

SGRA Minutes of Meeting

Held on Monday 4th June 2007
At 7pm in the Victory Public House

Welcome

Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

None received.

People Present

Irene Matthewson, Hazel & Paul Spicer, Ruth Hughes, Fiona Wilson, Gordon Robinson, Jerry Ruddick, Brian Moore, Sonia Bradley, Pat McDonald, Stuart McCubbin, Peter

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

William Street Flats – Recycling Bins

Ruth thanked Dave as she is now in receipt of a recycling bin.

William Street Flats are now included in the recycling collection.

Peter raised concerns that residents currently keep the recycling bins in the corridor within the building. Dave stated that the council are looking to have a bank of recycling bins sited outside which may require a fenced storage area.

Action Point:

Pavements – Loose Paving near the Roundabouts and up Station Road

Gordon enquired about when repairs would be completed. Several paving slabs have been identified with white crosses as needing attention. Gordon has volunteered to check elsewhere in the vicinity to see where other repairs are needed and will let Dave know.

Action Point: Dave & Gordon

Feedback from Meetings Attended

Mildene Home – Lighting

Jerry & the Meeting thanked Dave for the recent installation of two street lamps along the pathway next to Mildene.

Post Box – Percy Terrace

Dave has written to the Delivery Manager of the Postal Service at St. Nicholas Hospital with two proposals of where the Grey Wall Box can be resisted i.e. outside M Steels or on Station Road. Monies have been put aside to realign the grey box once Dave has had a reply.

Action Point:

Bridge leading from Metro – Walls

Gordon commented on the state of the railings leading from the Metro Bridge down Station Road. They look unstable. Dave has agreed to look at this.

Action Point:

High West Jesmond Residents Association AGM

Jerry attended the above.

The Lord Mayor – City Council Annual Meeting

Jerry was invited to attend the above ceremony along with other Residents Associations in East Gosforth to watch the procession of the Lord Mayor being appointed in the Council Chambers. Peter Arnold is the Lord Mayor of Newcastle for 2007.

Annabel

Annabel is taking a year out from Newcastle City Council.

Jerry passed round a card she had sent to him thanking him for all the hard work he has done. The card was passed round to the meeting.

There will be a new Co-ordinator appointed in due course.

Newsletter

Ruth has drafted a Newsletter – this was passed round the meeting for comments.

Included is that work the SGRA have done in relation to the land outside the Mildene Home, lighting, recycling issues and Wrendale House.

If people would like items added please forward ideas to Jerry or Ruth.

Dave has been asked to give an update regarding Wrendale House which could be included in the Newsletter i.e. approximations of when Phase II and Phase III are going to take place and a rough idea of what these phases entail.

Gordon suggested including the following slogan just under the heading of the Newsletter – **Your Local Voice.**

Big thanks to Ruth for her work on this Newsletter – closing dates for further ideas is two weeks.

Action Point: All Members – Jerry & Ruth

Wrendale House/Persimmon Homes

On 1st May 2007 Jerry received complaints about lorries delivering outside the allotted times. As a consequence Mike Cookson issued a letter to Persimmons withdrawing their permit.

The NML Contractors responsible sent Jerry a letter explaining the reason for the above. On one occasion a delivery of cement had to be outside the allotted times due to the type of material being delivered and also issues around traffic congestion had also influenced this.

Irene expressed concerns that Field Street is still experiencing the odd lorry coming down by accident, which has caused huge problems for the driver as the streets surrounding have a lot of parked cars.

Ruth mentioned that residents have noted that lorries have come into the site round the front of William Street Flats.

Dave informed the meeting that Persimmon plan to bring in a large mobile crane on Wednesday 6th June 2007 around 7.30am. The route planned is to come into the site via Bowsden Street, through the University accommodation to access the site from William Street.

Persimmon will be putting flyers through the doors of those streets affected asking people to try and move their cars in preparation.

The mobile crane is necessary to move timber frames.

Youth in Action

Jerry mentioned that the New Library at Gosforth is asking young people to select new books for the Library. Jerry asked if anyone was aware of any youth groups that may be interested in taking part to contact him and he will give them further information.

Action Point: Jerry

Any Other Business

Skateboarding Park (Gosforth Park)

Gordon mentioned that a proposal has been put forward about having a Skateboarding area in this part off the High Street. He proposed using school yards in the area as an alternative, however, this is not feasible.

Another suggestion was to consider using the land behind the Clinic where the old Tennis Courts were as this is currently disused.

The meeting felt it was important to facilitate areas for appropriate use by younger adults in the local area.

It was noted that consultation will have to take place before any such facilities are implemented.

Seating on the Green

Peter enquired about funds to put further park benches on the green. This needs to be discussed further.

Action Point: To be discussed again at future meetings

Planters and Hanging Baskets

Dave informed the meeting that summer bedding of plants will start next week. Plants have been ordered and the planters will be replenished. Jerry mentioned that Residents from William Street Flats were very happy with the planters. However, they are looking a bit bare at present. It was suggested that annuals be planted to give all year round greenery.

Pat mentioned that the Planters near the bridge were very rarely watered last year. Dave stated that there are now 3 teams going round the city watering planters.

Gordon requested that hanging baskets be put up on the lamp posts along Station Road.

Action Point: Dave

Stairs leading down from the Green

Gordon mentioned that the stairs leading down from the Green are only cleaned when residents raise it. Requested that the cleaning of the same be put on a rota.

Action Point: Dave

Railings leading down the bank from South Gosforth Club

This area looks rather messy at present. Gordon requested that the Council consider putting some evergreen bushes there to tidy it up.

Dave informed the meeting the South Gosforth Club has asked the Council to cut the grass in this area. He pointed out that there is Japanese Knot Weed growing there at present, this is a difficult plant to deal with as the only way of disposing of it is to incinerate it.

Action Point: Dave

Gosforth Terrace – Kerbs

A resident has recently put in a complaint regarding the crumbling kerbs in this area.

Gregg's – Silo Mast

Gordon informed the meeting that Gregg's has made an application to put up a 30 metre silo outside Gosforth Terrace. The residents have written letter of objection because of the noise this will cause.

Restaurant – Corner of Audley Road and Station Road (The Old Launderette)

Irene brought up that the above premises have made an application to have a music license and a liquor license allowing customers to bring their own alcohol.

The notice is very vague and the hours of the licensing are not clear.

Some members felt that it would be a welcome venture in the area any would improve the social atmosphere of the area.

The Green

It was suggested to put something in the Newsletter inviting local residents to submit ideas about what facilities should be put on the field i.e. seating, goal posts, play area etc.

Local Shops

Fiona stated that South Gosforth used to be a much more vibrant area a number of years ago. This is when there were a variety of local shops and the much more of a community spirit as you met up with your neighbours in the local shops.

Sadly the feeling of community spirit has declined with the reduction in local shops and facilities.

It was felt that if there was a way of traffic being able to bypass Station Road, this would enable the area to have more of a community feel.

Effects on The Ouseburn from The Great Park

Concerns were expressed about possible floods along the Ouseburn as a result of developments at The Great Park.

Brian assured the meeting that these concerns were being addressed and that environmental ways of controlling and slowing down water flow along the Ouseburn were being looked at.

Triangle of land to the back of the old DIY Yard

Decisions about what to do with this area have not been made yet. Suggestions were made to replant shrubs in the area to tidy it up before the summer months. However, it was shrubs that caused problems in the first place as rubbish and litter collected in this area.

Ruth suggested that a path be laid as people use this as a cut through and consider planting on either side.

Concerns were raised by Pat that if a path was laid then Skateboarders would also use this as a cut through and it may cause accidents.

Something like cobble stones as a path, with planting either side would be a good compromise as this would deter skateboarders but enable people to cut through.

It was also noted that fencing had been removed to enable people to cut through from the health club. The question of a step being put there was raised again – as previously discussed this would cause problems for disability access.

Action Point: To be discussed again at future meetings

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on 2nd July 2007 at 7pm in the Victory Pub.

Any agenda items to be forwarded to Jerry.