

South Gosforth Residents Association

Chairman's Annual Report 2008

Since the last AGM of September 2007 which only seems like last week the Association have been involved in a wide range of events and have campaigned for several issues to be taken on board by the Council and other organisations. Some of these are as follows.

In September 2007 we were contacted by a reporter from the Evening Chronicle wanting information about the proposed totem poles on South Gosforth Green. Also in September we campaigned for the splash guards to be returned to the roundabouts, this was completed.

We passed a request from residents in Bowes Court who wished the hedges to be cut back, the Council did so and the SGRA received thanks for doing this.

In October we were asked by two Town Planning/Urban Design and Architecture Students from Newcastle University to fill in a questionnaire. This project was part of their course work and they had been studying Gosforth to look at Social Mapping and how people generally felt about the area – good and bad points.

October 2007 also saw the dropped kerbs being installed in Ridgewood Gardens.

In November 2007 the SGRA were invited by the Council to an event called GIG (Good in Gosforth) at the Civic Hall where we had a stand, it was a very enjoyable morning.

At the event we had an answer from a resident who correctly guessed the year that the roundabouts were installed at South Gosforth, the year was 1976, the winner asked for the prize money of £25.00 to be donated to St Oswald's Hospice. The Association received some very positive comments ***“as to the work that we do and also what a difference that we make to the area”***

After badgering the Council for a very long time January 2008 saw the triangle of land outside the Milldene Home being finally concreted over.

Also in January the new flats at Wrendale court were finally finished, the access land that was at the top of Ridgewood Gardens was finally re-laid with turf. On February 6th 2008 in the early hours a vehicle tried to drive over the grass, it was very quickly bogged down and had to be towed out. The SGRA brought this to the Council's attention and the land was re-laid within 48 hours paid by Persimmon Homes. As a result of this the Council brought forward the proposed lightning project for the area which made it look much better at night. One resident said to me "it's lovely as I can do my weeding at night now"

In March we invited a representative from Your Homes Newcastle to attend our meeting and we pointed out problems in the area i.e. drain's being blocked and other issues as well. The drains were fixed and the wall that was crumbling at the top of Ridgewood Gardens was touched up.

Other issues over the last year have been equally as important. We finally managed to get the installation of Bollards completed outside Dominoes Pizza completed by the Council so that vehicles are unable to park on the pavement. We have campaigned for the removal of chewing gum outside the fish and chip shop.

Also we were delighted that the old Post Office that was at the bottom of Station Road was turned into general dealers shop. This has helped to enhance the area.

From looking at the events over the last year it has been a very busy and varied one.

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.

An Association is only as successful as the people who support it.

Jerry Ruddick September 11th 2008