



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th October 2005 at the University Staff Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. J Gillen – Chair, Dr Julia Brooking, Vice Chair, Mrs Caroline Knight, Secretary, Mr H Rossell – Treasurer, Mr. D. Ely, Mrs. N. Martin, Mrs Peggy Augier, Mr S. Connolly, Mrs. G. Gain, Dr J Brown, and Mr Brian Wakeley.

Welcome: James Cox (EBRA) James Laidler and Matt Hurst (University Radio) Councillor Jill Baston, Simon Fidler, Peter Knight, Tim Elliot, Councillor Calvin Horner.

Apologies: Mr. P. Banyard

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th September- taken as read.

Matters arising from last minutes:

Correspondence:

The application for 53 Shaftesbury Ave has been refused and an enforcement order has been issued. It is not known if there will be an appeal either on the enforcement order or the original application. The planning application for the Sainsbury's development now includes the Primary Care Facility and key worker housing.

Student Union Licence- see below

There is a meeting at the junction of Abbott's Way and Brookvale Road with Roger Mortimer concerning the traffic and parking situation. Inclusion in a resident's Parking Scheme will be considered - if this is not possible what action can the Council take? There are also problems in Highfield Lane. It is important that Highfield is considered as a whole so the problems are not just moved along to a different area. Tim Elliot explained that the problems relate to volume, speed and parking. It was also suggested that a Pelican crossing would be useful in Highfield Lane near the school but Councillor Baston said that she believed that it does not fit within the rules for installing a Pelican. Concern was also raised in connection with the possibility of additional traffic passing through to the new Sainsbury's when it opens.

Planning and Licensing

Shaftesbury Ave.

Blenheim Ave JB meeting with Alan Sayle. The appeal is due to be heard on Tuesday, November 29th at 10 am and a decision should be known in the New Year.

The application for 21A Winn Road has been refused, mass and density cited as the reasons.

45 Ripstone Gardens. Outline planning was granted for 3 townhouses. These appear to have been partly constructed although no detailed planning has been granted. We need to ascertain what is happening. **Councillor Baston agreed to check.**

Committee members were asked to read the "Where Shall We Live?" It is available at Portwood Library and on the internet (**DE will circulate link**)

Student Union

The Public Entertainment Licence was opposed and the late opening was reduced to 1 am. The Union are appealing and therefore can continue to open on pre-existing hours until the appeal is heard. JG has taken part in an interview with the SU President for the University Radio. The Union offered to provide marshals. Andy Wilson and James Cox monitored this. JC was not prepared to give details of what he saw as AW not present to respond. However it would appear that the marshals leave once the SU is empty and that drinks were carried off the premises. Questions were asked about why the Union has agreed to this, as previously George Clegg had said it was not possible due to issues of insurance and marshals would have no powers off the campus. It is also a pity that when this scheme was planned to go ahead, there was no prior communication with Resident's Associations. We need to know how long this scheme is to continue, how will its efficacy be measured, where will marshals be placed. We also would like to know what the SU hope the scheme will achieve. We will write to SU to request these details.

Questions to be asked.

- Is the scheme permanent or is it up for renewal?
- Is it just Fridays or every night?
- What about time limits on entry and re-entry as there are no conditions to the present licence?

Also we want to know if it is possible for the SU to provide a contact number (Hot Line) to log complaints and request urgent action. The University (not the SU) is responsible for bars in Halls of Residence. Recently there was a promotion in Highfield Hall to encourage students to visit the nine pubs in Highfield and drink a specific alcoholic drink in each with a time limit. The alcohol consumed was the equivalent of 2 bottles of wine per person. This is encouraging irresponsible and dangerous drinking.

Councillor Baston explained that Councillors have no representative function under the new Licensing legislation.

It was decided that two letters would be written, one to the Vice Chancellor of the University and the other to the Student Union President to include the following points. **(CK)**

VC

University is responsible for Hall bars

There appears to be promotion of irresponsible drinking practices

Although the students run the bars the licencees are University employees

Students leave the Halls carrying drinks

The drinks are too cheap

Has the University got a safe drinking policy and if not it should implement one.

SU

Ask for the details of the marshalling scheme

Emphasise that students are still leaving the premises carrying drinks

The marshals are leaving too soon

Ask on what roads are the marshals positioned.

How many are there?

How is positioning determined?

This scheme must be transparent

How will the scheme be monitored and assessed?

Is it possible to provide a hot line and follow up?

Membership drive

Nicolla reported that the status has not altered much - there have been 2-3 new members. She is taking names off the list if people have not renewed. JB asked that Nicolla chase up people who haven't renewed and the Chair asked if the Street Reps could do same. **NM**. Some students have asked to join and it was agreed that it would be £3 per household and that one card would be issued.

Treasurer's report shows the finances are in a good state. There was discussion concerning funding of the Anniversary functions - see below.

Winter Newsletter

Julia presented the proposed contents. The Green and white colour scheme will continue. We need to advertise next year's functions so need to agree some details. Nicolla volunteered to manage the tickets but requested that the wording be explicit re cheques made payable to HRA. Savills are advertising in this issue and have paid for an additional colour to be used. The sub committee will meet again to confirm. We need to have an Anniversary Issue with a feature on local history. GG was asked if she would be willing to research a piece on the history of HRA and she agreed.

Functions**Christmas Party**

This raised several questions

? Age limits minimum and maximum

Parents would need to stay or it would raise too many CP issues.

It will cost £250 plus food what will we need to charge.

PA will liaise with **PB**

30th Anniversary – the first event has been arranged for Tuesday 7th Feb at Ceno's, cost £10.50 a head for a hot buffet and desert. We can accommodate 100 people. There was some discussion re music - this will be decided at a later date. Andrew Worsfold again? Ticket price to be £10.00 ph.

AGM - the sports hall will be booked for this event. Galley Slaves will provide a finger buffet for £3.50 a head. We might provide a glass of champagne and there will be a cash bar for wine and soft drinks. (**JG**)

Summer Event - Saturday 24th June in Resident's gardens. A marquee will cost about £1000. A two course hot buffet will cost £12.50 a head. We need to find a sponsor and **JG** will approach Savills and ask for £2000. We need to start contacting companies re prizes to enable us to fund raise. Ticket price to be £12.50 ph.

The 30th anniversary committee will comprise of Jerry, Julia, Brian, Caroline. Savills will also be invited.

There will be an Autumn Church Service, Sunday 29th October, followed by a family lunch at a local venue, possibly Cenos.

Website

This is now functioning.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

Date of next meeting is Monday 14th November 2005 at 7.30 pm at the University staff club.