

South Gosforth Residents Association

Chairman's Annual Report 2007

This past year with out a shadow of a doubt has been one of the busiest since the Residents Association was formed. I have decided to list some of the main items that we have covered.

The number one topic which comes as no surprise was Wrendale House. Following on from the 2006 AGM a meeting was held at South Gosforth 1st School with Councillors, Council officials, Persimmon Homes and members of the public.

It would be an understatement if I said that this meeting was calm and serene, it was highly charged with lively discussions. At the end of the meeting the Residents Association was presented with a copy of the proposed draft licence and was asked if this was acceptable.

Understandably we could not make a decision like that on the spot. I informed the meeting that a Special General Meeting would be held on the 23rd of October 2006 where the draft licence would be discussed.

At this meeting I made it equivocally clear that the SGRA was not employed by Newcastle City Council or Persimmon Homes, nor did we have the authority to sign a legal binding document. It was for the SGRA to facilitate informed discussion between the residents and the City Council.

The draft licence was discussed again by all and concerns were passed to the Council.

On Monday the 6th of November 2006 a meeting was held with Newcastle City Council, representatives from Persimmon Homes and the SGRA, all questions were raised with PH and they answered all the queries. As a result of this meeting the licence was finally approved.

What a relief was felt by all at this milestone of an achievement.

From now on we could return to other on going issues in the area.

The SGRA responded to concerns about the cut through at the Mill Dene Home, after many Ward Meetings it was finally included in the Ward Plan.

In April two street lights were installed which has made a huge difference for local residents. At the same time the triangle of land outside the home was tidied up by the Rapid Response Team.

We raised the dangerous condition of the walls leading down from the bridge at Killingworth Road, this is being rectified.

We approached the Council to request that the residents of William Street flats be included in the back box recycling scheme, this is still on going.

We raised the conditions of the state of the makeshift fence outside the Wrendale House site after the Christmas storms; a more secure fence was installed right round the perimeter.

The post box that was sited on Percy Terrace was finally moved after many years, this was not without complications to say in the least.

In June this year I was delighted to be invited to Newcastle Civic Centre along with other representatives from Residents Associations in Gosforth and Jesmond to the Lord Mayors Election Ceremony in the Council Chambers; afterwards a Thanksgiving Service was held at St Thomas Church in the Haymarket then it was back to the Civic Centre for afternoon tea.

In my second last paragraph I would like to say a particular mention to Annabel McKinnon who was a tower of support to me at times during the last year. Also thanks to Dave Roberts who has helped to sort out problems in the area with out having to involve the Civic Centre all the time.

Lastly may I say thank you, with out the support of the members of the SGRA, other individuals, representatives from the Newcastle City Council none of the achievements of the SGRA could have taken place.

Jerry Ruddick

September 17th 2007