



## **HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th September 2005 at the University Staff Centre at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Mr. J Gillen – Chair, Mrs Caroline Knight, Secretary, Mr H Rossell – Treasurer, Mr. D. Ely, Mrs. N. Martin, Mr. P. Banyard, Mr. J. Secchi and carer, Mr S. Connolly, Mrs. G. Gain.

**Welcome:** Terry Willcox and Tom Wadsworth from Sainsbury's - Colin Bagust

**Apologies:** Mrs. P. Thompson, Dr. J. Brooking, Jean D'Arcy, Josie Brown

**Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th August-** taken as read.

#### **Matters arising from last minutes:**

Proof of new letter head for formal correspondence circulated for approval

#### **Correspondence:**

Sainsbury's- see below

21A Winn Road

Stickler Meeting

OTRA Newsletter

Adrian Vinson re HMO's *David will reply*

Letter from Jill Baston re the no right turn from London Road into Cumberland Place.

#### **Sainsbury's Presentation**

Concerns re student accommodation have been addressed and the housing will now be for key workers - possibly 14 1 and 2 bedroom flats.

Some of the residential area has been replaced by red line application for medical facility.

Talks are ongoing with a firm of Medical Property Specialists.

The PCT is liaising over a medical facility.

The total number of flats has been reduced to approx 59 1 and 2 bedroom flats although it is possible that there will be some houses as the planning application is for outline permission only and the property developer (no developer involved as yet) will make final decisions based on current climate.

Additional landscaping is proposed

Concerns about traffic congestion have been noted. There will be changes in traffic phasing at junction and Highways experts are confident that this will work.

Concerns about Belmont Rd being used as rat run have been noted and platforms will be introduced.

**There are further opportunities for local residents to look at new plans.**

**Friday 23.09.05 3-7 pm in Portswood Library**

**Saturday 24.09.05 10am - 3 pm in Highfield Church Centre**

There is a possibility of an update in the HRA Autumn Newsletter - Sainsbury's will discuss and get back.

### **1-3 Blenheim Avenue- Colin Bagust**

Colin updated members to the current position re this proposed development. There is still the possibility of taking the council to judicial review on the grounds that there was a procedural irregularity in the conduct of the panel at the panel meeting. This will rest on finding legal representation who would be willing to take the case on a no win no fee basis as the application for legal aid was rejected on the grounds that there was not enough benefit to the applicant in pursuing this action. A Pre - Action Protocol has been lodged with the Council to which there has been a response.

There is also a complaint re the conduct of the Conservation Officer in connection with this application. Colin requested the support of HRA in the pursuit of this complaint.

Jerry outlined the chain of events that has led to this action and there was much discussion. David felt that there had been too much action on behalf of this application already. There was discussion that there had been continued action over many years to try to prevent the Oakmount Triangle befalling the same fate as Winn and Westwood Roads. Caroline explained that the action first started over the same premises 1-3 and also 5 Blenheim Ave when an application was made to demolish and build a block of flats in the very early eighties.

Also it was pointed out that our public officials had a duty to act in the interest of the community they serve and if it appears that this has not happened then questions must be asked.

A vote was taken and the result was 6 in favour of supporting the letter of complaint - 1 against and 1 abstention. It was therefore decided that HRA could be added to the letter but the complaint should not just focus on 1-3 Blenheim. If it could be demonstrated that any similar failings had occurred in the planning application for other developments in the HRA area then these should also be included. *Colin agreed to liaise with Dick Buckle.*

**Membership drive** At present there are 482 people on the database with 411 people having paid their membership fee. It is not clear how many of the remaining 71 are still living in the area. There was no response to 50 letters that were delivered in response to the Membership Drive, It was decided that if people do not renew, their numbers would be reallocated and should they renew in the future they would be given new membership numbers.

**Treasurer's report** shows the finances are in a good state and **HR** has prepared a budget for 2005 and 2006 estimating income and expenditure. Subject to refunds due there was a profit of £250.52 on the Hog Roast. This was a great success and congratulations were offered to all of those people whose hard work had contributed to this success.

Southampton Voluntary Services have written wishing to know whether HRA had used their grant according to the specification. **HR** will reply and advise SVS in due course after discussion with the **Chairman**.

### **Planning & Licensing**

Planning applications as circulated prior to the meeting.

Concern raised re 53 Shaftesbury Ave (application refused) and the ratio of HMO's to mixed housing - this might be covered in the Housing Act 2004.

Licensing- it would appear that courts are paying attention to the concerns of local residents.

*Jerry to talk to Simon Fidler re coordinating complaints.*

Concerns raised re The Highfield Pub's application Sun-Wed until 12 midnight, Thursday- Saturday until 1 am and food until 2 am. ***David will write to object by 4th October.***

It was decided that we must adopt a strategy re challenging the council. ***David will draft and Jerry will write.***

***We will also invite Calvin Horner to all of our committee meetings.***

### **Newsletter**

Gillian thought that the last Newsletter was less attractive than previous editions due to the lack of photographs. Photographs and Adverts will feature in the next edition. Savills are still interested in advertising but will require an addition colour- either black or yellow. We are awaiting a quote from the printers. We will be taking adverts from local businesses.

Ideas for articles include features on local trades people for example Emma Bradshaw's stationary business and a local jewellery business. Headley will invoice for advertising.

### **Committee dinner**

This has been booked for Ceno's for Friday 23 rd September 7:30 PM. Jerry has negotiated a set price menu to include some wine and this will cost members £15 a head.

### **Website**

This is now functioning.

### **Any other business**

Will we be having a winter social - perhaps something in January/February such as a curry evening?. A wine & buffet (?) "celebration" after the AGM to celebrate the 30th Anniversary? Another Hog Roast / Summer Social again as a separate 30<sup>th</sup> event?.

Philip suggested a children's party in December and the Church Hall has been booked for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM.

Jerry has spoken to Graham Johnston re tennis coaching and it might be useful to include an article in a future newsletter.

Left over Newsletters can be disposed of as long as a few are retained.

Nicolla showed the revised list of members with omissions as requested.

David reminded members that committee business must be kept private, particularly any correspondence marked restricted.

**Date of next meeting is Monday 10th October 2005 at 7.30 pm at the University staff club.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm.