

South Gosforth Residents Association

Chairman's Annual Report 2006

By far the biggest topic this year, which has affected and created controversy in the area, is Wrendale House. On 13th of September 2005 I attended a meeting at the Civic Centre with senior council officials and the developers Persimmon Homes.

The plans for the development were passed round, on looking at the photos I realised that the proposed access was to be Ridgewood Gardens. It is hard to describe in words what I felt at the time; needless to say that there was no shortage as to what say at the 2005 AGM 2 days later and the rest is history.

Here is a shortened report of what the SGRA has achieved in the area over the last twelve months.

Pavements

The Association passed our concerns to the Council after we received a complaint from a resident at the state of the cracked pavements leading down to Station Road.

Drains

The Association asked for the drains on William Street to be cleaned after receiving complaints from concerned residents.

Dropped Kerbs

We have asked for dropped kerbs to be placed on the entrance to the green on both sides so that wheels chair users have better access to the shops. This is still on going.

Planters

The planters that were outside the William Street flats were replaced as they were falling apart. Your Homes Newcastle provided the funding to the council to do this.

Road works at the roundabouts

We expressed concerns to the council at the state of the land at South Gosforth roundabouts that was left by the road works, this was rectified.

Wrendale House

We stated to the council that the proposed traffic plans had to take into account the possible impact that the mineshafts in Ridgewood Gardens would have on the properties. (This is still ongoing). Also the Association proposed a traffic management plan which was presented at the meeting on 23rd March 2006 at Gosforth Civic Hall.

Telephone Mast Objections.

We had 2 objections happening at the same time.

The Association was approached by the Chairman of High West Jesmond Residents Association for support in campaigning against a mast that was to be installed on the Little Moor; the Council turned this application down.

An individual approached the Association from Mill Rise who wished to object to a proposed telephone mast outside Jewson's the builders on Haddricksmill Road. The Association provided support to the individual, the application was turned down but the company appealed against the decision.

In turn the High West Jesmond Residents Association provided us with their support. A letter was issued stating our objections to the planning department in Bristol and a petition raised on the net gave us 24 signatures to strengthen our case. This appeal is still to be heard.

I was delighted to attend High West Jesmond Resident Association's Annual General Meeting in May this year.

South Gosforth Roundabout Lakes

The Association has campaigned for over a year on the condition of water pooling at the bottom of the roundabouts, it was suggested that the roads were going to be resurfaced and a new drain installed. Instead there have been splashguards put in place. No more wet trousers and shoes.

Thanks

My report would not be complete if I did not express my gratitude to the following. Ayesha, Robyn, Gordon, Colin, Ruth, Sonja, Jo and Joe, Irene, Sheila, Pat, Stephanie, Abigail, Siobhan, Eleanor, Mary, Margaret, Clare and Andrew who have moved away, for their help and support to the Association.

In July I was advised that the Association's secretary Joanne Adamczyk wished to step down, she has been with us since the beginning since 2002 and I would like to say thank you for the support that she has given us. I am pleased to say that Sonia Bradley has accepted the post of Secretary.

Last but not least I would like to say thank you to Councillors Mike Cookson, Peter Arnold and David Slessenger, David Roberts and Annabel McKinnon for their support to the South Gosforth Residents Association in the past year.

Jerry Ruddick

September 28th 2006