

Minutes HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 8 September 2026
Highfield Church Centre 19:00h



Annex.i. HRA monthly meeting Cllrs Kat Barbour and Lori Foster September 2026

1. **Welcome:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting

Committee Members present: Roger Brown, Martin Benning, Nicolla Martin, Nadine Johnson, Jerry Gillen, Karen Edwards

Others present: Malcolm White (OTRA), Sonia Cottrell (SUSU), G Giles (Uni), Simon Fidler (Member), Graham Linecar (SCAPPS)

2. **Apologies:** Barbara Claridge, Paul Beard, Sharon Burgess (OARA), Stephen Connolly, Ed Hill, Dave White, Cllrs Barbour, Foster and Savage

3. **Declarations of interest:** None were declared

4. **Minutes**

July 2026 Committee Meeting circulated in advance – these were accepted

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

- a. Update on Council plans for Portswood District Centre (Agenda Annex.i. Timeline, confirmed by Greg Churcher)

Karen expressed a need for the Council to be far more open about their plans to all interested parties. Not just with The Brookvale Road group.

- b. Art for Art's Sake Report

The exhibition had been a very successful event that had run over a weekend period. The footfall had increased greatly from previous years and it resulted in a great community event. HRA's involvement proved to be very important, especially funding the publicity material. It was hoped that HRA would continue with their involvement in 2027

- c. Following the note in the Minutes of 14 July, Item 10.a. Planning, the Hon Sec had contacted the HMO Department. It was confirmed that a Planning ELDC for Change of Use to an HMO would not be issued if there had been any break of the property NOT being an HMO within those 10 years. This had relevance to several recent ELDC applications. This was noted.

6. **Information Reports from Councillors**

- a. Councillor Barbour, Portswood (Minutes Annex.i.)
- b. Councillor Foster, Portswood (Minutes Annex.i.)

7. University

a. University Report (G Giles)

Gower Visitors Carpark – an external company had been commissioned to review usage on the busiest day of the Gower Visitors Carpark and the nearest alternative carpark, (Short Stay Carpark, University Road, using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR). This work had demonstrated that on the busiest day, at the busiest hour of the day, there had been sufficient capacity in the Short Stay Carpark. Further the new automated Pay As You Go Scheme made it less bureaucratic for visitors to park on campus. 5 Disabled Bays would be retained on the site of the old Gower Visitors carpark as well as 5 EV charging stations. There therefore seemed there would be little additional pressure on parking in the Oakmount Triangle.

Moveout Weekend - this year's enhanced scheme covered the equivalent of 1075 collections, removing 41 tonnes of waste and recycling city-wide and 22 tonnes from UoS funded routes. These routes covered 16 roads in Swaythling, Bevois and Portswood wards. HRA would be invited to the SCC wash up meeting currently being scheduled for October.

Reminders:

British Science Festival 16- 20 September - more info britishsciencefestival.org for events and listings. The featured free events included; the ocean remembers, a musical performance combining beatboxing, Maritime research and jazz composition. The skate equation; a mathematics and skateboarding participation workshop. Generate; performances at Mayflower studios exploring human reactions to artificial intelligence. He stressed that these events for young adults were family friendly, designed to give a clear understanding of science.

Giles was pleased to announce that students returned to Halls on the 10 September and induction week would begin on the 21 September. He also reported that the numbers of overseas students recruited were down. Roger commented that this could possibly be down to Government action in 2024 stopping international students bringing family members to the UK.

The new Vice Chancellor, Prof. Charlie Jeffrey from York University, would be in post by the beginning of October.

Giles thanked HRA for advertising the Avenue Cafe Mini Beasts event. £160 of vouchers were given away to local residents.

8. Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group Report

a. Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group Report (Agenda Annex.iii.)

Update on effectiveness of the Dispersal Order Portswood High Street (Agenda Annex.iv. Report). Nadine reported that since the Dispersal Order had been carried out in Portswood High Street, a temporary hoarding had been erected around the shopping centre due for redevelopment. Hopefully this would deter any future encampments. Martin enquired whether any artists painting or decoration would be added to the wooden hoarding surface to make the area more attractive?

Karen remarked that the Post Office had been a lot busier since the Dispersal Order and the removal of the encampment.

b. Graham commented that the PSPO on the common regarding barbecues was unclear. (Post meeting note Graham advised to speak to the Lead Ranger)

c. Minutes of the PACT Meeting 12/08/26 (Agenda Annex.iv)

d. PSPO for the Common – information from Lead Ranger – noted. Roger expressed concern about enforcement and it was agreed he would write to the Lead Ranger.

9. Planning

- a. New Local Plan - Ref: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/planning-policy/emerging-plans/city-vision/notice-of-intention-to-commence/>
- b. National Planning Policy Framework: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a8334c03bd75b81e2329ac4/National_Planning_Policy_Framework.pdf (Summary details Agenda Annex.vi.)

Rt Hon Matthew Pennycook MP Letter to All Local Authority Leaders and Metro Mayors in England See (Agenda Annex.vii.) – all noted

Jerry explained more fully the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which had recently become Law. He applauded the focus on the need for new housing and a cohesive infrastructure. A local MP had written to the Minister trying to reinstate meetings with National Organisation of Residents Associations (NORA), of which Jerry in Co-Chair. There had been no comment so far.

Karen emphasised the need for positive stance on conservation areas. (See Section 20.Conserving and enhancing the historic environment pp. 93-98)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a8334c03bd75b81e2329ac4/National_Planning_Policy_Framework.pdf

10. Reports

- a. **Finance** – income = £131; Expenditure = £121; Current Account Balance = £2398; High Interest Account Balance = £28,545

- b. **Membership** - 346 members recorded on the Database. Members by month: Jan = 30; Feb = 9; March = 47; April = 78; May = 23; June = 10; July 28; Aug 11 = 236 paid up members to date in 2026. Aug payments – no cash, 5 cheques, 5 BACS

Not paid - Jan = 8; Feb = 7; March = 12; April = 15; May = 11; June = 6; July = 6; Aug = 3

A total of 68 member households have not rejoined in 2026

c. Digital Communications Report

Facebook/Website

There were now 1,325 followers on the HRA Facebook page. An increase of 23 since the meeting of 14 July 2026. Thank you to Ken, Barbara and one other HRA member for photos and to Barbara and miscellaneous others for news items.

New HRA Member Discount

Quick Click Repairs in Unit 18 (Unity 12) 9-19 Rose Road are giving HRA Members a 10% discount on all repairs (on computers, laptops, consoles, soldering of PCBs, data recovery) See more on: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/benefits/>

eNews emailed to members

There have been two eNews - on 18 July and on 15 August.

11. A.O.B.

a. HRA Community Speedwatch - HRA Community Speedwatch Group – details noted. Simon Fiddler, HRA member, who was to be the Speedwatch Co-ordinator) explained the development of an HRA Community Speed Watch Group. Six – eight people would be trained to monitor speeds on local roads. Locations would be confirmed with the police who had to conduct H&S assessments. It was inquired whether a speed gun should be purchased by HRA. Also, the Chandlers Ford speed watch group would be invited to an HRA meeting to offer advice and discuss their experiences so far.

Nadine mentioned her connection with a SO17 Project with Clare Diaper (previously at October Books). This was to share information regarding the High Street decline and disorder plus promoting civic engagement.

b. Autumn Newsletter: The majority of Street Reps had signed up for which HRA was very grateful. Two more volunteers were needed to cover the following rounds: 1. Welbeck-Upper Grosvenor-Donnington Grove (138); 2. Upper Shaftesbury-rest of Welbeck (143).

Dates of the next meetings:

13 October – Part 1 Committee and Part 2 AGM Planning

12 November AGM

8 December Committee Meeting

Brookvale Road

The cabinet lead met with a rep of BVRRA this week to discuss some suggestions for making this area safer. Cllr Rayment is going away to consider her position and will get back to BVRRA in the next week. The Green group has concerns about the process of the consultation which was very narrow in its scoping. It appears that public opinion was the main factor in decision making rather than safety or evidence from other similar projects in Southampton and beyond. Speeds on Brookvale Road are currently circa 22mph so speed cushions seem like an unnecessary cost.

Portswood shopping centre – Portswood Broadway

Fusion has agreed to increase the hoarding around the site but no date has been set for this. In the interim businesses struggle, the Asian clothing shop has gone already.

Nova launch (previously Poppins)

Kat attended as sheriff of the city and she recommends residents to support this local business, which is no longer a franchise, it is now family run.

Portswood Planning Strategy Group

Portswood planning meetings re housing continue and dates will shortly be set for public coproduction workshops on issues around housing in the ward.

The local plan timetable has been published and is no longer the Southampton City Vision but now just called the Local Plan. There will be a public consultation starting shortly for 6 weeks.

St Denys Roads

In St Denys, roads have been dug up! Priory Road has been resurfaced, the long running water leak has been repaired in Adelaide Road and now the Railway Bridge on Priory Road is going to be repaired from September to December, so residents are bracing themselves for more traffic chaos around our narrow and over parked streets.

Work Club comes to St Denys

Lori has worked with the Young Adults Employment Hub to bring a Work Club every Tuesday from 10am-12, for young people aged 18-25 who are not in education, training or work. Please encourage young people to come and down and get help and advice on finding work, training courses or updating their CVs. The team can also support with covering letters, discovering career paths and apprenticeships.