

South Gosforth Residents' Association Annual General Meeting
28 September 2006

- 1 The Chairman of the SGRA Jerry Ruddick welcomed all attendees.
- 2 The minutes of last year's AGM were agreed as a true record.
- 3 **Annual report from the Chairman:** the full text is available separately, but the main items were:
 - Persimmon Homes (PH) to be addressed as a separate item;
 - Planters: provided by Your Homes Newcastle were very much appreciated;
 - Lamp post: fixed after vehicle bump;
 - Dropped kerb at the end of Mildene House: on plans;
 - Traffic works at roundabout: grass seeds ordered to replanted;
 - Phone mast: we supported objection along with High West Jesmond Residents Association but the company has appealed so this is on-going;
 - Splashguards installed at the roundabout – a victory for GR's persistence.

4 Treasurer's report

Opening balance: £291.37

Closing balance: £412.43

5 Election of officers

Jerry Ruddick was returned as Chairman

No nominations made for Vice Chair

Gordon Robinson returned as Treasurer

Sonia Bradley elected as Secretary.

6 Wrendale House

Peter Arnold was welcomed to the meeting and asked to respond to our request for an official council update. Peter Arnold reiterated the history of Wrendale House: planning permission was granted in 2003, access to the site is implicit in the permission being granted.

A traffic management plan was requested but not much had been done re traffic management until recently. Access is the biggest problem.

Persimmon Homes wanted to discuss access to the site via Ridgewood Gardens as an alternative an to Field Street. Residents were unhappy with either option. There was and remains a need for consultation but Persimmon Homes have the right of reasonable access.

It appears that Persimmon Homes have taken little action to investigate the mine shafts. The council paid for some investigation and the outcome was that there was nothing particularly wrong with the shafts. It was suggested that placing metal sheets over the shafts while lorries pass over would mitigate some of the concerns.

It was felt at this point that a plan could be developed.

SGRA then advised Peter Arnold that Persimmon Homes had leafleted parts of the area advising that work would start. Councillor Cookson visited the site. Persimmon Homes vehicles were unable to get through Field Street. The police had previously advised that Field Street access was impractical.

Persimmon Homes proposed to build a road over the grass at the back of the Ridgewood Gardens flats and reinstate grass on completion. This required a licence from the council which has not been issued. Peter Arnold was surprised when he was advised that work had started via that route and had taken steps to get the work stopped.

A lively debate engaged at this stage. It is not possible to record all that was said but there was a full and frank exchange of views on the subject of the Persimmon Homes development, control of the planning department, origins of alleged weaknesses in the planning department, consideration for need for disciplinary action etc.

Specific concerns were raised by a resident in relation to lack of appropriate signage on the site, apparent lack of toilet facilities and a lack of a site manager on the site. She also advised the meeting of a number of contact phone numbers for Persimmon Homes managers.

The meeting was advised that the rules have changed on the structures of councils that give more responsibility to officers for day to day decisions.

Further lively discussion ensued.

The Chairman thanked all for their contributions and moved to the next agenda item.

7 Any other business

- a Residents were concerned about traffic congestion in the area and asked for this to be raised at the Ward committee meeting;
- b Resident's parking scheme: this was raised 6 years ago and nothing has happened (Percy Terrace area)

8 Vote of thanks The SGRA wished to extend our thanks and appreciation to Dave Roberts and Annabel McKinnon for all their efforts and hard work on our behalf.