



Present Committee: Roger Brown, Martin Benning, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Ken Burtenshaw, David White, Jerry Gillen, Barbara Claridge

Others: Councillor Cooper, Councillor Savage, Karen Edwards (PRG), Malcolm White (OTRA), Katherine Barbour, Jayne Tamlyn

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Roger Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting including Ward Councillors. He confirmed that a special event had been arranged for 8 November to display and discuss the Portswood Broadway proposals. This was to take place at Highfield Church Hall before the AGM and would include a substantive discussion led by SCC officers which he would chair.

2. Apologies: Stephen Connolly, Jon Walsh (Uni), Kate Fay (Uni), Pete Errington (Uplands)

3. Declaration of interest: none

4. Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting July 2022: The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

5. Matters arising not covered elsewhere:

Roger reported that he had held a meeting with Councillor Mitchell to discuss the Landlord's Charter. It was likely that the first step would be a condition survey carried out by SCC. No timescale was yet available.

6. Information from Councillors:

Councillor Cooper thanked HRA, through the Chair, for arranging to host the additional consultation meeting. He said that officers had realised that the consultation period needed to be extended and that officers had underestimated the time required. The consultation event at October Books in the first week of October had 165 attendees. Over 800 responses had been received to date. Two further additional street meetings had been arranged by SCC officers for 4 / 5 November outside Trago Lounge on The Broadway.

The secretary raised three concerns that had been sent to HRA by members in regard to the survey itself:

- I. That the character limit in each comment box was very restricted (255 which is fewer than on a Twitter posting)
- II. There was no question at all relating to pedestrianisation of part of The Broadway, so respondents could not say whether they agreed with this idea or not
- III. There was no overall comments box at the end of the survey so no alternative ideas could be put forward

There had been several messages to HRA that the survey questions were biased towards agreeing with all of the proposals.

Karen Edwards (PRG) raised the issue that PRG had requested a meeting with SCC. This was still to be resolved.

The resurfacing to Brookvale Road between the Broadway and Westwood Road was to proceed as advertised. The section north of Westwood Road would be undertaken in the future (see AOB).

Councillor Savage informed the meeting about a SCC Scrutiny Enquiry Panel - Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen that he was chairing. Councillor Cooper was also on this Committee. The next meeting was to be held on 17 November at 17:30h. Sewage in the water was included in the scope of the exercise. A full list of recommendations and a final report will be published. Details here: River Itchen Scrutiny - southampton.gov.uk

7. University Liaison (JW)

University Estates Strategy Update:

Representatives from OARA, HRA & NSCF have been invited to attend the University update on the plans for their estate on 19th October.

The stakeholder event would provide early sight of the plans and will be led by the Vice Chancellor.

Faraday

Once the Jubilee Sports Centre Project is underway, the next building improvement project will be replacement of the Faraday Building. Demolition is due to start mid-way through next year. Consultation on the replacement building will be shared with HRA in due course.

Seagrass Project

Researchers from the University are using geospatial autonomous mapping tools and AI technology to survey and assess the health of seagrass beds in Studland Bay, Dorset.

The data will be collected and used to build a 3D digital map of the seabed and assess the health of the seagrass beds and extent of damage caused by boat anchors.

Read more about this project or watch the video [here](#)

Project to tackle childhood obesity to be rolled out across Southampton

LifeLab at the University of Southampton had been awarded £200,000 by Southampton City Council to fund key work to tackle obesity among primary school children in the city over the next three years. The Programme aims to support behaviour change in children using a series of 'teaching toolkits' which will make the science behind the need for a healthy diet, physical activity and sleep accessible to children. Find out more about this programme [here](#).

8. Planning:

- a. Roger informed the meeting that the Consultation period on the New Local Plan would be from the end of October – End of December. Eventually the content would be available on the website. HE proposed that this should be an item for North Southampton Community Forum (Chair Jerry Gillen) as the Local Plan had wide relevance. As part of Outer Avenue would be repositioned in Portswood liaison with OARA would be vital. Of particular importance would be any new Government proposals for supply side reform which might include extending Permitted Development Rights which HRA would be bound to oppose.

- b. Update on Planning applications reported at the Committee Meeting in September
 - a. 61 Tennyson Road (HRA objected) -Approved
 - b. 62 Tennyson Road (HRA objected) - Approved
 - c. 6 Blenheim Ave (OTRA no grounds to object) – Awaiting decision
 - d. 6 Crofton Close (HRA will object) – Awaiting decision
 - e. 11 Russell Place (PRG to submit the objection) - Approved
 - f. 45 Westwood Road – Approved (5 flats)
 - g. The Avenue 5G mast Planning Appeal decision pending. HRA objected to both PA and Appeal – Awaiting decision: site inspection 18/10/2022
 - h. Upper Grosvenor Road 5G mast Planning Application – Awaiting decision
 - i. 62, Alma Road – Awaiting decision

10. Reports:

a. Finance (prepared by MB)

Income this month: £104.00. This was online payments for subs. There was a £5.00 donation (us!). Nicolla did not bank any cash/cheques this month.

Outgoings: £300. This was to Ross Gordon for website maintenance.

Our income this year is £4426, outgoings £1669. Balance on current account: £10,751.

b. Membership (NM)

Highfield Residents' Association 2022

Paid up members as of 9 October – 324. Rolling Jan – Sept 241

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	14	17	85	29	25	28	12	6	13	51	19

11 renewal letters were sent out in September; 5 have renewed so far.

11. Digital Communications (NJ)

- a. **Facebook/Website:** There are now 918 followers on Facebook, an increase of 18 since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 13 September. A link to SCC's 'Surveys & Consultations' had been added under 'Important Current Information' on the website About Us page. There is an ongoing need for local news and photos.
- b. **E-News:** the September issue, put together by BC and NJ, was emailed to members on 27 September.

HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield:

There were two incident reports since the last meeting: attempted car break-ins and a van break-in (twice). All incident reports are logged here: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incidents/>

On the question of inviting a Police representative to attend HRA Committee meetings, as was the case a few years' ago, Lucy had suggested that this might be the role of the Community Support Officer. However, the local Police Inspector would need to be contacted about this idea.

Good News – Nadine reported that the Police Chiefs for the whole of England and Wales pledged last week (week beginning 26 Sept), at the Police Chiefs Council, to send an officer to investigate every single residential (home) burglary where a report had been received, regardless of location and what had been stolen. It had been acknowledged that opportunities had been missed to protect repeat victims and to catch burglars.

The Acting Chief Constable of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight said recently, "We know that our initial attendance to burglary victims will improve our outcome rates through identifying early forensic and investigative lines of enquiry which members of the public may not have previously noticed. Our attendance will also help to improve public confidence and help victims to feel safer in their homes, which is a cornerstone of victim-focused policing." More on this in the link: [Residential burglary commitment](#)

12. AOB:

- a. Brookvale Road resurfacing - a member had raised the issue of why the whole of Brookvale Road was not being resurfaced at the same time to avoid a second disruption in the future. He had written to his MP about this. (See item 6 above (Councillor Cooper))
- b. Councillor Savage reported on ongoing problems with a landlord-owned property in Grosvenor Road that was unoccupied and poorly maintained. He was investigating whether it was feasible for the Council to make a compulsory purchase for the use of Southampton Children's Services.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

Next Meeting is to be held 8 November: SCC Open Meeting and AGM (5.30pm – 9.30pm)