

SGRA Minutes of Meeting
Held on Monday 6th October 2008
At 7pm in the Brandling Villa Public House

Apologies

Hazel Spicer

People Present

Jerry Ruddick, Irene Matthewson, Sonia Bradley, Gordon Robinson, Denis Niblett, Ian Frazer, Paul Spicer, Siobhan & Geoff O'Brien

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of September's meeting were not available until the next meeting.

Update on Action Points/Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Deferred until next meeting when Minutes will be available. It was noted that Sonia had forwarded Action Points to Jerry from September's meeting and these were brought up at the Ward Meeting.

Minutes of Meeting

Feedback from Meetings Attended

Trees for the Green

Jerry informed the meeting that we have been awarded £500 from the Council to purchase trees for goal posts on the green.

Gordon confirmed that monies are in our account.

Lost Splash Guards

Jerry has made Daren Penaluna aware that there is a splash guard missing on the corner of the roundabouts.

Lamppost at the roundabout.

Jerry also informed Daren that there are bare wires hanging from one of the lampposts - road signs near the roundabouts.

Grant Applications for Funding

Gordon informed the meeting that there have been incidents where the Council have reclaimed funding that has not been used.

Geoff and Siobhan informed the meeting that if monies are awarded via the committee the Council cannot take these monies back. However, some organisations simply don't withdraw monies for projects for a variety of reasons.

Siobhan mentioned that a lot of money is left in the Ward funds and that the SGRA should access some of this money to improve the local area i.e. "greening up the area", activities for local older residents, hanging baskets, environmental improvements etc.

Siobhan went on to explain that each Ward has an annual sum of money; this comes from our Council Tax contributions and is built into the budget. If we do not spend it on improving our area it may go somewhere else.

It was noted that funds could be asked for a feasibility study.

The Group felt that setting up a Sub Committee to look at this issue would be a good way forward. The following people volunteered to be part of the Sub Committee – Siobhan, Gordon, Sonia, Irene and Jerry.

Sonia would be happy to e-mail the Sub Committee and arrange a date to meet to discuss this topic further.

Action Point: Sonia

Jerry and Gordon explained which area the SGRA covers and the history of how we became a splinter group of the Haddricks Mill Residents Association..

It was noted that Gordon had included more streets in our recent Newsletter circulation, but unfortunately, there had been a very poor response.

Ridgewood Gardens Reconstruction and Resurfacing

Jerry has received a letter about the proposed planning works. The tree opposite Jerry's house and the very large tree in the middle of Ridgewood Gardens is going and will be replaced by a further two trees. Jerry is planning to meet with the Highways Department, the Ward Coordinator and the Jesmond Gardens Team to address this.

Ian enquired about the resurfacing – Jerry explained that the Highways Department would be addressing this work. Work is meant to start within 6 months of the notice being put up and should take approx. 2 months to complete.

East Pilgrim Street Preferred Option Consultation

The Council have sent Jerry information about the above developments. Please e-mail Jerry if you want to look at them or want to be added to the mailing list.

Planning Application for Majestic Wine Warehouse

Jerry showed members the planning application – however, this land is part of the Dene Ward. Also the proposed plans do not appear to have a negative impact on the local area so no further action was felt necessary by SGRA.

Proposed Car Park Planning Application outside the Mildene Home – back of Kirby Carpet Shop – Ref No. 2008/1580/01/DET

Jerry thanked Gordon for bringing this planning application to our attention.

Kirby Carpets have made an application to the Council for eight parking spaces to the front of the Mildene Home and the back of the Kirby Carpet/DIY shops. This is to be used by the employees and customers. Local residents have not been consulted as it is only the immediate surrounding area that is consulted about any possible effects.

A discussion ensued about who owned the land, leasing regulations etc.

It was noted that by general consensus and the mood of the meeting objected to this application and felt it was important that local residents are made aware of this along with details of where to send objections to.

Siobhan kindly agreed to draft a letter that SGRA members and local residents could sign and forward to the appropriate authorities, this letter would list the concerns for objecting. It was also suggested that people give copies of this letter their neighbours to afford them the chance to object should they wish to do so.

Sonia will e-mail this letter to all those people on the SGRA mailing list and post to those who are not on e-mail.

Gordon has already verbally made his objections known.

Action by: Siobhan and Sonia

It was felt this was a good example of what we could approach the Ward Committee about in looking at what to do with this green space that would benefit the local community.

Recycling bins on Percy Terrace & Gosforth Terrace

Siobhan raised the issue that the above streets have no brown (Garden Waste) or blue (Recycling) bins. Siobhan is aware that there is only a limited amount of brown bins but felt that it was unfair that blue bins had not been distributed. One of the reasons given was access.

Jerry & Gordon will bring this up at the Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry & Gordon

Parking Issues & Residents Permits

Discussion ensued about recent issues about parking in the area. It was noted that other Wards have managed this issue and it was now time for traffic management in South Gosforth to be looked at.

It was noted that Balmoral Terrace have residents parking and this is regularly patrolled.

Jerry and Gordon have already agreed to bring this up at the Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry & Gordon

Request from a resident in Ridgewood Gardens Flats

Jerry has received a request from a resident in one of the Ridgewood Garden flats. They are apparently always getting the blame for the fact there is water cascading down the side of the flats. This is the responsibility of Your Homes Newcastle and not individual tenants. Jerry will contact YHN to see what can be done about this issue.

Financial Update

Jerry updated the meeting that there is £4.95 from the web site and £12.34 waiting to be paid. If people use the Hotels.Com Website 6% of the commission goes to SGRA and when using DFDS Ferries they will also contribute monies.

Gordon confirmed we have £750 in the account (£500 of which is to purchase trees for the green).

AOB

Notice Board / Local Church

It was suggested again that we try and look at putting information about SGRA on this notice board – Anne Gilks has access to this. We could include who the SGRA is, what we do, where we meet, Agenda etc.

It was suggested that we could also marry up with the local church and events as a way of raising our profile in the local area.

Jerry and Gordon agreed to take some action on this point.

Action By: Jerry and Gordon

Fly Tipping

Gordon raised concerns that fly tipping is on the increase in our area; it has been a particular issue around the YHN flats.

The fridge to the back of Field Street belongs to a resident and they have contacted Envirocall who will be collecting the item on the 20th of October.

Post box at the top of Field Street

This still needs to be recited.

Action Point: Jerry

Traffic Plan

Denis wished to raise the issue of traffic lights to the bottom of Hunters Road. It was felt that this should be included in the wider Traffic Management Plan.

However, anyone wishing to raise issues individually at the Ward Meeting would be welcome to attend. They take place on the 2nd Monday every other month.

It was noted that local businesses park there vans to the top of Field Street, Bowsden Terrace and this causes obstruction and problems with access/exiting the surrounding streets.

Post Box Station Road

The Post Box that was outside the general dealers on Station Road has been recited to Audley Road just round the corner from the restaurant. The other has been recited to ST. Nicholas Avenue.

Mildene Home – Bins

Paul raised concerns on behalf of his wife that the bin has been on the public highway on a number of occasions. Recently it has been on the public highway since Saturday until the present time.

Gordon plans to write to Anchor Housing about this issue.

Action Point: Gordon

Dominoes Pizza

Gordon mentioned issues over parking outside these premises. The area needs to be better defined when people can park and where it is a public highway as often delivery vehicles block the path.

The meeting felt that they wanted to support local businesses but that these businesses also need to be respectful towards local residents. They have a duty of care under the Environmental Act

Gordon will bring this up at the Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Gordon

Change to the usual day of the SGRA Meetings.

Siobhan is aware that the SGRA has discussed a possible change to the day we usually meet. Siobhan is very keen to be an active part of the SGRA and due to other commitments can't make the first Monday in each month. She has asked that we consider changing the day again.

Action Point:

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7pm in the Brandling Villa Pub.