

# JRA Committee Minutes (*Unconfirmed*)

**Jesmond Library, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**1 Present:** TW, RA, NC, IN, DE, BY, AC, AT, CW, SB, FC

In attendance: Steve Robson (Acorn Hardware)

Welcome to Andrew Todd (Newcastle University student representative for 2014/2015)

**2. Apologies:** RL

The minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were accepted as an accurate record.

## Action points

TW to write to local Councillors expressing concern about degrading of the Dene.	In hand
IN to contact Diane Wilson to look into possibility of employing auditor for JRA finances.	Done. DW has agreed to be auditor. Meeting will be arranged by IN with DE and TW
IN to add minutes and significant papers to JRA website and to look into using social media in promoting the activities of JRA material.	Done. IN has been updating twitter account. JRA, at present has 88 followers.
CW to create and update a folder with paper copies of key JRA circulations, to be kept in library.	Done, and notice about this placed in JRA notice board
AC to notify JRA of results of the student housing survey.	AC will feed back Jan/Feb 2015. RA has circulated summary of results published by Jesmond Local on link mail
TW to inform JRA of Newcastle University Student rep when a nomination has been agreed.	Done. Andrew Todd was present at meeting.
NC to circulate a response to McArdle Care Home and Nursery application for approval.	Done
NC to express concerns regarding Newcastle High School for Girls plan for an artificial pitch.	Done
TW/FC finalise contact with primary schools and local nurseries as part of a membership drive.	Nurseries have been contacted. Primary schools in hand.
E-bulletin: copy to RA by end October latest.	Done
Committee members to respond to e-mail requests from the chair for clear opinions for decisions to be made and action taken between JRA committee meetings.	Ongoing

### **3. Vote of Confidence**

Following some accusations from Jesmond residents that the JRA Chairperson had a biased position regarding the plans for Acorn Rd, TW requested that a vote of confidence be taken by the committee. A unanimous vote of confidence in support of the Chairperson was passed. It was agreed that at no point has the Chairperson of the JRA allowed his own beliefs to influence the position of the JRA on the subject of the proposed Acorn Rd developments. The JRA has remained consistently neutral on the position of Acorn Rd which following the consultation organised by the City Council showed that 41% were in favour of option 2 and 47% were in favour of option 1. It was reiterated that the JRA represents all residents and needs to resist favouring one group over another, especially as the results were so close.

### **4. Planning**

#### **Significant Developments in the last month:**

Erection of 4 storey (63 bed) care home (Class C2) and single storey 80 place day nursery with associated car parking and landscaping (Class D1) following demolition of 3 unlisted buildings

Former NHS Trust Fleming Nuffield Unit, Burdon Terrace, NE2 3AE. Ref. 2014/1280/01/DET

The developer has submitted revised plans for the McArdle care home facing Burdon Terrace and a revised Transport Assessment. Whilst it is not strictly necessary to repeat the previous objection as it is for the same application, it will be wise to reiterate our concerns and confirm that the revised information does not alleviate those concerns.

Note: a Planning Committee meeting open to the public will be held on the McArdle plans on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at 0930at the Civic Centre,

All-weather playing surface and associated athletics facilities for Newcastle High School for Girls

Town Moor, Intake No 10, Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Ref. 2014/1385/01/DET

The Council has received advice from NWL that NWL, cannot accept any increase of surface water flows into their drainage network and therefore the pitches cannot connect into the combined sewer. Historically, it may have been acceptable to discharge surface water flows straight into a combined sewer but both NWL and the Council are moving away from this style of drainage. With this in mind, their only option is to use SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems). As highlighted in the meeting it is not just surface water flows but also ground water flooding in this area which is a problem. Whatever they design they must take all this into consideration.

Erection of three storey school building e.t.c, all to form a 750 place Senior School

Newcastle High School for Girls, Tankerville Terrace, NE2 3BA. Ref. 2014/1442/01/DET

The JRA has submitted an objection. There continue to be objections registered.

Erection of 5 storey apartment block creating 5 no. 1 bed apartments

Rear of 89 - 91 Jesmond Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1NH. 2014/1349/01/DET

The JRA was asked to support objections to this development which has been done. From correspondence on the web site it appeared that the City Council intends to reject the application in any case for a number of reasons including the significant impact on the Conservation Area associated with the proposal. The traditional density and plot layout characteristics of the Conservation Area would be seriously harmed by the scheme.

### Change of use from a 5 bedroom HMO (Class C4) to 7 bedroom HMO (sui generis) (Retrospective)

7 Manor House Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2LU. 2014/1615/01/DET

The application is comprehensively put together. JRA has agreed to not submit an objection.

### Trees at West Jesmond Metro Station (East Side)

A request has been submitted to the committee to contact Nexus regarding the felling of one or two fully grown trees on the east side of the West Jesmond Metro. The Committee agreed to inspect the site and to contact Nexus.

### Al Jaber, 131 Jesmond Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1JY

### New Northumbria Hotel, 61-69 Osborne Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2AN

The above premises has made an application for liquor licences. The committee has agreed to not submit an objection.

## **5. Acorn Rd**

The first meeting of the Acorn Rd Working Group, which was set up to discuss the implementation of the changes and how to manage the impact of the transition, took place on 6th November. The group consisted of representatives from the City Council, residents, traders, the JRA, the Larkspur/Sanderson/Mistletoe residents association and two councillors. The main concerns raised were the loss of parking spaces and the effect this would have on local businesses.

Steve Robson (Acorn Hardware) reported that petitions against option 1 were being circulated and there was a feeling of disquiet regarding the consultation process and its outcome. The JRA chair has written to Councillor Ged Bell (City Council) requesting him to take into account the concerns expressed by some residents and the traders. The next meeting of the Working Group will take place on 20th November.

A motion was proposed by a committee member that the JRA request the City Council to undertake a second consultation process on the grounds that the original process was unsatisfactory OR alternatively, if the City Council would not act, that the JRA carry out the consultation process itself. A vote was taken and the motion was lost, with only one committee member in favour. The points made in the discussion were that:

- The consultation process, although it could have been improved upon, was not seriously flawed
- It would not be realistic for the JRA to carry out their own survey considering the time scale involved.
- The majority of the committee felt that an action of this kind would undermine what has been a democratic process.

Steve Robson was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at this point.

## **6. Consultation Methods**

It was agreed that the most pertinent area of consultation is on the issue of communal bins being introduced in Jesmond by the City Council. When an agreement has been reached regarding the consultation process on this issue, the JRA will then address the wider issue of consultation in general through a meeting with relevant officers in the Council.

It was agreed that the JRA would make the following recommendations regarding communal bins regarding consultation with residents:

- One vote per household with a simple majority outcome
- Vote to be taken during University term time
- There is a shared policy on communal bins between the City Council and the Police.

AC pointed out that the communal bins are popular and well used by students.

#### **7. Proposal that the JRA meetings to be open to the public**

The JRA was in favour of committee meetings being open to the public if they wished to attend in order to observe. It was agreed that prior to attending the chairperson or secretary should be informed.

#### **8. Markets**

The plans for a Brentwood Christmas Market have been put on hold for this year as the costs involved (£1,600 for street closure) was considered too expensive. Appeals have been made to the Chief Executive of the City Council to reconsider the charges, bearing in mind the benefits that this event could bring to the local community and businesses.

Following Ellie Dowding's visit to the JRA, Anna Hedworth, Roger Loxley and Ellie are involved in setting up a market on Armstrong Bridge on a monthly venture. The JRA would be happy to promote this project.

#### **9. 2015 JRA Talk Series at Jesmond Library- request for suggestions for topics and assistance.**

TW outlined how valuable these talks were. It was suggested that BY, AC and AT could work with TW on some proposals for a new series in 2015.

#### **10. Treasurer's Report**

The balance of the JRA accounts are, at present £2,480. Although the balance may appear healthy, last year's accounts show that the JRA'S outgoings were more than its incomings. There is also the added concern that the grant from the Council may stop in the future. The implications are therefore:

- More funds need to be raised
- Boost the numbers of members
- Increase the number of residents on link mail

#### **11. AOB**

The committee received a suggestion that the basis for membership should be changed to paying membership. This was opposed unanimously for the following reasons:

- It would result in a severe drop in numbers of members
- Potentially there could be areas in Jesmond where there were no members present
- JRA are following the common model for Resident Associations and are not intending to convert to charitable status
- The administrative task of collecting subscriptions would be too onerous

#### **Summary of Action Points**

TW to follow up outstanding item on the Dene

DE/TW to attend meeting with Dianne Wilson regarding auditing of JRA finances.  
AC to attend local landlord meeting and will give presentation of student housing issues.  
AC to notify JRA of results of student housing survey in Jan/Feb 2015.  
CW to organise the advertising of the JRA Information Folder FOR the library, local church groups and JRA noticeboards.  
TW to attend Acorn Rd Working Group on 20<sup>th</sup> November and feedback to committee.  
All to come to next meeting with ideas for consultation recommendations.  
CW to put note in Information file regarding open JRA meeting for the public.  
IN to circulate open meeting policy on website and social media sites.  
AC/AT/BY/ TW to consult on Jesmond Library Talks Programme.  
All to discuss events for Jesmond Community Festival (December Meeting).  
TW TO VISIT West Jesmond Metro to assess the tree situation and write to Nexus with concerns.  
TW to make contact with primary schools as part of membership drive.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014- 7.30 at 20 Burdon Tce.**

Committee members are invited to a short business meeting followed by a Christmas social –contributions of food are welcome.

**FC 22/11/2014**