



**HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.30 p m on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009**  
**At the Highfield House Hotel**

Present: Jerry Gillen – Chair, Sue Hartley – Vice Chair, Bryan Wakely, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Josie Brown and Julia Brooking.

Apologies: Caroline Knight – Secretary, Headley Rossell, Allison Shelly, Catherine Powell, Adrian Vinson and Jonathan Smith.

In Attendance: Cllr. Vincenzo Capozzoli, Matt Martin – University Liaison, Peter Knight, Rafael Persaud, Sara Rasmussen, Joan Simcock from Brickfield Road, Evan Hughes from Northcote Road, Jacky Barnes and Roret Blue.

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

Matters arising and not on the agenda: None.

Correspondence: All correspondence relates to planning and is dealt with in Adrian's update. Jerry had e-mails related to HMOs.

Community Liaison / SU: Matt Martin had a meeting with the Community Liaison Panel and a number of Resident Associations and there had been good feedback. Student exams are nearly finished. The end of year Ball is on Wednesday. Most students depart this weekend. There had been three Police patrols last week and the same the week before – any student found to be drunk had their alcohol taken off them. Elections had taken place and the current Union president Alex Tanfield will hand over the reins to Steve O'Reilly. Jerry expressed our thanks and appreciation for all the work Alex had done over the year and wished her success in the future. There was no information about the attacks at the paddling pool. Matt confirmed that he and the Police Community Officer, Matthew Manning, had called at the house in Holyrood Avenue, where some drunken students had thrown objects into neighbouring gardens. They were given a general warning and were apologetic.

Application to join Association: Rafael Persaud had requested that Northcote, Brickfield, Somerset, Bowden, Arnold, Kitchener and Sirdar Roads be formally offered support and included in the distributions of the newsletter. Adrian made the point at the May meeting, that this was a strategic area. Jerry confirmed that they would be welcomed, and said it was important to increase membership, as there is strength in numbers. This was approved and seconded by Bryan Wakely and Sue Hartley. Rafael has volunteered to act as the street representative for these roads.

Peter Knight confirmed that in 1970 Winn and Westwood Roads were included in the Highfield boundary. He also found an interesting map, which appeared in a commemorative booklet by Martin Dedman entitled "Highfield Church 1847 – 1977: A story of growth, change and development", shows that the boundaries of the parish were more extensive than many people imagine. All the above roads were included, except half of Sirdar and Kitchener Roads.

Students that have lived in this area tend to be long term and some are returning and buying houses. Tudor Distributors estimated 348 houses within this area; therefore the newsletter will increase its print by another 500 copies, which should go out at the end of July.

HMO Campaign – National conference, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009: Jerry will attend with Cllr. Mathew Dean. The committee approved a financial contribution, of £500 towards the cost of a planning Barrister from No. 5 Chambers to help with the HMO consultation. It was anticipated a similar amount would be forthcoming from North Southampton Community Forum (CAF). This in the long term would benefit Highfield, and Southampton as a whole. John Denham's new appointment was welcomed and should be most helpful.

Membership: Database remains at 631. Paid up membership for 2008 remains at 491 households.

Paid up membership for 2009.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
14	29	41	Agm	273	299

Finance: Healthy.

- i. Budgeted £1,000 for the 28 Brookvale Road appeal should not now be needed as the Council have appointed its own Barrister from a local Chambers.
- ii. Summer newsletter will have part sponsorship by Sainburys in the some of £500.00

Planning: 1, Crofton Close – following an unsuccessful claim under the 10 year rule an enforcement order is to be issued. It remains to be seen if the occupants intend to appeal this decision, which would then be a third appeal against the protection of condition 16, which applies to the *whole* of Crofton Close.

28 + 28A Brookvale Road appeal date is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Southampton City Council has employed a Barrister from College Chambers. Sarah Clover, 5, The Chambers, has done all the work on this, on behalf of HRA and would have been employed to represent the Council, but Sarah was about to give birth. Jerry and Dr. Buckle from Portswood Residents' Gardens will arrange to view the file prior to the hearing. Vince to arrange a room for them to view this.

Cllr. Capozzoli offered his help with any slow response from the council.

It was proposed to send flowers and a card to Sarah Clover, Jerry to arrange.

If a rear garden is completely concreted over, does it require planning permission? No. However, there is concern about so many front gardens being concreted over, to create off road parking – there is no run off. See a new by-law enacted on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 makes it mandatory to obtain planning permission if you wish to hard stand your front garden unless porous or permeable material is used. This is all to do with water run off and environmental concerns. For further details see [www.southampton.gov.uk/building-planning/planning](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/building-planning/planning) then look for “Other useful websites” – “What needs planning approval” or contact planning at SCC on 023 8083 2603.

Jacky Barnes from Portswood Residents' Gardens thanked Jerry for the enormous amount of work and expense HRA had gone to employing Sarah Clover to work on 28 + 28A Brookvale Road, and would urge more residents from the Gardens to join HRA in support. Although Residents' Gardens do not have an association as such, they do have a Management Company to manage and run the gardens. Jacky offered to canvas the area and try to get more households to join HRA.

Newsletter: Meeting on Monday, which has been brought forward one week. Philip Hoare has submitted two pieces. It was suggested that Oakmount Triangle street party should be mentioned.

Website: No information available.

Summer event: Bryan confirmed it would be held at Portswood Residents' Gardens on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Hog Roast purchased from Uptons. Members only, on a first come, first serve basis and a maximum of 70 people. Cost in the region of £12 – 13 per person, a non-profit event. Bring your own drinks. Salads are still being discussed. Jerry asked Jacky if HRA could borrow her scout's tent with no additional charge by the Residents' Garden committee. The new grounds manager is Steven – ex army. Special request, stay off the newly laid grass and don't steal the tea towels!

Any other business:

- Had there been any feed back on the new parking scheme with Highfield? No, but it was generally thought to be an improvement. Jerry pointed out, still no yellow lines outside Nick Bacon's home. The scheme is under 12 months review. It was said that Graham Muir had been very helpful.
- The surface of Brookvale Road, between Winn and Westwood Roads had been pointed out as being very bumpy. Cllr. Capozzoli confirmed that Cllr. Dean agreed that the repair work done by the Rhino patch machine was sub standard.
- Peter Knight once again reiterated that the markings and replacement light at the island near Orchard Way was still not done. Cllr. Capozzoli to chase up.
- Roret Blue, asked what the volunteer street representative did – they deliver renewal letters and membership cards, keep their ears to the ground, place new application forms through doors of houses with "Sale agreed" to attract new members and a long time ago, they were used to drop "flyers" regarding the new hours / noise / drinking at the Cube.
- Sara, from Northcote Road, will be planning another BBQ at the Drummond Arms at the end of July and extended an invitation to all committee members, no cost but bring a salad.
- It was pointed out that Regent Court and HMO's in Winn Road were becoming overgrown with trees / hedges / shrubs, blocking out natural light and obstructing pedestrians walking along the pavements. Cllr. Capozzoli mentioned a call to the council, and they would cut back over hanging branches over the walkways, and if necessary the council would drop a note through offending doors. It was reported that a street light was on 24 hours a day.
- There had been no "feed back" from the police concerning the drugs problem in Brookvale Road.
- A large number of foreigners are gathering in the Portswood recreation ground, drinking all afternoon having BBQ's, staying until midnight making it most threatening for local residents to use the area and walk their dogs. There is no lighting. No rubbish bins so all their litter is left behind. It is illegal to drink in public and Andy Alderson should address this problem.
- Many people are having BBQ's on the Common – was this legal? People should take their litter home. People spotted relieving themselves behind trees. **SH** to e-mail Lin Hand at Hawthorns. No signage apart at the entrance to the common.
- Dog owners are not picking up their dog mess on the Common.
- The walkway from Church Lane to Highfield Crescent, an enormous amount of garden waste and rubbish through over the chain link fence. Who is reasonable for clearing it?
- Neighbourhood Panel meeting 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- The Chairman pointed out, that it was not the role of HRA committee members, to do other peoples' jobs; he had received a letter from a resident living Granby Grove, concerning loud music! The resident should have called the police / environmental office.

The meeting ended at 9 p m. Next meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Apologies given by Julia Brooking, Josie Brown and Sue Hartley for the next meeting.