

SGRA Minutes of Meeting
Held on Monday 3rd March 2008
At 7pm in the Brandling Public House

Apologies

Collin Walmsley, Ian & Janet Fraser, Siobhan O'Brien, Chris Higham,

People Present

Dave Roberts, Jerry Ruddick, Sheila Parks, Norma Shannon, Sonia Bradley, Gordon Robinson, Hazel & Paul Spicer, Irene Matthewson, Tim Hutton from Your Homes Newcastle (YHN).

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes for February were agreed as a true record.

Update on Action Points from previous meeting

Mildene Waste Bin

Waste Bin continues to obstruct public footpath, Sonia to write letter to Mildene asking them to address this issue.

Action Point: Sonia

Trees on the Green

We are still awaiting a reply from the Council. The Meeting suggested that this could be part of the bid Siobhan mentioned to have the green redeveloped.

Ridgewood Gardens

Will need to consult with residents about trees in the area as they may need re-sited in order to carry out repairs to the footpaths. Can these be re-sited to the Green?

Dogs on the Green

Dave Roberts has been specking to Archbishop Junior School about designing signs.

Dog fouling has not been as bad recently however it was noted that there is far less of a problem on the Quarry Park site.

Making a Difference in the Area

At a previous meeting Gordon suggested that we get together once every three months to go around the local area covered by SGRA and pick up debris/litter. Jerry will bring this up at the next Ward Meeting. Christon Road has done this and it has made a big difference to the appearance of the area.

Action Point: Jerry

Drains

Jerry had taken some pictures of the overflowing drains to the back of Ridgewood Gardens; as Tim Hutton was present then we showed him the pictures.

Action Point:

Bollards along new paving – outside Domino Pizza Takeaway

Gordon mentioned at previous meetings that the bollards have still not been put in place to the front of Domino's Pizza to prevent people parking at the front and breaking up the paving. Gordon will raise this again at the next Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Gordon

Brandling Villa Pub

As mentioned at previous meetings the Landlord of the Brandling Villa has enquired about plant boxes being placed along the railings. They have now been informed that it is not possible to have planters on the railings as it interferes with a clear view of the road by motorists.

PO Box at the top of Field Street

Irene re-iterated she had caught and cut her arm on the Post Box when carrying bags of shopping one day recently. Dave stated he would arrange to have the box re-sited at the correct location i.e. outside the Cycle shop next to the planter.

Action Point: Still to be done.

Traffic Lights

Dave informed the meeting that the Council had consulted with all the bus companies before putting in the new traffic lights to the junction of The Grove and Church Road. The meeting felt that the new traffic lights have been a huge success.

General Disrepair of Station Road

Gordon had a letter of reply from Dave Roberts and Anne Hogg in response to the pictures he had sent as follows:-

Graffiti on Shop Shutters – Can't be removed during opening hours unless the shop agrees. Shops have a responsibility to report it to the Council.

Blocked Drains – One has been resolved, however the one on the other side of the pedestrian crossing at Balmoral Terrace needs unblocking.

Clearing chewing gum off Pavements – This is only removed from City Centres by the Council. Gordon will bring this up again at the next Ward Meeting.

Action Point

Traffic Obstruction – Top of Field Street

A resident noted that a vehicle has restricted traffic flow to the top of Field Street as they were unpacking. There are no traffic restrictions so residents are advised to contact the Police to report any obstructions. The meeting felt that double yellow lines to the top of the street would be a good deterrent.

The meeting was informed that Engineers are currently auditing the Ward in relation to parking and depending on the outcome there will be replacements of road signs etc as necessary.

Rapid Response Team

It was noted that the above team cannot always get access to clean drains because of parked cars.

The Old Post Office on Station Road

Gordon informed the meeting that work had continued on the Old Post Office it is going to become a Mini Market and Newsagents.

Mildene Triangle

It was noted that the meeting was happy with the work that had been carried out in this area.

Jerry thanked Dave for his assistance in this matter as well as the new lighting in the area.

Persimmon Homes

The meeting noted that there are still large lorries going to and from the site. One lorry had blocked the corner of Field Street recently. Jerry had raised this at the last Ward Meeting.

Dave will arrange to have the Persimmon notices taken down.

Planning for South Gosforth Area

The meeting felt we needed to see what other areas have done and get two or three people together to try and come up with some ideas. Sheila and Norma mentioned having bollards to the rear of Bowes Court.

It was noted that people are still driving on the new grass at the back of the flats – Dave agreed to have bollards put in.

Action Point.

William Street flats asked about making it into a car park but other residents had objected in the past due to lack of privacy if this was made in to an open space.

Wheelie bins

Dave mentioned that current wheelie bins will be discontinued and replaced with a black box and another wheelie bin with a caddy in the top for recycling.

Feedback from Meetings Attended

Gosforth Neighbourhood Issues

Gordon has mentioned several areas that need attention i.e. bin bags being left out, graffiti removal and he has also mentioned getting equipment to assist volunteers in helping to tidy up the area.

Action Point:

Minutes

The Most Expensive Taxi Fare

Jerry advised the meeting that a taxi had dropped a passenger off at the top of Ridgewood Gardens on 5th February 2008. The Taxi proceeded towards the new Persimmon Homes building across the field and got stuck in the mud. The Driver had to call for assistance to free the vehicle.

Luckily Jerry managed to take some pictures and sent them to the Council who have billed the taxi driver for the repair to the grass.

Jerry thanked Dave Roberts and Persimmons Homes for acting on this.

Your Homes Newcastle (YHN)

Tim Hutton from YHN was warmly welcomed to the meeting. We had been trying for sometime to arrange a representative from YHN to attend, the following topics were discussed:-

What is happening with the flats at Ridgewood Gardens, William Street, Audley Road, Sandringham Road and Haddricks Mill ?

Tim informed the meeting that the Modern Homes Programme Internal Works would take place over 2008 – 2009. External work i.e. replacing windows and water pipes would commence 2011 until 2012.

There are no plans to knock these flats down. YHN advertise vacancies each Tuesday in the Evening Chronicle and on website.

There is a scheduled walk about on 25th March 2008, 9.30am meeting at Ridgewood Gardens, Dave Roberts and Stephen Gyles, Housing Officer for the South Gosforth area will also be in attendance. The walk should take around 45minutes.

Tim Hutton is interested to hear what people want for the area.

Tim talked about the Area Project Fund – the rear of Ridgewood Gardens was mentioned and the fact a drying area needs to be re-instated. Sheila mentioned that a communal bin area would be useful. What do people want YHN to do with the area;

Residents need to come up with some ideas as the Area Project Fund can address these issues.

Tim encouraged residents in the flats to make their views known, he would also encourage them to report any problems/defects. However, there has been a poor response by residents in the past.

However, if the SGRA wish to put forward some ideas on behalf of the residents this would be welcomed.

Action Point:

Dropped Kerbs

Jerry raised with Tim the issue of having dropped kerbs outside Mildene and Ridgewood Gardens. This has been on the agenda for a very long time and as yet they have not been installed.

Action Point:

Spring Newsletter 2008

The meeting felt it was a good idea to produce a Newsletter.

Gordon suggested including areas we have managed to make improvements in and the fact we are represented at the Ward Meetings etc.

It was also suggested that we should deliver our Newsletter to Windsor Terrace and other Terraces in the area to see if we get any feedback. Jerry felt we should be cautious as SGRA was originally a splinter group and we would need to consider the implications of taking on extra responsibilities.

Financial Update

We have £31.00 in the Web Account waiting to be paid. We are still waiting to pay for the use of the Church Hall for the AGM - £16.50 – Jerry will chase this up.

Action Point: Jerry

Jerry mentioned that he needs to put in the End of Year Reports to the Charity Commission. We have a raised £84.00 in total from the Website.

Any Other Business

Paving beside Fishing Tackle Shop

Paul mentioned that the paving had been repaired and enquired if they planed to put bollards there also?

Ward Meeting

Gordon Mentioned that residents attending the last Ward Meeting had enquired about which area SGRA covers, we cover up to Balmoral Terrace.

Gordon has a list of issues that he plans to bring up at the next Ward Meeting as follows:-

Bollards outside Dominoes Pizza – Gordon showed the meeting a copy of the last Ward Meeting Minutes which clearly states these bollards were to be put in place. Car drivers continue to use this area of land as their right of way to park etc and do not appear to realise these are causing obstructions to the public right of way.

Mildene Triangle

The area has had tarmac laid - need to check with Dave if a small fence is going to be put around the triangle and some planters.

Action Point:

Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 7th April 2008 at the Brandling Villa.

Mays meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th May to avoid the Bank Holiday, at 7pm in the Brandling Villa.

Please forward any agenda items to Jerry.