.

Crime information sharing WhatsApp group for Highfield

The WhatsApp group continues to progress well with Lucy Nagra, a former police officer and HRA member, undertaking the day-to-day running of the group. In recent weeks, we have been joined by two additional community groups: Furzedown Road and Oakmount Triangle (which includes Blenheim Avenue, Oakmount Avenue, Leigh Road, Wesbourne Crescent and 1-5 Highfield Lane). 15 community groups are now participating.

There are still some areas unrepresented. If you represent an area and would like to get involved, please email Nadine on: highfieldracomms@gmail.com.

Roger Brown wrote to the newly appointed Police Inspector for Southampton North (which includes Portswood and Bassett), Sharath Ranjan, and has received this helpful response:

We have received a helpful email from Inspector Sharath Ranjan in response to concerns raised within



the Crime information sharing WhatsApp group for Highfield on the following:

1. A request to increase police patrols in the areas around Omdurman, Khartoum and Highfield Roads and the Little Common due to drug trafficking activity

Representatives were concerned that there was not enough police presence in the above areas. In order to respond, Inspector Ranjan asked his Sergeants to provide him with the information that had been logged from reports for these roads in the last 3 months. They found that there was very limited information logged with the police for this period and this was insufficient to justify an increase in the police presence in these areas at the current time. Inspector Ranjan pointed out that the police use this reporting data and research to inform their approach, including decisions on where, when and for how long they patrol. It is, therefore, important that any criminal or suspicious activity is always reported so that it can be logged, as this can influence or change their approach.

The established police channels for reporting are as follows: Telephone 999 for an emergency. For non-emergencies, telephone 101 or submit a report via the police online portal: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

2. CCTV - review, storing and collection

Some of the representatives who had been victims of crime or who knew of people who had been, were concerned that CCTV footage had not always been asked for by the police even though the footage contained useful information. Inspector Ranjan responded that they do not routinely collect, review or store all CCTV evidence for all recordable crimes, only where the quality and coverage could lead to the identification of an offender and/or prove/disprove an offence. He was sorry that some people might have received contradictory information. If anyone feels that CCTV should have been viewed and/or collected, they should report this using the crime incident number they have been given so that the call handling department can review this further.

In relation to the above, if any member has a concern about any police reaction to CCTV material, could you please email the details, and importantly the incident number, to HRA using the following email address and we will follow it up: highfieldracomms@gmail.com.

3. Registering CCTV on NICE Dems Investigate

Data storage and evidence retention is a crucial part of policing. In order to ensure that the police have easy and fast access to CCTV footage if users are registered, the police have now digitised the collection of CCTV.

Inspector Ranjan would be grateful if members who have CCTV could register by emailing:

NICEDEMSSUPPORT@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Nadine Johnson Social Media



Any Other Business

And finally, if anyone else on the committee has any other business, Covid Good News, comments, feedback or local news of interest for Committee Members please email me and it will be included in the next *Committee Notes* planned for January 2021.

Barbara Claridge Secretary

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Southampton Common December 2020,
bracken and scrub clearance by the
birches on the cross paths



@SotonCommonF

