

Agenda HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 9 December 2025

Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



Prof. Roger Brown will chair the meeting which will be in two parts

Part 1

1. Welcome: Prof. Roger Brown new committee member Ed Hill
2. Apologies: Sonia Cottrell
3. Declarations of interest
4. Minutes, 7 October 2025 Committee Meeting – previously circulated
5. Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere
 - a. Debrief and discussion about the AGM (RB)
 - b. Portswood Broadway / ATZ update (RB)
 - c. Enhanced Bus Partnership Meeting Report (BC) (See Annex.i.)
 - d. ASB Letter Francesca Prior (RB)
 - e. Highfield House Hotel; information from Councillors
6. Avenue Campus update and strategy (RB/BC) sub-cttee (EH)
7. Information from Councillors
 - a. Councillor Finn: Air Quality; Bus Partnership Meeting
 - b. Councillor Barbour: Mobilising opposition for Avenue Campus proposed development: Casework with residents in H Collins flats; Student safety on and around the campus
 - c. Councillor Savage: Flood risks in Southampton
8. University
 - a. Report from Sonia Cottrell: Clarification- while Paddy is the right point of contact for general concerns about student behaviour, if the students in question are part of a club or society (generally identifiable by hoodies etc), I am very happy to be contacted directly. Clubs and societies are affiliated to SUSU and we will always follow up on any complaints.
If any of your members would like to know more about any aspect of what the Students' Union does or would like to have a look around our spaces, please do encourage them to contact me (especially perhaps anyone who still associates us with the times of weekly club nights - which are very much a thing of the past now).
Finally, could I wish you and all the committee a very happy Christmas. Thank you for the opportunities to engage in 2025 and I look forward to further developing our relationship in 2026.
 - b.
9. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield and PACT Report (NJ) (Annex.ii)

10. Planning

- a. 'Property to Let' sign boards (BC)
- b. 25/00687/FUL/22249 Portswood Shopping Centre Development Planning Panel and further re-submission of Planning Application, Comments by 9 December; Planning Panel Agenda 16 December (BC)
- c. Planning decision 33 Ripstone Gardens (approved at Panel) (BC)

11. Reports

- a. Finance (MB) – income/expenditure for the last period
- b. Membership (NM) - Annual Summary: renewals; new members; not renewed
- c. Digital Communications (NJ) Report

12. A.O.B.

- a. University End of Year Waste update -
- b. New trees Westwood and Winn Road

End of General Committee Meeting Part 1

Part 2

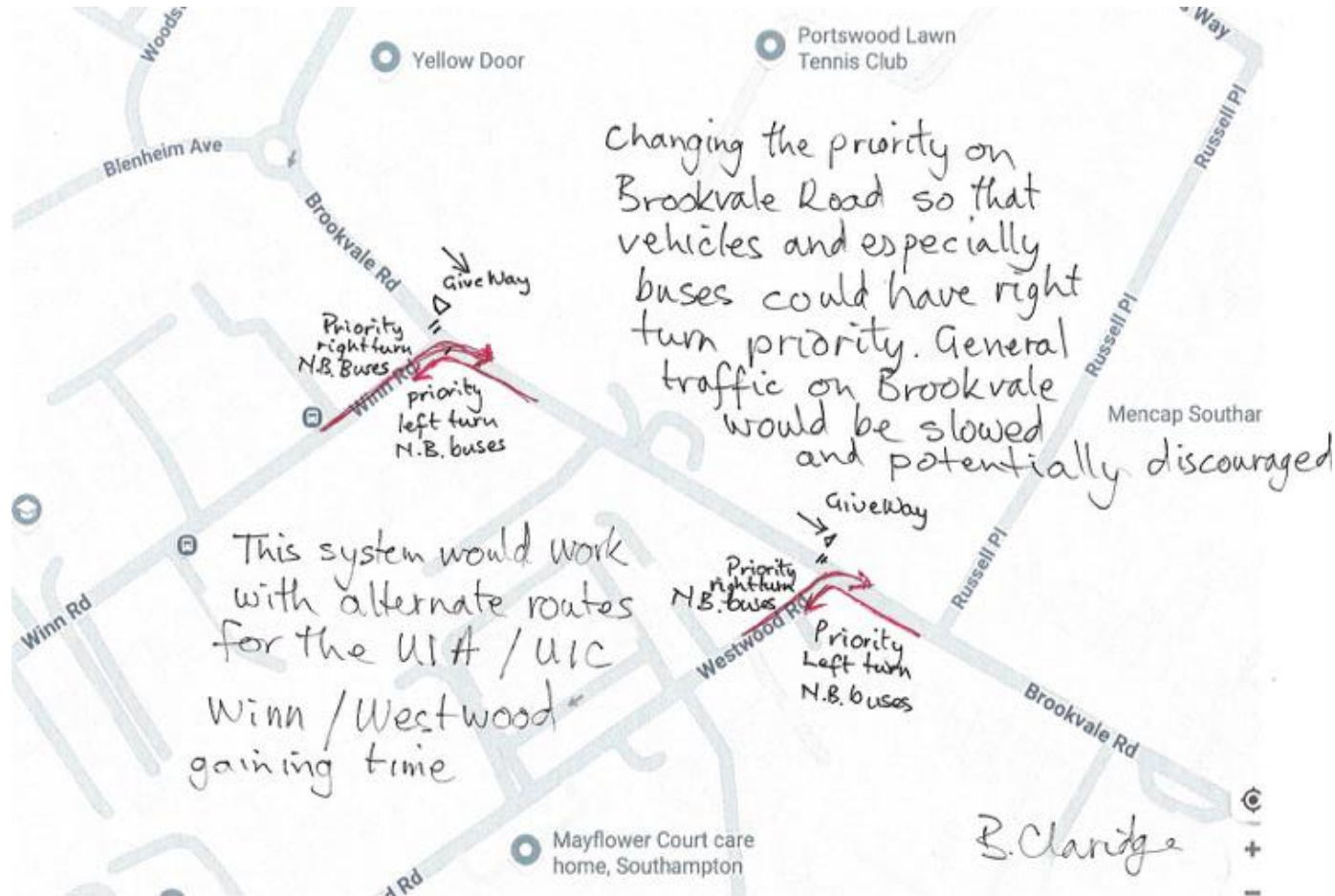
Committee only

13. Portswood Broadway Moving Forwards – paper previously circulated to committee (BC)

14. HRA@50

- a. Initial Ideas (Annex.iv)
- b. Logo (Ken)

Annex.i. Sketch map: changing priority on Brookvale Road to facilitate bus punctuality (B Claridge)



Annex.ii. HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group

1.Reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting of 7 October - (24+)

There have been 24+ reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 7 October. This is an increase of 20+ incidents. However, the list of current incidents dates from 7 October, covering 2 months instead of one.

(i)Incidents in Portswood - (10+)

- Street drinkers with open cans/bottles using seating area outside the former Flagship Coffee (2)
- Street drinkers using the seating area outside 'Hotpot', opposite the Trago Lounge (2)
- Cyclist speeding through Portswood Library pedestrian crossing on red traffic light. Nearly hit a member of the WhatsApp Group (1)
- Person nearly ridden into on pavement by young man on illegal scooter. When the victim said they should not be riding on the pavement, the scooter rider threatened them with violence (1)
- Motor scooter rider, with bright design 'Rick's MOT' on the back, went through an orange/red light outside Sainsburys main pedestrian entrance (1)
- 'Bed' outside Farm Foods - removed by Community Safety (1)
- 'Bedding' and many other items outside the former Iceland Store (now Chinese shop) - removed by Community Safety (1)
- Cancer Research UK charity shop broken into and £2 taken from the donations pot; the Mountbatten charity shop had a big crack in the window; The Muse's glass was smashed (1)

(ii) Incidents reported away from Portswood Broadway - (10+)

- Handbag stolen in town (1)
- Driver drove at speed the wrong way round a traffic calming point in Westwood Road (1)
- Suspicious man wandered down some driveways in Brookvale Rd, claiming to be picking someone up but was caught on CCTV taking something from a garden (1)
- Rented garage in Richmond Gardens broken into twice and items stolen the first time round (2)
- Student 'moving' parties for several nights a week over a few weeks in October in Blenheim Gdns, Upper Shaftesbury Ave, Welbeck Ave, Highfield Crescent and other areas. Groups of 50 or so students proceed along pavement chanting/shouting. They spend about half an hour in the back garden of one house before heading off to the next house, and the next etc, etc. A noisy and cumulative effect. (1+). See (2) below for actions that can be taken
- Two car accident Church Lane on 28/11/25 school pick up time: both cars tried to get through road build-outs with inevitable collision. School collecting evidence; lots of witnesses. Can use this link for witness statement on line (1) <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/>
- Car waiting regularly on double yellow lines outside school for pick up. Can use this link to report parking offences (1) <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/travel-transport/report-issue/parking-offence/>
- Accident on 25/11/25 at the junction of Highfield Lane and Brookvale Road involving a police vehicle responding to an emergency and a member of the public. There were no injuries reported and only minor damage to the police vehicle and roadside furniture (1)
- Yuki, 6 month old Maine coon cross, was lost. Later found (1)

(iii) Incidents reported in the press/social media - (4)

- BBC and Sky websites 29/11/25: Man charged with sexual assaults in Southampton in Upper Shaftesbury Avenue and Westwood Road
- Soton Police on Facebook 15/10/25: Theft of staff member's mobile phone from counter of Tidal Vape, Portswood
- Daily Echo 9/10/25: Murder investigation launched following body found on The Common; Appeal for witnesses launched 10/10/25; Police handed out Appeal leaflets and reassured people at Parkrun on 11/10/25 (this included information on a significant fire close by) (2)

All crime and anti-social behaviour incidents are listed here:

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

2. Reporting student parties / disruption (from ii above)

Actions that can be taken are in this HRA website link and depend on circumstances: 'Self Help Links' University of Southampton <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/university-of-southampton/>

Barbara received this helpful response from Sonia Cottrell, Chief Executive of SUSU:

"Paddy has taken over Jon's role (although I think he is intending to appoint someone with more direct responsibility for this part of the role) so in general terms you should contact Paddy whenever you would previously have contacted Jon.

However, for any incidents or behaviours connected to clubs and societies, you should feel free to contact me. Clubs and societies are part of the Students' Union and we will act on any complaints received (if students are on an official club/society social, they will generally be identifiable by hoodies and T-shirts). We do emphasise the need to be good neighbours when we do committee training but I will ask the team to remind clubs and societies about this, just in case any of the incidents your members are complaining about are related."

3. Shoplifting in Boots

In October, a member reported that she saw a man who looked as though he was filling his rucksack with items from the shelves in Boots Portswood. She learned that Boots staff have been told that they must not intercept anyone who might be stealing. They say they have 14 – 15 incidents of shoplifting by the same people each day. The police usually arrive hours after any reported event and cannot do anything.

I contacted PC Adam O'Neill for feedback on the above and received the following helpful response:

PC Adam O'Neill: *"Boots do not routinely report every incident as an active theft; they frequently report incidents retrospectively rather than calling police at the moment they occur. When Boots (or any business) reports an active shoplifting, attendance depends on police resourcing and priorities at that given time, so we are not always able to attend every live incident, although we do attend when possible. That being said, every reported shoplifting in Portswood is followed up by PC Pollicott, our designated shoplifting officer. Follow-up enquiries include reviewing CCTV, taking witness statements, and other investigative steps to progress each case."*

I later asked PC Adam if the App below, described on the BBC website on 27 November, is in use in Portswood. His helpful response is in italics below (information on the App was given to me by Christine R).

A crime-fighting app which has helped police tackle shoplifting is being expanded to cover anti-social behaviour around pubs and clubs: "The UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) app allows shop owners to

share information about known offenders with each other and the police. The app will now be rolled out to night-time venues to help them identify and ban prolific troublemakers. Hampshire and Isle of Wight's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Donna Jones said the app had helped secure 45 years' worth of prison sentences for shoplifting offenders." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1dzp7966zxo>

Response from PC Adam O'Neill: *"I can confirm that UKPAC is used in Portswood. It supports our response to shoplifting not only within Portswood itself, but across the wider force area. While it's a helpful tool that enhances the efficiency of how we manage and share information, it's not something we rely on exclusively - rather, it works alongside our existing policing methods. Regarding any plans to expand the app's use to cover antisocial behaviour around pubs, clubs, or the night-time economy, I'm afraid I'm not aware of any such developments. I haven't heard anything to suggest this is currently being considered, so I can't offer further detail on that aspect."*

4. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

New Public Space Protection Orders (below) have been signed off by the City Council Cabinet, this includes for Portswood. These strengthened Orders replace those that lapsed at the end of April 2025, which only covered street drinking. We understand that the PSPOs will come into force once the signs have been installed. We understand that these must be in place prior to the PSPOs going live. This could be before Christmas.

From SCC Facebook page, Thursday 27 November 2025:

'Southampton City Council's Cabinet has approved new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) across five areas of the city. The PSPOs are designed to make Southampton safer for residents, workers, and visitors and address street drinking, aggressive begging, and drug and psychoactive substance.

Councils can use PSPOs to prohibit specific activities or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities within a defined public area.

The PSPOs cover Shirley, Portswood, Bitterne, City Centre, and Woolston. Enforcement will be led by police officers, with Southampton City Council authorised to appoint additional officers. The new PSPOs will be in effect for three years, up to September 2028.

Southampton City Council's decision follows feedback from the Safe City Survey. This revealed overwhelming support for the new measures, with 93% backing controls on street drinking, and 97% supporting action on aggressive begging and drug use.

While enforcement is a priority, Southampton City Council emphasises education and support for those affected by substance use and homelessness. Fixed penalty notices may be issued, but the focus remains on helping individuals access services and support.

New signage will be installed across the five areas, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Safer Streets Fund. Southampton City Council will continue to work with partners to monitor the impact of the PSPOs and ensure Southampton remains a safe and welcoming city for all.'

5. Next Portswood PACT Meeting

6.30 to 8pm, Thursday 8 January 2026

6. Community updates from Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) on the anti-immigration protests outside the Highfield House Hotel

I continue to receive Key Information Network (KINS) updates from the Southampton North Neighbourhood Policing Team. These are often once a week. They continue to be posted on the News page of the HRA website: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/news/>

Nadine Johnson Digital Communications

Annex.iii. Digital Communications

Facebook/Website

There are now 1236 followers on the HRA Facebook page. An increase of 56 since the meeting of 7 October 2025.

Thank you to Ken, three other HRA Members and Barbara for photos, and also to Barbara and others for news items.

Pearsons Estate Agents have renewed their sponsorship of the HRA website for £260 from 29 November 2025 for one year.

Local News - Shop closures

Portswood Hardware closed on Monday 17 November

Atlantic Cleaners closed on Sunday 30 November

Cancer Research charity shop will close on 10 January 2026 (information on the charity shop received from Christine R)

Two New Discounts for HRA Members

The discounts below are conditional upon production of an in date HRA membership card:

Romanian Flavours at 5, Portwood Broadway, are giving members a 15% discount on food and drink (when taken with food). This restaurant is family run. This was a tip-off from Martin B.

ShoKuDo Southampton, a Japanese restaurant which has recently opened at [31 Highfield Lane](#), is giving HRA members a 10% discount for payment in cash (not card). Secured by Barbara.

E-News emailed to members

There have been 5 E-News since the October Committee meeting; Autumn issues 1-5 inclusive.

Nadine Johnson
Digital Communications

HRA@50 – 2026 – a year of celebrations for members

| 2026 | Event | Where | Tickets? | Cost | Who |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|----------|------|-----|
| January | Nature Walk | The Common | | | |
| February 14 | Valentines Afternoon Tea with chamber music (Bring your own Fizz) | Highfield Church Bethany Lounge | | | |
| March 7 / 14 | HRA@50 @ parkrun / parkwalk | The Common | | | |
| April 1 | Writers' Workshop | | | | |
| May | Highfield History Talk / Walk | | | | |
| June 21 / 22 | Open-air Hog Roast (bring your own bottle and seats). With band and games | Portswood Residents Gardens | | | |
| July | Photography Workshop | | | | |
| August | Art Exhibition | Avenue Church | | | |
| September | Memory Lane Exhibition (Saturday) | Highfield Church Hall | | | |
| October | HRA@50 @ parkrun / parkwalk | The Common | | | |
| November | AGM Special Lecture (Members' Reception) Lord Highfield | Highfield Church Hall | | | |
| December | Committee and Street Reps American Buffet (bring your own bottle) | | | | |

Other aspects: Year Book; Eventbrite? Publicity; Tickets; Catering; Sponsors; Speakers; The Mayor; who has contacts

Other ideas: Quiz night; Local Charity support