



Annex i. Text of letter to Cllr Fielker (RB) 5a.

Annex ii. HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group Report 8a.

Annex iii. Digital Communications Report 10c.

Roger Brown will chair the meeting

1. Welcome: Introductions
2. Apologies:
3. Declarations of interest
4. Minutes, 10 September Committee Meeting. The Minutes will be approved at a later Committee Meeting due to a delay
5. Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere
  - a. Letter to the Councillor Lorna Fielker from RB (Annex i.)
6. Information from Councillors
7. University Liaison
  - a.
8. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield (NJ)
  - a. b. c. Report (Annex ii.)
9. Planning
  - a. Portswood Shopping Centre Development - verbal report of meeting between RB, BC and Gregory Ford of Redwood Consulting (Monday 14 October)
10. Reports
  - a. Finance (MB) – income/expenditure for the last period
  - b. Membership (NM) - renewals; new members; not renewed
  - c. Digital Communications (NJ) Report (Annex iii.)
11. A.O.B.
  - a. Next meeting AGM Wednesday 13 November 2024. Note change of start time 7:15pm

*End of Committee Meeting*

12. Reserved Business Committee Only
  - a. AGM Preparation – outline Agenda and Financial Statement attached (Cttee Members)
  - b. Autumn Newsletter

**Annex i. Text of letter to Councillor Lorna Fielker from RB**

## **PORTSWOOD BROADWAY**

When you kindly accepted my invitation to you to be the Guest Speaker at HRA's AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> November you also asked if there were any specific issues that our members were particularly concerned about and on which they might expect to hear from you.

It is always a bit risky to predict exactly what will be raised on these occasions. But I am fairly certain – both from the point of view of being the Chair of HRA and also from the perspective of the Steering Group advising the Council on the bus gate trial in Portswood Broadway (PB) – that the state of the street will be a major preoccupation.

Some of the specific issues include:

- The long-term shift from local shops providing a range of useful services to residents (cycle repair, hardware, fresh fruit and vegetables) to retailers, often part of a national chain, supplying cooked food and drink on a takeaway basis. The recent replacement of Portswood Hardware by a relocated Piri Piri restaurant symbolises this (see below)
- The recent surge – now partially abated for the moment – in anti-social behaviour of various kinds, together with casual flouting of the law: such things as illegal parking, depositing of waste, over-flowing bins, e-scooters and bicycles on pavements, etc.
- The sheer state of the street, the amount of litter, the dirtiness of the pavements, etc. not helped by such things as the semi-derelict state of the strategically placed former Blockbuster Building as well as the former Iceland shop.

Clearly, in many respects PB simply reflects what is happening in high streets across the country due to globalisation, shifts in shopping patterns, pressures on the cost of living, etc. A further common factor, and of obvious relevance here, is the unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of the student population, already denser in Southampton than anywhere else on the South Coast, and now characterised by the spread of purpose-built accommodation as the private rented sector is saturated. It is also recognised that many of these causes, and others such as the level of rents, are beyond the Council's control. But:

- The Council will shortly be spending several millions on a major traffic scheme, the outcomes and benefits of which are at present unknown
- The Council's efforts, along with the police, to tackle anti-social and other marginal behaviour, have been of variable effectiveness to date
- It is understood that the Piri Piri application was approved by the Planning Panel, over the objections of all three Ward Councillors (to whom this letter is copied) and on the basis of official advice to the effect that such a proposal was not against any Council policy on takeaways and anyway such a policy would be very difficult to devise and enforce
- We now have a proposal for the redevelopment of Portswood Shopping Centre that is said to include a mixture of student accommodation and retail uses and may involve the loss of a valued car park.

Of course, there is more that local residents could do to support local shops and HRA and other local groups could encourage them to do so. But what is really needed is a clear Council strategy for preserving and enhancing the Broadway which would make full use of the Council's planning and other powers, authority and resources and give a sense of direction and reassurance that is sadly lacking at the present time. HRA would be very pleased to be involved in such an initiative.

Roger Brown (Professor)  
Chair, HRA  
September 2024

**Annex ii.**

## **8. HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group Report**

8a. Reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting of 10 September: 4

This is a decrease of 15 incidents since the last meeting, although the latter covered two months not one.

The number of incidents are shown brackets:

Low level Crime/ASB incidents, all reported to the police (3):

Garage door forced and damaged - Brookvale Road

Driver drove over pavement by Sainsbury's Portswood to turn into St Denys Road

Suspicious incident - a low loader car transporter stopped at approximately 11 pm in Brookvale Road. Two men in black got out and walked to Abbots Way. Noticing they were being watched, they returned to their vehicle and drove off.

Anti-social behaviour incidents in Portswood Broadway (1):

4 or 5 men were sitting on the steps next door to October Books bookshop, drinking and messing around. Open cans of drink were seen. This was reported to Community Safety who responded saying that they would follow it up.

All crime and antisocial behaviour incidents are listed here:

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incidents/>

8b. Sainsbury's and other CCTV in Portswood

I understand from Cllr Finn that the CCTV at Sainsbury's has been fixed and has been up and running for over one month now, which is very good news. Thank you to Cllr Finn for all her efforts in this and to the City Council team who managed to get the CCTV working again. By way of background, the Section 106 Agreement wording did not secure ongoing maintenance/operation of the Sainsbury's CCTV cameras by Sainsbury's, only that they were provided prior to occupation.

The situation regarding other CCTVs in Portswood is below and should be kept under review:

There is currently one CCTV camera in use outside Coffee#1. This turns both ways.

Community Safety have confirmed to Cllr Finn that they have *"two permanent cameras on order that will be installed outside the Library on the west side of the Broadway and outside Roebridge Farm Shop (greengrocer), opposite Westridge Road. These have already been identified as locations by the Portswood Corridor scheme after research and consultation. The orders for works with Balfour Beatty are being scoped, but funding is secure."*

There is a temporary solar camera installed as a stop gap measure opposite Poundland, pending those two permanent cameras being installed.

#### 8c. Future dates for Portswood PACT meetings

Monday 2 December, 6.30-8pm 2024

Monday 24 March, 6.30-8pm 2025

Monday 16 June, 6.30-8pm 2025

Monday 8 September, 6.30-8pm 2025.

Nadine Johnson

Digital Communications

## **10c. Digital Communications**

### Facebook/Website

There are now 1116 followers on the HRA Facebook page, an increase of 5 since HRA Committee Meeting 10 September 2024.

Thank you to Nicolla, Ken and Barbara for their photos.

### Sponsorship of HRA website

Pearsons have renewed their advertising sponsorship of our website for one year from 14 October 2024 to 13 October 2025, for £250.

### HRA Autumn 2024 Newsletter

We now have three advertisements in the Newsletter: Pearsons for £190; Figures Book-keeping for £85; and SO EnergyWise by Testlands for £85. This represents a total income of £360. Invoices have been raised.

### September 2024 Edition of e-news

This was emailed to members on 27 September 2024. Thank you to all those whose photos we were able to use.

## **Local news**

### Roebriidge Farm Shop (greengrocers)

I understand that Roebriidge Farm Shop will be closing by Christmas. I had a recent conversation with the Manager and he has told me that they did not want to close but the landlord had increased the rent and they could no longer afford to stay.

### Portswood Shopping Centre (the shopping centre which previously included Iceland)

The retail group redeveloping Portswood Shopping Centre into student housing and retail are holding two Public Consultations/Exhibitions at October Books on the dates and times listed below. I understand from October Books that these are drop-in sessions:

Saturday 19 October: from 10am to 4pm

Thursday 24 October: from 4pm to 9pm.

I also understand from October Books that if anyone wishes to contact them directly, they can email them on: [portswood@redwoodconsulting.co.uk](mailto:portswood@redwoodconsulting.co.uk)

Nadine Johnson. Digital Communications