

Student Council 3/12/25



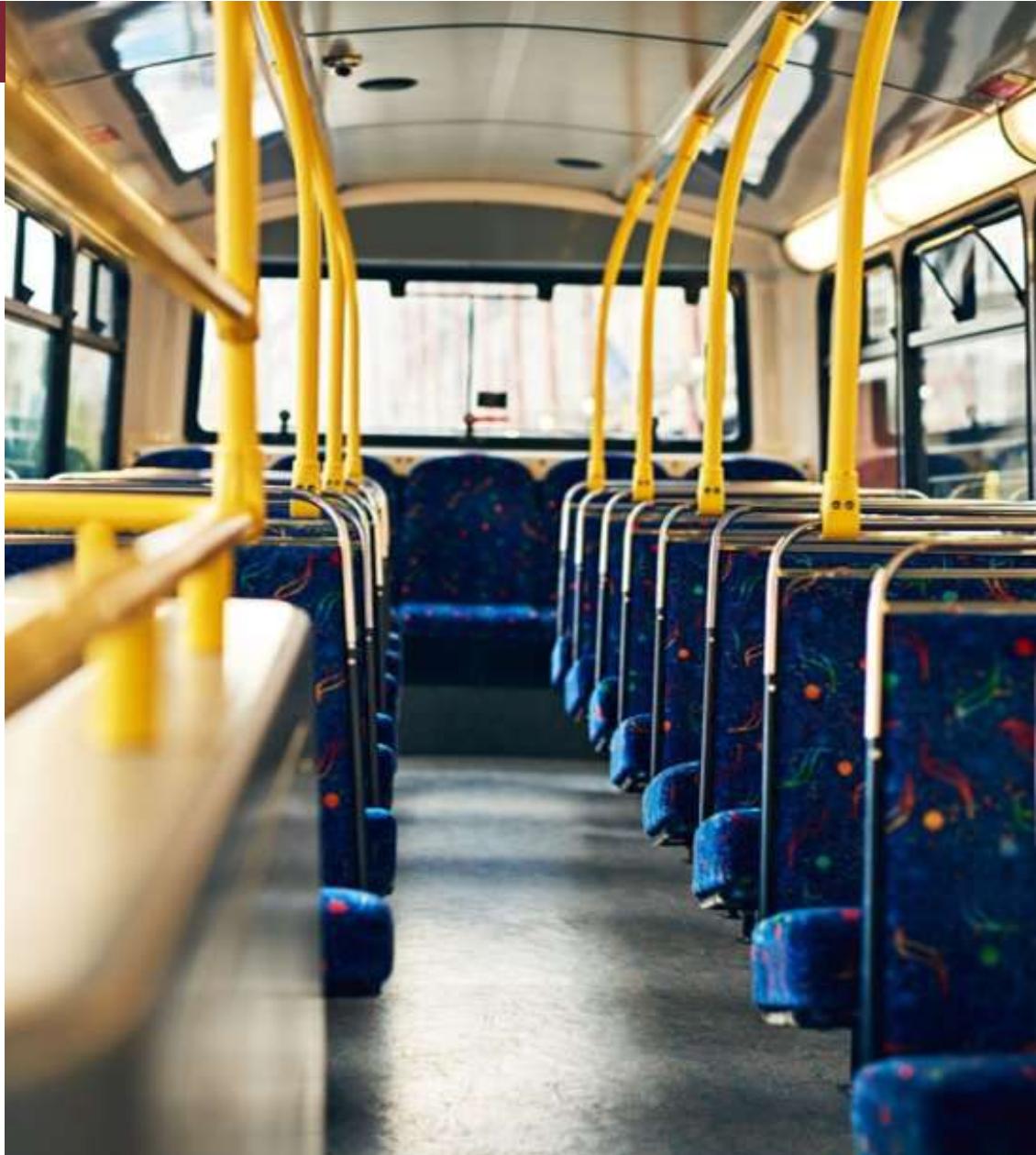
Improving Buses

Priorities:

- Improved services to Winchester (U7)
- Direct bus to Bevois Valley/NOCS (U3)
- Improved night-time services (UN)
- Improved reporting and feedback system
- Bus ticket fee capping

Goal: Safer, more convenient transport, improve lecture and campus events attendance, improved sustainability by shorter journeys and less reliance on private transport/taxis.

Working With: Unilink operations manager, University transport team, SUSU Safety, Insights Team



Improving Buses

1. Improve Timetabling

“simply adjusting the route timings by about 5 to 10 minutes could make a huge difference to its ‘usefulness’ for students”

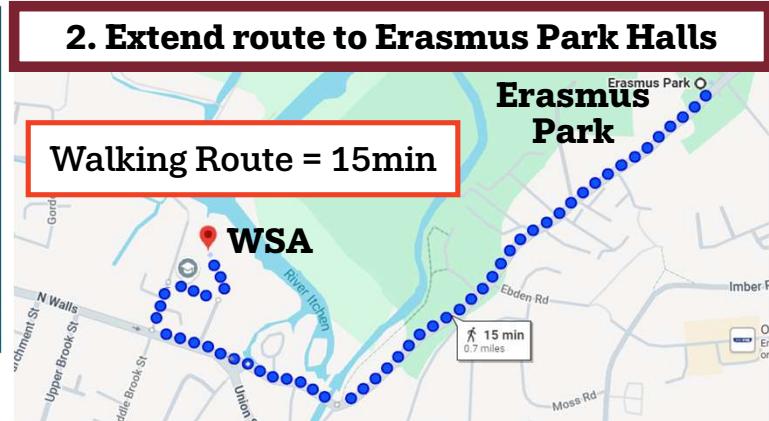
“We want the U7 to be more worth it, more frequent and actually make the students at WSA feel connected to the rest of the university”

“The 16:45 departure leaves a few minutes too early to be useful”



2. Extend route to Erasmus Park Halls

Walking Route = 15min

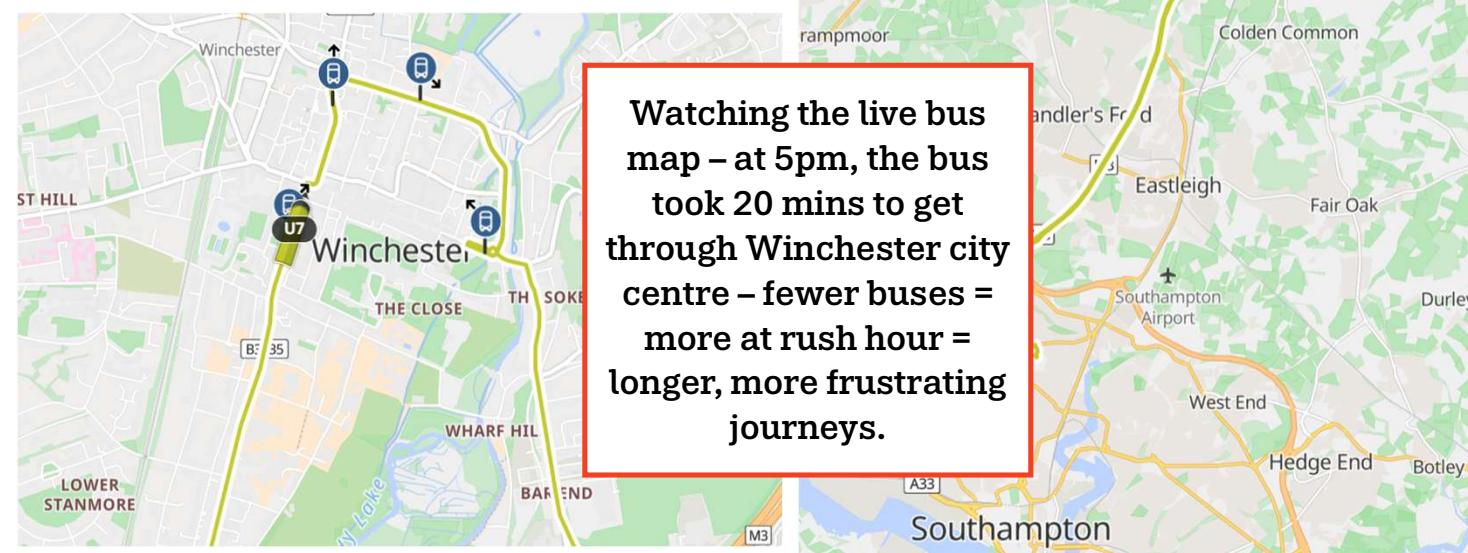


Narrow footpath, busy road – uncomfortable at nighttime.

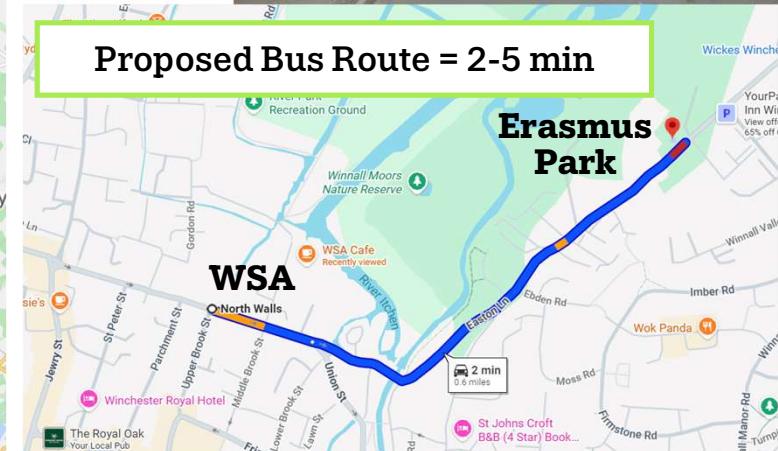


U7 Highfield-Winchester

Watching the live bus map – at 5pm, the bus took 20 mins to get through Winchester city centre – fewer buses = more at rush hour = longer, more frustrating journeys.



Proposed Bus Route = 2-5 min



Bus Questions!

Could we improve awareness than unilink bus passes also work on bluestar buses?

Yes absolutely. I will be working with Marketing later in the year to inform students better about buses – including this issue. This will also be something Unilink should promote – whether that be a reminder on their app (where you access the bus passes) or adverts on the bus stops and on their social media. Bluestar did a pretty successful Instagram reel recently promoting the £1 buses after 6pm so a similar approach could be adopted.

How do we improve safety? Is just a case of more frequent buses? Stewards on buses?

Information and reporting systems – students to know how to report harassment, especially helpful to have a way to report problems to the bus driver (without having to physically go up and talk to them).

Stewards on buses will be too expensive and not necessarily needed. If there is a problem, the solution could be for the bus driver to intervene. Active bystander training also helps for these situations. More buses that serve popular areas with pubs/clubs/bars will be helpful so students are able to travel home without having to walk on their own for a considerable distance (e.g. a student living in ocean village wanting to get home from the pub at 10pm but they have to walk 10 minutes down the road to get the U1C)

Public QR codes for bus payments– does this present a possible scam opportunity (people being misdirected by a ‘fake’ QR code pasted over the real one) and how could this be mitigated if so?

Need clarification

Improving Buses

New Bus Route

Highfield ↔ Bevois Valley: Direct links to major student nightlife (Jesters, Hobbit, Shooting Star, Sobar).

Highfield ↔ St Mary's: Direct access to Edge Nightclub, St Mary's Stadium.

Highfield ↔ NOCS/Ocean Village: Cuts travel time by ~15 minutes vs current U1C.

Safety:

- Reduces 10–15 min walks from distant bus stops to nightlife venues.
- Safer travel for **women, queer students, and non-white students**.
- Direct drop-off at venues reduces harassment risk and late-night walking.

Convenience:

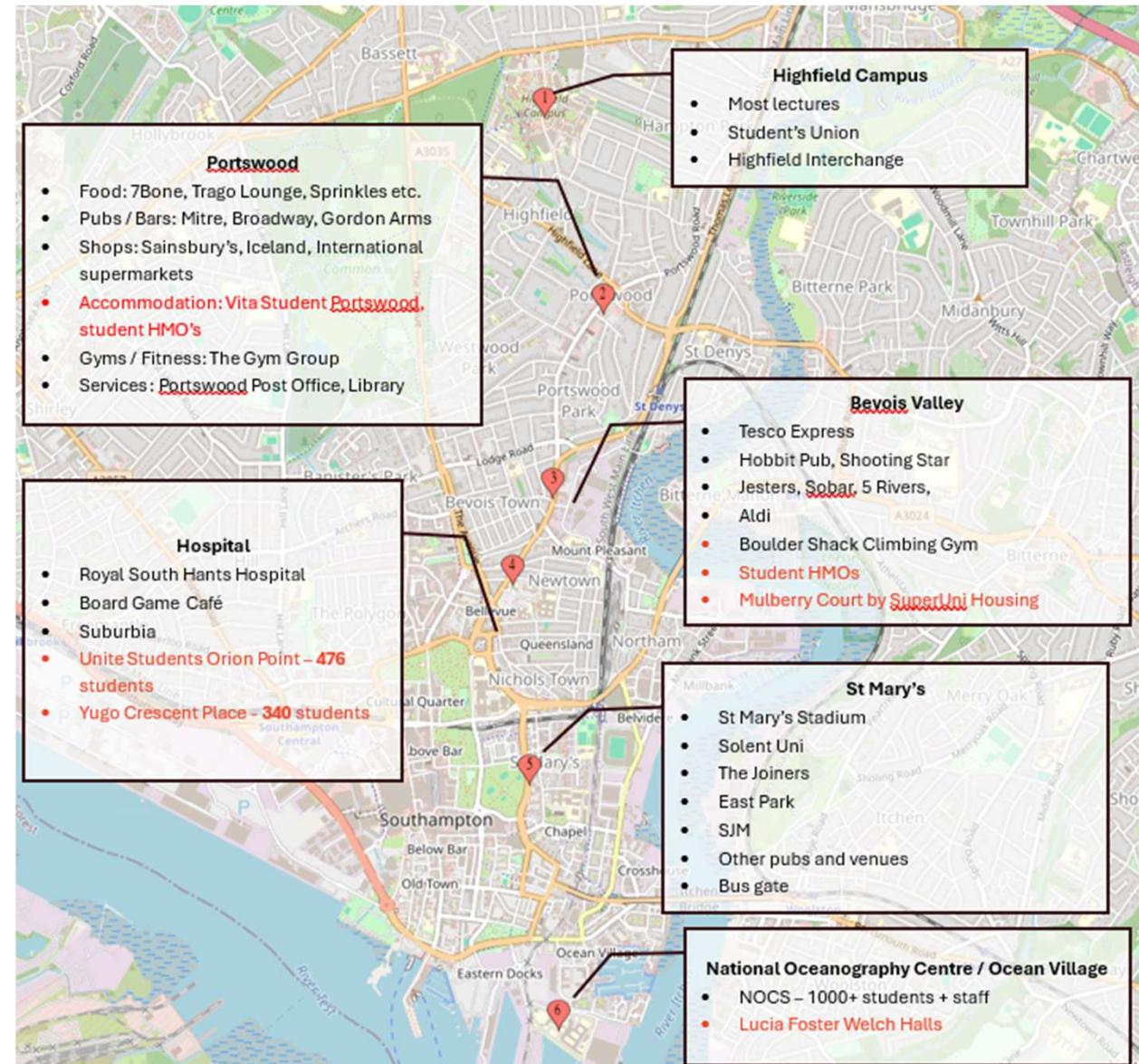
- Faster journeys: Highfield → NOCS reduced from **34 min to ~23 min**.
- Highfield → Bevois Valley reduced from **25 min to ~13 min** (twice as fast as U6).
- Increased likelihood students attend events and use night buses home.

Sustainability & Cost:

- Fewer taxis/Ubers → lower emissions + lower travel costs.
- Supports university sustainability aims and provides better access to Ocean Village halls.

Student Impact (Case Studies):

- Students can reach nightlife (e.g., Jesters) directly and safely when travelling alone.
- Students in Ocean Village halls can reach Highfield faster and avoid taxis.
- Climbing, social, and leisure venues become accessible even in poor weather.
- Improved accessibility for students with limited mobility (Central Station connection).
- LGBTQ+ students gain safer direct routes to venues like Edge and London Hotel



Bus Questions!

Is there a need for a new bus route? Could we prioritise the frequency of the u6 service which covers most of these areas?

Frequency of the U6 could be improved but the problem serves within its route – it's a very long route, going to the hospital which is a quiet route (apart from rush hour) which means there isn't as much demand for more buses along the whole route.

We see a lot of students getting on the U6 at Wessex in the morning as well – so more buses will help the numbers.

However, the U6's main inefficiency is that it travels around Swaythling which takes:

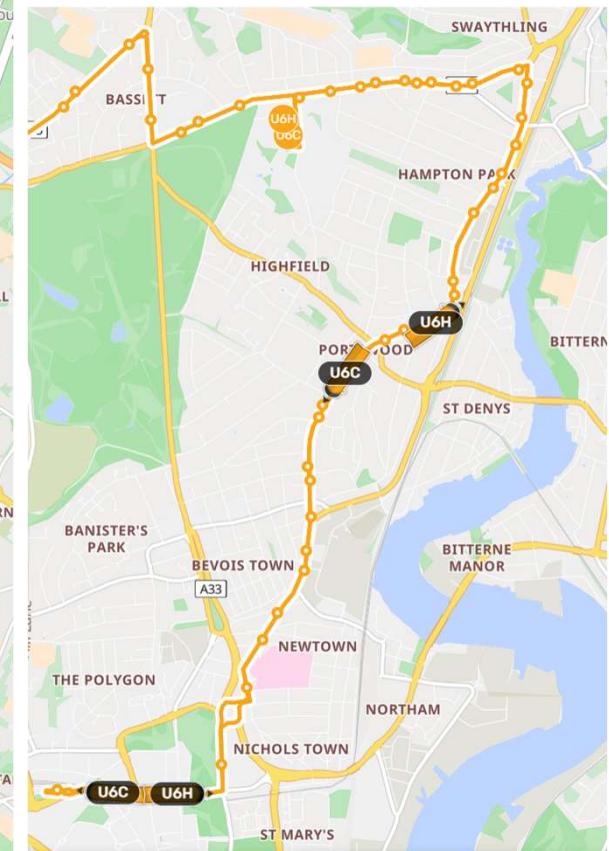
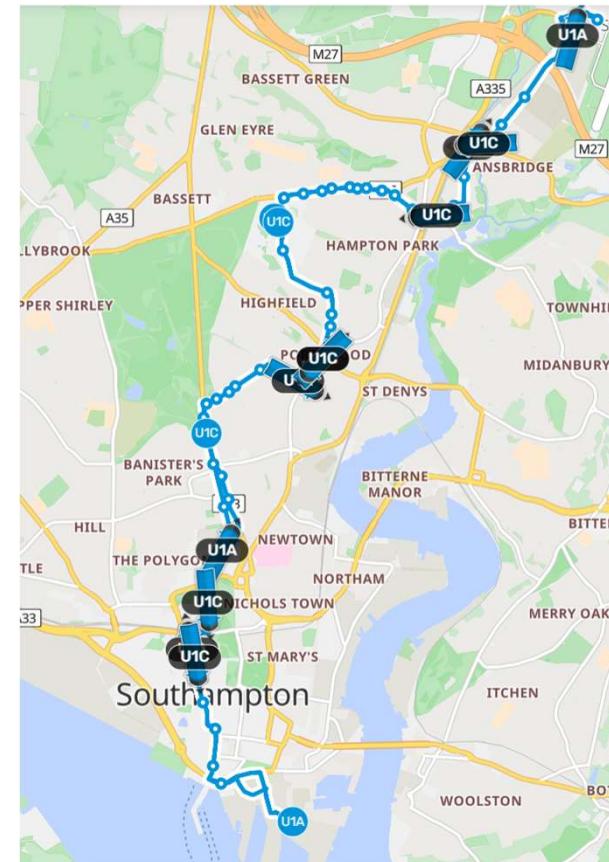
U1 – Highfield Interchange – Portswood Broadway = 7 minutes

U6 – Highfield Interchange – Portswood Broadway = 19 minutes

Much worsened during rush-hour traffic – the U6 takes 12 minutes longer to get from the same starting point to the same destination. That's 120 minutes per week if a student were to go to and from lectures every day.

Walk to the U1C bus stop up the road doesn't work for students with accessibility issues, or safety concerns by walking alone – especially at night (and especially in Portswood)

U6 also doesn't travel directly to NOCS which is why the U3 would be helpful. U1C takes a very long route to NOCS.



Bus Questions!

25 13 minute journey to Bevois Valley using the U3

Calculations:

U6 – Highfield-Bevois valley = 25 minutes

(Based on journey time from Unilink app, at 4-6pm when many students are travelling towards Portswood after lectures)

U1 – Highfield Interchange – Portswood Broadway = 7 minutes

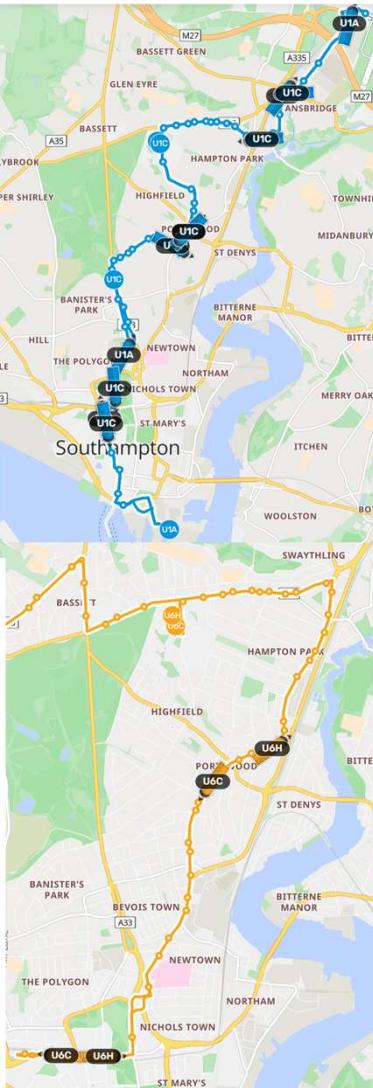
U6 – Highfield Interchange – Portswood Broadway = 19 minutes

Therefore:

Bus journey from Portswood Broadway-Bevois Valley aldi = 6 minutes (25-19min = 6)

U3 route from Highfield Interchange – Bevois Valley = 7+6 = 13 minutes!

Proposed U3 route would be (25-13) = 12 minutes faster – U6 takes double the amount of time – U3 would be hugely convenient to users.



34 23 minute journey to NOCS using the U3

Calculations:

Reduce travel times by ~15 mins for NOCs students travelling to Highfield

U1C to NOCS = 34 min.

Car version of U1C journey = 20min

Car version of new bus route = 14 min

bus gate = faster travel in town = reduces by 2-5 minutes

New bus route = estimated 23min = 11 min difference! (1/3 of journey time shaved off)

Amend the Relationship between Committees and SUSU



MoneyHub improvements & clear updates



1:1 meetings with societies



Better storage & booking processes



Dedicated multi-purpose spaces (more spaces for PA, arts, faith and liberation societies and safe spaces)



End goal: stronger committee engagement and trust restored in SUSU



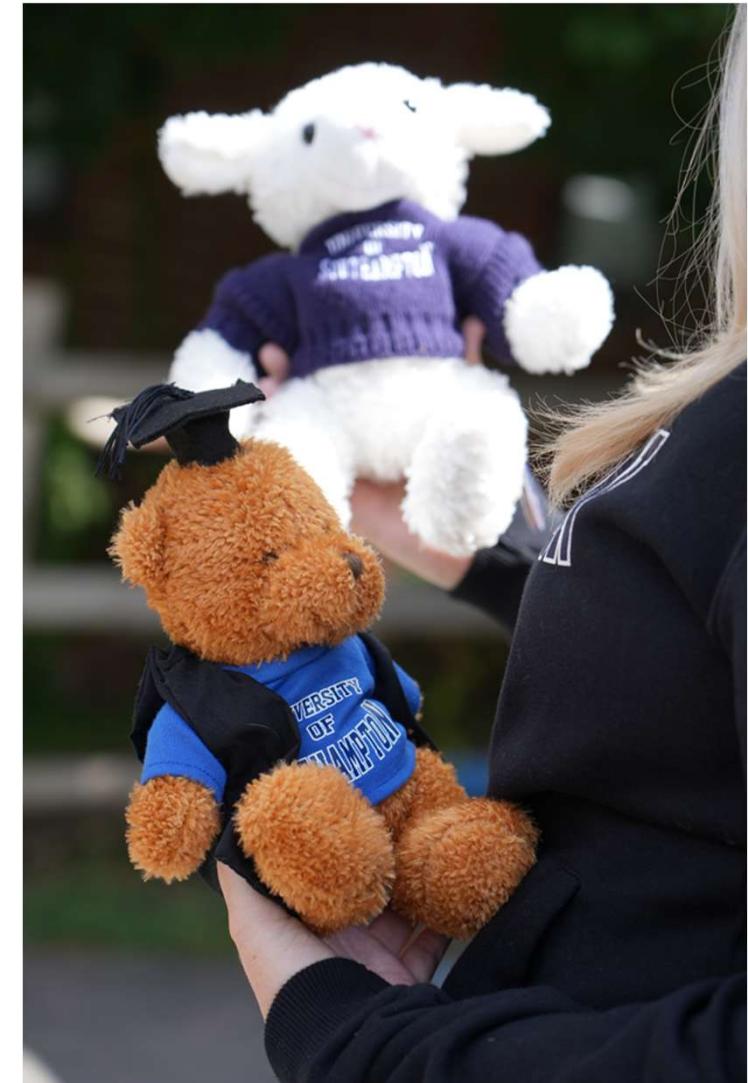
Questions – SUSU-Committee Relationship

Could we introduce a cap on how many space bookings a society can make to ensure societies have equal access? The cap could be lifted if the space isn't booked a certain amount of time before it starts.

If this is wanted – then yes! That could be possible (depends on booking system used, e.g. room bookings go through reception so it will require manual intervention by the reception staff). During my time on committees, I definitely found it tricky to book spaces. I know block bookings are done to be as fair as possible, which makes up most of the cube/training/clubs socs room usage – which is harder to free-up. Ad-hoc bookings can be more easily restricted.

External speaker system – can this be simplified/clarified to make it easier for societies to register?

Sure. This will be a job for Travis/Sparkle to oversee, and for the activities team to work on. Let us know the exact problems/main difficulties and this could be implemented to be easier – feedback is always welcome.



Student Housing



Quality of University Halls, Non-university accommodation, HMO properties



Renters Rights



Accessible Housing



Legal action against bad landlords/lettings agencies



Advice and handy guides on housing



Promote accredited / trusted landlords and estate agents

Private Rentals

- **Eviction Rules:** Your landlord can't evict you without a valid legal reason. "No-fault" evictions aren't allowed.
- **Flexible Tenancies:** Most student rentals will be rolling (periodic) contracts. You can leave by giving 2 months' notice
→ but if you're on a *joint* contract, one person leaving can end the tenancy for everyone.
- **Student Lets (HMOs):** Landlords can still reclaim student houses once a year to get ready for new students. They must give 4 months' notice, usually between June and September.
- **Rent Cap:** Max 1 month's rent can be requested in advance.
- **Standards:** Decent Homes Standard applies, *stronger rules on damp/mould*

University Halls & Accredited PBSA

- These are exempt: University halls continue using fixed-term contracts outside the Act.
- Payments?: Termly/annual rent in advance still permitted.
- Protections for students : Rights covered by existing codes of practice (UUK/GuildHE Code).

Questions - Housing

Would the advice include things like council tax & TV licenses? This is often something that students can trip over.

Good idea! We'll make some simple infographics to help students out – especially with these issues. I'm looking into more physical posters in student areas as issues like these are constant – so putting them on social media only have limited traction.

How would the legal action idea work in practise? The principle is good but more detail on practicalities (e.g. how much this would cost) would be useful.

Law school's pro-bono could do this. Agree that there are practical concerns – so will be doing more research into this. The original idea was that this could be done in partnership with local law firms and that they would get the financial incentive if there is a good enough case, in which students get compensation. But we would need to collect enough data together about bad practices to prove that the case is likely to win. At the moment, focusing on simpler solutions like informing students on how to get their deposit back, what their rights are, etc. and it could start the conversation amongst students about bad practices and realising they might need to collect evidence.

Does SUSU have a list of trusted estate agents?

SUSU aren't legally allowed to recommend anyone. However the advice centre knows the bad estate agents based on students coming to them for help – PoshPads, but also Kings Estates has rapidly gotten worse in the last year or so. There's also the SASSH accreditation scheme however it is all self-accreditation, which means that those who sign up to the scheme can still have bad practices.

Events and Entertainment

Improved Event promotion

Bring back live music to SUSU

More feedback on SUSU events

Questions – Events and Entertainment



Could events officers of societies be given work experience with SUSU's events team?

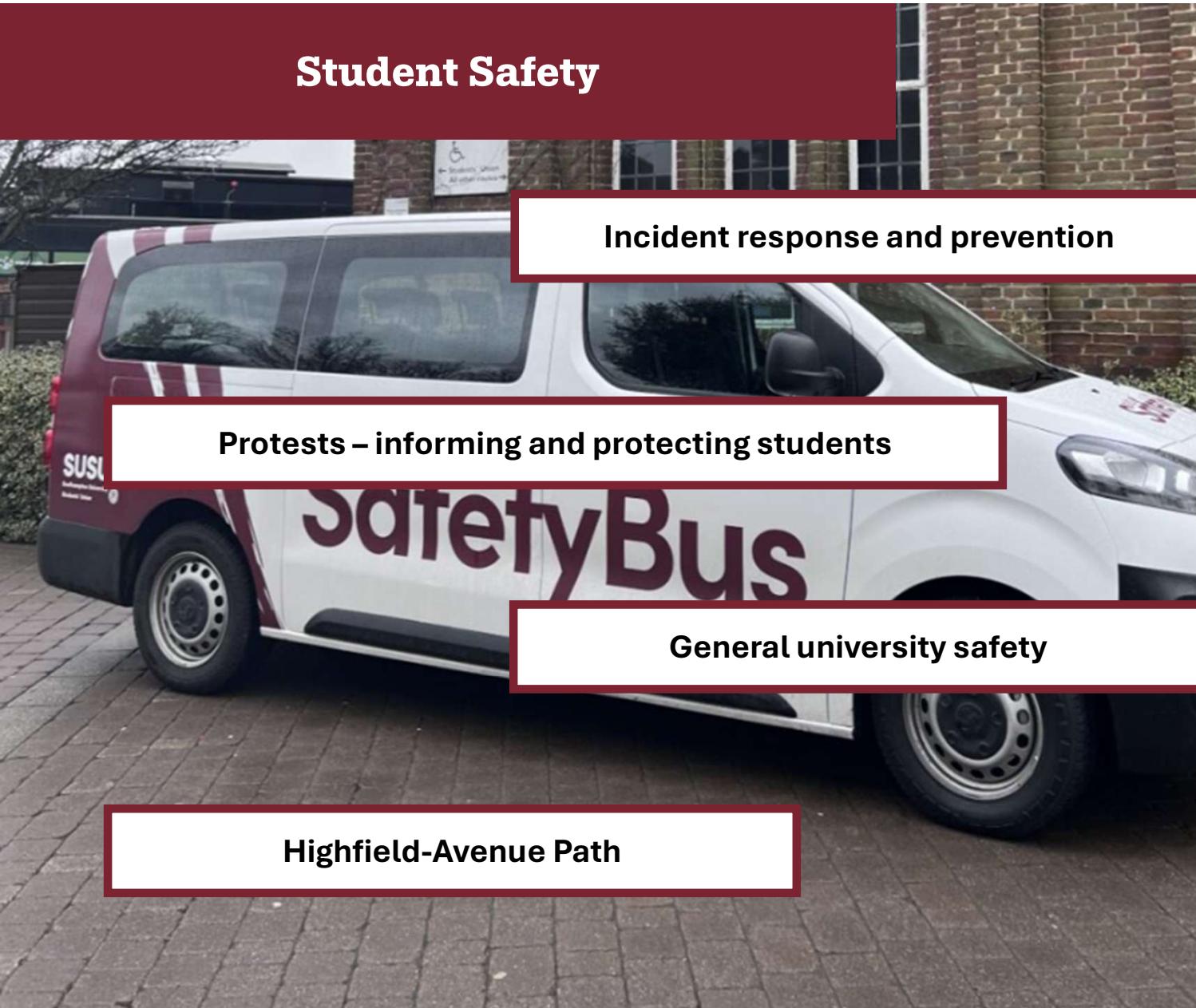
G Likely not possible at this point in the year – our events team is small, and we've recently had a member of the team leave so it's even smaller (temporarily). Also, running SUSU events are somewhat different to running club/soc events, due to scale/type/etc. It could be possible to improve mentorship opportunities for events officers to collaborate between societies.

One of the things I'm working on is better access to the training resources – with flowcharts and examples of real types of events.

However, we do get events officers along for some of our SUSU campaigns so they work closely with the activities team to facilitate events, e.g. trans awareness week, LGBTQ+ mixer in the bridge with collaboration from SUSU – but that was the activities team, not the SUSU events team.

I'll chat to the events team anyway and see what they think – especially with getting feedback about the types of events SUSU should put on, perhaps if we ran a club night and got the events officers to help run it – that would offer events experience but also be great for SUSU, as a club night that is student-run and relatable will likely go down very well.

Student Safety



Questions - Safety

Could we lobby the university to improve the *quality* of CCTV coverage? – Many areas are covered but footage is too blurry or deleted too quickly

I will work with Andy Jennings in the university security team to find out about quality. From what I've seen (tour around the B32 security offices) is that quality is not that bad – but there is a few blind spots. But they have a very comprehensive CCTV network which is being viewed at all times. They also keep the footage for at least a month.

Could we create an accessible and lightweight safety app to improve awareness of safety issues facing students?

An app is unlikely as they are expensive to develop and to get on the app store, and need a lot of programming behind it. I could talk to the MySouthampton app team to get some safety info integrated into the app (if not already there). In the meantime, more infographics on student safety – how to get help, how to contact the security team, etc... What safety issues are you thinking of in particular?



Facilities



Phone Charging Availability



Toilets



Membership/Advice Office

Questions – SUSU Spaces / Facilities

Existing phone charging facilities in Stags are just plug sockets - could we provide cables/plugs for students who don't have them?

We already do! They give out portable chargers with cables compatible with most phones, just hand in your ID at the bar (so you give the charger back at the end of the night!). Students don't know about this – so I'm working on more social media stuff for this, including a short-form video to explain it.



Where would team photos go in the Membership office – entrance to Building 40, as you go up the stairs, or as you enter the office itself?

As you enter the office probably – although there may be worries from staff members about their photos being on the wall so it may be a case of just a seating plan with names – so students know who to talk to when they enter.

Some promo material of the membership office, e.g. a picture of the reception desk, at the bottom of the stairs, could help anxious students see what it looks like before they go up the daunting stairs...



Social Enterprise

Redbrick Kitchen meal deal and more varied options

Cheaper Stag's drink prices

Students adding music to the playlist

Better events

Improved decoration

The Stag's and Redbrick Kitchen

Events

Information (about pool, events, drinks deals)

Incentives for clubs/socs

Stag's toilets



Social Enterprise



Celebrating SUSU History



Project Voice



Project Voice

← sususabbs

SUSU Sabbatical Officers

190 posts 1,066 followers 506 following

Education

Official account for Southampton University Students' Union Sabbatical team. Run by your Union President.

linktr.ee/susu.sabbs

Follow Message Contact +9

25/26 Sabbs 24/25 Sabbs Student Support YAMT Re...



sususabbs

SUSU Sabbatical Officers

208 posts 1,246 followers 508 following

Education

Official account for Southampton University Students' Union President.

linktr.ee/susu.sabbs

+180 new followers since 24 September!

Edit Profile View archive

25/26 Sab... 24/25 Sab... Student S... YAMT Rebecca VARSITY 2... Green Week UMHD Cub...

Social Media Presence

