

**Minutes HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 8 February 2022
Highfield Church Lounge 19:00**



Present: Cttee - Prof. Roger Brown (Chair), Martin Benning, Ken Burtenshaw, Barbara Claridge, Stephen Connolly, Jerry Gillen, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin,

Others – Councillor Cooper, Councillor Savage, Pete Errington, Pete Thomas, David Wardell, Katherine Barbour, Margaret Booker and Milo Maguire (Southampton National Park City)

- 1. Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those from neighbouring associations and the guest speakers
- 2. Apologies:** Karen Edwards, David White, Jon Walsh, Kate Fay
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 4. Approval of the Minutes:** The Minutes from the 14 December 2021 meeting were accepted. No comments had been received
- 5. Matters Arising:** update on the Community 20 mph schemes Update. SCC confirmed that submissions were still being sifted. The forward plan for 20mph areas would be published shortly through a Press Release and on the SCC social media channels (Twitter & Facebook) as well as all the details on our 20mph webpage... <https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/20mph>

The Flowers Estate area will be progressed to consultation on 20mph before other areas, as this project pre-dated the request process where it had already been highlighted as problem area by Ward Councillors.

It was not the intention to leave out any area where residents had formally requested 20mph with Ward Cllr support – including the Highfield area. Resources had to be managed along with other highway improvement programmes to determine the timing of implementation over the next two years.

- 6. Presentation** Margaret Booker and Milo Maguire from Southampton National Park City Team gave a short presentation to explain their project which aimed to have Southampton named as the second UK city to have National Park City Status, London being the first named. Themes that the project promotes include 'People, Place and Nature in a greener and cleaner city'. Committee members were encouraged to look at their website and sign their charter. Events and volunteering opportunities are also advertised.
www.southampton-national-park.com

Roger thanked Margaret and Milo for their presentation and wished them well.

- 7. The Local Plan:** Roger informed the meeting that there was no timescale for this beyond the summer. Originally, he had suggested that HRA might take the lead on this with the inclusion of other local associations. However, he recommended that North Southampton Community Forum would be better placed to coordinate a response. This was agreed.
- 8. North Southampton Community Forum:** The Mission Statement had been prepared by the NSCF Deputy Chair, Clive Clifford, and circulated to committee members before the meeting. Roger recommended endorsement and this was agreed. (*Action: The Secretary to convey this support to NSCF*)
- 9. Information from Councillors:** Councillor Cooper reported on the following:
The St Denys Active Travel Zone was progressing with additional cycle lanes and the improvement of crossings e.g. Thomas Lewis Way. The traffic lights at Belmont Road might be removed and a new pedestrian crossing installed.
Mettricks coffee shop was going to take over the empty Lloyds Bank building opposite Sainsbury's. The Sports Centre improvements were going ahead and the council was seeking grant funding to support this major scheme.
There was to be a waste improvement transformation plan although the council was tied into long term contracts with Veolia.
It was possible that a Freeport would be established on the river in the Southampton / Portsmouth / Eastleigh area.

Councillor Savage reported on the following:

A company in Kent Road was still in breach of planning laws and its HGVs were causing much damage to the road surface.

There is an ongoing issue into how an unadopted road (Lordswood Close) was resurfaced by the council as this is contrary to normal practice.

The issue of front gardens being concreted over in Holyrood Avenue (see item 11.h.) was highlighted.

Roger thanked the Councillors for their helpful reports.

- 10. University Liaison:** Jon Walsh, Head of Public Affairs sent this report:

“Change to Government’s Plan B COVID guidelines

As we move away from the plan B restrictions, we are planning to continue in-person teaching and more staff will begin to transition back to the campuses in a phased approach, though face masks and distancing will still be required especially in crowded areas, and to continue to test before travelling to campus, our saliva testing programme is still in operation for students and staff who are on campus.

Celebrating Southampton- UK City of Culture Bid 2025

Join us on Tuesday 15 February at 18:30 as we bring together a panel of guests to celebrate Southampton's rich, diverse, and inclusive culture. Together, they will discuss Southampton's City of Culture 2025 ambitions, the bid journey so far, and the importance of our city's partnerships and diverse communities. You will also have the opportunity to put your questions direct to our panel.

We are delighted this online event will include panellists Shelina Permalloo, MasterChef winner, author, and Chair of Southampton 2025 Trust; Professor Fraser Sturt, Research and Evaluation Lead City of Culture, University of Southampton; Rob Kern, CEO of Southampton Voluntary Services; Claire Whitaker OBE, Bid Director for Southampton City of Culture 2025; and hosted by Bhupinder Siran, Chair of the University of Southampton's BAME Network.

Event Date: Tuesday 15 February

Event Time: 18:30 - 19:30 GMT

[Click here to find out more and to register](#)

Annual Wade Lecture

We had excellent attendance at our annual Wade lecture with Professor Sir Jonathan Van Tamm MBE, the outgoing Deputy Chief Medical Officer, well known for his work during the pandemic, which can still be watched [online here](#):

Tree planting for Holocaust Memorial Day

On Holocaust Memorial Day an English Oak tree was planted on Southampton Common to commemorate 80 years of the Association of Jewish Refugees.

The Association for Jewish Refugees launched a special campaign called '80 Trees for 80 Years' to mark its 80th anniversary in July 2021. The special campaign will see 80 native oak trees planted around Britain in honour of people and places that symbolise the enormous contribution made to every walk of British life by refugees who escaped from Nazi Europe.

Read more about this story [here](#). "

Jon Walsh, Head of Public Affairs

- 11. Planning update: The National Planning Framework:** Roger reported that it remained a concern that under previous Government proposals, Local Authorities, Conservation Area representatives and Residents' Associations would have reduced opportunity to comment on Planning Applications. An announcement was due before Christmas and there had been a report in The Times that the Government might be backtracking somewhat. HRA would continue to monitor this situation.
- a. 61 Highfield Crescent - & 7 bed HMO – HRA had objected. The Planning Report recommended Conditional Planning permission be granted. This was put to the vote – the recommendation was lost (Chair took a casting vote) . The decision was refused on the grounds that a larger HMO

adversely impacts on the amenity of neighbouring occupiers, adversely affect the mix, character and balance of housing in the wider area. HRA thanked Cllr Savage for his support of the HRA objection.

- b. 17B Brookvale Road – HRA objected and sent an additional statement to the Planning Panel heard on 25 Jan. Planning Report recommended delegated authority be granted (for amended PA for a 3-bed house and cycle store). This was referred to officers who approved with conditions imposed within 3 months: amenity space and pedestrian access had to be made available; a new bathroom door had to be made to allow accessibility from the stairway landing (previous access only from the main bedroom).
- c. The granting of the Licensing Application for The Design Chapel, Old Cemetery was reported in Cttee Note January. HRA had objected. The Secretary explained that much of the hype before the hearing was a misrepresentation of the facts of the application.
- d. The Jubilee Sports Centre Extension – HRA had submitted a supporting statement. This was available on the HRA website.
- e. 34 Crofton Close – extending without Planning Permission update: an HRA member and resident of Crofton Close attended the Committee Meeting and explained that the builders at No 34 were now building onto the back of their double height extension (clearly outside the lines of existing planning permission from 2005 and 2002). HRA (Jerry) emailed the council again to enquire about whether they are permitted to do that or not. He also added that even if the owners thought they had permitted development rights, neighbours had to be consulted and the council informed. In December SCC Enforcement had acknowledged the fact that there might be an infringement but that Planning would always seek to guide the owners through a retrospective Planning Application in such circumstances. Councillor Cooper agreed to speak to officers about this situation. *(Action: The Secretary will contact Planning to ask if the Planning Officer solution is that a Retrospective Planning Application is allowed, whether there will be opportunity for Consultees and residents to make comments that will also be considered in the process).*
- f. There is currently consultation on whether the temporary 30mph speed limit The Avenue should remain. The Committee was fully in favour of supporting that it remain. *(Action: The Secretary will communicate this decision to the council).*
- g. Two items of interest will be decided at the SCC Planning Panel 15 February: the Lovers Walk Planning Application. HRA supported this with comments. (Item 5 on the Agenda, 4:00pm) The Lovers Walk application with all documents can still be viewed at the following webpage: [20/00255/FUL | Widening of the path known as 'Lovers Walk' that runs north to south on the eastern side of Southampton Common between Burgess Road and Westwood Road. | Southampton Common The Avenue Southampton Southampton SO15 7NN](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/20/00255/FUL | Widening of the path known as 'Lovers Walk' that runs north to south on the eastern side of Southampton Common between Burgess Road and Westwood Road. | Southampton Common The Avenue Southampton Southampton SO15 7NN)
Also, 7 Leigh Road (item 9 on the Panel Agenda, 6:45pm) This had HRA and NSCF objections. (RB and JG to attend for this item).
- h. Concreting over front gardens (Holyrood Ave) A resident had raised the issue that Landlords in Holyrood Avenue had concreted over front gardens without permission. There seemed to be no way of stopping this practice and SCC Enforcement had stated that it was not a priority. She is also concerned that the concrete will have a negative impact on drainage in the more extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. Councillor Cooper reported that he knew of these problems and there had been a series of meetings with residents. The situation had been going on for a number of years and was complex. He suggested that HRA could contact Southern Water to inform

them of an increased risk to flooding in this area. The Chair suggested that this would also be an item for the Local Plan. (*Action: The Secretary will contact Southern Water and NORA about the issue*).

- i. Jerry asked if the Councillors had any information about the court case for enforcement to take down the front wall at 12, Russell Place. The Secretary informed the meeting that the hearing was due to be held on Friday 12 February.

12. Reports

- a. **Finance:** Martin reported that for period 7 Jan to 7 Feb, income was £334, outgoings amounted to £408. The balance in the Current Account = £8226 (with a further £10,000 in the Savings Account). The Income was from subscriptions and donations. On-line subs and donations (BACS) came to £123; cheque and cash payments came to £211. About a third of payments now came through bank transfers.
- b. **Membership:** Nicolla reported 387 Paid Members and 17 Rolling Members.
In January 29 renewal letters had been sent out, 13 had renewed by cash or cheque and 4 by BACS. 12 renewals were still outstanding. Nicolla also reported that it was still too early to say if the increase in Household Subscriptions to £10 had made a difference.

For Payment of membership by BACS go to: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/join-renew/>

13. Social Media and Crime information sharing WhatsApp group for Highfield (NJ)

Website: Nothing new to report.

Facebook: HRA now had 756 followers which was an increase of 11 since Meeting Notes of 11 January 2022. More photographs of our local area are required, i.e. Highfield, Portswood, The Common etc. as followers like these.

Crime information sharing WhatsApp group for Highfield: There had been 5 incident report logs since 11 January 2022: one catalytic converter had been stolen; two security lights had been stolen from a block of flats in Brookvale Rd; a Freego electric bike had been stolen from Orchards Way (leaving the front wheel locked to a rail in place); there had been a fireworks incident on the night of 31 January which was likely to have been a Chinese New Year celebration and these have exemptions up to 1 am. There had been a need to check the verification of two men who were door to door calling in St Denys to trace steps of a person found on a railway line. The Co-ordinator had provided the phone no. of British Transport Police and the men's identity was verified.

The Group's Terms of Use have been updated and posted round the Group and on the website. There had been three main additions/modifications: Only the following images, photos and CCTV footage are now allowed to be shared in the Group: Those that show clear and obvious criminal intent, where a person is in the physical act of carrying out a crime, and where culpability is beyond all reasonable doubt. Additionally, those images etc. that are already in the public domain i.e. that have been published by the Police or other bodies. However, whilst acceptable, these images etc should not be shared outside the Group as they could lead to libel issues and could also cause problems with ID evidence later on.

To comply with data protection laws, members must first obtain the permission of the owner of any images etc before posting them.

Some users of CCTV systems needed to comply with data protection laws. This depended on what their cameras see. Data protection laws do not apply if the camera covers only the user's private property, although care should nevertheless be taken. However, if the camera images are of people outside their boundary, then anyone caught on camera will have rights under data protection laws.

See further details on the Group's Terms of Use

here: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/whatsapp-terms-of-use.pdf>

Katherine Barbour (HRA member and WhatsApp Rep for Grosvenor Road) informed the meeting that there had been a number of burglaries in Grosvenor Road and residents had asked to meet with the local PCSO, Collette Craddock. This had been arranged for Monday 28th February at 6pm in the meeting room in Sainsbury's. Melody Manning who was employed by Hants Police as a crime prevention officer, now retired, will also be in attendance. Nadine asked if this information could be posted round the WhatsApp Group. Katherine agreed to do this.

14. A.O.B.

Stephen Connolly asked whether all HMOs were now registered with the council. The Secretary said it was impossible to know this but that there was a public register of HMOs in the city.
(Action: The Secretary would contact Stephen with the link).

The meeting ended at 20:45

An item of Reserved Business was taken at the end of the meeting for Committee Members only. The Chair will communicate with all Committee members as a result of the short discussion.

The next Committee Meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 8 March at 19.00h
in the lounge room in Highfield Church Halls

