



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November 2005 at the University Staff Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. J Gillen – Chair, Dr. J. Brooking – Vice Chair, Mr. H. Rossell – Treasurer, Mrs. P. Augier, Mrs. J Brown, Mrs. N. Martin, Mr. P. Banyard, Mrs. J. D'Arcy, Mr. B. Wakely, Mr. S. Connolly, Mrs. G. Gain and Mr. O. Dicker – Street Representative.

Welcome: Mr. G. Clegg, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. D. Lowe – Students' Union, Mr. N. Bacon and Mr. R. Harris.

Apologies: Mrs. C. Knight and Mr. D. Ely.

Minutes of last meeting held on 10th October, were taken as read. Corrections noted. Planning and Licensing Blenheim Ave, JG (not JB) meeting with Alan Sayle. Under Winter Newsletter, line four delete “an additional colour to be used”. Under Summer Event, first line, a marquee will cost about £1,000 (post meeting this figure has increased). Acceptance proposed Mr. Rossell and seconded Mr. Wakely.

Matters arising:

University of Southampton Arts Crafts and Hobbies Fair. 21st Anniversary. Paintings and crafts for sale. Jazz in the bar. All day coffee shop. Hot and cold lunches. Sunday 27 November 2005. Starting at 10 am – 4pm. Entrance £1.50 Staff Club, University Road, Highfield. Enquiries telephone 023 8059 3883 and 023 8059 3600. www.staffclub.soton.ac.uk Reception to be attended by Mr. Gillen, Dr. Brooking, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Gain. **GG** to write and accept.

Correspondence:

- Mr D. Ely has written to Councillor Vinson about Licensing Act 2003 and outlining the fact that all the local pubs have different opening times, which is not helpful.
- Councillor Adrian Vinson Leader of the Council wrote offering assistance and support in marking the 30th anniversary of Highfield Residents' Association.
- Letter to Prof. Wakeham, Vice Chancellor Southampton University asking for clarification of issues raised at our meeting on 10th October, concerning the University's responsibility for bars in the Halls of Residence.
- Letter to Mr. Wilson, President of Southampton University Students' Union asking for clarification of issues raised at our meeting on 10th October, concerning the marshalling scheme.
- Mr. S. Waring Head of External relations, University of Southampton giving details of the University's Community Fellowship Grant Scheme. **(Given to JB)**.
- Cllr. Baston replied to Mr. G Martin regarding Brookvale Road traffic.
- Chairman's letter to the editor, Wessex Scene.
- Community Safety Team for Neighbourhoods Partnerships newsletter October 2005.
- The Chairman said that he had received a telephone call from Mr. Waring, Uni PR Director to assure residents there was no toxicity from the fire and there would be a public meeting.
- JG to write to the Vice Chancellor to commiserate on the fire.

Membership & Street representatives:

November renewal letters numbered 17, delivered by NM. Database still stands at 481 because as agreed at the last meeting, numbers previously used would be reallocated where memberships not renewed but having had renewal letters. However, since the delivery of the winter newsletter advertising the forthcoming events, there has been 14 new households join, thus far. An order for 500 new membership cards to be made, **JG**.

Finance:

The Treasurer reported that finances are in a healthy state. It was unanimously agreed to give OTRA a further contribution towards their professional costs incurred in fighting the planning application in Blenheim Avenue.

Planning & Licensing:

Mr. Ely wrote to the Development Control Services at Southampton City Council concerning planning applications 05/01398/FUL and 05/01453/FUL for 45 Ripstone Gardens. Erection of one two bed, two storey detached dwelling with associated car parking. There have been a series of applications on this site. On checking the site, it was found that the house in this application was already half built and that the three storey / three town houses were already “roofed” without any recorded FULL consent. **Action D Ely verify latest**

05/00685/FUL 53 Shaftesbury Avenue – change of use of the dwelling house to a house in multiple occupation with an outbuilding to the rear (Resubmission) – application refused.

05/01413/FUL 30 Blenheim Avenue – Installation of PVC windows to bay windows on front elevations. Property in conservation area. Subject to article 4 restriction.

Students Union Presentation:

Andy Wilson, SU Pres. spoke at length re the licensing appeal for The Cube Nightclub’s opening hours, which is now not consistent with other bars within the Highfield area. JG said that HRA had written to the Council and Member of Parliament objecting to the inconsistency of opening hours within a residential area. The SU has acknowledged more needs to done, sympathising with residents who have their sleep pattern broken, cars and homes vandalised, litter dropped in gardens. Five Stewards are now being employed on each of the nights The Cube Nightclub stays open until 2 a.m. These Stewards come from a security firm, are covered by insurance, trained in first aid, carry radios, cameras and wear luminous yellow jackets with two white stripes across them. Three will be placed at the top of Glen Eyre Road and two at the mini roundabout with Church Lane and Highfield Road, or vice-versa. They work very closely with the Entertainments Manager Mr. Darrell Lowe, who himself is on duty at the same time, controlling the exit of students. It was regretted that bad behaviour and binge drinking all seemed part of Society’s’ culture now days and unfortunately will probably get worse, with bars being open 24 hours. However, the SU continues to provide a safe drinking environment, with free bottled water available all night, and the cost of drinks increased. They provide a free bus shuttle service every 10 minutes, taxis, lolly pops are handed out on leaving to encourage quiet. The SU had offered the Police a five figure sum as a financial contribution which has been declined, as the Police do not have the resources to police Highfield at closing times. Penalties are issued to really bad offenders. It was recognised that students would prefer to drink at bars and discos that stayed open longer but the Chairman said it was the SU’s responsibility to provide activity to encourage their members to come earlier. Mr. Wilson asked for HRA’s support at the appeal hearing as they were making every effort in taking the above measures. Mr Clegg wanted to make it clear that these measures were conditional upon the previous hours being reinstated. The Chairman welcomed all the effort the SU were making but felt a reasonable period under the new conditions should be tried first. This should be closely monitored, so a meaningful result could be assessed.

Winter newsletter, November 2005.

Tudor Distribution has commenced delivery of the newsletter. HRA will receive a contribution of £85.00 from Community Action Forum for placing an advert of their AGM on the front page.

The next newsletter will be in March 2006 advertising the 30th anniversary functions and our own AGM which will be held in April. On this occasion it may have an additional page to include items of local historical interest.

Family Christmas Party, Saturday, 3rd December 2005.

12 children registered to date. **JG** to chase up the printing of the tickets. Helpers for this event are PA. P & SB. NM. JB. JG.

JG to arrange Mulled wine and glasses. **PA** to arrange Soft drinks and tea.

30th Anniversary 2006:

Summer Ball, at Portwood Residents' Gardens on Saturday, 24th June at 7.30pm '06

30th Anniversary Sub committee are PB. PA. JG. JD. BW. CK Ticket sales NM

Marquee £1,500. Width 60 feet to go across front of Pavilion, Back 30 feet. Tables and chairs for 150. Slope above Pavilion is where the hot food will be served from. Savills have offered to sponsor this function to the amount of £2,000. Band needs to be booked. Fundraising will be a Tombola with star prizes. We already have one week's accommodation at a 4 star B & B in Cape Town, South Africa. Parkhouse & Wyatt have offered support and may offer a high value prize at a substantially reduced price. A gentleman's watch has been kindly donated by Jonathan & Mandy Smith.

Website:

SC to ask **TK** to put the minutes on the web and the 30th Anniversary 2006 functions.

Community Action Forum AGM:

Very well attended with about 60 residents.

Any other business:

It was brought to the attention of the committee that the outside of Highfield Post Office, 29 Highfield Lane, was untidy and unkempt, which might discourage residents using the Association's Correspondence Box, that is held there for convenience.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

Date of next meeting is Monday 12th December 2005 at 7.30pm at the University staff club.

JG to arrange printing of Family Christmas Party tickets, Ceno's Buffet dinner tickets and 500 membership cards.