

## **SGRA Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**At 7pm in the Victory Public House**

### **Apologies**

Irene Matthewson, Pat McDonald, Simon Stanton, Siobhan O'Brien

### **People Present**

Jerry Ruddick, Sheila Parks, Paul Spicer, Norma Shannon, Sonia Bradley, Janet & Ian Frazer, Gordon Robinson, Collin Walmsley, Hazel & Paul Spicer

### **Minutes of Previous meeting**

The minutes for December were agreed as a true record.

### **Update on Action Points/Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

#### **Mildene waste bin**

The waste bin continues to obstruct the public footpath.

#### **Action Point: Sonia**

#### **Persimmon Homes**

There are on-going issues around the site.

Jerry had met Peter Arnold by chance who was in the area recently and he visited the site and saw first hand what the site is like. There is a lot of mess around the area, lots of debris around William Street.

Jerry suggested that we need to take a more proactive approach with the Council in pursuing any issues around completion of this development.

Jerry informed the meeting that people in the flats did not want the turning circle to be made bigger as had been suggested at the last meeting; therefore, it will remain the same size.

#### **Trees on the Green**

We are still awaiting a reply from the Council.

#### **Action Point:**

### Steps leading down from the Green

It was noted that in last month's minutes it incorrectly stated that Sheila sweeps these stairs. The meeting noted that these stairs have not been cleaned as often as necessary.

### **Action Point:**

### List of Action Points for Council

Jerry noted that it had been suggested at the last meeting that we compile a list of Action Points to be forwarded to the NRM however, it was felt that we want to continue with the good relations that the SGRA have with Newcastle City Council and would not want to be seen to be telling the Council what to do.

However, a list of Action points would be a useful tool for Jerry to use to enable him to highlight at the Ward Meetings.

### **Action Point: Sonia & Jerry**

### Neighbourhood Survey

The meeting remembered this survey's was circulated a while ago – not everyone received one.

### Street Lighting

We are awaiting information about when these new lights will be in operation.

### Roundabouts Competition Winner

Jerry informed the meeting we had received a letter of acknowledgement and thanks for the monies donated as requested by the competition winner to St Oswald's Hospice.

### **Feedback from meetings attended**

No meetings attended.

### **Splash Guards**

The splash guards have been returned.  
Gordon had approached Dave to finish off the outstanding work at the same time the splash guards were being replaced. The outstanding work entails a further splashguard being put on the side of the road leading up to the Victory pub.

### **Action Point: Gordon to bring this up at the next Ward Meeting**

## **Dogs on the Green**

It was highlighted again that signs need to be put up around the Green about dog fouling, which continues to be a problem.

Jerry noted that people do not tend to read signs. He then passed round signs that had been designed by competition winners at Ravenswood Primary School in High Heaton– these signs have more of a visual impact.

Jerry suggested to the meeting that holding a competition to design some signs might be a good idea, asking South Gosforth First School to participate or local children in the area who use the field.

It would need to be cleared with the local Council first as we would be approaching them about having the signs made up and put in place, we would need to have an idea of costing.

**Action Point: Jerry to bring up at the next Ward Meeting**

## **Draft supplementary Planning Document/Planning Application Field Street**

The meeting was made aware of the content of this document. Sheila had a newspaper article reported in the Journal which was passed around the group to read.

Janet and Ian informed the meeting that the planning application for No. 24 Field Street had been approved. The objections that had been raised were not upheld and the leasehold agreement was not being breached – this decision was made by the Planning Department on 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2007.

There had been some positive support from one of the local Councillors who had agreed with objections. Unfortunately, another Councillor had commented he was too busy when Janet had tried to discuss the issue with him.

There was a strong feeling amongst the group that multiple occupancy would not enhance the community within the local area, especially as some dwellings would not house up to 6 individuals.

However, there is continued support for owner occupiers to be expanding into loft spaces as long as it was not for the sole purpose of selling to prospective landlords to then rent properties out to multiple individuals.

There is still time to make comments on the Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Shared Housing – closing date for comments is 5.00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008. E-mails can be sent direct to Colin Percy at

[colin.percy@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:colin.percy@newcastle.gov.uk). The document can be viewed on line at: [http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/ldf\\_shared\\_housing](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/ldf_shared_housing)

### **Making a Difference in the Area**

Gordon suggested we get together once every three months to go around the local area covered by SGRA and pick up debris/litter. The Green and other places in the area may benefit.

Grange Ward had a sponsored clean up and it got a good response.

SGRA could approach the Council to provide bags and possibly a skip or bins to get rid of the rubbish collected.

It was noted that there are problem areas such as the back of the shops on Station Road, road leading up to steps on the Green, back of Field Street, picking out rubbish that has become entangled in hedges etc.

The meeting endorsed this idea.

We will need the Council on board with this idea

**Action Point: Jerry & Gordon to raise this at the next Ward Meeting**

### **Financial update**

Gordon updated the meeting that there is currently £89.65 in the Account, according to the bank statement but we still have to pay out £25 for the hire of the church hall for the AGM.

Gordon informed the meeting that has made an application for £350 for the next 12 months.

The web shop has raised £22.20 we are awaiting payment of £1.80 from John Lewis.

Gordon mentioned bollards being put in place near the fence at the front of Healthlands – this also needs to be raised at the Ward Meeting.

**Action Point: to raise at the next Ward Meeting**

### **Any other Business**

#### **Footpath across bridge (next to Roundabouts)**

The footpath across the bridge next to the two roundabouts also needs cleaning.

**Action Point:**

### **Triangle of land next to Mildene Home**

Gordon pointed out that no work has been done on this land and this needs to be chased up with the Council.

**Action Point:**

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

These have not been put in place.

**Action Point:**

### **Blocked drains at (A) splashguards leading to the Victory pub & (B) outside the Lord Tool Hire**

Gordon has approached the Council about this drain, leading up to the Victory Pub, which appears to be permanently blocked.

Jerry mentioned that the drain outside Lord Tool Hire is often blocked by debris

**Action Point: Gordon to raise this at the next Ward Meeting.**

### **Brandling Villa Pub**

Janet & Ian had been to the above Pub prior to the meeting and the owner had raised with them the possibility of flower boxes being put along the railings on the corner of the road outside the pub.

**To be discussed**

Jerry mentioned that in the past there were some issues around visibility for pedestrians not being able to see vehicles; this was outside the Metro Bridge on Station Road.

### **General Disrepair of Station Road**

Gordon raised concerns about the general state of poor repairs of paving down Station Road. There is graffiti on the premises of M Steels and the Meditation Centre. The paving is covered in chewing gum, and broken fencing needs replacing outside of South Gosforth Fish & Chip Shop.

The fence to the front of Healthlands is broken again.

It was noted that there was debris and packing to the top of Field Street.

Parking on double yellow lines at the top of Field Street is an issue as at times it is very difficult to manoeuvre vehicles at this junction. Parked cars are causing an obstruction and forcing people to walk out onto the road.

In general the meeting felt that the area needed to be maintained better and that these were important issues to be raised with the Council.

**Action Point: To bring up at the next Ward Meeting**

**Old Post Office – Station Road**

Gordon felt that this property was fairly dilapidated and an eyesore. Suggestions were made about compulsory purchasing and something being done with the building to improve it.

**PO Box – Top of Field Street**

It was noted that the PO Box which was incorrectly sited to the top of Field Street has not been moved to the correct site as promised.

**Action Point:**

**Fishing Shop**

The meeting was informed that the above property has been purchased by M Steels who plan to expand into this building.

**Nuisance Cars**

It was noted that last week 3 cars were noted to be driving around the area late at night. One car “forced” its way up the back of Field Street; the car was pushing bins out of the way all the way up until it was able to exit. This car met up with two other cars at the junction of Field Street and William Street, blocking the same. There were 3 youths in each car; they were then seen to be throwing debris around the Persimmons and University grounds.

The cars eventually left the area after a local resident intervened and reported the disturbance.

It was also noted that cars tend to “fly” up and down Field Street late at night – it was suggested that sleeping policeman be considered to control the speed of traffic up and down this street.

Jerry also noted that there had been vandalism to a car which was on the Ridgewood Gardens triangle; the wing mirrors had been snapped off and someone had stamped across the bonnet.

**Action Point: Jerry to raise with our local Community Officers at the Ward Committee**

**Traffic Lights to Junction of the Grove and Station Road**

The meeting noted the installation of traffic lights at the above junction; it was generally felt to have improved the traffic situation.

Hunters Road would like to have the same system implemented.

**Window Box Competition**

Gordon made the suggestion to hold a competition to help make the areas more pleasant. This could be held nearer spring/summer.

**Action Point:**

**Date and Time of Future Meetings**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7pm in the Victory Pub

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 7pm in the Victory Pub

**Please forward any Agenda items to Jerry**