

SGRA MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 5TH MARCH 2007
AT 7PM IN THE VICTORY PUBLIC HOUSE

Welcome

Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Paul Spicer, Abigail McDonald, Caroline Simpson

People Present

Dave Roberts, Colin Walmsley, Jerry Ruddick, Sonia Bradley, Irene Matthewson, Hazel Spicer, Siobhan O'Brien, Brian Moore (left the meeting at 8pm), Ruth Hughes

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Update on Action Points from Previous Meeting

Ridgewood Crescent & Ridgewood Gardens

Jerry informed the meeting that 5.6 million pounds on Highways Improvements will be spent over the next three years. The whole ward will have new street lighting next year.

Dave advised the meeting that the above streets are to be included in the Ward Plans for resurfacing the road and pavement.

Ward Committee Meeting

It was noted that minutes of the meeting are not discussed until the end. At the last meeting some residents could not contribute as they had to leave before the minutes were read.

It was felt that a request should be made to the Ward Committee to have the Minutes read at the beginning of the meeting.

Action by: Jerry

South Gosforth Metro Station – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Dave & Gordon have looked at this area. The traffic is pretty horrendous on a morning. Siobhan informed the meeting that there is a consultation document regarding traffic in the East Gosforth Wards currently at the Library.

It was noted that South Gosforth is not in the current plans and that it may take years for a Pedestrian Crossing to be put in place. However, it was suggested that we write to the Director of Highways. Dave suggested he may be able to get someone from the Highways Department to look at the Area.

It was suggested that this issue should be raised formally via the next Ward Committee Meeting.

Action Point:

Persimmons Homes

Dave currently meets with the Site Manager every Friday at 1pm. Siobhan had been attending these meetings on a regular basis up until Christmas.

Unfortunately it is difficult for other residents to attend in Siobhan's absence due to other commitments. However, Dave has agreed that he will e-mail Jerry with any important points to keep the Residents Association up to date.

It was agreed that meeting with the Site Manager could be reduced to every two weeks.

It was noted that the work originally done by the Residents has helped to ensure the project runs smoothly.

Action Point:

Mildene

This issue is still pending.

Dave and Gordon have looked at this area this morning. It has been suggested that a picket fence be put round and a tree be planted with grass.

Action Point:

Bollards on the Green

Jerry asked Dave where we are with this issue – Residents felt this was not an urgent issue at present but that it should be kept an eye on as there have been problems in the past. If anyone has concerns they should contact Jerry .

Action Point: SGRA

Dropped Kerb is in the process of being done.

William Street Flats – Recycling

Jerry informed Dave that these flats do not have recycling bins and are not included in the usual recycling run.

Dave will see the Recycling Department about this.

Action Point:

South Gosforth Club

Siobhan made the meeting aware that the road beside the club is an 'un-adopted road' – not a highway. However, it was felt that issues around car parking in this area should be raised with the Community Policeman on Monday.

Action Point:

Field Street Parking

The meeting enquired about the possibility of having double yellow lines at the top of the street to discourage people from parking.

Hunters Road

Problems exiting this junction were highlighted again.

It has been suggested that the issues regarding parking and traffic in the Ward be looked at as a whole.

It was noted that problems should be brought up with the Highways Department as there are issues across the Ward including Hendricks Mill up to the Blue House Roundabout.

Siobhan informed the meeting that the Council are looking at this from a City Wide point of view as they are aware that congestion is growing at a rapid rate. However it was suggested that unless direct Government action was taken to address the issues it will remain a problem for some time to come.

Action Point: Needs to be discussed further and look at ways of taking these issues forward.

Fence to Car Park outside of Healthlands Gym

Several suggestions were made by residents to resolve this issue.

Dave has suggested that the fence be taken away completely. SGRA expressed concerns about who would be liable if anything happened to vehicles. Dave will check this out with the legal department.

Action Point:

Police Presence

Jerry is to bring up this issue at the next Ward Committee Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry

William Street Flats – Drains

Jerry informed the meeting that a local resident continues to have concerns regarding the drains.

Dave is aware of the issues and has relayed the same to Tim Hutton who is the Housing Manager.

Neighbourhood Response Team

SGRA noted the good work the Team has been doing in the area.

Dave has met with the Team and highlighted issues as detailed in the last minutes of the last meeting.

Bowes Court

SGRA asked Dave if weed killer could be put down in this area.

Action Point: Dave

South Gosforth Green – Summer Event

Jerry has suggested that we combine this event with St. Nicholas Church. Dave suggested that we can apply for a grant for this event.

Action Point: SGRA

Feedback from Meetings Attended

Sainsbury's – Gosforth Shopping Centre

It was noted that Sainsbury's will be taking over the old shopping precinct. They plan to open a new restaurant and install new lifts. Work should be starting soon.

Congestion on the High Street was also mentioned, however, concerns were expressed that if traffic was diverted then it would only cause further problems elsewhere in the ward.

Trinity Church

Looking at a pedestrian way.

Newsletter

Jerry suggested producing a Spring Newsletter to publicise what SGRA are doing. It was suggested that this Newsletter should be sent out in May 07.

We will spend the next two meetings discussing what should be included.

Action Point: Jerry & SGRA

Thanks You Letters

Jerry passed around two thank you letters from residents in Hunters Court. They wished to thank SGRA and Dave Roberts for laying down tarmac in the back lane. They are very impressed with the amount of work done by the SGRA.

Residents Association Minutes – The Good Old Days

Jerry has gone through the old minutes and papers of the past Residents Associations in the area. He has compiled a short history of interesting facts which he plans to include on the SGRA Website.

Siobhan thanked Jerry for doing this and suggested that some of this should be used in the new publicity to highlight the good work that has been done by SGRA. It may be useful in gaining new members to help with the future work of the SGRA.

Action Point: Jerry

Any Other Business

Lilburn and Lartington Gardens

Gordon has suggested that residents from the above streets and surrounding areas should be invited to our meeting. They technically belong to the Dene Ward, however, they are closely linked with the area and it was agreed an invitation to the SGRA should be extended to them.

Action Point: Gordon

Refuse Collection & General issues around the area

Gordon has spoken to Dave as concerns have been raised by a resident in Gosforth Terrace, about the early morning call by the bin men. The round starts around 7 – 7.30 am on a Saturday morning.

It was noted that historically the round used to be on a Thursday but due to the road being obstructed with traffic it was changed to a Saturday morning. It was suggested that a smaller wagon could perhaps be used, there is one in the area on a Thursday - this coincides with the recycling van.

It was noted that a private firm 'Clean Away' tend to collect rubbish around 5.30am from the back of Domino Pizza.

General Issues:-

Dave and Gordon are going to go round the local area to look at issues i.e. cleaning up outside of chip shop, footpaths on station road, splash guards near Victory Pub, Healthlands fence and graffiti in the area.

Action by: Dave and Gordon

The meeting thanked Dave for clearing the drains outside the Victory Pub.

Issues with Lord Tool Hire appear to have resolved for the time being.

Any Other Business

Gosforth Residents Meeting

Brian had to leave the SGRA meeting early to attend the Gosforth's Resident's Meeting – Jerry asked Brian to pass our best wishes on to the committee.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

SGRA Meeting – Monday 2nd April 2007 at 7pm in the Victory Public House.