



A Report from HRA Chairman Ian Hartnell

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer – and, as it draws to a close, so does my first year as Chairman. During this year the HRA has supported and promoted many local projects. Perhaps the grandest of these is the Parish Council which we lobbied for and now have. We are lucky to have some enthusiastic hardworking local people who have come forward and will hopefully make a big impact on behalf of our village.

As for the HRA CIC, it has been a very busy year and it looks like this will continue. One of the tenants of The Old School, which belongs to the HRA, has announced that it is ceasing business. This leaves us with a number of issues to address of which the most pressing, after the leaking roof which we have already dealt with, is to ensure that the building is fit for use under the various Health and Safety surveys that are required by law and regulation. Regrettably the Board have been unable to find any evidence that these have been undertaken in recent years, and so we have commissioned them to be completed by the AGM. It is then our intention to make sure that the building is available for use by the whole community, the very purpose for which it was transferred to the HRA CIC.

Whilst the Board is developing its Vision for this, we would very much like to hear from any local organisation that could use the halls, whether it be coffee mornings or anything else.

The Board's formal announcement of these developments, and further details of the building works, will be found later in this Newsletter.

More about all this at the AGM, hopefully we will see you there.

Renovations at The Old School

Extensive repairs and renovations are being carried out at The Old School, as little work has been done over several years. Not only was this causing damp in several parts of the building, but some health and safety problems have reared their head too. No gas or electric safety checks had been carried out for at least five years and this has meant paying for checks on the gas boilers and replacing three electric consumer units which were obsolete. An asbestos survey of the whole building has also been commissioned. The roof is in a poor state of repair, but we have had the eastern end renewed by the roofing firm Coastal and Country Property Services to prevent further leakage into the building. They have also quoted for repairs to other parts of the roof, which will receive attention as soon as funds permit.

Internally, we have had the small hall, the office and the corridor from the entrance redecorated by Dave Payne of "A Total Service". He is also painting much of the outside of the Old School to smarten it up. To make the small hall more comfortable, and less noisy when in use, we are laying carpet tiles on the wooden floor.



News from Around the Village

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to Karen at 'In the Frame' for supplying some new photos for our website www.highclifferesidents.co.uk

Have you been into the village high street recently? Having enjoyed a coffee in the newly named 'Coffee Garden' (formerly the Blue-Sky Deli) I was pleased to see how busy it was. We then noticed that although Pampered Pets have sadly closed down, a new pet shop called 'Healthy Pets' has opened at 349 Lymington Road. (the old Fire and Ice Café). Kiteley Solicitors are taking over 333 Lymington Road (the old Accolade showroom) as their existing offices are due for re-development. The new 'Bistro My Way' should be opening very soon, and it is great to see The Oaks doing so well too. Please do try and support the village as much as you can.

News from the Action Team

HAT are delighted to announce that the launch of their #LoveHighcliffe products is proving to be most popular. HAT's main stockist, Highcliffe Castle, have just placed their second order with us and the most popular item is the Tea Towel, which features the full map.

Meetings and discussions are already taking place regarding this year's festive light switch-on event, which will once again take place at Tesco Express. This year it is hoped to include a Santa's grotto, plus a small street market. The proposed date is Friday 22nd November, but this will be confirmed over the coming months. In 2020, HAT are looking at launching either a music festival overlooking Highcliffe's stunning coastline, or introducing a BBQ on the beach with live music.

To become a HAT member or supporter, kindly contact HAT via their Facebook page #LoveHighcliffe.

Jane Dean

Planning issues

We have been working with the Parish Council and have sent in objections to the Jesmond Avenue development, and also to the demolition and re-development of 165 Lymington Road into yet more flats. This house is only just over 30 years old and we are very concerned about the huge number of flats being built in the village. We are also delighted that architect David Underhill has joined the Executive Committee: we will benefit from his extensive knowledge which will allow us to develop a more effective planning policy for the HRA.

An update from Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

At its August meeting the Parish Council decided to press on with its intention to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. One of the most important functions of the newly formed parish council is to be consulted by BCP on all planning applications in the parish and it is for that reason that a Neighbourhood Plan is so important. We need to be clear about the development needs as we see them – what should and should not be accepted in planning terms. We will be consulting widely as the plan is prepared.

The Council will continue to press BCP regarding the additional HGVs that will be using the A35 once the gravel extraction commences at Roeshot. Hampshire Highways have already decided that there will be insufficient impact to warrant any restrictions, but we have asked BCP to carry out monitoring once the gravel extraction gets underway.

Parking at Nea Meadows is restricted and, in part, subject to flooding. The Council is investigating the practicality of making improvements in the near future.

Trees are very important to the area and the Council was disturbed to learn that a number of trees surrounding Wingfield Recreation Ground had been cut back without permission. In principle the Council will be pleased to approve reasonable applications it receives for trimming back trees that are encroaching on neighbouring properties.

The Council agreed to continue working with Highcliffe Hawks Football club to seek funding that will enable much needed improvements to be made to the pavilion at Wingfield Recreation Ground.

Many other issues are discussed and actions agreed at our meetings, to which members of the public are always welcome. In September we meet at the Old School House on Wednesday 25th at 6.30pm.

Trish Jamieson
Clerk to the Council

Editor's note: A full statement about the rules on who to approach before cutting down trees has been placed on our website.

Highcliffe in Bloom

Unfortunately, the unseasonable weather in August and the gale force westerly winds have severely affected the top tier of our planters in the High Street. However, with calmer conditions we should hopefully see some improvement in the floral displays during September.

Weeds are continuing to grow on our High Street pavements despite the best efforts of our small group to keep on top of the weeding. Many think that the answer is for the Council to apply weed killer, but this in my experience of other areas where this is carried out only takes place once a year and only then when the weeds are of a significant size during the early summer. Weeds that appear after spraying would not then be treated until the following year.

Therefore if we all want to continue to see weed-free pavements in the High Street we need to recruit about another 20 residents and staff from local businesses who are willing to give a total of approximately 1 hour a month at a time or times to suit them to help keep a short length of pavement weed free.

We look forward to receiving the results of Highcliffe's entry into South and South East in Bloom, Parish in Bloom section, at the award ceremony in Brighton on Friday 13th September. Afterwards the result will be available on the HRA website.

If you could spare a few hours to help the group please email Susan Smith at ssmith.campanula@gmail.com

Editor's note: Many congratulations to

Susan and the volunteers from the 'Bloom' group for creating the excellent planters around the village this summer. They have worked so hard to cheer the area and clean up litter and weeds. Not only have the group been working hard, but the children from Chewton Common Playgroup helped with the planting too. What a great community effort!

The little garden in Waterford Road looks absolutely amazing and has enabled anyone needing to rest their legs to sit and enjoy the colourful planters. It was a complete mess and had been sadly neglected for many years.

I have been very sad to see the amount of rubbish left by families picnicking in the Recreation Ground over the summer. There has also been a large amount of dog mess which is not being cleared up, right in the middle of the sports field used by many young people. We are so lucky to have this wonderful facility, but we do need to respect it and not leave litter for someone else to clear up.

The Old School, 254-256 Lymington Road, Highcliffe

A statement by the Directors of the Highcliffe Residents' Association CIC

The Directors of the Highcliffe Residents' Association Community Interest Company (the HRA) have recently been informed by the Directors of the Rainbow Pre-school and Nursery CIC (the Rainbow Pre-school), a privately owned commercial business, that they are ceasing operations with immediate effect and that their company will be going into liquidation.

The Rainbow Pre-school has leased a substantial part of The Old School building from the HRA for its educational activities since 23 August 2011. This is the date when the building was transferred to HRA by the Dorset County Council, subject to covenants that the building be used for community purposes.

The HRA Directors recognise the good work done by the Rainbow pre-school for the benefit of local children and parents. They are sad that the pre-school's Directors have concluded that their business is no longer viable, as it has been a very appropriate use of the premises. Suitable new tenants will be sought.

Relatively little maintenance work has been done to The Old School building in recent years, and parts of it have become very dilapidated and in need of safety checks. The current HRA Directors, who were appointed in June 2018 and January 2019, became concerned about the state of the building, and have commissioned comprehensive reviews, including Health and Safety aspects. They are making urgent essential repairs within the HRA's existing resources, which unfortunately have not been sufficiently built up in the last few years as a consequence of differing interpretations of the lease to Rainbow Pre-school. The Directors are holding discussions with several community organisations about the possible future uses for the building and adjoining land.

As voluntary community representatives, the HRA Directors strive to keep The Old School as an asset that can be safely used and enjoyed by local people. They will keep members of the HRA updated with any future developments.

Directors: Ian Hartnell (Chairman), Guy Gillet, Ben Lock and Richard Reader (Secretary)

The Renovations of Cliff Top Shelters

Residents at our June Quarterly meeting asked how the project for renovating the shelters on Highcliffe Cliff top were progressing. BCP have told us that the project is progressing well, and that on-site works are planned for September/October, with a view to opening in late Autumn.

The designs have been strongly informed by public consultation and have now been finalised. The works have been extended to include some refreshment to the further shelter as well as the one by the Cliff Hanger Café, although the focus is still very much on the latter.

Becky Beaumont project manager from BCP says “We are very pleased to have local resident Professor Vincent May on board and helping advise with the content of all three of these boards”.

Here is an outline of the work that will be carried out:

- Stripping back of existing paint and then repainting both shelters
- Cleaning the roof of both shelters
- Applying a new finish to the base of each shelter
- Adding bespoke seating to the shelter near to the Cliff Hanger café

- Replacing the railing at the shelter near the Cliff Hanger (currently part of this is actually missing)
- Landscaping around the shelter near to the Cliff Hanger
- Adding a lectern-style map-based interpretation panel next to the Cliff Hanger café shelter – this will set the area in context of the local surroundings and point out key features both from a tourist, nature, and local economy perspective. The panel will be wheel-chair friendly. Both the physical style and the artistic style of this will match the two interpretation panels planned for the zigzag as we are using the same artist and supplier for both.

Café Scientifiques at the Castle Kitchen, Highcliffe Castle

These meetings follow the format of Café Scientifiques around the U.K. The relaxed format allows discussion and questions over refreshments and is open to all. Food and wine will be available with special menus from the Kitchen. Talks start at 6pm but food is available from 5pm. All are welcome and the next talk will be on **Thursday 19 September**. It will be by Simon Brown and will cover a very topical subject: ‘*Droning On – A Positive Guide to Drones*’.

If you can't manage that date further talks are planned for

Thurs Oct 17th: *A Ticket to Tokyo: the importance of sport psychology from a practitioner and competitor perspective* – Dr Emma Kavanagh and Lucy Shuker, two-time Paralympic medallist

Thurs Nov 21st: *Smart Grids: Smarter Vehicles – the electric vehicle future?* – Professor Andrew Cruden.

For more information: Visit website: www.cafescientifiquehighcliffe.org.uk and follow us on Facebook: *cafe scientifique highcliffe* or telephone 01425 275959

Members' Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the HRA CIC will take place at 7.15pm at St Mark's Hall, Hinton Wood Avenue, Highcliffe. It is open to all HRA members in good standing. Those who have yet to renew their membership will be able to do so on arrival at the meeting. Members are urged to check in as from about 7.00pm in order to allow a prompt start at 7.15pm.

The AGM will be followed at 7.30pm (or when the AGM has concluded if later) by the Quarterly Members' Meeting, which will be open to prospective members as well as current members.

Agendas for both meetings will be posted on the HRA website and on the HRA Notice Boards.

Keep up to date with the latest news on our website www.highclifferesidents.co.uk
For membership enquiries contact membership@highclifferesidents.co.uk



Highcliffe Residents' Association CIC, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe, BH23 5ET