

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

**Apologies**

Siobhan O'Brien, Chris Higham, Ian & Janet Fraser.

Jerry apologised to the group for having to cancel June's meeting at short notice.

**People Present**

Jerry Ruddick, Norma Shannon, Irene Matthewson, Sonia Bradley, Paul & Hazel Spicer, Gordon Robinson, Colin Walmsley, Brian Moore, Ann Gilks

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes for May 08 were agreed as a true record.

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

Dog Signs

Jerry brought this up at the Ward Meeting and metal signs will be put on the lamp posts.

Young People in the Area (What do they want to happen?)

Jerry passed information to Colin about plans for a skateboard park in the area.

It was noted that visits to other Skateboard Parks in England are planned by our Council to enable them to get ideas. The meeting felt this was a poor use of tax payer's money as there would be plenty of advice via the internet and other sources to inform this project.

Poor Lighting to the top of the hill near Metro Bridge

Jerry brought this up at the Ward Meeting as highlighted in the May 08 SGRA Minutes, also Jerry advised the meeting that the old lighting is still in place on Church Avenue and Station Road. The Station Road lights will be replaced next year but the Church Avenue lights are compliant with the EU lighting standard adopted by the Council and will not be replaced.

Traffic Lights

Jerry put forward the above suggestion at the Ward Meeting. Details of this proposal are in the last set of Minutes.

Mine Shaft

Jerry mentioned concerns, as detailed in SGRA Minutes May 08, at the Ward Meeting.

#### Flower Boxes on Station Road/Outside Brandling Villa

Gordon informed the Meeting that he has e-mailed Darren Penaluna to ask if planters can be put outside the Brandling. This will be considered for next year as they have now run out of planters.

#### Land to the Front of Mildene House - Kirby Shop

Gordon raised this topic at the last Ward Meeting.

Apparently the land is owned by the Northumberland City Council and Your Homes Newcastle and is leased to Mildene therefore they cannot sell the same.

Ann informed the Meeting that the land is designated as a "Public open space". The lease allows Mildene to move the fence but it does not allow them to sell the land.

As it is Council land and they have a policy of not cutting down any trees, unless they are causing damage to buildings or posing a health and safety risk. This means the tree at the front of Mildene is under this policy.

**Action Point: - Jerry and Gordon to raise this again at the next Ward Meeting to clarify situation.**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

#### **Feedback from Meetings Attended**

Jerry and Gordon attended the Ward Meeting and brought up the action points as detailed in above topics.

#### **Meeting with Mildene Home**

Jerry & Sonia meet up with Karen at the Milldene Home and were able to discuss the issues around the Waste Bin.

Karen informed us that the designated area where the bin is kept is currently full of old beds and chairs. Jerry got in touch with Ann Gilks who kindly agreed as a one off to dispose of these items (there is usually a charge for this as Milldene is a private building).

It then came to light that the cupboard needs a ramp fitting so staff at the home can manoeuvre the bin. Unfortunately, the home will have to raise funds to pay for this (they have not been successful in the past).

Ann mentioned that it may be better to approach the Home again and ask they put the bin in another area as long as the refuse collection can access it easily.

It was noted that it could be reported if it obstructs the public highway – the Highway Inspector can look at its position on an ad hoc basis to check its position.

Ann suggested we could write a letter of support to Anchor Housing as they have a duty of care towards its employees in relation to spinal awareness and we could perhaps suggest they recite the bin in the car park area.

**Action Point:**

**Invite from the “News of the World”**

The SGRA received an invite to attend a meeting entitled “Violence in the Community”, to take place in Byker on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Mike Parr from Radio Newcastle is to chair the meeting. Unfortunately neither Sonia nor Jerry can attend.

**Newsletter**

Jerry passed round a final draft of the Newsletter. Comments were made and it was suggested about moving the picture of the drain to the front page.

The meeting felt that the Newsletter should remain in colour as it has more impact.

Also decided was to include a question to the Community about whether or not they wanted more seating on the Green and perhaps a picnic area. People could e-mail or drop their comments through Jerry’s door or via the website with their views.

Gordon suggested including streets to the other side of Station Road i.e. Sandringham, Audley Road etc. in the distribution.

Jerry pointed out that this is outside the boundary area that SGRA represent and if we wanted to include this area it would need to inform the Charity Commission that there is a change to our constitution. Ann suggested we discuss this further at our Annual General Meeting to make it a formal Agenda Item.

It is likely that taking on extra streets will mean an increase in the workload and we will need to look at how the Association will absorb this.

**Action Point: Jerry**

**Change of Day for Future Meetings**

Jerry passed on a request that he had received to change the day of our meeting, after some lively discussion the meeting felt that Monday’s was the best night to be held and that to leave it as it is at present.

**Charity Trustees, SGRA Constitution and 2008 Annual Return**

Jerry informed the meeting that there is a minimum of 3 trustees and a maximum of 15 allowed. If we are going to possibly increase the area we cover we will need to bring this up at our AGM. This point has already been actioned under the Newsletter item.

Jerry stated that he has now put the SGRA 2008 Annual Return which included the financial expenditure on the Charity Commission website.

### **Ridgewood Gardens & Crescent Update - Resurfacing of Roads and Pavements**

Jerry informed the meeting that he has received an e-mail stating work will start in Ridgewood Gardens in July 08. This will include kerbs, bollards and resurfacing, drawings are been done now.

Ridgewood Crescent is on the schedule for April 2009 or soon after.

### **Facilities for Children**

Simon from the new flats sent his apologies as he was not able to attend the meeting tonight. However, he has mentioned to Jerry that kids are playing in the new area outside the flats. Simon enquired about facilities for kids in the area.

This sparked a further discussion about having trees planted on the Green that could also be used as goal posts.

Colin suggested these trees needed to be established so they would not get damaged. He suggested that the trees should be 2-3 years old and would need to be planted in October 08 to be ready for summer 2009. They can have some protection around them until they are better established.

Ann suggested that we asked Steve Charlton from Jesmond Dene Nursery to give on site estimate for 6 new trees. We can then make an application for a grant in September 08 bearing in mind that the trees need to be planted by October 08.

We would also need to seek permission to do this from Your Homes Newcastle and the City Council.

### **Action Point: Jerry**

### **Community Funding**

Some Residents felt that we need more seating and a picnic area on the Green. It was noted the Green is used quite a bit by families and residents over the summer months and better facilities would be welcomed.

It was also noted that additional waste bins would be needed to accommodate these new facilities.

Ann suggested putting this item on our Newsletter as a question to the residents about whether or not they wanted these facilities on the Green.

**Action Point: Jerry**

**Financial Update**

We currently have £30.46 in the Web-shop fund and awaiting a further £15.37 to be paid into the account.

There is a total of £350 in our account but a big dint will be made in this to pay for the Newsletter.

**Donation to the SGRA**

Jerry has made a donation of £11.31.

**Any Other Business**

**Field Street – Repair to areas where new lamp posts have been fitted**

Gordon mentioned that when the new lamp posts were fitted a lot of pavements were broken. These areas were marked with a white spray, it was some time ago and the white marks have faded now.

Ann informed the Meeting that SCC was the company that put the lamp posts in and will have responsibility for “making good” the area. It is their responsibility to replace any broken/damaged paving.

Anne informed the meeting that it may have been the Highway’s Inspector that marked the areas of damage to keep a record of areas that need to be addressed by contractors.

Gordon also mentioned that the now lamp post to the end of the flats at the bottom of Field Street has only been filled in with loose concrete.

Ann advised Gordon to contact the following people to try and resolve the issue:-

Dave McCourt, Highways Inspector – e-mail: [dave.mccourt@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:dave.mccourt@newcastle.gov.uk) or

Alan Clarkson, Lighting Co-ordinator – e-mail: [alan.clarkson@newcatle.gov.uk](mailto:alan.clarkson@newcatle.gov.uk)

**Action Point: Gordon**

**Gluesniffers-Nuisance Behaviour**

A resident expressed concerns about gluesniffers near her property.

Ann suggested contacting the Police on the following number, especially when people suspect drugs are involved: - Tel: 03456 043 043.

Or other nuisance behaviour can be reported to the Neighbourhood help line Tel: 0300 1000 101.

**Action Point: All Residents**

Overhanging Bushes – Mildene Home

It was noted that the bushes are growing over the fence at Mildene and this is causing problems on the public path.

Ann informed the meeting that this should be reported to Envirocall Tel: 0191 274 4000. They will give you a reference number so you can use this when ringing back to check on progress.

Mildene also have a responsibility to address this.

**Action Point: All Residents**

Parking in the Area

Gordon raised concerns about the amount parked cars in the area. He expressed concern that this would increase once M Steel's new shop opens for business as this will increase the amount of traffic coming into the area.

Fly tipping & general household rubbish – back of Field Street & William Street

Gordon has called Darren on two occasions to get the rubbish moved from the back of Field Street. It was noted by another resident that one of the flats tenants had moved out and left all the old furniture in the back alley.

Biffo Refuse collection do not appear to be emptying the bins as often as needed, there are often several bin liners also left in the area – Domino Pizza's appears to be causing the most concern.

Sonia raised a recent e-mail received from a local resident about rubbish being left to the back of William Street.

Ann re-iterated that individual residents need to contact Envirocall (Tel: 0191 274 4000) direct to report this and have the same removed.

**Action by: All Residents**

Recycling Bins Outside of South Gosforth Metro Station

Hazel mentioned other Metro Stations have had the Recycling Bins re-instated, and enquired about the same being reinstated at South Gosforth Metro Station.

Ann mentioned that John Usher from Nexus would be attending the next Ward Meeting and this would be a good opportunity to enquire about the above.

Gordon quoted from the Ward Minutes – the recycling bins were removed originally because of issues around bomb scares.

**Action Point: Jerry**

Bollards on Station Road

The meeting were informed that these are planned to be put in placed and completed by 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008. **(Result for the SGRA)**

Stairs to the Green

Everyone mentioned that the Stairs had recently been cleaned and we wished to extend our thanks for this.

Cars Parking at the Bottom/Corner of Hunters Road

Residents expressed concerns that there is a car parked at the above site and it is making access awkward – this has been an ongoing issue. It is contravening the Highway Code.

It was suggested that this should be reported to the Highway Department and if necessary take pictures.

Ann informed the meeting that the Civilianised Wardens will manage parking in the future.

She also mentioned that vehicles have 20mins to stop to pick up and drop of f items.

SGRA Website

Colin has tried several times to book his holidays using the SGRA Website. However, the link to Thompson's Travel is not working. Therefore, we are missing out on any commission that could be raised.

**Action Point: (for Jerry to clarify)**

Right Up your Street Brochure

Colin suggested we advertise the date and times of our meeting – this can be place in the above local brochure free of charge.

**Action Point: (Sonia)**

Post Office – Gosforth High Street

One resident had heard a rumour that the Post Office on Gosforth High Street was to close.

Ann was not aware of this and can check this information, and suggested we bring it up at the next Ward Meeting.

The Village Green Post Office is to close.

### Station Road

Gordon mentioned that Station Road is not being cleaned to a very high standard. Some of the litter is being caused by employees and customer's smoking outside some of the shops along the main road. It was also noted to be a problem to the land opposite the South Gosforth Social Club.

Ann pointed out that it is also the responsibility of the owners of these premises to provide facilities to dispose of cigarette ends.

Gordon has e-mailed Darren about this problem.

### **Action Point: Gordon**

### Planning Application – Bedi's General Dealers

The meeting was informed of a planning application to convert Bedi's General Dealers into a Dentist. The meeting welcomed this.

### The Green

Jerry e-mailed Anne asking if the edges to the Green can be trimmed on a more regular basis.

### **Action Point:**

### Ridgewood Gardens

The meeting was advised that a request has been made for the old washing line to be taken down.

### **Action Point:**

### Tree Protection Order

Gordon enquired about how to apply for a Tree Protection Order.

Ann informed the meeting that any trees on land owned by the Council are automatically protected as the Council's policy is **not** to take down any trees unless they pose a health and safety risk or are causing damage to buildings.

The tree Gordon was enquiring about is in a resident's garden. Ann informed Gordon that as long as it is seen by others and is not currently under a protection order or in a conservation area he can enquire with Liz Bray, Landscape and Ecology Department, about how to go about applying for a Tree Protection Order (TPO).

**Action Point: Gordon**

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**SGRA Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 at 7pm in the Brandling Villa**