

Agenda HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 10 March 2026

Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



Annex.i. Bus improvement achievements Eastleigh-Southampton Corridor

Annex.ii. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield

Annex.iii. Digital Communications

Prof. Roger Brown will chair the meeting

There will be a short Reserved Business for committee members only after the main meeting

1. Welcome:
2. Apologies:
3. Declarations of interest:
4. Minutes, 10 February 2026 Committee Meeting:
5. Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere
 - a. Brookvale ATZ Survey update information exchange. Local RAs (PRG, OTRA, BVRA) and Ward Councillors have been invited to contribute to this information exchange.
 - b. Bus improvement achievements Eastleigh-Southampton Corridor (Annex.i.) HonSec
 - c. Highfield House Hotel update – Community Key Information Network (KINS) updates from Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) on the anti-immigration protests outside the Highfield House Hotel are received once a week, sometimes pre but mostly post the events. They continue to be posted on the News page of the HRA website: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/news/> (NJ)
6. Information Reports from Councillors
 - a. Councillor Barbour:
 - b. Councillor Savage:
 - c. Councillor Finn: apologies sent
7. University
 - a. Sonia Cottrell Students Union Chief Executive Officer: apologies sent
 - b. Paddy Bedi
 - i. University of Southampton - Connaught Halls of Residence redevelopment and the restoration of South Stoneham House <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/~assets/doc/Wessex%20lane.pdf>
8. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield- NJ (Annex.iii.)
9. Planning
 - a. Enforcement enquiry - 24/00790/FUL - 197 Portswood Road (ex-Portswood Hardware premises)
 - b. Litter around Brookvale Road HMOs and the new supermarket – ongoing
 - c. Food truck at Al Barakah
10. Reports
 - a. Finance (MB) – income/expenditure for the last period
 - b. Membership (NM) - Current; paid in February ; did not renew in February ; new members
 - c. Digital Communications Report – NJ (Annex.iv.)
11. A.O.B.

New garden at Yellow Door, Brookvale Road: Proposal: Erection of new raised terrace and ramps in rear garden with Amendments approved under 24/00235/dis as part of permission 21/00074/FUL for extension of existing annexe/store building

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

1. Correspondence to HRA and response regarding the Brookvale ATZ Survey. Roger will discuss email correspondence from HRA-Brookvale members
2. Chair's meeting with Councillor Winning, 6 March
3. HRA@50 – Programme update: upcoming events, costs and committee volunteers (HRAHonSec)
 - a. March Event – 2 parkruns, voluntary donations to Southampton parkrun for new AV Speakers
 - b. March – launch of Photographic Competition
 - c. April Event - Urban Sketchers Workshop with Si and Cate , Committee 'sponsor' Ken B. Voluntary Donations for HRA for materials and room hire (October Books)
 - d. May Event – Highfield History Walk and Talk with Godfrey Collyer. Committee Sponsors Stephen Connolly am, Nadine Johnson pm. Voluntary donations to Portwood Library
 - e. June Event – Summer Nature Walk Portswood Rec.
 - f. June Event – Family picnic with games on the Common. Committee Sponsors Dave White and Ed Hill?
 - g. August Event – Art for Arts Sake, Avenue Church Hall. Committee Sponsors Martin (and Christine) Benning, Ken B. Voluntary donations to Yellow Door.

Breakdown in costs to date by event:

January – Winter Portswood Rec Nature walk - no costs – donations received £52

February – Valentines Tea – Southampton University Musicians – no costs - Venue = £153.60; catering and event = £145.27; Ticket sales = £69; Cost = £229.87

March – parkruns – no costs

March – launch of photographic Competition – The Best Pictures Taken on Phones (in and around Highfield)

April – Urban Sketchers Workshop – no teaching costs; Venue 2 hours = £47; materials = £30

May – Highfield History Walk and Talk – no guide costs;

June – Summer Portswood Rec Nature walk - no costs –

June – Family Picnic on the Common – no anticipated costs

July – Photo Competition judging – cost of prizes

August - Art for Arts Sake – costs to date: Open Studios £280

Annex.i. Bus improvement achievements Eastleigh-Southampton Corridor (HonSec)

Southampton
City of Opportunity

2024/25
Southampton to Eastleigh Corridor Improvements

16 new double deck buses for *Bluestar 2*
completed April 2024

Enhanced *weekend timetable* and new N2
August 2025

Bevois Valley scheme
completed 2020

East Park Terrace & Portland Terrace Bus Gates
completed 2023/4

Lodge Road junction scheme
completed 2024

SUPER STOPS
in Eastleigh & Bishopstoke
completed 2024

EASTLEIGH BUS STATION
improvements completed 2025

***Super Stops* at Portswood Broadway**
completed 2025

Portswood to Swaythling corridor
part completed

LOCATION POINTS

- Fair Oak
- Bishopstoke
- Eastleigh
- Swaythling
- Portswood
- Bevois Valley
- City Centre

Bus Priority at traffic lights in Eastleigh and Southampton
completed 2025

bluestar
southampton.gov.uk

Hampshire
County Council

SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

What is a Super Stop? Is it just an enhanced / bigger bus stop

The super stops at Portswood Broadway feature a larger and longer shelter, seating, TFT real time screens and green living roofs.

What are Location Points? That bit of the illustration makes it look as though a bus would only stop at those places?

The location points are simply to demonstrate the route of the Bluestar 2.

What / how do the 16 new double decker buses for Bluestar contribute to improvement? Is it to make more buses available? Is it because they are greener / less polluting? Is it because they replaced old buses?

The 16 new double deck buses introduced onto Bluestar 2 from April 2024 are newer Euro VI compliant buses, replacing buses dating from 2008.

What is left to complete along the Portswood to Swaythling Corridor?

That's being progressed by colleagues at the council and the HRA will be kept updated.

Annex.ii. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield (NJ)

1. Reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting of 10 February 2026 - (12+)

There have been 12+ reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 10 February. This is an increase of one when compared to the previous period.

(i) Incidents in Portswood - (7+)

- Crowd of men near former Flagship Coffee with very loud music, shouting, arms waving etc (1)
- Abandoned duvet in the nook next to Boots (1)
- Bike riding on pavement (1)
- Street drinkers in shop doorway with a large speaker, playing music at high volume, and using microphones to shout at people passing by (1)*
- A group of 3-4 men in 20s walking along in an intimidating manner, staring people down. Possibly involved in drug related activity and appeared potentially violent (in the 'professional opinion' of the person reporting), shouting up the road at a man believed to be a resident of one of the flats above October Books, who had opened the door for one of them to enter (1)*
- One of the flats above October Books had a window completely smashed (1)*
- The bins at Muse overflowing with numerous bin bags scattered across the pavement (1)*

* While the above incidents were happening, a local police van drove down the road. The driver looked over briefly and then looked the other way.

(ii) Incidents reported away from Portswood Broadway - (4+)

- Three youngsters around 9 years old on e-scooters attempted to set fire to 'bits and pieces' at Portswood Rec (1)
- Police 'crime alert' notice put through letterbox that a crime had been committed in Nile Road - an assault. The notification asked for information, CCTV/dash cam footage etc (1)
- Lots of black bags being stuffed into green waste bins by other people, in Highfield Crescent (1)
- A chair and glass were deposited on land around the bigger flats at the junction of Grosvenor Road and Portswood Road (1)

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

- Southampton Police on Facebook: "Officers investigating a rape have charged a man". The rape was in the Polygon area but the suspect lived in Sirdar Road and was suspected of "administering a substance with intent to stupefy / overpower to allow sexual activity": <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/from-southampton-police-on-facebook-8-2-26-officers-investigating-a-rape-in-southampton-have-charged-a-man/>

It is understood that the above incidents were reported to the relevant authorities.

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

2. Community updates from Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) on the anti-immigration protests outside the Highfield House Hotel and also on protest marches on Sunday 1 March 2026

I continue to receive Key Information Network (KINS) updates from the Southampton North Neighbourhood Policing Team. These are often received once a week, mostly after 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.iii. Digital Communications

Facebook/Website

There are now 1274 followers on the HRA Facebook page. An increase of 14 since the meeting of 10 February 2026.

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

Local Businesses

- October Books have written to members asking for donations / preferably monthly contributions, as January was very poor in terms of sales and, while overall trading has improved significantly over the last 6 months, they are not covering their costs on a regular basis. They are very close to closing their doors and current projections show that they would run out of money in May 2026 on their current trajectory
- Portswood Shopping Centre is now completely empty.

eNews emailed to members

An eNews was emailed out on 20 February 2026, and HRA@50 Parkrun event details on 4 March 2026.

Nadine Johnson
Digital Communications