

**SGRA Minutes of Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008**  
**At 7pm in the Victory Public House**

**Apologies**

Collin Walmsley, Ian & Janet Frazer, Tim Hutton.

**People Present**

Jerry Ruddick, Sheila Parks, Norma Shannon, Sonia Bradley, Gordon Robinson, Hazel & Paul Spicer, Irene Matthewson

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes for January were agreed as a true record.

**Update on Action Points from previous meeting**

**Mildene Waste Bin**

The waste bin continues to obstruct the public footpath. Sonia sent an e-mail to Dave Roberts to ask his advice on how to approach this issue and will report back to the next meeting.

**Action Point: Sonia**

**Trees on the Green**

We are still awaiting a reply from the Council.

**List of Action Points for the Council/Ward Meeting**

The meeting agreed it would be a good idea to continue with this list, which Jerry can use to bring up issues at the Ward Meetings.

**Dogs on the Green**

Dave Robert informed Jerry that schools in the area have already been approached to design signs.

**Making a Difference in the Area**

At the last meeting Gordon suggested we get together once every three months to go around the local area covered by SGRA and pick up debris/litter.

This suggestion is to be carried forward to the next Ward Meeting.

**Action Point: Jerry**

It was noted that the flats to the back of Ridgewood Gardens is a bit of a mess, the drain is always overflowing at the end of the flats. However residents have to contact the Council direct to rectify this problem.

**Action Point: If any one sees the drains overflowing then please ring Envirocall to report it.**

#### Bollards along new paving – outside Domino Pizza Takeaway

Gordon mentioned at the last meeting 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. This issue had been raised at the last Ward Meeting.

**Action Point:**

#### Brandling Villa Pub

As mentioned at the last meeting the Landlord of the Brandling Villa has enquired about plant boxes being placed along the railings – to discuss this at the Ward Meeting – it was mentioned again that there may be a good rationale behind not having planters on the railings as in the past it has interfered with a clear view of the road by motorists using the junction.

**Action Point:**

The meeting also suggested that we could look into holding the SGRA meetings at the Brandling Villa for a change.

**Action Point: Jerry & Gordon**

#### PO Box at the top of Field Street

Due to the incorrect reciting of the PO Box and the fact cars park up on the pavement makes it difficult for pedestrians using the footpath. Irene caught her arm on the Box when carrying bags of shopping the other day.

**Action Point:**

### **Feedback from Meetings Attended**

#### Traffic Lights

There have been complaints from some bus drivers as they were not aware of the lights being put in. The Council are aware of this and have responded to the bus company.

#### Dog Signs

Jerry had brought this up at the Ward Meeting and a competition is underway to design some signs.

### General Disrepair of Station Road

Gordon presented pictures at the Ward Meeting and as a result Dave Roberts agreed to meet with Gordon to address issues around the area.

Jerry will contact Dave Roberts and Anne Hogg to invite them to our next meeting.

Gordon also mentioned concerns to the Police i.e. Fish & Chip shop window broken, large pane of glass on the bus shelter outside also broken. It was noted that crime in the area appears to be on the increase – the incident at the weekend of the Bookies being ‘held up’ was also noted.

Gordon has requested that the mobile camera be placed occasionally on Station Road to possibility capture criminal activities being carried out in the area and also to act as a deterrent – this has not been acted upon as yet.

The meeting felt there has been a general increase in vandalism in the area and there is little or no police presence.

All of these issues have been brought up at the Ward Meeting.

The Meeting felt strongly that concerns as addressed above need to be addressed by the appropriate people.

### Agenda Items

#### Your Homes Newcastle (YHN)

Jerry had invited Tim Hutton to attend our meeting tonight. As Jerry has been away he was unsure if Tim had sent him a response to this invite, Jerry advised that he would invite Tim to our next meeting.

Jerry would like to take the opportunity to ask Tim what the plans are for the area. There have been rumours that the flats are going to be pulled down – this is not true and there are actual plans to modernise the flats.

When this will start is a very frequent question that gets asked.

#### 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:**

## **Persimmon Homes**

It was felt that the SGRA have been very patient with the contractors, however, the site has not been returned to its former self. Vehicles at times have driven over the grass triangle at the end of Ridgewood Gardens to access the site.

There is a large ventilation shaft protruding from the paving at the front of the site (not Persimmon but the lighting lamps installation) – Jerry has taken picture of this and others what has been left behind. Jerry advised the meeting that he handed them personally to the Civic Centre for the attention of Peter Arnold.

Wagons are continuing to access the site during the day, they appear to be ignoring the signs and the meeting felt that these vehicles should be perhaps accessing the site via Field Street.

### **Action Point: Jerry to e-mail the Council**

The meeting felt it was not acceptable that Persimmon Homes have not returned the area to its former self and that out of courtesy they could have come back to the Residents Meeting to discuss issues around the end of the project and tidying up of the site. Jerry also expressed his extreme disappointment as to the way that the area has been left.

## **Nuisance Cars**

Jerry had spoken with our local Policeman Chris Woods about this issue – they had not been made aware of the reports via the 101 number.

The 101 number will be discontinued at the end of February 2008 and people are advised to contact the following numbers instead:-

**Contact Management Unit – Linked to the Police - Tel: 08456 043 043**

**North East Crime Stoppers (who will channel appropriate issues to the Police) – Tel: 0800 555 111**

## **Financial Update**

The Website has current £18.12 in the Account and £6.69 is pending, making a total of £24.81. At the last Ward Meeting, the association was awarded £350.00. Some of this money can go towards paying for a spring newsletter.

## **Planning for Funding in SGRA Area**

Siobhan had e-mailed Jerry regarding the above. It has been suggested that an avenue of trees be planted outside the Ridgewood Garden Flats. Also using trees as goal posts on the green has been suggested. Gordon's suggestion of a competition of Window Boxes in the area should also be put forward and perhaps a money prize could be given to the winner (This could also be put in the spring Newsletter).

**Action Point:**

## **Any Other Business**

### **Wheeleibins**

It was noted by Irene that Field Street residents do not have enough bins for each household. It was also noted that the bins tend to congregate at the bottom of the alley way as a number of residents do not retrieve there bins. Consequently, the bins have been seen to be 'removed' for use by other residents in the local area.

Gordon informed the meeting that new bins may be issued in the future. These new bins would have sections inside to be used to recycle items.

### **Old Post Office Building**

Jerry mentioned that it looked as if some works was being carried out in the building. There was some lively discussion as to what might happen.

Jerry received an e-mail from Anne Hogg inviting him and Abigail from High West Jesmond Resident's Association to attend a meeting with the Gosforth Residents' Association (Neighborhood Issues Group) to discuss strategies around the ward committee and liaising with the council and councilors.

**Action by: Jerry**

### **Hunters Road**

Jerry informed the meeting that there have been issues around the suggestion of installing Traffic Lights to the bottom of Hunters Road for some time now.

### **Crossing Station Road – Next to Kirby Shop**

Someone has requested a crossing nearer to the metro station and had suggested moving the current crossing outside the Kirby Shop and reciting it further up Station Road just past M Steels Cycle Shop.

The meeting felt that this may not be a viable option as people would continue to need to cross the road closer to the shops.

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting (Please note change of Venue)**

The next meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 at 7pm in the Brandling Public House.

Please forward any agenda items to Jerry or Sonia.