

Agenda HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 20 January 2026

Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



Annex.i. Clare Diaper, Southampton Collective

Annex.ii. Students Union

Annex.iii. HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group

Annex.iv. Communication from NORA Consultation on National Planning Policy

Annex.v. Digital Communications

Prof. Roger Brown will chair the meeting.

(There may be a short Reserved Business for committee members only after the main meeting)

1. Welcome:
2. Apologies:
3. Declarations of interest:
4. Guest Presentation and Questions: Clare Diaper, Southampton Collective (see Annex.i.)
[Southampton Collective](#)
5. Minutes, 10 December 2025 Committee Meeting – previously circulated
6. Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere
 - a. ATZ update
 - b. Highfield House Hotel update
 - c. Chair's letter to Cllr Winning
7. Avenue Campus update and strategy
8. Information from Councillors
 - a. Councillor Barbour: PACT Meeting; Avenue Campus procession
 - b. Councillor Finn: Carers consultation; Portswood school; Fly tipping; Community reassurance
 - c. Councillor Savage: Working with Environment agency; attended UK100 meeting in Westminster; met with Brookvale Rd residents regarding concerns over dangerous traffic movements locally; attended Operation Ford personal security awareness training; held meetings with anti-racism group Southampton; held meetings with Sustainability Resilience Institute and UoS leadership re Avenue Campus development; helped negotiate settlements from Southern Water when 1400 St Denys homes experienced unusually high mains water pressure; attended business engagement meetings with businesses on PW High Street; attended weekly meetings with police regarding HHH protests and police public order strategies; completed preparation and delivery of the Portswood Central Community Litter pick.
9. University
 - a. Sonia Cottrel Students Union Chief Executive Officer (Annex.ii)
10. HRA@50 – Programme update (BC)
11. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield and PACT Report- NJ (Annex.iii)
12. Planning
 - a. The National Organisation of Residents Associations (NORA) sent a draft document for comments in response to the Government Planning Reforms to HRA for comments (Annex.iv)

13. Reports

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

14. A.O.B.

- a. Sainsbury's car park (HRA Member) – Cllr Savage will comment
- b. The Avenue - flooded underpass (HRA Member)
- c. Bevois PACT Meeting 29 January 6:00-8:00pm. Hosted by OARA St Andrews Church, The Avenue

Reserved Business for Committee Members will be held after the main meeting if needed

Annex.i. Clare Diaper, Southampton Collective

Information for the Presentation - Imagine Southampton: Climate Friendly Futures – a new initiative

<https://socollective.org.uk/About-Us>

Clare will talk about:

- the project with the University, the outcomes and next steps with that project (2 local Workshops were run in the summer – several HRA Members attended).
- A new project - Imagine Southampton: Climate Friendly Futures: a deep dive into two city neighbourhoods – Shirley and Portswood - to create a future vision for these two neighbourhoods using creative engagement approaches.
- October Books has applied for funding to set up a Southampton Community and Climate Hub
- The Awards for All funding application for a Climate and Community Hub

Clare Diaper, Southampton Collective

Annex.ii. Students Union

SUSU (Students' Union) updates

- The tragic death of our first year student Henry Nowak before Christmas on top of the ongoing (and perhaps escalating) anti-immigration protests mean that students (and we) are currently very focused on safety. The Students' Union and the University have started conversations with the Police, Council and Satvir Kaur's office about how we might make students, and prospective students, feel safer.
- On the subject of Henry Nowak, we are working with the football teams he was part of to organise a match in his memory. The event will also be a fundraiser in support of a local knife crime charity and I will share the details when they are finalised.
- We are currently developing a programme of events that would be open to the local community rather than students. These would be likely to include '&sip' evenings, day clubbing and cinema screenings. I would welcome any feedback about these ideas and any others you would be interested in.

Sonia Cottrell Chief Executive

Annex.iii. HRA Crime Information Sharing WhatsApp Group

1. Reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting of 9 December 2025 - (8)

There have been 8 reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 9 December. This is a decrease of 16 incidents. However, the previous period covered 2 months.

(i) Incidents in Portswood - (2)

- Break-in of flat above Vibe Hairdressers, in the alleyway off Highfield Lane at the Junction with Portswood Road on 2/3 January. Two men, both in their 20s, sustained head injuries and were taken to hospital. Two men have been charged with aggravated burglary
- Innervision Hair and Beauty were burgled over the weekend of 2/4 January

(ii) Incidents reported away from Portswood Broadway - (5)

- **At the PACT Meeting on 8/1/26 a woman was verbally abused by one of the protesters. A HRA member reported this to the police at the time**
- A HRA Member was verbally abused at a London Road bus stop. The abuser didn't appear drunk or drugged
- A masked man in a locked and gated back garden, in the bottom end of Brookvale Road, wanted money to get through to the front. He was given money and left via the front
- A HRA Member was visited by two policemen regarding an apparent disturbance next door. The Member was unaware of anything. The policemen told the Member to phone 999 if it "kicked off"
- A car was parked in the PRG tennis club drive on the night of 12/13 January with 2 young male occupants inside chatting and smoking what was thought to smell like weed. The police were phoned on 101 and arrived within 10 mins. They spoke to the occupants and then left

(iii) Incidents reported in the press/social media - (1)

- Daily Echo 22/1/25: An Evri driver was arrested from a house in Bassett after 120 parcels stolen. He worked as a sub-contractor for the delivery company.

All crime and anti-social behaviour incidents are listed here: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incidents/>

2. PACT Meeting - Thursday 8 January (6.30pm to 8pm)

These informal notes focus on some of the main items raised and questions asked but do not include all items. Apologies for any errors. Not everything was captured and some aspects might have been mis-heard due to noise and disruption.

Attendees:

- All three Portswood Ward Councillors
- At least 4 HRA WhatsApp Group members
- Two representatives from the University of Southampton: Professor Jane Falkingham, responsible for their Civic Agenda, and the University Head of Security
- An audience of approximately 50-60

Apologies:

Barbara Claridge, HRA HonSec

6 HRA WhatsApp Group Members

On the Panel:

Francesca Prior, Service Manager, Safer Communities (Community Safety)

Cllr Alex Winning, Leader of the Council

PC Adam O'Neill, Dedicated Neighbourhood Police Officer, Southampton North Neighbourhood Policing Team

Alex Charge, District Commander Superintendent for Policing Southampton (responsible for policing protests and football matches)

Phil Price, Acting Inspector for Southampton North NPT (until end of January)

Yozanne Richards, A/Inspector Southampton North NPT

Tim Nelson, SCC.

Public Space Protection Order***(i) What are the two authorities doing to enforce it, how will they be monitoring it and what are the objectives?***

Now that the signs have been installed along Portswood High Street, the new Public Space Protection Order is live. This strengthened Order replaces the Order that lapsed at the end of April 2025, which only covered street drinking. It now also covers aggressive begging and drug and psychoactive substance use. The PSPO covers five areas of the city: Shirley, Bitterne, City Centre, Woolston and Portswood.

The Order lasts 3 years. The paperwork went live on 30 November 2025 and the Order will expire on 30 November 2028. It can be extended for a further 2 years after that period if there is evidence that it is working/is successful. Enforcement is by the SCC Community Safety team (of 4 people), who do regular patrols, and the police who will work in partnership to use the additional powers to challenge those behaviours. The PSPO gives the police and the SCC Community Safety team powers to disperse people who are found to be breaking the PSPO. For the police, they have powers to remove alcohol from individuals. However, SCC staff are not able to do this. Both authorities will document when and where the powers are used and this data will be collected by Francesca Prior (SCC Service Manager, Community Safety) to enable her to understand if the powers are being used and how successful they are.

The objective is to reduce anti-social behaviour. While enforcement is a priority, they will mainly tackle this from an educational perspective to ensure that they are supporting those affected - helping individuals access services and support. It's trying to be as inclusive and supportive as possible. Tickets/fixed penalty notices may be given out.

NB This was not discussed at the meeting but, for information, the Order covers the area from Gordon Avenue (near Waitrose) to the junction of Portswood Road with Highfield Lane at the traffic lights. It also covers St Denys Road from Portswood up to approximately Portswood Police Station, and also part of Westridge Road from Portswood.

(ii) Does the PSPO cover "when street attached walk into takeaways aggressively asking staff for free takeaway food. This was reported to me (Cllr Savage) by some high street staff at the weekend"

Yes, this intimidating behaviour would be covered under 'aggressive begging'. The PSPO allows the police, in partnership, to work to get to people on all the problems that cause 'aggressive begging'.

Police Statistics

The overall crime figure for Portswood to end December 2025 is actually dropping, at 119.

There was a spike in November in shoplifting. There is lots of good work being undertaken with retailers and that spike reduced into December/January. There is currently a spike in burglaries in sheds and outbuildings. The team will be focusing on this type of crime. There was a spike just before Christmas on motor vehicles. This is being brought down.

I would like to add that the problem with scooters / bikes on the pavements is not just with Voi as many illegal scooters and high powered delivery bikes use the pavements

The police take a measured approach. There are two extremes. If you get a law abiding member of the public who is not understanding of the legislation, they are given education. The issue is around the really dangerous use of these vehicles with anti-social behaviour. The police are starting to use Smart Spray Technology using ultra violet light. It sprays on a unique identity number. They also issue tickets. Any problem with Voi can be reported directly to Voi.

Many of the shops and businesses are concerned about break-ins and experiencing very high levels of shoplifting - what is being done by the police to address these issues?

Shoplifting is a continuing issue and has been for the last year. Since mid-September 2025, there have been 85 reports of shoplifting alone. Out of the 85, Portswood police have charged people or otherwise dealt with 48 of these offences positively. Seven suspects have been identified. There has been a 56.4% detection rate. Some stores have been hit harder than others. Portswood police have worked with them and some have now employed security. A lot of people who shoplift are substance abusers of various sorts.

We don't see many police on the high street. Is there going to be a visible increase in policing on the streets?

The police regularly patrol the high street and will continue to do so. They also regularly engage with businesses on the high street. The Council monitor the cameras and the police radio channels. For crime (and bikes on pavements), they do not monitor the high street 24/7 via the cameras.

There is a new local policing App in use which captures some data. Operation Sentinel is expected to do targeted controls/patrols.

There is an increase in drug dealing in Priory Hard; what can be done to actively stop this?

The police are aware of the location. Detecting drug dealing is very intelligence led. There is an under-reporting issue. Drug related harm is monitored very closely by the Neighbourhood Team. Cllr Finn said there were lots of nitrous oxide issues on Priory Hard. Police advice is to ask people to call 101 to report this. This will create an incident number and let the police know. The 101 response time is relatively quick now. Reporting empowers the police to do something. It is a city-wide / national issue.

When reporting online, it really does not matter which title you select. The police will work it out.

Many of the shops that are the victims of shoplifting have video footage and still images captured of regular offenders. Can they display the images on their premises to be viewed by their own staff to deter further thefts, and what will the police be doing to crack down on shoplifting at highly targeted shops like Boots Chemist, Tidal Vape, T-Rex Supermarket and Poundland, amongst others?

Yes, they can but only to their own staff and no one else. Community Orders can be placed on people, e.g. prolific offenders, to stop them from going into a shop.

Incidents around Avondale Court

A resident said that these were not being followed up. The police asked if there were crime numbers; they will look into it. There is a Beat Surgery planned for February 2026 at Avondale Court. Councillors will attend.

How illegal parking on the Broadway (on yellow lines and especially at night) is being enforced?

Francesca contacted the parking team in advance of the meeting. 793 notices have been placed on vehicles. All of them on double yellow lines. The Council is taking this seriously. They have several different patrols.

Businesses are reporting lots of homeless in the shop doorways. What can be done about this?

On 22 December, the Homeless and Community Safety Teams had a 'day of action'. It was deemed a success so this will be a regular occurrence.

3. Statement to WhatsApp Group from Barbara Claridge (HonSec) in response to a request for reconsideration of the HRA decision not to allow discussion of Highfield House Hotel protests in the Group

Click on the link: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Statement-to-WhatsApp-Group-January-2026-2.pdf>

4. 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 received once a week, sometimes pre or otherwise post the events. They continue to be posted on the News page of the HRA Website

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/news/>

Nadine Johnson Digital Communications

Annex.iv. Communication from NORA Consultation on National Planning Policy

Dear NORA member (i.e. HRA)

Just before Christmas the Government published two consultation papers on up-dating the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF). The first explains the proposals are a continuation of changes to planning about to be approved by Parliament, while the second puts 225 questions on the proposals. Both are long – 123 & 127 pages – in 20 Chapters. Their URLs are:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69417a0958a21370f58f3010/December_2025_NPPF_Consultation_document.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6941965758a21370f58f304e/Draft_NPPF_December_2025.pdf

One defines changes in the NPPF on development, use of land and the environment and the other includes the detail and the questionnaire. Some of the proposals are well-meaning and appear to be improvements but many of them appear to increase the involvement of central government at the expense of local government and the community. The underlying principle behind the changes is to encourage the building of houses to meet the target of 1.5 million dwellings in the government's manifesto.

It is essential for NORA to produce a powerful response, and we seek your views and concerns in order to be able to claim that it reflects our membership. The proposals are wide-ranging and affect us all, so we encourage you to study these two documents and consider making your own response. We would also be grateful to you for a copy of your response.

The closing date for a response is 10th March 2026. Do send your concerns to me at alanbshrank@gmail.com by 23rd February 2026, so that there is time to produce the NORA draft response and circulate it for your support.

Alan B Shrank – NORA committee

All responses to the Hon Sec by 16 February please

Annex.v. Digital Communications

Facebook/Website

There are now 1246 followers on the HRA Facebook page. An increase of 10 since the meeting of 9 December 2025.

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

Local Businesses

- Ceno Bar and Restaurant closed permanently on New Year's Day.
- The Broadway Pub will close permanently on 31 January with a closing party (according to the Daily Echo). Sue Ryder will be closing permanently soon.
- The Al Barakah superstore, in the former Blockbuster's site, opened on 12 December 2025
- A new shop - Khan's Variety, has opened up in the bigger shop unit vacated by Brides of Southampton. It appears that the smaller unit is still available.

Portswood Community Mixer - Tuesday 16 December, 6-7.30pm 2025 at October Books

This was billed as 'an informal evening of conversation, hot drinks and community connection' and the event included 'a chance to speak directly to Council Officers, police representatives and other community partners'. The logos on the invitation were: SCC, Hampshire Constabulary and email to Abri (?) for information. I was unable to attend.

E-News emailed to members

An E-News was emailed out on 3 January 2026.

Nadine Johnson
Digital Communications