

Minutes HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 14 July 2026
Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



1. **Welcome:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged there were a number of apologies. He thanked those who had prepared reports in advance of the meeting. Thanks were also expressed to Ken Burtenshaw for taking the meeting notes.

2. **Apologies:** Barbara Claridge, Jerry Gillen, Dave White, G Giles (University), Councillor Walsh, Martin Benning, Councillor Foster

Members present: Roger Brown, Paul Beard, Karen Edwards, Nicola Martin, Nadine Johnson, Stephen Connolly, Ken Burtenshaw, Ed Hill

Others present: Councillor Barbour, Councillor Savage, Graham Linecar, Jamie Holmes, Malcolm White (OTRA), Sharon Burgess (OARA), Sonia Cottrell (SUSU)

3. **Declarations of interest:** None recorded

4. **Minutes**

- a. The Minutes of the June 2026 Committee Meeting were circulated in advance and approved

5. **Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere**

- a. Council plans for Portswood District Centre

Councillor Barbour had met Stephen Haynes, SCC Executive Director Development and walked around the Broadway consulting with various traders and getting their views. Issues such as the redevelopment of Portswood Shopping Centre had been discussed. Councillor Barbour had raised the issue of more trees in the Broadway and how they would improve the ambience.

Councillor Savage continued the theme after meeting with Fusion representatives. Antisocial Behaviour was on the rise and people were concerned about safety. This had increased since the protests at Highfield House Hotel and the violent disorder during the Henry Nowak trial protest march. It was highlighted that there were now a number of street-attached people encamped on the Portswood Shopping Centre underhang. Building work was currently on hold and the car park was closed. It appeared that there was still no date for the works to begin. Pop-up shops were not considered suitable on a temporary basis. It was suggested that the existing hoarding be extended to eliminate the space that was now being occupied by street sleepers (now agreed)

Graham Linecar asked Councillor Savage whether a survey could be carried out to ascertain whether trees could be planted in the Broadway, which didn't interfere with important power cables.

- b. University plans for the Gower car park – (Apologies) This item would be discussed at the next meeting in September

6. Portswood Project –

- a. Update and Next Steps - Letter from Councillor Rayment, Cabinet Member Transport, to HRAHonSec (Agenda Annex.i.)

RB explained that Councillor Rayment's letter had described the new measures on which the Council would be consulting in the autumn, following the community survey earlier in the year. These would include plans to install speed calming cushions and raised tables in Brookvale Road, Russell Place and Abbotts Way. The buildouts on Brookvale and Belmont Roads would be removed. The Broadway and St Denys spur road would be retained. The modal filters trialled on Brookvale Road and Russell Place would not return. Roger suggested that, without prejudice to our response in the legal TRO consultation, HRA should welcome the letter as drawing a line under this stage of the project and enabling the discussion to move on. The Committee agreed with this approach, especially as it was clear that safety was now the Council's top priority. Roger and Barbara would write a response to counsellor Rayment.

Jamie Holmes (HRA member) from Brookvale Road, was not convinced the new measures to replace the buildouts would be successful and that cushioned vehicle calming had not been proved effective. He believed that safety should be the top priority. RB suggested that HRA should seek a post-implementation review of the effectiveness of the new measures in improving g safety across all the roads in the area. This was agreed.

Ed Hill continued by saying that there were safety concerns regarding the zebra crossing on Highfield Lane especially for school children. (Post Meeting Note: it is expected that this type of crossing would be replaced with a safer and more effective crossing when the Safe Routes to School plans are published).

Roger mentioned that the 20mph limit needed to be enforced more effectively and required road signs that were far more prominent and perhaps 20 mph circles painted on the road. Councillor Savage confirmed that this would happen.

- b. Highfield ATZ Consultation Summary of Feedback:

<https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/media/4219/highfield-atz-survey-webpage.pdf>

- b. Safer Routes to School Programme SCC

<https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/atf/safer-routes-to-school-fairisle-schools/>

7. Information Reports from Councillors

- a. Councillor Barbour, Portswood
- b. Councillor Savage reported that he had held various meetings with Southern Water in response to odour reports from local residents. On the 23 May Bank holiday the smell had been especially bad. It had been suggested that local residents carry out a site visit (up to 20 residents only).

John also reported that Salmon poaching continued to be a problem on the River Itchen. He was looking into new legative ways to stop it.

- c. Councillor Foster, Portswood (Apologies)
- d. Councillor Walsh, Swaythling (Apologies)

8. University

- a. University Report (Apologies)- See Annex.i.
- b. Sonia Cotterell (SUSU) reported that this was a quieter period at the University. Term was starting a week earlier in September inline with most other Universities.

9. Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group Report

- a. Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group Report – Roger thanked Nadine for her advance report. The contents were noted. Nadine asked local residents to be especially vigilant in this warm weather regarding the increase in burglaries.
- b. Minutes of the PACT Meeting 02/07/26 – these were noted

10. Planning

- a. 26/00720/ELDC 54 Arnold Road (Stephen Connolly reported):

“I have had a look at Arnold Road and spoken to several residents and yes Arnold Road is student/HMO territory, about 80% rented out, there are about 60 properties in the road. 13 are on the Public Register of fully licenced HMOs, I am sure there are several unlicenced.

I spoke to a long term resident at 46, and she confirmed that 54, which is applying for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate (ELDC) has been an HMO for more than 10 years and therefore we cannot object.

She did say the house next to her, No.44, had also applied for an ELDC on the 21-03-26, as it had been run as an HMO for more than 10 years. She had objected to it as it was rented out to a family for several month five years ago, and therefore there was a break in it being an HMO. Her objection was the only one and it is awaiting a decision.

Question, does a property need to be in continuous use as an HMO to qualify for this 10 year rule? HonSec to contact HMO about this.” (Action HonSec to follow up with Planning).

11. Reports

- a. **Finance** – income: £347; Expenditure: £428; Current Account Balance: £2807; High Interest Account Balance: £28,454
- b. **Membership** - 346 members recorded on the Database. Jan = 30; Feb = 9; March = 47; April = 78; May = 23; June = 10. 197 paid up members 2026

Not paid - Jan = 8; Feb = 7; March = 12; April = 15; May = 11; June = 6. 59 did not rejoin in 2026

18 paid in cash; 47 paid by cheque; 143 paid by BACS (NM)

c. Digital Communications Report

Facebook/Website

There were now 1302 followers on the HRA Facebook page, an increase of 6 since the meeting of 11 June 2026.

Thank you to Barbara and miscellaneous others for news items.

eNews emailed to members

Two further eNews were published to members - on 23 June and on 9 July (NJ)

12. A.O.B.

- a. Photo Competition – all of the updates had been published in the Latest eNews.
- b. Art for Art’s Sake Exhibition update - see latest eNews. Ken also handed out postcards publicising the Art for Art’s Sake, art, photography and craft exhibition to be held in August 22 & 23 @ Avenue St Andrews Church.

c. Local Government Reorganisation

Roger explained that a new local authority - provisionally called South West Hampshire - would take over the City Council's functions from April 2028. It would subsume Southampton, Eastleigh and the coastal areas to the West. Elections to the new authority would take place in May 2027 with candidate selection this autumn. This could mean an hiatus in the delivery of local functions, especially if there was a lack of continuity at officer level. No changes in Ward boundaries were currently foreseen but there had been talk of new neighbourhood, community or parish councils being established. Together with the new Mayor, this could create a three-tier local governance framework compared to the current unitary or two-tier one. It would be important for HRA to monitor the position closely as the changes came nearer.

d. RB reported that he had learned that the Southampton Collective Climate Action Fund Proposal (October Books), which HRA had supported, had not been successful

Dates of the next meetings:

No meeting in August

Next meeting: Tuesday 8 September, 7pm

Annex.i. Updates from the University

Following a meeting with Portswood Ward councillors and a local resident the University is investigating ways to make the Avenue campus amenities more accessible to local residents, specifically around the access to the cafe during school holidays. University Catering have agreed to fund a free 'coffee and cake' voucher during August for local residents. The programme will fund up to 100 vouchers to the value of £5 per person throughout August. The Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement is working with colleagues in Estates to develop a Tree Detective activity for children to identify trees and plants on Avenue campus to learn more about nature on campus. Further details of this project will be published during July with information shared with resident's associations with a request that this is shared via websites and newsletters. HRA members are warmly welcomed participate in the voucher scheme. Participation in Tree Detective activity is not compulsory but is encouraged...

In response to concerns raised around lighting at Avenue causing a disturbances to residents on Khartoum Road Security teams are now manually ensuring that all lighting is turned off on second floor. The University is also investigating automated solutions to be deployed in the autumn to ensure that evening work by students in computer labs do not cause a light source issue for neighbours.

The University supported the development and installation of an infographic developed by pupils at Sholing Junior School to honour the RAF heroes of WWII. The infographic was unveiled at Sir James Mathews building in Guildhall Square. Residents are encouraged to review the wonderful work of these pupils when next in Guildhall Square (located on Above Bar end of exterior wall facing Guildhall Square).

Finally summer Graduation is nearly upon us. Commencing on Wednesday 15th July in Southampton Guildhall Hall and at Winchester Cathedral (for Winchester School of Art students) this high point of academic year is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work of students, their family and supporters and academic staff. Completed over two weeks residents should expect begowned students and proud family members to be highly visible in the city. Of note for this Committee is the award of an honorary degree for services to the city of Southampton and energy security to Highfield resident Lord Alan Whitehead.

G Giles

Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement