

**Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 12 September 2023  
Highfield Church Hall 19:30h**

This was a Committee member only meeting with two invited guests to discuss the HRA response to the Phase 2 Portswood Broadway proposals.

Many thanks to Christine Rawnsley who took the notes at this meeting.

**Present Committee:** Prof Roger Brown (Chair), Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Ken Burtenshaw, Karen Edwards, Stephen Connolly, Jerry Gillen, Christine Rawnsley,

**Others by invitation:** John Bradshaw (EIA paper), Laurie Stras (ANPR paper)

1. **Welcome:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular John and Laurie. Roger stated the need for HRA to consider the Portswood Broadway scheme as presented to date, and the desirability of a statement which encapsulates the HRA's position on the current proposals. Attendance was therefore limited to Committee members only, but with personal contributions on papers submitted by two HRA members.  
OARA would also be hosting a consultation meeting on the scheme on 19<sup>th</sup> September at The Avenue Church to which HRA committee/members in general were invited
2. **Apologies:** Martin Benning, Barbara Claridge, Jayne Tamlyn, Dave White
3. **Declaration of interest:** none
4. **Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting 13 June 2023:**  
The minutes were approved
5. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere:**
  - a. Works to complete the Brookvale Road re-surfacing. These were now progressing. noise issues. It was noted that disturbance to residents from noisy events on the Common can be most effectively reported to the Council directly.  
<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/environmental-issues/environmental-health/noise/>
  - b. It was noted that there would be a Portswood Police Liaison meeting PACT (Police and Community Together) on 28<sup>th</sup> September to which all street reps on the HRA Crime Reporting group would be invited. Subsequently established that it was also open to the local community.

6. HRA New logo. Ken presented the pop-up design, explained the need for approval so materials could be produced in time for the Love Where You Live event (23<sup>rd</sup> September 1-4pm, Portswood Recreation Ground), and invited comments. It was agreed to amend the size of the 'Residents Association' text for when used as a logo, elimination of a redundant 'Portswood' was noted, and the potential to deepen the shade of green was to be considered. The purchase of the banner was approved.
7. **Discussion (RB): How should HRA respond to the Phase 2 Proposals for Portswood Broadway?**

Roger ran through the papers circulated with the Agenda, and invited comments after the presentations by guests John and Laurie. He noted that he and the Hon Sec would summarise the comments received from members, comments made at the various consultations, those made at this meeting and broadly represent the interests of HRA members as communicated to the Hon Sec. Once cleared via correspondence with the committee, it would be submitted before the deadline of 1 October. Thanks were tabled to Barbara Claridge for her interpretation of traffic movement data projections summary paper.

- a. John presented his paper on the Economic Impact Assessment information that had been provided by SCC. His view was that SCC should be asked to redo the traffic modelling, as the figures tabled still assumed all traffic would be banned from turning right at the lights and that this should not be assumed to be fixed at this stage. He expressed concern at the Crime Figures pie chart, which according to the hotspots crime data map included in the EIA, showed a high level of violent crime. Apparently most of this took place on Westridge Road. The corollary of this was that that new seating areas on Portswood Road might export the trouble from Westridge Road back onto Portswood Road. In 2022 local councillors supported the removal of a bench outside Coffee No. 1, as the behaviour of some street people, using it long term, had given rise to concern. It was noted that the Public Space Protection Order Portswood was also introduced and is valid until 29th April 2025.

John had concerns that the document, unchallenged, gave a false impression of positivity, that there was no rationale given for the 33 businesses consulted and had been surprised that Sainsburys was not consulted as it was deemed to be 'outside the area'. On a technical point there had been no use of Confidence Intervals.

KE had attended the traders' meeting, at which there were 17 traders. It was thought that the Daily Echo reporting was inaccurate as there had been no positive comments from the traders.

JB also expressed concern that businesses at the south end of Portswood Road, around the Portswood Centre, would suffer from traffic turning restrictions.

It was noted that it would be desirable to talk to traders before 1<sup>st</sup> October. It was also noted that those drivers passing through the area e.g. from Bitterne to the UoS would face potential delays, and that The Avenue/Bassett Avenue's likely increase in traffic would add to delays for cars emerging from Highfield Lane and Winn and Westwood Roads. In short, the EIA was not thought to be useful to the process.

- b. Laurie presented her paper on ANPR. She noted that the council does not have powers, under amendments to the Road Traffic Act in June 2022, to enact ANPR schemes. However, in addition to the widespread use of ANPR in car parks, SCC already has two schemes, around schools in Harefield and Shirley. These had been well received in those neighbourhoods as they addressed serious issues of bad driving, parking and child safety. Laurie's proposal, to use a 'non-specific' ANPR scheme to manage the Oakmount Triangle local access issue, was canvassed via the OTRA forum, and well received. However reports from HRA members and the public who had discussed this with officers at consultation meetings, had heard an inconsistent message about the feasibility of ANPR in the ATZ.

It was noted that as yet, SCC had not devised a method to manage non-compliance with the bus gate. Without some form of physical barrier or other sanction to inhibit unauthorised passage through the bus gate, there would be a risk the scheme would be flouted by drivers, creating dangers for pedestrians.

A general discussion took place. The majority view was mixed to negative but there was general support for a phased introduction. Roger stated that he would liaise with BC to summarise received feedback and notes of meetings to arrive at a submission from HRA to SCC, which would be circulated to Committee members.

Meeting ended about 8.45pm. Roger thanked John and Laurie for their input

## **Annex to the Minutes: Reports**

### **Membership Report**

Paid up members:334

Rolling: 255

*Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary*

### **Finance Report**

Pending

*Martin Benning Treasurer*

### **Digital Communications**

#### **Facebook/Website**

We now have 1020 followers on the HRA Facebook page, an increase of 20 since HRA Committee Meeting of 13 June 2023.

We have a new 'plug in' for the past and current photo galleries on the 'About Us' page. The 'Smart Slider' functions well thanks to Ross Gordon, who sourced it free of charge.

Thank you to Pete Errington, Ken Burtenshaw and several other HRA Members for their recent photos, and to Barbara for some news posts.

#### **E-news to members**

The July e-news was emailed to members at the end of July. There were also three emails to members with messages from Barbara on the Phase 2 Consultation of the Portswood Corridor Scheme - two in August and one in September.

#### **Discounts**

We have obtained two new discounts: 10% on food at Sravs Kitchen in Portswood Broadway (South Indian Kerala authentic village food); and a 15% discount on food and drink (if purchased with food), Monday to Friday lunchtimes, at 'Woodies at the Junction Inn', Priory Road. 'Woodies' opens on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

*Nadine Johnson Digital Comms*

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

There were 12 incidents reported in the WhatsApp Group between 11 July and 12 September. This was an increase of 5 since the report to the last HRA Committee Meeting of 11 July.

**1. Reported incidents by representatives in the WhatsApp Group (total 5 incidents):**

- A white Ford Focus was stolen from Brookvale Road
- Extremely offensive 4-letter word scratched/keyed on car door in Orchards Way
- A large black and white dog off the lead attacked a Welsh Terrier on the lead in Portswood Road. Cllr Savage mentioned it was a repeat offence and followed it up with the police for action and timescales
- Squatters had broken into the old Blockbusters/Gorillas building
- A speeding grey Toyota crashed into a parked Corsa in Brookvale Road. The Toyota occupants fled. The Corsa sustained some damage.

**2. Reported incidents sourced from the Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team; posted on Southampton Police on Facebook or reported in the Daily Echo (total 7 incidents):**

- Westwood Road: a man was hanging out of a window in a flat in Westwood Mansions which was not his home. He was arrested.
- Westridge Road (3 incidents): a wanted person was spotted on high visibility patrols by the police and arrested. A man was beaten up by another male but did not sustain serious injuries. A dumped mattress was set on fire in an alleyway off Westridge Road.
- Burgess Road/Tulip Road: reports of damage caused in June/July to several Bluestar-Unilink buses and University vehicles with windows smashed and dents to bodywork. Some arrests made.
- Portswood Road: a 19-year-old motorcyclist sadly died following a crash involving a motorbike and some parked vehicles.
- Portswood: three males arrested for possession of offensive weapons and Class A drugs after a vehicle pursuit by police.

**3. A new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) contact**

Inspector Brian Goodall assigned us a new PCSO to send HRA Committee Reports to, as the previous PCSO was moving to another post. The new PCSO had indicated a willingness to attend HRA Committee Meetings when possible.

*Nadine Johnson Digital Comms*