

Minutes HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 1 July 2025

Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



Committee members present: Roger Brown (Chair), Jerry Gillen, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Ken Burtenshaw, Paul Beard, Karen Edwards, Christine Rawnsley

Non-committee members present: Cllr. Barbour, Cllr Savage, Cllr Finn, Malcolm White (OTRA)

1. Prof. Roger Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those who had prepared reports in advance as this helped members to prepare in advance.
2. Apologies: Cllr Fielker, University, Nadine Johnson, Graham Linecar,
3. Declarations of interest - none
4. Minutes 10 June 2025 – these were accepted
5. Matters Arising
 - a. Outstanding correspondence Cllr Lambert/Inspector Maidment (Annex.i. Agenda May 13).
Roger reported that a reply concerning anti-social behaviour in Portswood was still outstanding. However the news about the clearance of the Blockbusters forecourt had been positive. He would follow up the lack of reply. Cllr Lambert had been elected as Deputy Leader of the Council. (Post Meeting Note: Blockbusters has 'Under offer' on the Agent board)
 - b. PSPO Consultation
https://www.southampton.gov.uk/council-democracy/have-your-say/pspo-consultation/?utm_ID=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery

The deadline for consultations is 19 July. The important aspects to emphasise were enforcement of any order and consistency in approach by the authorities (police and Community Safety).
6. Information from Councillors (for full advance reports Cllrs Savage and Finn see Annex.i.)
 - a. Update on Local Plan – not available
Graham Linecar had made the suggestion for inclusion as an agenda item to press for the replacement of the Local Plan. Lack of up to date LP and inability to demonstrate 5-year housing strategy land supply was compromising consideration of planning applications. For our area, lack of policy on University change/expansion was a particular problem. City Council recognised how HMOs affect a local community; need for equivalent policy to guide number/location of PBSA developments (purpose-built student accommodation).
 - b. **Cllr Savage** went through his report (Annex.i.). The HonSec asked if he knew why the new University research had to be hurried by 30 July as the date was not ideal for HRA to be involved. Cllr Savage replied that he understood it was when the funding ran out for the first phase of the research. He also said that funding for a more extensive research project might happen. (See also item 7.a.)

Cllr Finn went through her report (Annex.i.). She announced that the Council had a new group

leader and deputy-leader, Alex Winning, leader and Christie Lambert, deputy leader would take office from 16 July at Full Council.

Cllr Barbour

There would be another Community/Councillor litter-pick in Portswood Central at the end of July. KB also reported that she had been supporting residents on the Herbert Collins Estate over rent increases and poor maintenance of properties and also addressing the issue of cars idling (and causing pollution) outside of Portswood Schools.

7. Portswood Bus-gate Trial

- a. Cancellation of SG Meeting at short notice. Nothing has been arranged as yet. Additional Automatic Traffic Camera (ATC) data had been collected the week before half-term using the same locations as had been used previously. A question was raised about how money was left for the Project. RB stated that his understanding was that £1.3 million remained. Paul Beard asked what had been learned: there had been a 1st and 2nd Consultation. What was meant by future public engagement? It should build on social capital rather than street corner meetings and pseudo-workshops. There had been no consistency. Jerry stated that the Brookvale Road buildouts were unsafe, even dangerous and served no useful purpose as car just sped between them in an effort to get through the next pinch-point first and without giving-way. He asked for Ward Councillor support to achieve this. HRA had also received a member request for support for the prompt removal of the 'cycle lane' buildouts in Brookvale Rd. This would now be pursued by the HRA member as a matter of urgency and pressure would be brought to bear on the relevant officers. Proper safe arrangements needed to be in place for cyclists. Christine commented that it was more about the non-compliance with the 20mph that had caused the problem with the buildouts as cars had been going too fast. The wider-20mph to which HRA had subscribed years earlier had been hijacked by the Bus-gate project and now fell short of its objectives. Cllr Savage said he would not ask for the buildouts to be removed. He felt it was driver behaviour that had to change and new ideas in road architecture like buildouts and raised tables needed to be accommodated by drivers. There was a split view in the meeting between buildouts and the need to enforce the 20mph and leave the structural measures.. The conclusion was that there were grave concerns regarding safety on Brookvale Road as it was currently arranged. The HonSec would write a summary of HRA concerns to the Project Team. Cllr Savage then reported that he had a conversation with Prof. Ryan at the University to consider the resistance to the Portswood Project. As a result of the conversations, it seemed likely that the University would conduct a research project pilot into the concept. Time was short for the initial stage as funding had to be used by 30 July. KE commented that whilst it was a good idea, it might do more harm than good at the present time when there were no forward plans or even information from the Project Team. Ideas for the future would be important as would a retrospective exercise. Roger reported that he had been contacted as HRA Chair by Dr. Carys Coleman about the pilot sessions set up for 30 July. Whilst Dr Coleman had given much detail there did not seem to be a definitive research question as yet. He had replied to express HRA interest but that the July timing might be difficult. The HonSec would contact Dr Coleman.
- b. The SUSU feedback report was welcomed by the committee. Roger commented that it was positive that the University had engaged and it was of interest to note they had been in favour when the Project had been initiated but strongly against after three months of 'real life'.
- c. Reminder that if Committee Members and Attendees have any comments on the ATZ or the

Broadway Emergency Traffic Regulation Orders (ETRO) please send them to:
<https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/tro-consultations/portswood-broadway/>

8. HRA Crime Report

- a. HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group (NJ). This was acknowledged and Nadine thanked in her absence. (Agenda Annex.ii.)
- b. The PACT Meeting Minutes had been circulated with the Agenda (Annex.iii). Nadine's informal notes of that meeting included with these Minutes (Annex.ii)

9. University Liaison. The University report on current activities and news is in (Annex.iii)

10. Planning

- a. Additional Licensing Scheme for HMO: [Additional Licensing Scheme Decision](#)
- b. 50, Ripstone Gardens – reported to enforcement by a member
- c. 25/00758/ELDC - 44 Northcote Road Southampton SO17 3AG
- d. 25/00759/ELDC - 54 Roselands Gardens Southampton SO17 1QJ
The HonSec would speak to Stephen Harrison about ELDC applications
- e. 25/00687/FUL - Portswood Centre 128 - 150 Portswood Road Southampton SO17 2NH
[Planning Application Portswood Centre Student Accommodation](#)
It was agreed that the HonSec should circulate HRA Members and Committee encouraging individual comments which could then be copied to HonSec for reference

11. Reports

- a. Finance (MB) – income/expenditure for the last period
Income: £273; Outgoings: £211; Current Account Balance: £2239; Savings Account Balance: £25,907
- b. Membership (NM) - renewals; new members; not renewed
Total Paid-up members in 2025 = 340; paid in June = 13 ; not yet paid in June = 13
- c. Digital Communications Report (Agenda Annex.v.)
CR reported that Fly-tipping problems could be reported and it was important to keep the Reference Case Number. Cllr Savage added that any missed-bin collection could also be reported and if copied to Ward Councillors they would chase up. Roger thanked the Ward Councillors.

12. A.O.B.

None

**Please note: The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 16 September.
Please would a committee member volunteer to take notes at this meeting.**

Annex.i. Notes sent by Cllrs. Savage and Finn in advance of the meeting

CLlr Savage:

“Attended the Clean Air Conference demonstrating the considerable work done to date on The Clean Air Map School Streets

Discussion Royal College of Physicians report around greater understanding of the implications of air quality. In 2025, the UK faces a persistent challenge with air pollution, potentially leading to 30,000 deaths and costing the economy billions. While emissions have reduced, inequalities in air quality persist, and there are calls to expand clean air zones to combat health consequences.

H of C - Centre for Green Maritime Innovation. Brilliant launch of this important industrial / educational research centre of excellence.

£500K for green spaces investment. This is being planned strategically to improve and defend Green Space across the city.

UK100 and LGC net zero conferences. Sharing ideas, discussing options with folks from other areas of the country.

Met with the Imam and trustees at the mosque in PW following the fire, to offer support and to discuss plans for refurbishment and improvement.

Discussed and implemented plans with the university to better understand the key issues and lessons learned from the “Bus-gate” This will be discussed in a briefing with Councillor and the University Policy team will be contacting the steering group and other stakeholders for feedback

22 June - Organised equipment conducted a litter pick in Lawn road with fellow ward Cllrs.

5 June - Attended Generations of Regeneration closing event at October books. It was about the work we do and can plan by working with the university regarding Green/Net-Zero.

Rights of the River motion for 16th July full council.”

CLlr Finn

“I will give an update on private renting issues in the ward. We are seeing people fearful of complaining about landlords but the Renters Rights Bill is being held up in the House of Lords currently.

Concerns have been raised about the new bus stops not having timetables on them. I have asked Blue Star about this and whether it can be remedied.

I will report on the latest about the keep cash live campaign which is being fronted by residents with learning disabilities.

We have all had a concern raised about traffic and idling near Portswood school and Lorna is working with the school head on this and is in touch with school streets. A campaign is likely similar to the work done in September at Highfield school.

We had shared lives week this week. This is about people having an adult with additional needs living in their home on a short or long term basis so they can learn skills and experience a family environment. Shared Lives carers are amazing people, they do get paid and we are always looking for new carers, either as respite carers or as full time carers. Do get in touch if you have a spare room and may be interested in knowing more.

We have a new group leader and deputy-leader, Alex Winning is the leader and Christie Lambert is the deputy leader. Alex becomes Council leader on 16th July at Full Council.”

Annex.ii. Informal notes of the PACT Meeting (with thanks to Nadine Johnson)

PACT Meeting, 6.30-8pm, 16 June 2025 at Highfield Church Centre

Apologies in advance for any errors in these informal notes which are only meant to be a reflection of what I understood took place. Additionally, a few items were not noted as it was not always possible to hear everything that was being said.

The PACT meeting was well attended.

- On the 'Panel': Francesca Prior (FP) (Service Manager, Stronger Communities) and PC Adam O'Neill (Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer)
- Attendance: Councillors Finn and Savage, four members of the HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group (including NCJ), other members of the public (MOPs).
- Apologies: Cllr Barbour, Malkeat Singh, four members of the HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group.

Items discussed in no particular order with a few items not noted:

Matters arising

- **Adam to research if Portswood would be eligible for a Dispersal Order:** PC Adam said he had enquired and that a Dispersal Order could be possible in Portswood. However, it was dependent upon circumstances and must meet certain criteria which were quite specific. It would need an Inspector's authorisation - they had the final say. A Dispersal Order would typically be used where there were a high number of pedestrians and a certain level of rowdiness/ASB (e.g. football matches). They had recently implemented a Dispersal Order in Shirley where they had a large number of kids with a lot of ASB and rowdy behaviour. They implemented an exclusion zone for 48 hours and removed them from the area. PC Adam spoke to his Inspector and it was decided that the encampment in the former Blockbusters' site didn't really meet the criteria as there was not enough ASB and rowdiness to warrant a Dispersal Order, and it wouldn't necessarily solve the problem as after 48 hours, the group would still be there.
- **PC Adam to contact Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery re a report about a break-in:** PC Adam had not heard anything back from Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery and could find nothing on the system. MOP to follow up. Action for next PACT.
- **Malkeat Singh to contact Highways to see if it was through them that the speed sign was removed quickly from Highfield Lane:** there was no report from MS. NCJ said that a permanent speed box was requested for Highfield Lane at the last PACT meeting and that it was a particularly risky area now with a mix of 20mph and 30mph. To get vehicle activated signs, Highways had told Cllr Finn that evidence was needed through reporting of incidents. PC Adam said it was really important that road accidents were reported to Highways as this served to build up evidence. A MOP said there were also safety concerns in Church Lane and the 20mph sign should be on the other side of the road (?). Actions for next PACT.

Approximate crime statistics for Portswood

For month ending April 2025, 128 crimes were recorded in Portswood Ward; a 10.5% decrease from March. There is always a time lag of several months on crime statistics. PC Adam said that the statistics were not an accurate reflection of what was going on. There was far more crime taking place in the community than was being reported. There was a lot of under-reporting - this is a huge issue.

Hampshire Website form for reporting crime and ASB <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>

In relation to under-reporting, NCJ suggested that part of the reason might be because of the above webpage reporting form which was very difficult to navigate and sometimes took you round in circles. It was also very time-consuming. On a 'Mystery Shopper' tour she undertook recently (where she put herself in the position of someone using it for the first time), it took her right back to the beginning after spending a quarter of hour getting nowhere. She said that the webpage was the ultimate deterrent which might meet the needs of the police but was certainly not user friendly. It needed reviewing so that it was simple and quick. It would also be useful to have an email address like with Community Safety. PC Adam responded that he had also received a lot of negative feedback about the website form and would write to Inspector Jeannette Maidment (his Inspector) about this and copy NCJ in. *(Post meeting note: his email was sent on 17/06/25. Since then there had been no follow up)*

A Member of the Public (MOP) suggested that the Hampshire Alert website could be used to report crime and ASB to the police. *(Post meeting notes: this was not the case, although a link to <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/> was embedded within it)*
*Hampshire & IOW Constabulary / Hampshire Alert confirmed in an email on 27/06/25 that "Hampshire Alert is **not** a crime reporting portal – **please do not report crime here.**"*

St Denys - Priory Hard

Cllr Finn reported that three different groups of people were injecting drugs on Priory Hard and leaving sharps lying around. How should these be reported? PC Adam said these incidents needed to be reported formally so they were documented properly using 101 or the police website. Cllr Savage reported that a disabled person in St Denys might be being cuckooed for drug purposes.

Car stolen from Grosvenor Road

A MOP reported that their car had been stolen at night from outside their house at the end of May. They phoned 101 and got through straightaway. Through multiple sharings on Facebook (FB), the car was found the following day in Lordshill. It had been parked across 2 parking bays and a person had posted on FB "Parked like a twat". The MOP believed that lack of lighting at night might have been a factor (2 other cars had also been stolen and another broken into recently). Cllr Finn said that if the police weren't happy with the lighting on roads where crime was a problem, they could ask for the lights to be switched back on in that area. There needed to be evidence. The MOP to speak directly with Cllr Finn about this. The MOP also highlighted that they had to pay £192 (tow and storage costs?) to collect their car which had been taken away for forensics examination, and that the police should inform the general public about this charge.

It was revealed that the MOP called 101 as the car was being taken. PC Adam advised that they should have telephoned 999 as the crime was happening at the time. It was noted that 101 acted very quickly.

Portswood Rec

A member of Friends of Portswood Rec reported that there was increasing anti-social behaviour taking place at the Rec, particularly drug activity. This had always existed but now it was becoming worse/much more brazen with incidents taking place in broad daylight as opposed to in twilight hours as before. Hookah pipes were being left lying around and other paraphernalia, and there had been some damage to equipment. There were youngsters driving around with fat wheeled bikes who appeared to be dealing. People didn't feel comfortable in the environment. These incidents were occurring at the other end to the play park. The MOP appealed to the police not to forget the Rec and asked if it would be possible for them to patrol the area now and then. The police are doing additional patrols in the area.

FP said they are still fighting for warning notices to go up on The Common and Riverside Park but 'Parks' are refusing to put any negative messaging there as people might feel unsafe. Is it possible to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area? All information on the scheme is on the website.

SCC Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

Southampton City Council are consulting on their proposals to extend Public Spaces Protection Orders across Southampton for a further three years. PSPOs help them to tackle anti-social behaviour. The proposals are to re-implement controls on street drinking for a further 3 years (this control expired at end of April 2025, including in Portswood) with additional proposed measures to curb drug misuse and aggressive begging (e.g. being frog marched to the nearest ATM). NCJ asked if the police would complete the data when using the PSPOs as previously this had not always been the case. PC Adam said that they would and they would sit down with the City Council to work out how they would do it.

[Click on the survey here](#) to read more about the proposals and to give SCC your views. The consultation closes on **Friday 11 July 2025**.

Former Blockbusters' site

The police and Community Safety had received a lot of complaints about the encampment. Both agencies (City Council and Police) were thanked for their work in removing the encampment which had necessitated the assistance of the Managing Agents/landowner as it was on private land. The group had now moved to outside the Cancer Research UK shop/Victory Gospel Church area. It was acknowledged by FP that the group were well known to Street Outreach and they were visited regularly. However, it was very difficult as the group did not want to engage. They appeared to quite like the nomadic lifestyle. Some people who did have accommodation joined them to loiter/drink with them.

Fire at Portswood Mosque – 15 June 2025

It appeared that the fire started in one of the upstairs flats. The fire was accidental; there was nothing malicious and no one was hurt. However, some MOPs complained about many of the comments on The Echo Facebook page where there appeared to be a lot of misinformation, racist and really abusive comments and even laughing about the incident. There was also some dangerous misinformation being circulated on other social media sites. A MOP asked the police if they could be more proactive in issuing updates and an amended article when such incidents happened, in order to shut down these comments quickly with actual facts. It was felt that the team needed to be quicker and better at informing the general public about the true nature of the incident. FP undertook to take this issue forward as she was the 'Prevent' Officer. She would follow up with the Coms team to contact The Echo re not allowing inappropriate comments.

NCJ, 27/06/25

Annex.iii. University Liaison

"The date of the University/SCC additional refuse collection round is Saturday 5th July. This was agreed by the UoS/SCC and Residents Associations' liaison meeting as catching most of the excess waste produced by the student end of year change over, within the most efficient timeframe.

There has been a change to the roads that the round will collect from, following a review of the data held by the University. Those roads with the greatest number of UoS registered student addresses have been prioritised in this year's round. The HRA and contiguous roads are: Granby Road and Sirdar Road, Burgess Road (Evens 18 – 136, Odds 19-355), Gordon Avenue and Alma Road (in the OARA area), Shakespeare Avenue and Tennyson Road in west St Denys and, slightly further afield, Harefield Road in Hampton Park.

If, after July 5th, HRA area residents find that refuse attributable to the end of year changeover has not been managed properly and/or collected, whether in the streets listed above or not, please contact me on cerhra@proton.me. I will collate the anonymised information to report on at future HRA and Liaison group meetings, and to SCC officers. If appropriate please also report it to the council, using one of the forms on this page <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/bins-recycling/bins/>. Christine Rawnsley"

UoS Updates for HRA July 2025

Electronic knee sleeve transforms osteoarthritis pain relief An electronic knee sleeve providing relief from osteoarthritis pain has been developed by a team from the University of Southampton. The wearable device has been designed in collaboration with people with knee osteoarthritis, and with input from physiotherapists and surgeons. It uses TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) to relieve knee pain and enable people to walk better, further and longer with less or no pain.

Join the trial The research team is aiming to recruit 80 people to join the trial of the knee sleeve. If you have been diagnosed with knee osteoarthritis, are aged between 45 and 75, and would like to enquire about taking part in the trial, please contact the research team at Etex@soton.ac.uk or call 07767 701701.

Read the full news story on our website:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2025/06/electronic-knee-sleeve-transforms-osteoarthritis-pain-relief.page>

Minister meets University experts helping children to lead healthier lives Stephen Morgan MP, Minister for Early Education, has visited the University of Southampton and heard how researchers are helping to improve long-term health prospects for children. Joined by MP for Southampton Test, Satvir Kaur, the Minister spoke to school pupils taking part in a hands-on session at LifeLab, a unique research-based educational project helping children and young people understand the science behind health messages. He also heard from Southampton scientists using big data on pregnancy and early life to predict the risk of children developing overweight or obesity as they grow up. Find out more:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2025/06/minister-meets-university-experts-helping-children-to-lead-healthier-lives.page>

New study to help people with Parkinson's Disease regain their stride Researchers are conducting the first-large scale trial of a device which could help people with Parkinson's Disease to walk better.

Over 200 people with Parkinson's at eight sites around the UK will test the use of a Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) device, which is already used by people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and those who've had a stroke to improve their walking ability. Parkinson's Disease affects about 148,000 people in the UK, making it the second most prevalent neurodegenerative condition, after Alzheimer's disease. It is also growing faster than any other neurological condition, with around 18,000 new diagnoses each year. Read

more: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2025/06/new-study-to-help-people-with-parkinsons-disease-regain-their-stride.page>

Faraday Project – Nearing Completion We're pleased to report that the Faraday project is now in its final stages. This has been a complex and transformative piece of work. Final works will be completed over the coming month & the site

Southampton University