

South Gosforth Residents Association

Chairman's Annual Report 2009

The SGRA have been proactive throughout the year with the Council and other organisations in helping to improve the area that we live in. These are some of the issues that we have covered; I haven't managed to include them all.

We were asked about the feasibility of recycling bins being installed outside South Gosforth Metro Station, we were advised that this was not feasible due to security reasons.

In November 2008 we strongly opposed a planning application for a car park outside the Milldene Home; this was later refused by the Council.

In January 2009 the SGRA was advised that a resident tripped on the footpath outside the William Street flats due to one of the trees raising the pavement, this was passed on to the Neighbourhood Response Manager and this was very quickly sorted. The resident who raised the issue was delighted.

Also in January 2009 the Chairman and the Treasurer braved one wintry Sunday morning to plant bulbs outside the Milldene Home, as a result of this it cheered the land up when the bulbs came out in the spring.

Lastly in January 2009 after four years of discussion the SGRA managed to get four trees planted on the green so that children can use them as goalposts, this was thanks to us receiving a £500.00 grant from the Council to fund this.

The SGRA raised concerns at the proposed change of the former hairdressers in to an Indian Takeaway and made their views known. The Council turned the application down but this has gone to Appeal at the planning Dept in Bristol, we wait to find out what the result will be.

We also raised with Your Homes Newcastle at the state of the area outside the Ridgewood Gardens flats, as a result of this the wall was tidied up, the doors that were missing were replaced then painted. This has smartened the area up.

The SGRA requested that the Newcastle City Council provide dog signs on the lamp-posts on the South Gosforth Green. These were installed in March 2009. However some dog owners still allow their dogs to foul the green, we hope that they will think of the children who play there!

During the year this also saw the installation of a concrete ramp outside the Milldene Home so that they can pull the green bin into the home so that it does not obstruct the footpath.

We campaigned to the council for the removal of remains of chewing gum outside the chip shop, this was removed.

Also we expressed our concerns to the Council with parking issues that were raised to the SGRA over the year. A feasibility study was raised for a residents parking scheme from Windsor Terrace downwards, it was felt that this would have an impact on this side of the estate.

A petition was sent to the council signed by residents from Percy Terrace, Bowsden Terrace and Field Street. The council surveyed the area on 2 separate days and based on this survey the area did not qualify for residents' parking. We were asked to bring this up at the Ward Meeting and the Council were given comments raised verbatim by some of the residents in the area of this decision.

As a result of this being brought up we have been advised that a public meeting to discuss a parking scheme in south Gosforth following the July meeting. This meeting will be on the on 30 September 2009. Leaflets will be delivered to all residents in the affected area to inform them of the meeting.

Towards the end of my reporting year the SGRA was delighted that the double yellow lines have been re painted on Station Road leading towards the roundabout, also the area at the exit of Bowes Street on to Station Road has been clearly marked so that this will hopefully improve the safety of this bottleneck.

We are also pushing the Council to stop illegal stopping on the footpaths on Station Road, with cars etc, obstructing the pavement to pedestrians at times, not to mention the problems outside Domino's pizza takeaway.

We are also concerned at the traffic problems on Bowsden Terrace which at times is a bottleneck due to poor parking. We have taken this up with the council.

Lastly in August 2009 we reminded Your Homes Newcastle that the dropped Kerb at the Milldene end of the green was still to be completed. We raised this originally over two years ago with YHN We received a reply advising us that the scheme is being “costed up at present to commence (and be completed) this financial year. There will have to be three quotations sought for the contract which will delay the work but I will make sure that this gets done ASAP.

Looking back from the last AGM this has been one of my busiest years since I became Chairman of the SGRA. Needless to say that I would not do this if I did not have support from volunteers in this area and the Council who gave me support when times have been difficult.

I thought that I would finish my report by enclosing two comments from residents made on what we the SGRA have done during this year.

These were the words that were received.

I have spoken to several people recently and they have commented on the great work done by SGRA, and how improvements are being done on behalf of residents. I know it is all down to the good communications that exist between you and the Councillors and other Associations. Keep up the good (and tiring) work.

“We both wish the SGRA good luck in the future and are sure you continue making positive changes for the people living and working in the area.”

Jerry Ruddick

24th September 2009