

Highfield Residents' Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th August 2006 at the University Staff Centre at 7.30pm

Present: Mr Jerry Gillen, Chairman; Dr Julia Brooking, Vice-Chairman; Mrs Caroline Knight, Secretary; Mr Headley Rossell, Treasurer; Mrs Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary, Mr Steve Connolly, Website Manager; Mr Bryan Wakely, Mrs Peggy Augier, Dr Josie Brown and Mrs Susan Hartley.

Apologies: Mr David Ely, Mrs Gillian Gain, Mr Philip Banyard, Mrs Angela Dyke, Mr Steve Sollitt, Mrs Jill Baston

Welcome: To Susan who has volunteered to join the committee.

In Attendance: Colin Smithers, Liz Statham, Sue Arthur, Sue Franks and Betty and Jim Stacey. (Upper Shaftsbury Ave & Blenheim Gardens)

Minutes of last meeting: Taken as read - proposed by Julia, seconded by Headley

Matters Arising: Page 2- opposition to the reapplication for the Mosque- a letter has been sent. The Newsletter has had its final proof read and will be going to the printers this week.

Peter Knight has given Julia an update re. the progress of the Time Bank scheme. He has had meetings with local organisations such as the University and the Students' Union; he has also met with Alan Whitehead. He is now proposing to run a low-key pilot. He is working on a management structure and funding. Details can be seen on the website www.portswoodtimebank.org.uk

Correspondence:

- Jerry received an email relating to the planning application for the chain link fence at 1-3 Blenheim Ave. A letter has been sent.
- A letter has been received re a planning application for a house in Furzedown Road by the Hyde Housing Association to turn the building into three flats. No opposition.
- The University has convened a Community Panel re. the proposed development at Boldrewood.
- NW Bassett Residents' Association has successfully blocked the development proposed by Barratts.
- There is a new Traffic Regulation Order re. parking in Southampton.
- There has been a letter received re. stage 3 of the complaint about the Conservation Dept. This has been referred back to OTRA Conservation Group for possible forwarding to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Students' Union application to vary their licence.

The hearing will be Thursday 17th at 9.30 in the Civic Centre.

As many people as possible need to attend.

Planning and Licensing:

- Monthly list and addendum circulated as usual by David

16 Blenheim Gardens

The objectors gave the Committee a brief resume of the history of the property.

There is an application in to build a three-bedroom house in the back garden and to convert the existing building into flats. The objectors feel this is an inappropriate development but have been told by the Planning Dept there is enough room on the site.

Advice was given to get as many local residents to write in objection and to contact Jill Baston to ensure that the plans go before the Planning Panel. Ask for a meeting with her. Objectors were advised to ensure their objections adhere to planning matters only and to encourage people to attend the Planning Panel Meeting. Relevant objections are: Overdevelopment of site, overlooking, parking, character of area.

HRA will send a letter supporting the objection - **Action Jerry**.

Crofton Close

Susan Hartley gave the committee a resume of the circumstances re. the conversion of a five bedroom family house in Crofton Close to student accommodation. The integral garage has been converted into living space but no planning permission or building regs approval has been acquired - an enforcement order has been issued. All rooms in the property are to be used as bedrooms with the conservatory to be used as a communal space. The property has been let to eight students who have taken possession but not moved in yet. However, they have been informed the work carried out has no approval and they have noted it is not finished. They have been advised to contact a solicitor.

It is felt that this property is unsuitable for the purpose of student lettings and the University have been informed.

The Committee are prepared to offer support on this matter. Susan will keep us updated.

Finance: The finances are healthy

Membership: There are currently 513 members on the database and the September renewals are about to be sent out. Application from R J Mitchell, Manager of the Cowherds is mislaid. **Action Headley / Caroline?**

Newsletter: Being distributed next week onwards.

Website: Steve will meet with Tony Knight this weekend **Action Steve**

OTRA v HRA Cricket Match

There has been a very disappointing response to the appeal for players and spectators for this event. It was suggested that we could organise for next year well in advance with liaison between OTRA and HRA or someone suggested a rounders match. **CK to report back to OTRA**

Any other business

- Colin thanked the committee for their help with the removal of the caravan in Blenheim Gardens and also for their help and advice this evening. This was seconded by other residents of the area.
- Brian enquired about the progress re the tennis courts. It was agreed to put this on the next Agenda.
- There was a proposal to increase advertising rates in view of the increase in circulation. Jerry felt they were about right at present. To be put on next month's agenda **Action CK**.
- Nicky Bradshaw has agreed to join the Committee at a future date when her commitments allow.
- Jerry asked the residents attending in connection with Blenheim Gardens if any one of them was willing to join the committee to represent that part of Highfield.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Date of next meeting is Monday 11th September at 7.30pm at the University Staff Club.