

Our Ref: VC-MC-2026 05 05 Brown

Mr Roger Brown
Chair, HRA
9 Blenheim Avenue
Southampton
SO17 1DW

5th May 2026

Dear Roger,

Re: Avenue Campus

Thank you for your letter of 17th April, sent on behalf of the Highfield Residents Association and Oakmount Triangle Residents Association.

We very much welcome your constructive approach and your continued interest in the Avenue Campus and its relationship with the surrounding community. We remain committed to being an active heartbeat of the community: listening carefully to local views, understanding the priorities of our neighbours, and looking for opportunities to work positively together where we can.

As you may be aware, I will be stepping down from my role, so I am not able at this stage to nominate a named or permanent University contact for this work. However, we would be very interested to understand more about the areas you and the two Associations would like to explore with us, including the points you raise around perimeter screening, succession planting, landscaping, biodiversity and the wider local environment.

It would be helpful if you could share a little more detail on the kind of engagement you have in mind, the outcomes you would hope to achieve, and whether you envisage this as an initial conversation, a short-term piece of work, or something that may develop over time. I am aware of the good relationship that you hold with Gagandeep (Paddy) Bedi and would ask that you engage with him in the first instance.

We recognise the importance of resetting and strengthening relationships with local residents following the recent decision not to proceed with the planning application for the Avenue Campus, and we are grateful for the positive spirit in which you have written.

We would be pleased to continue the conversation and consider how best the University can engage constructively with the Associations on these matters.

Best regards

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mark' being the most prominent.

Professor Mark E. Smith CBE
President and Vice-Chancellor

cc Gagandeep (Paddy) Bedi, Associate Director, Corporate Communications