

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



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

**Others** – Councillor Gordon Cooper, Jon Walsh (University)

**1. Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Apologies:** Karen Edwards, Pete Errington, Councillor Savage, Councillor Lisa Mitchell, Nicolla Martin, Pete Thomas, David White

**3. Declarations of Interest:** None

**4. Approval of the Minutes:** The Minutes from the 8 February 2022 meeting were approved. No comments had been received

**5. Matters Arising:**

- a. RB /JG had attended the SCC Planning Panel Meeting on 15/02/2022. Although HRA had objected, the Planning Application for 7, Leigh Road was approved with conditions mainly affecting the front garden. The Lovers Walk Application was also approved and the next stage of Planning Approval for Common land is underway
- b. The Local Plan – Roger reported (see item 6.b.)
- c. 20mph in Highfield – HRA had received confirmation that our scheme was one of the 47 that had demonstrated community support and will now be taken forward to design. In total, SCC had received requests demonstrating community support for 47 streets or areas. These have been consolidated into 14 areas which will be individually consulted over the next two years through to the end of 2023. The latest updates and next steps in the design of 20mph speed limits in the city can be found here: <https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/20mph>  
Roger thanked the councillors for supporting the HRA Scheme
- d. 30mph The Avenue. HRA had submitted support to SCC for the permanent change of speed limit on the Avenue to 30mph
- e. Following the last Committee Meeting, Stephen Connolly had written to SCC HMO Dept querying the HMO Licence status of 19, Leigh Road. As he had not received a reply, the Secretary had followed this up and was informed that an application for an HMO Licence was in process. The Vice-Chair of NSCF had also contacted the Secretary to confirm that there was a wide difference between the number of properties on the HMO register and a figure that the Fire Brigade had estimated. However, this was old unsubstantiated data from a considerable time ago. Stephen Connolly asked if HRA members could be asked to report any unlicensed HMOs in their locality and whether this could be promoted on HRA social media. Roger said he would discuss this

in due course with Barbara and Nadine. The issue of HMOs would be an important matter for the Local Plan and North Southampton Community Forum

Jon Walsh (University) wondered if some previous student house HMOs were now being operated as Short Term Lets (like Airbnb) as these were not regulated by HMO Licence. Jon reported that there are reports of landlords struggling to find students (the rise in purpose-built making this harder for them but far from impossible)

- f. 34 Crofton Close - SCC have confirmed a full Planning Application will have to be made as the second extension exceeds Permitted Development. It will be necessary for HRA to comment when the Planning Application is made

**6. Information from Councillors:** Councillor Cooper encouraged committee members to access and make comments regarding the Transport Hub proposals for Portswood by 20 March

There was a representation to restore the Unilink bus service down Highfield Lane as this had been cut due to reduced funding

Councillor Cooper also reported that Councillor Savage had followed up on the Magistrates Court Case against the business operating in Kent Road. This was reported in the Minutes of HRA Cttee Mtg 8 February 2022 (Agenda item 9.). The business owners claimed they were unaware of the regulations. There was no result at the present time in the case

Councillor Mitchell sent the following report:

“Report from Councillor Lisa Mitchell, HRA 8/3/2022

**Local Plan: Next stage of consultation**

The next stage of the consultation for Southampton’s new local plan has been launched and will close on April 3rd, 2022. It’s aim is to gain more feedback on the themes that came up during the initial consultation back in 2020. You can see the consultation here: <https://cityvision.southampton.gov.uk/>

It is split into themes. I am on the cross-party Local Plan working group, however this has yet to meet and I haven’t received any dates but I am happy to keep you up to date on this when I find out more.

I am also happy to meet with residents groups to talk about how the local plan process may be able to help with any issues they are having in their neighbourhood. I am meeting soon with residents in Holyrood Avenue and Highfield Crescent on this topic.

**Portswood Transport Hub**

There is currently a survey live about the first stages of bringing a travel hub to Portswood High Street. This initial consultation will end on 20/3/2022. I would also be interested in members’ thoughts on this. The idea is to have a range of transport options in one place along with facilities, the proposed location is outside of Trago Lounge/The Mitre. Survey link is here

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/portswoodtravelhub>

I am in two minds as to whether this is the right location for the scheme but I would be happy to hear residents’ thoughts on this.

**Brookvale Road**

We have managed to get Brookvale Road added to the programme of road re-surfacing for the 22/23 year however unlike some roads this hasn’t been scheduled into the works yet and we are worried that it might be bumped. We know there are a lot of roads in Highfield that need to be looked at but Brookvale has become increasingly poor. I would encourage people to keep reporting the potholes so

that it is looked at with more priority and we will keep pushing the council to schedule it as soon as possible.”

Roger thanked the councillors for their continued support of HRA.

## **7. Information from the University - Jon Walsh, Head of Public Affairs**

Jon Walsh reported on the following:

- Southampton University’s current approach to Covid measures on campus
- Support available for students affected by the conflict in Ukraine
- University research helping to preserve the HMS victory
- Southampton University’s event to celebrate International Women’s Day
- A watch again link for Southampton University’s recent city of culture event with Shelina Permalloo
- The public events schedule for Southampton University’s upcoming India Week celebrating the growing Southampton-India ties

Details are available and attached to the minutes and also on the HRA website [University City Partners' Briefing](#)

The Southampton Marathon is on 24 April and will be using University Road which will be closed to traffic. There will be disruption to the buses. Local residents will be welcome to come up to the campus to cheer the runners on.

**8. Southampton National Park City Project** – following the presentation by project members at the 8 February HRA Committee Meeting, Roger proposed that HRA should formally endorse the project. This was agreed. The project would be promoted to HRA members who would also be encouraged to sign the Charter.

## **9. Planning update:**

- 1, Blenheim Gardens (HMO). Concern has been raised by an HRA member regarding a Planning Application for the conversion of a 6-bedroom HMO property into 2 x 3-bedroom HMO properties. HRA will object. Deadline 07/03/2022
- Planning Appeal Upper Shaftesbury – latest PA to build a bungalow on a strip created by garden grabbing behind 124,126, 128 Upper Shaftesbury Ave (although the new build will actually be on Kitchener) was refused. 4 Planning Applications since 2011 all have been refused by SCC. HRA will submit a statement supporting SCC. Deadline 28/03/2022

## **10. Reports**

- Finance (MB) – income/expenditure for the last period. Income £10; expenditure £168.18. Current Account balance £8236.40. The accounts for 2021 are being finalised (Accounts Year end is 31 December)
- Membership (NM). Paid up members 385, rolling 35. In Jan 29 renewal letters: 24 renewed, 5 didn’t. In Feb 17 renewal letters: 11 renewed, 6 didn’t. March and April renewal letters pending. Nicolla was not able to attend this meeting but the Secretary raised the possibility of following up by email or by a visit those previous members who had not renewed. Nadine also ran a members’ data base and could help with this. Roger agreed that the committee should know why members didn’t renew and agreed that Nicolla should let the Secretary know the names of those non-renewing and then follow through to ask why. (*Action Nicolla, Barbara and Nadine*)

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

## **11. Social Media and Crime information sharing WhatsApp group for Highfield (NJ)**

### **Facebook: Facebook page**

We now have 765 followers: an increase of 9 since HRA Committee Meeting of 8 February 2022. Lots of photographs have been received with most now posted: from Martin, Ken, Barbara and a couple of HRA members and Facebook page followers. Thank you to all - please continue to send them!

### **Website**

Innervision Hair & Beauty, and Roger Smallman - Chartered Accountant, have extended their advertising on the website by another year at £250 per annum per advertisement

### **Newsletter advertising**

Pearsons and also Figures Book-keeping Services have agreed to take out advertisements in the Spring 2022 Newsletter. October Books have agreed to have a 10% Voucher (valid 2022) included. Roger congratulated Nadine on securing this very welcome advertising revenue

### **Crime Information Sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield**

- **Lucy Nagra:** As a result of her growing family, extended family commitments and work, Lucy feels she can no longer perform the role of Group Coordinator to the level she believes is expected in a professional capacity. She has therefore decided to step back from the role. However, she will continue to represent Welbeck Avenue in the Group and is more than happy for members to contact her for advice, both on and off the Group. She will still actively take part in Group discussions where she can. On behalf of HRA and also in a personal capacity, I am really grateful for the enormous contribution Lucy has made in shaping the Group since September 2020. We have been fortunate to have her and I am really pleased that she will continue to be actively involved in the Group.
- **Four incidents have been reported in the Group:** (1) A 27-year-old was stabbed in Westridge Road car park where Police were called around 4 pm on Saturday 12 February. Cllr Savage attended to give first aid while paramedics were called. The victim survived and a man has been charged. (2) Robbery from an unlocked vehicle in Waitrose Car Park; £10-£15 in coins were stolen. The person was disturbed by Waitrose Security and he ran off. He was reported to be young, black and wearing a baseball cap. It is reassuring to know that Waitrose Security keep a look-out. (3) The handle to the bike store (an internal part of the building), in a block of flats in Westwood Road, was ripped off when someone attempted to break in. The handle could not be found. Finally, a reported a break into a garage in Highfield Lane during the afternoon of 4 March. Building materials and tools were stolen.
- **A Crime Prevention Meeting took place at 6 pm on Monday 28 February:** This was organised by Katherine Barbour, WhatsApp Group Representative for Grosvenor Road, to meet with local PCSO, Collette Craddock and Melody Maning, a retired Hampshire crime prevention officer. Notes of the meeting will be posted on the Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group page of the website.

**A.O.B.**

- a. Roger promoted The Friends of Southampton's Museums, Archives and Galleries which was now active again since the pandemic and seeking to increase supporters. Nadine would promote this on HRA social media
- b. Newsletter – Barbara and Steven Ossont had been working on the next Newsletter with an aim to publish and distribute with the help of Nicolla's street reps during April. Contributions had been gathered from Highfield residents or close associates which told personal stories around the theme of 'Moving through the Pandemic'

**The meeting ended at 19:49**

***The next Committee Meeting is due to be held on  
Tuesday 12 April at 19.00h (BST) on Zoom***