

SGRA Meeting Minutes - Wednesday 3rd May 2006

Held at the Victory Public House

Present: Jerry Ruddick – Chair, Sheila Park, Irene Matthewson, Colin Walmsley, Dave Roberts, Sonia Bradley, Gordon Robinson.

Apologies: Ayesha, Jo Adamczyk, Pat McDonald

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Agreed to be a true record.

Jerry thanked Sheila and Irene for joining the Committee at the last meeting.

Update on Action Points from Previous Meeting

Gullies – William Street

Problems with flooding of Gullies on William Street have now been addressed. Jerry thanked Dave Roberts for his involvement in resolving the same.

The Green

Dave informed the meeting that the concreted area is in preparation of a new bin to be put insitu.

Post Box – Percy Terrace

Dave informed the meeting that the Highway Engineer would be out this week to measure the site. He will feedback his findings at the next meeting.

Dropped Kerbs

Dave informed the meeting that the scheme has been presented and now needs to be costed. Your Homes Newcastle are going to pay for this work to be done as well as lighting. Jerry thanked YHN for this.

Feedback from Meetings Attended

No meetings have taken place.

Gosforth Ward Meeting to be held on Monday 8th May 2006 7pm at St Nicholas Parish Church.

Funding

The Website has earned £6.79 (an increase of 19p from the last month)

Jerry asked the meeting to inform friends and relatives about the site as this may encourage people to buy from the same. There are a number of shops and businesses signed up to the site which can be found under the A-Z listing.

William Street Flats

Residents have expressed concerns about a storage area outside one of these flats which may pose a fire risk.

Dave to contact Tim Hutton from Your Home Newcastle about this issue.

Action by: Dave

Fence Outside Health Lands

This land is owned by the City Council and a new fence will be erected.

Ridgewood Gardens and Persimmon Homes

Dave informed the meeting about the letter he has sent to the Coal Authority seeking clarification of the location and condition of capped mineshafts – See attached letter.

Dave reported that Persimmon Homes have not done a survey. Persimmon Homes need to recognise problems that may arise with houses in the area such as subsidence/volume of traffic etc and feels this letter is the best way forward to address this.

Dave has also approached Persimmon Homes for monies to improve The Green instead of the proposed parking spaces they offered to provide at the back of Ridgewood Gardens flats.

Residents will need to be consulted on how any monies will be spent.

Gordon asked what would happen if the Coal Board recommend that it is not suitable for lorries to use the proposed route. Jerry and Dave had seen plans of the old mine shafts, however, it was difficult to identify where the mine shafts were. Hopefully the Coal Board and Council will be able to clarify this issue.

Dave assured the Meeting that the Council will not give license to use the land until all issues are resolved.

Tim Hutton from Your Homes Newcastle has written to the residents of William Street asking for their opinions on the topic.

There should be a report at the Gosforth Ward Meeting on Monday giving an update about any actions that have taken place.

Jerry thanked the Council for their approach to this matter.

High West Jesmond Residents Association

Jerry has received an e-mail from the above Residents Association about

proposals for an Orange phone mast 15 meters high to be placed near the town moor. High West Jesmond Residents Association has written a letter objecting to the planning application.

They have requested that South Gosforth Residents Association write in support of their objection.

Jerry will speak to Abigail about drafting a letter which the SGRA have agreed to sign to lend our support.

Any Other Business

Steel Cycle Shop

Gordon requested that Dave consider putting a planter outside this area.

Action by: Dave

Metro Line (Nexus) and Shrubs

Gordon requested that Nexus be approached to ask them to consult South Gosforth Residents Association before cutting down any of the trees and shrubs which line the metro line fence.

Dave stated that some of this work may be necessary from a health and safety view point.

Jerry has suggested Gordon bring this up at the Gosforth Ward Meeting on Monday.

Action by: Gordon

Mildene Cut Through

Jerry reported that this land is owned by the Landlord of the Tenerife Buildings.

Residents expressed concerns that this area is an eyesore as litter often collects there. There is also a well worn path across the small shrubbed area and it was suggested that this could be paved in some way.

People also tend to come from the Tenerife Buildings and jump down from the car park to the aforementioned cut through. It is not feasible to consider steps leading from the car park, this is Council land, and steps would pose an accessibility issue along the path.

Moti Jheel Take-away

Gordon raised concerns about the state of the backyard to this building. Dave Roberts will speak with the Environmental Enforcement office about this issue.

Action by: Dave

Kirby Carpets

Jerry enquired if the land to the back of this building is private land as someone has painted on the wall 'Private Parking'. Dave to look at the Land Registry to clarify this.

Action by: Dave

Plants

It was noted that plants in the surrounding area have been watered. Jerry thanked Dave for this.

Gordon enquired if there were plans to put planters around the lamp posts in the area again this year as the fixtures are still in situ. Dave is considering this.

Action by: Dave

Wagon Way – Lottery Fund Bid

Dave asked for volunteers to help him with a Scheme called Friends of the Wagon Way to improve the area. He plans to ask for a £50,000 bid from the Lottery Fund to make a number of environmental improvements such as self seeding perennials, improved lighting, widen the path so it can be used by pedestrians and cyclists.

He is hoping to make it part of the Orbital Cycle Route. He hopes to be able to put up public art along the way, with information boards about the historical background and link up with schools to use it as an educational tool. He hopes the route can extend from Haddricks Mill Road to Coach Lane via Benton Park Road.

He has approached schools in the local area and Freeman Road Hospital for funding. He would like residents to also become involved.

Jerry and Gordon have volunteered their help.

Action by: Jerry & Gordon

Green area across from the Victory Pub

Dave has plans to put a feature in this area such as a rowing boat filled with plants. This may deter people from crossing over the grassed area and encourage them to use the stairs.

Gordon informed Dave that he had noticed a fairly new looking bicycle in the bushes near the bus stop leading up to the Freeman Hospital. Dave will look into this.

Action by: Dave

Proposed Changes to the Rapid Response Teams

Dave reported that he plans to make changes to the above team by allocation each of the three workers a specific area of responsibility each within the Ward. SGRA will be part of the Hollywood Avenue area. The worker will be responsible for litter picking, emptying bins; ensuring gullies

are in good working order and other general duties in the area.

He would like the individual team members to have closer links with the Police and be a customer contact for residents within their area.

At time the three team members will work on projects together throughout the Ward.

This will free up some of Dave's time to become involved in other schemes such as the Green Space Strategy for the Ward and more strategic issues. Dave will still continue to attend the SGRA meetings and will be involved in how the Ward Committee runs.

The meeting felt that this would be a positive move.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Date and Time of New Meeting

Jerry is trying to move the meetings to the 2nd Wednesday in each month.

Next meeting of the SGRA is to be 7th June 2006, 7pm in the Victory Pub.

Gosforth Ward Meeting to be held on Monday 8th May 2006 7pm at The Parish Church.