



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th December 2009
at Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen- Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell - Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Josie Brown, Rafeal Persaud, Peggy Augier and Julia Brooking

Apologies Adrian Vinson , Sue Hartley and Allison Shelly

Attending PC Andy Alderson, PCSO Matt Manning, Nigel and Janice King, Jean Wawman (EBRA) James Cox (EBRA), Matt Martin (Uni), Cllr Vincenzo Capozolli, Sarah, Nick Bacon, Betty Stacey, Graham Linecar and Jenny Arnold (PRG).

Minutes of the last meeting agreed

Matters Arising

- Jerry attended the Customer Open Day at the planning Dept.
- Licensing- we have received a letter of apology from the Magistrates' Court and a refund re The Cube.
- The University Community Liaison Meeting went well.
- It has been confirmed that the Equal Opportunities statement in our last minutes is acceptable as proof that we are committed when sending in applications for funding.
- The Police will be taking information from people stopped in relation to anti-social behaviour.

Correspondence

- We registered a formal complaint re the handling of the appeal on 28a Brookvale Road but as the Council have apologised this has been withdrawn..
- The Appeal re 1 Crofton close will be held on 19th January.

- 38 Granby Grove and the application to turn the garage into habitable accommodation—AV is writing to object
- We have received North West Bassett's Newsletter..
- 62 Sirdar – resubmission of application for two maisonettes with 'wrap round' extensions.

University Liaison

Matt

- Neighbourhood News is out . The previous weekend was the last weekend that student activities will take place until 4th January when they return.
- There have only been three complaints relating to noise.
- There is a new Careers Centre for students. The University is trying to discourage cars being used to get to the Uni and there is a new Travel Plan.
- The Northern Community Forum has applied for the £40K for additional late night policing for Highfield and East Bassett. The plan is to base the scheme on the scheme implemented in Newcastle to fund overtime for street patrols.
- We are not being informed of temporary event notices for late night functions. Posters adverting The Cube have been seen in licensed premises in the City Centre. It appears that events are allowing the public as the poster said £5 entry for students and £8 for members of the public.

Police

- Andy apologised for failure to attend meetings but explained that resources had made this difficult. Sonja has left and Steve is on restricted duties.
- There have been more operation Batcombe sessions and residents have approved of this. There is the possibility of using Special Constables for this. The Police presence definitely makes a difference. James and Jerry attended the last one on Friday and thought that the resources and planning were good. It must be understood that any additional policing is over and above the Marshalling Scheme. There is a possibility of body worn video cameras being used. How the money is to be held and apportioned will be decided if it is granted. A meeting of the sub-group will be held to decide this if we are allocated the funds.
- The Police are holding a Surgery every two weeks in Waitrose.

- The signs forbidding cyclists from cycling on the pavements are now permanent in Portswood.
- There were complaints re a party in Chamberlain Road and the Environmental Health attended. It is a good idea to call Environmental Health in this situation.
- Andy asked that people keep an eye on empty properties over the holidays.

University Community Grant

There is a grant of £500 available and this is seen as a possible opportunity for Common Sense. The criteria are that there is to be working relationship with students so there would be funds and people available for help. Common Sense may apply jointly with The Hawthorns. which would give an opportunity for the students to gain something. Graham will put together a proposal that meets the requirements by 6th January under the umbrella of HRA. It was suggested that an ideal area for work would be the space opposite the Avenue Campus- perhaps to make a space for young children and also a sitting area. Headley and Jerry will assist with the proposal and will also find out from the University what would benefit the students but let them know that they would have to fit in with the plans. Kate Thorpe of the Volunteering Team would be willing to help with the application.

Membership

There are 513 paid up households at present. North East Bassett would like to model a membership structure on ours with a £3 membership fee- most people do give £5 and a great deal of our membership money comes from voluntary donations.

Finance Finances are healthy.

Planning

Report as circulated.

- 38 Granby Grove- objection
- 30-32 Granby Grove- application for a detached house. ? objecting. It must be remembered that there are specific grounds for objection.
- 28a Brookvale Rd. After 10 years work by HRA the application has been refused.
- Betty Stacey thanked Jerry, Adrian and Jeremy Moulton for their support.
- Alan Whitehead will be briefing the Housing Minister.

Christmas Party Feedback.

The party was held on Saturday 12th at Portswood school. Phil thought that the venue was better and plans to use it again. Crazy M was good and she will be used again. The party only cost £130 which was felt to be very good value- about 50 children attended. The children really enjoyed it. Our thanks to Phil for his hard work in organising this successful event and also to Alison for her help too.

Newsletter

We are planning the next newsletter for late February. We have quite of a lot of approaches from people wanting to contribute. It is felt that there has been an improvement in the quality of the newsletter.

Website

There has been a security update as there are many attempts on the site. The planning updates and minutes are up to date. Tony produced a graph showing the number of hits on the site over the year. The site is well used. Matt Manning suggested putting a link on to the Police Quarterly Newsletter and a page for Police Updates.

Highfield Map

Jerry has gained permission from the Ordnance Survey and the Council to use their map for free. It is an improvement on the old version and is in colour. Jerry is hoping that the Forum will pay for the printing.

AGM

This is on 15th April. Following comments after the last AGM Andy Alderson will be on the speaker's panel. Jerry has asked Sarah Clover to speak and it was suggested that the new Vice Chancellor would also be a good speaker. **JG to invite.**

AOB

- Jerry announced the very sad news that Roret Blue's husband died a couple of weeks ago. Jerry has written on behalf of the committee and we will arrange to send flowers via Sue Crozier. **CK.**
- Headley reminded everyone that we are approaching the end of the financial year so expenses claims need to be submitted.
- Peggy told the committee that Neighbourhood Watch has been started in Roselands Gardens.

- Josie told the committee about a paper in the BMJ that demonstrated that driving at 20 mph reduces mortality in accidents involving children. It was agreed that a reduction in speed limit in residential areas was desirable. **VC will investigate.**
- The proliferation of To Let signs was brought up. The rules are that they should be removed by 14 days after the property has been let. It is a planning issue so letters should be written to the Planning Dept. VC has information on this that he will pass to Betty.
- Nigel and Janice thanked the committee for allowing them to attend.
- Rafeal said that he is getting no communication. It would seem that we have not got the right email address for him.
- We would like to know the details of the University Travel Plan- is there a hand out or a public document that we can access. There was also some concern about the method of public consultation that is deemed to have taken place.

The meeting closed at 9.15

The next meeting is on 11th January