

# JRA Committee Minutes

## Jesmond Library, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

- 1 Present:** TW, RA, NC, RL, IN, DE, BY, AC, Ben Nuttall (temporarily 'representing' Newcastle University), CW.

In attendance: Craig Dingwall (Jesmond Local).

- 2. Apologies:** FC; SB.

The minutes of the last meeting on 17th September 2014 were accepted as an accurate record.

### Action points

TW to request that a mike be available at Cricket club.	Done (Olwyn Hocking has this in hand)
TW to look into auditor for AGM finances.	IN to ask contact VIA Diane Wilson.
TW/RL to write to David Hardman regarding communal bins pilot.	Letter from DH has been circulated: council report has been acknowledged to be inadequate by DH and further information requested
Members to contact IN with suggestions for website updates.	IN will look at adding minutes and significant papers.
RL to circulate contacts for local residents groups and arrange a meeting	In hand
CW to create/update JRA document folder for library.	Under way
TW to meet CW about tidy gardens project.	Meeting occurred.
RA to forward information on ASB to BY	Done
TW to inform JRA of Newcastle University student rep.	Still awaiting nomination.
NC to circulate response to McArdle Care Home proposal.	Done
NC to check whether appeal to Granville Gardens has been upheld.	?
TW to ask Fiona Clark whether Bells' Yard group is still active.	Current chair is David Hardman and TW has suggested that a notice be erected re protecting use by children
TW to Organise Meeting About Jesmond Dene.	Friends of Jesmond Dene now inactive, and Carlton Reid simply updates website. TW to write to local Councillors expressing concern about degrading of the Dene.
TW/RL to arrange follow up meeting regarding Eskdale school run.	Done. Minutes circulated of meeting circulated (see 4, below).
TW/FC to contact primary schools and local nurseries for membership drive.	Continuing.

### 3. Student Issues

AC updated the committee about how she understood student's perceptions of JRA and how we might raise student awareness of our functions and usefulness. AC suggests that the best opportunity for information dissemination is through student housing and associated concerns.

A recent housing survey of student accommodation highlighted a "grim picture" of neglected, substandard and sometimes unsafe properties. Some of these issues have been raised with Newcastle Forum (Gwen Buren) and may be effectively dealt with through compulsory accreditation schemes. Students face significant issues regarding letting fees, deposits with agents and holding fees. Students could see JRA as a supporter of fairer, safer, more responsible housing rentals. AC was asked to let JRA see the survey results.

BN suggested that JRA should use social media to engage for effectively with students. Communication on both Facebook and Twitter are far more likely to attract attention of students than mail or e-mail. The usage of "community" networks using social media (for example, Union Officers) will greatly facilitate awareness. JRA should seriously consider the benefits.

IN agreed to look into usage of social media for publicising relevant JRA material.

#### **4. Planning and Transport**

The City Council have reported that Option 1 (one way) was preferred in the recent consultation. A group is to be set up with residents, traders and including a JRA representative around the implementation of the changes and the managing of the impact of transition. The first meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov and TW will represent JRA. The project work will begin in 2015.

RL reported on a School Traffic meeting (at RGS, 9 October – minutes of that meeting circulated) where "significant progress" was made in ensuring the City planner's understood the need for a co-ordinated, coherent and effective solution to the management traffic around schools in Jesmond as a whole.

Highways are to submit a plan based on the discussions of the meeting of 9 October. (A first draft is expected by end of October, 2014).

#### **5. Treasurer Report**

DE reported that JRA currently has a balance – in credit – of £2,500. The committee discussed the possibility of using some of the resources for promotion of membership to the JRA. TW invited suggestions for other uses for this money or part of it.

#### **6. New Planning Issues**

NC reported on the current status of planning in Jesmond and issue of concern was the proposed developments of Newcastle High School for Girls, Tankerville Terrace. There are likely to be objections from residents in Princess Mary Court due to increased footfall from the school through and alongside their property.

JRA will object to proposal of an artificial pitch for Newcastle High School for Girls on the grounds of environmental damage and creating a precedent.

#### **7. E-Bulletin**

RA to co-ordinate bulletin containing material on: Acorn Road; JRA advice on anti-social behaviour; Library (SB); and on "consultation" (TW). Copy to RA by end of October.

#### **8. Any other business**

CW raised an issue regarding the process and extent of 'chair's action' following a submission of a letter by TW to the Council regarding lollipop patrols at West Jesmond Primary School. CW thought that the letter should not have been submitted without the prior approval of the JRA committee.

TW said that the letter was submitted because it supported parents at the school and in doing so outweighed any impact that may have resulted on the rest of Newcastle with respect to the policies of the deployment of lollipop patrols.

The committee agreed unanimously that the chair should consult via e-mail (or other appropriate media) between meetings to take action where and when necessary. Consultation via e-mail will be on issues where a clear "yes" or "no" are pertinent. (No response will be regarded as an abstention).

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

TW to write to local Councillors expressing concern about degrading of the Dene.

IN to ask contact VIA Diane Wilson to look into possibility of employing auditor for AGM finances.

IN to add minutes and significant papers to JRA website and to look into using social media in promoting the activities of JRA material.

CW to create and update a folder with paper copies of key JRA circulations, to be kept in library.

AC to notify JRA of results of the student housing survey.

TW to inform JRA of Newcastle University Student rep when a nomination has been agreed.

NC to circulate a response to McArdle Care Home and Nursery application for approval.

NC to express concerns regarding Newcastle High School for Girls plan for an artificial pitch.

TW/FC finalise contact with primary schools and local nurseries as part of a membership drive.

E-bulleting: copy to RA by end October latest.

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.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 at Jesmond Library**

**BY 28.10.14**

V2 30.10.14