

SGRA Minutes of Meeting

Held on Monday 3rd December 2007

At 7pm in the Victory Public House

Welcome

Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Gordon Robinson, Collin Walmsley, Hazel Spicer

People Present

Jerry Ruddick, Siobhan O' Brian, Sheila Parks, Paul Spicer, Norma Shannon, Sonia Bradley, Irene Matthewson, Carol and Anna from Newcastle University, Janet & Ian Frazer

Minutes of Previous meeting

Amendments have been made to the October 2007 Minutes and these have been reissued.

Previous Minutes for November were agreed as a true record.

Update on Action Points/Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Recycling Bins

Dave Roberts has written to the appropriate authorities requesting that the recycling bins be re-instated at South Gosforth Metro Station.

Siobhan reminded the meeting that bins were originally removed from all metro stations because of bomb scares.

Mildene Waste Bin

Sonia had contacted the home direct and spoke to the Nurse in Charge who will ensure all staff is aware of the need to ensure the waste bin is situated correctly and not on the public footpath, the meeting was also informed that the bin is left on the footpath by the bin-men as well.

If further problems persist then the Residents Association can always contact the landlord of the property – Anchor Housing to resolve the issue.

Splash Guards at South Gosforth roundabout.

Jerry is still pursuing this issue.

Action Point:

Dogs on the Green

It was highlighted again that signs need to be put up around the Green about dog fouling. Jerry noted that there are some Primary Schools in Heaton have signs, these were designed by children, perhaps we could purchase these? This needs to be chased up with the Council.

Action Point:

GIG (Good in Gosforth)

Jerry attended the above event and shared a stall with the Ashburton Residents Association. Jerry received several positive comments about the work done by the SGRA. We have 3 new people who want to be added to our mailing list.

Feedback from meetings attended

Ward Meeting

Gordon attended the last Ward Meeting. Apparently residents from The Grove have put in a petition about chicanes being placed along The Grove road, residents are concerned that recent changes to the roads have made situation worse with traffic in the area. They feel chicanes will only make the situation worse.

Roundabouts Competition Winner

At the GIG event Jerry was delighted to announce that we had a winner from Bowes Street, they asked that the prize money of £25.00 be donated to St. Oswald's – a cheque was issued to them before Christmas.

The answer to the question – “when were the two roundabouts installed at South Gosforth” was **1976**.

Persimmon Homes

Jerry expressed concerns that a small JCB had gone across the green at the top of Ridgewood Gardens to gain access to the building site. It has caused damage to the grass. The contractors are legally responsible for putting this right and Jerry has made the council aware of the situation.

Sheila noted that vehicles are regularly accessing the site before 10am each morning and have been doing so for a number of weeks.

Norma enquired about the land to the back of the site.

Jerry suggested that the tree that is next to the wall at the top of Ridgewood be removed and that the wall be rebuilt as it is very quickly becoming an eyesore. He suggested having a wider turning area put in place at the top of the street as way of compensation for what residents have had to endure for several months however concerns were expressed about skateboarders using the area.

Siobhan reminded the meeting that the contractors are obliged to reinstate the areas to how it was before building work took place. She offered to take photographs of the area and chase up any concerns.

Jerry has also approached the Council to ensure that Persimmon Homes address issues about the site before the project is finished.

Action Point: Jerry & Siobhan

Trees on the Green

As previously mentioned local children had requested goal posts are placed on the green. Colin has submitted plans to the council and we are awaiting their reply.

East Pilgrim Street

Jerry received a letter from the Council regarding the regeneration of Pilgrim Street – if people want to look at the planning applications go to the Newcastle Website and use the link to Pilgrim Street.

Siobhan informed the meeting that £800 million pounds is to be spent on regeneration in this area to create retail, businesses and student accommodation.

Ian informed the meeting that a 3D model can be viewed at the Theatre Royal between 3pm – 8pm on Wednesday 5th December 2007.

Newcastle University

Carol and Anna from Newcastle University attended the meeting to present their findings following a recent questionnaire that they had carried out in the area.

They are Town Planning/Urban Design and Architecture Students respectively.

This project is part of their course work and they had been studying Gosforth to look at Social Mapping and how people generally felt about the area – good and bad points. They then used this information to produce a master plan for the area and had been invited to the meeting to present this for comment before they present the same at University this Friday.

The meeting listened and made comments on the proposals which we hope were of use to Carol and Anna to inform their final presentation at University.

Financial update

Siobhan reminded the meeting that we are not applying or using monies from the Ward. We need to identify area where monies can be used. We need to consider projects such as how to improve the environment in the area, she suggested we look at what other Wards are using monies for to improve their areas and see if any of these ideas would be useful in ours.

Siobhan would be happy to write our application for us.

Action Point: Siobhan

Suggestions: - Triangle of land near Mildene to the back of Tenerife buildings could be identified as unkempt and look to apply for monies to put a planting scheme in the space.

We could look to have sustainable seating in the area, or sculptures/art work being placed around the Ward.

Siobhan suggested we need to identify an area, what we want done and have an idea of costing to be able to put an application forward.

Any thoughts/suggestions need to be e-mailed to Siobhan and Jerry.

Action Point: Siobhan & Jerry – Also needs to go on agenda for next meeting.

Jerry informed the meeting that there still a few cheques to be written but that we had approx. £30 in our Account with £10.67 in the Website Shop.

Planning Application - Field Street

Janet and Ian Frazer attended the meeting to bring to our attention a proposed planning application to install two roof lights to the front and three roof lights to rear of 24 Field Street to provide bedrooms and bathroom in the roof space and alteration to elevations.

The meeting expressed concerns about multiple occupancy properties in Field Street and the affect that this has on the community in the area. Also concerns were expressed about the lack of affordable, suitable housing in the area.

The meeting was made aware of the Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Shared Housing which is currently being prepared by the Planning and Transportation Department at the Civic Centre which looks to decline planning permission on properties that are being altered to create multiple occupancy.

Concerns were also expressed that the above Draft Document should not infringe on owner occupiers who wish to expand into their own loft space and do not intend to use the space for multiple occupancy.

The meeting felt it was appropriate to support Janet and Ian in their objection of the planning applications for No. 24 Field Street and Siobhan suggested any letters should also be copied to our three local Councillors and the local Council. Jerry would also like copies of any letters please.

Action Point:

Any other Business

Rubbish to the Back of Shops on Station Road

Sheila noted that rubbish bags are being left behind the shops on Station Road and not being placed in a bin. This needs to be to be monitored.

Action Point:

Steps leading down from the Green

Sheila is currently sweeping these. She attended a recent surgery to raise this with Mike Cookson but had to leave before she was able to raise this with him.

Action Point:

Siobhan suggested that the Meeting make a list of issues that need to be addressed by the NRM and send this along with the Minutes. The Meeting agreed with this suggestion.

Action Point:

Neighbourhood Survey

Siobhan informed the meeting that we should have been consulted throughout the year about the above survey. Need to bring this up at the next meeting.

Action Point: Needs to go on Agenda for next Meeting.

Street Lighting

Installation of new street lighting appears to be going well, new lighting is in place but not operational – no one was sure of when the lights were going to be 'switched on'.

Black Box Recycling Scheme

This scheme will change next year and we need to ensure our comments are given to the Neighbourhood Response Manager. The meeting stated they wished to enquire further about what actually happened to the recycling once the bins were emptied to help inform our comments about the future of the scheme.

Action Point:

West Jesmond School

The meeting was informed that temporary buildings will be placed on Freeman Road whilst renovations are taking place at West Jesmond School.

Councillor Surgery's

The above are held on the 1st Saturday in the month in a stall Gosforth High Street between 10 am to 12 noon.

Date and Time of Future Meetings

Monday 7th January 2008 at 7pm in the Victory Pub

Monday 4th February 2008 at 7pm in the Victory Pub

Monday 3rd March 2008 7pm in the Victory Pub

Please forward any Agenda items to Jerry