

South Gosforth Residents Association

Meeting 13 July 2005, The Victory

Present: Gordon Robinson, Colin Walmsley, Pat McDonald, Jerry Ruddick, Annabel McKinnon

1. **Apologies:** Clare, Andrew, Karen McMaster, Joanne, Robyn, Chris, Ruth, Lorraine & Geoff.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** on 4 May were agreed.
3. **Matters arising:**

Drains – only 50% of the drains in the area are not blocked.

Action: Dave Roberts to be asked (by Annabel) to check drains by the computer shop on Station Road, Field Street, the top of Ridgewood Gardens, Clarence Place.

Stairs up to the green – littered with gravel and rubbish

Action: Dave Roberts to ask his team to clear it. (Annabel)

Planning Gain for the Nomad development – if available, could it be used for the green?

Action: Annabel checked with Paul Hancock from planning and unfortunately no 106 money is available.

Trees – Annabel to pass on thanks to the tree team who acted so promptly to prune a tree at Ridgewood Gardens and to replace a tree on Ridgewood Crescent .

4. Feedback from meetings attended

- At the East Gosforth Ward Committee on 4 May, following concerns expressed by SGRA, it was resolved to request Planning to include residents groups in consultation on planning applications.
- Columns for the 2 area mobile CCTV cameras have been erected at Audley Road/Stoneyhurst Road, and at Audley Road/Station Road.
- Jerry met with Dave Roberts and he agreed to provide 3 trees for the green by the top of Ridgewood Gardens (triangle). Colin asked Annabel to pass on to Dave that the type of tree preferred is the 'prunus serulla' as it is not big and thrives when the bark is peeled off. The second preference would be 'sorbus aucuparia'
- Dave Roberts also agreed to provide 7 planters for next spring. Annabel advised Jerry to check that this is on Dave's priority plan and not his 'outstanding schemes' list. **AP for Jerry.**

5. Plans for the green

Trees/seating/totem poles - Jerry and Colin met with Tom Jarman (investment) Richard Barnes (design) Helen Nickson (estate officer, YHN) and Melanie Philips (investment) on 12 July. Richard suggested that 5 trees are needed on Hunter's Road side to block in the holes and gaps with a seat at the back of the sheltered accommodation. The idea of totem poles would be to locate them so that children/young people could use them as goal posts (by adding a jersey at each end) which would take football playing away from housing.

Consultation will be required both with children/young people and with residents. Helen Nickson will be keen to assist/advise on consultation with tenants.

Andrew has a contact to consult with children/young people who would do a special workshop session. Once a brief has been written an estimate will be provided. The likely cost for the oak totems and the workshop is in the region of £700. YHN have indicated that they will contribute £400. The balance could be sought from East Gosforth grant-aid. **Deadline for application to be in by is 22nd August.**

Richard mentioned that there was a pagoda entrance in Walker where demolition has taken place, this is the only feature that is still standing in the area. Jerry and Colin discussed this with Richard and Tom and advised that this was not a priority at present as there are other areas that needed to be prioritised.

It was mentioned that by the side of the steps the growth on the slope had been ripped to bits perhaps due to kids going down it on their bikes. A racecourse fence would stop this so it was suggested that this should be added to the action plan for the green.

6. Drinking, litter anti-social behaviour, traffic

- The general store at 9 Station Road required a letter of support for its licensing application – which Jerry provided.
- William Street – electrics for a tenant are to be tested following a request from SGRA to Helen Nickson.
- Speeding Traffic – many parents are concerned and would like signs to warn drivers that children are playing – particularly at Ridgewood Gardens and also the entrance to Ridgewood Crescent. **Action:**

Annabel to pass this request on to highways

- Young on the green are gathering to drink. One arrest was made. Some residents have been heckled. Jerry to liaise with the CBMs.
- Bowsden Terrace/Field Street traffic and parking – there is really only room for one way traffic as cars are parked all round the t junction and bend which creates a blind spot and bottleneck. It was suggested that double yellow lines are required to deal with the problem. **Action: Annabel to pass the request on to highway engineers. Also Jerry to follow up on for the next Ward Committee meeting in conjunction with the Nomad building work to be done.**

7. AOB

The newsletter needs to be done by 18 August to allow 28 days notice of the AGM which will be on Thursday 15 September at 7pm at St Nicholas Church. 400 copies will be circulated.

8. Next meeting

Wednesday 10 August, 7pm at the Victory.