



JESMOND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



e-Bulletin – Autumn 2016

Introduction – Nils Clemmetsen

Each year the JRA produces two e-bulletins (Autumn and Spring) and one hard copy Newsletter in the Summer. The e-bulletins go out only to those on the JRA email list, whereas the newsletter goes out to every household in Jesmond. Why do we not produce more hard copy Newsletters? – because the cost of printing and distributing a Newsletter is £800 compared with a few pence for the e-bulletins. At the moment we are only able to meet about half of the cost of the Newsletter from our own resources – the rest has come from ward committees in the past but in the future there are not likely to be sufficient funds so we shall have to raise more ourselves.

In this issue we are featuring antisocial behaviour as some Jesmond residents have been particularly affected this year. On a lighter note we are looking forward to Christmas and you can read about some of the events that will take place in the lead up to Christmas. We have a special feature on Jesmond Vale from one of our new committee members. There is also an update on the Blue House Roundabout and Streets for People.

The e-bulletins and Newsletter summarise important events in Jesmond over the last few months. Information on these events has, in most cases already, been sent out as soon as we have it to those on the JRA email list (currently almost 500 people).

If you or one of your friends would like to be added to the JRA email list, just send your email address to jesmond@jesmondresidents.co.uk. All communications are sent out BCC so that others on the email list are not aware of your presence.

Nils Clemmetsen, JRA Secretary and editor of this e-bulletin.

Antisocial behaviour in Jesmond – Councillor Dan Perry

Jesmond councillors are aware of the severity of night noise issues and ASB, particularly in the areas with high proportions of HMO's. Councillors living in the area experience the issues first hand and sometimes go out to challenge noisy neighbours as long term residents have been doing on occasions this term. Although it is a very small minority of student households that cause the problems, it seems issues are worse this year, particularly in terms of the standard of behaviour. Jesmond councillors have been doing the following:

Root causes

- Organised door knocking with police and residents (including Keep Jesmond Clean members) to advise licensed HMO households regarding standards of behaviour, noise, litter and crime prevention.
- Corresponding and meeting universities and student unions to communicate issues and seek greater efforts to engage and educate unsocial students.

Responses to Incidents

- Ensuring funding of Operation Oak (Police additional out of hours service for student areas on weekends) continued (funded primarily by universities) despite ongoing government cuts to police and council budgets.
- Confirmed Council Noise Team out of hours service in operation every Friday and Saturday for first 8 weeks of term plus extra days around Halloween.
- Arranged with Jesmond Street Pastors for their patrols to cover problematic areas.

Communication

- Clarified to residents the correct procedure for reporting noise from households (Council Noise Team) and transient noise (Police on 101).
- Confirmed council legal sanctions procedure and proactive approach of council noise team, including pre-emptive visits to historically problematic houses.
- Public meeting is being planning for December to discuss solutions with stakeholders. Please keep reporting specific problems to councillors and the Council Noise Team.
- Summary report from Council Noise Team has been requested.

Specifics

- Supported residents in reporting incidents to Council Noise Team.
- Sought feedback from Council Noise Team officers on sanctions applied for specific incidents.
- Communicated feedback from Police on incidents that they attended.

Councillors understand how much disruption night noise and ASB causes. The efforts of the Council Noise Team, Police and other stakeholders will be outlined at the proposed public meeting (date tbc) and it is hoped that solutions can be devised to mitigate future issues.



Antisocial behaviour – JRA Student Representative – Andrew Stark

At the Jesmond Residents Association meeting on the 19th of October we discussed the issue of antisocial behaviour in the community, highlighting noise, abuse and litter as main areas of concern.

There was a constructive discussion about the ways of overcoming these problems and a general agreement that there was a need for residents of HMO households and local residents to get to know each other more, particularly neighbours, to foster positive relationships in the community.

One committee member said that in his experience knowing your neighbours and talking to them can actually lead to a reduction in antisocial behaviour as people are more likely to respect their neighbourhood and surroundings more if they know who they are living next to.

We talked about making a leaflet for students for when they move into their homes that would contain a map of the area with areas of interest highlighted and a list of upcoming events in the community to encourage students and local residents to interact more, with the hope of reducing antisocial behaviour.

In my opinion, the best way to tackle antisocial behaviour in Jesmond is to work with the students directly by encouraging involvement in the community and a respect for their neighbours. This can be achieved by advertising of local events in the University grounds and local area so students know what events are coming up. I also think it is key for students to meet their neighbours as this will help build positive relationships and lead to more respect for the community, therefore hopefully reducing antisocial behaviour.

Christmas Market – Councillor Catherine Walker

The JRA received a generous donation from a resident to provide a Christmas tree in Acorn Road. However, it was felt that an event should take place and hence we are looking towards having a Christmas market on the afternoon of Saturday 17 December, probably from 1-5 pm. This would be one of a number of events in Jesmond on that day.

Various people are now involved in trying to establish which stall holders might be available and what other activities could take place. Businesses in Acorn Road are being consulted to ascertain if they are agreeable to a market and so far, the response seems to be positive. It is hoped that they will also contribute to the festivities. Funding for a road closure has been secured. The council are undertaking a survey in the area of Acorn Road/Larkspur Terrace/Sanderson Road as well as St Georges Terrace to establish views of the changes so far and results will be available at the fair, as well as publicising other schemes in the area.

Jesmond Food Market – Roger Loxley

The monthly Jesmond Food Market on Armstrong Bridge continues to be a significant success for the local community. Run by a management group consisting of the JRA, Anna Hedworth from The Cookhouse (voted one of the top 25 coolest restaurants by The Times and now in the Good Food Guide), Food Newcastle and Councillor Felicity Mendelson, the market has been going for a year and a half now.

With hot food to take away in addition to the locally produced fresh produce on offer the market is becoming a destination in its own right.

The next market is on 19th November from 10am until 3pm and the Christmas market is on 17th December from 10am until 3pm and the fare on offer will reflect the season and festivities. Come along and stock up on the best local and seasonal food you can get your hands on! Oh, and stop and have a bite to eat or a warm drink to keep you going.

Jesmond Vale – Dorothy Fellows

Drive down Springbank past the Bluebell pub and you could be forgiven for missing Jesmond Vale completely. Our small community lies along the west bank of the Ouseburn and has a village feel very different to our urban neighbours Heaton and Sandyford.

Jesmond Vale is a vibrant wildlife sanctuary. The Ouseburn is home to the protected water vole and two species of bat. Visitors include the Goosander, Heron, Dipper, Moorhen and Kingfisher.



We have an active residents group, new members welcome. Current issues include the planning application for an event structure in the garden of the Bluebell, an increase in commuters parking in the Vale and sycamore trees overhanging roads making junctions dark and dangerous.

Longer term we are engaged with Streets for People and hope to make Jesmond Vale safer for walkers and cyclists. We would like to see the Vale declared a Conservation Area joining up the Jesmond Dene and Lower Ouseburn Conservation Areas.

Jesmond Vale provides a link between Jesmond Dene and Heaton Park offering a walk of some five miles from South Gosforth to the mouth of the Ouseburn and Newcastle Quayside. The walk goes through Paddy Freemans Park, Jesmond Dene, Armstrong Park, Heaton Park, the Warwick Street sports ground and the Lower Ouseburn. During the course of this walk it is necessary to cross only two main roads. Warwick Street (Pelican crossing) and Springbank Road.

Residents hope to maintain our unique corner of the City.

Blue House Roundabout and Streets for People – Tony Waterston

Two local Highways schemes have been underway recently with much greater engagement of local residents than we have been used to.

Streets for People has been running since the beginning of the year and I reported on progress in the JRA summer newsletter. Since then there has been analysis of the consultation on the website Commonplace and some of the findings are shown in the infographics at the end of the e-Bulletin, which speak for themselves.

The next step is the appointment of design teams, one for each of the three pilot areas in Newcastle where there is funding for street improvements to benefit, walkers and people on bikes. The design team will work with the local reference group (which comprises residents with an interest in the project) and with other local residents to prepare plans to meet the objectives of the project, which is to bring about connected networks which make it easier for people of all ages to walk and cycle, including children getting to school and the elderly getting to the shops.

One of the streets needing improvement is Tankerville Terrace where I took this picture today (4th November). Is this the kind of street we want our school children to walk, scoot or pedal to school along?



Blue House roundabout is heavily used by Jesmond residents in cars, buses, motor bikes and bikes (the brave ones). Nobody likes it much and the high risks for vulnerable users are recognised. But when the council came up with a plan for a much bigger roundabout which would eat considerably into local town moor land and would also stop right turning from Jesmond Dene Road into Osborne Rd, the outraged protest could be heard in Scotland.

The council wisely decided to pull the plan and began a rethink which is perhaps a model for the future.

A working group has been set up to work with the council to produce a new design that will meet council objectives. The group includes representatives of five residents' groups (including JRA), groups with an interest such as Space for Gosforth and the change.org petition organisers, Councillors and Nexus – around 20 in all. The group has an independent facilitator John Dales, Chair of the Transport Planning society and has so far had three meetings. At the most recent and best meeting on 31st October, members met in small groups to rank previous roundabout designs against pre-set criteria such as quality of provision for walking, cycling, bus traffic and motor vehicles, effect on air quality and effect on the Town Moor amenity.

There will be three more meetings this year with the intention being to reach agreement on a design by the end. There is a positive spirit and engagement and a strong feeling among group members that a new design should be no larger than the present roundabout, that good cycling, walking and bus traffic provision is essential, and that measures to reduce car traffic rather than assuming never ending growth should be adopted by the council.

Further questions will be posed to residents on these issues in the near future.

More information is available at: bluehousegroup.org.



Jesmond Library : Update Autumn 2016

Sarah Breakey

We are very pleased to report the continuing success of Jesmond Library. Jesmond Library which is organised and operated by volunteers continues to be a thriving, welcoming and diverse Community Hub, as well as a Public Library offering books, coffee/tea, newspapers, free WiFi and the People's Network Computers.

Regular Events

Regular sessions continue to thrive – Mindfulness, Camera Club, Story Telling, Play Reading, Wide variety of Language Conversation Classes, Philosophy Group, Current Affairs Discussion Group, Book Reading Group, Art Appreciation classes, Wellbeing etc.. etc..

Thursday Talks – run by volunteers in aid of the Library

The Thursday Talks from 6.00pm – 7.00pm continue to cover a wide range of topics – coming up soon:

- Tramways of Tyneside with Edmund Hall.
- WW1 Graves in St Andrews Cemetery with Bobbie Harding
- Thomas Bewick with Peter Quinn
- Border Ballads with Poppy Holden

Christmas Social – The Swinging 60's! Saturday 17 December – 7.00pm

Come and celebrate Christmas with a 60's theme.

Dress up in your 60's clothes and come and enjoy some wonderful food and drink and soak up some 60's music and be entertained with quizzes and games – all this for only £5.00.

Tickets available from the Library or on the night.

New Books and Our Exceptional Local History Section

In just over 2 years the friends have added over 500 new titles to the book stock in the library. The latest arrivals are just about to arrive!

Thanks to a generous donation from the new branch of Sainsburys and with assistance from the Keel Row Bookshop we have made a substantial purchase of local interest books and have reorganised the library to give them more prominence. The books purchased include street directories of various dates and books on subjects ranging from fieldnames to pottery.

We now have copies of four of the five principle histories of Newcastle: Frank Graham facsimile of Gray's *Chorographia*, 1649; Frank Graham's facsimile of Henry Bourne's *History of Newcastle*, 1736; Richard Welford's 3 volume *History of Newcastle and Gateshead*, 1882 and R. J Charlton's *A History of Newcastle-on-Tyne*. We would love to be able to acquire a copy of John Brand's *History of Newcastle Upon Tyne*, 1789.

Fantastic 10% offer for all Library Members at The Cherry Tree Restaurant

Every Monday all Jesmond Library members will receive 10% off their total lunch or dinner bill and The Cherry Tree Restaurant will donate an additional 10% to Jesmond Library. To benefit from this offer, simply go to The Cherry Tree on a Monday and say you are a member of Jesmond Library – then enjoy 10% off your total bill and you will be supporting Jesmond Library at the same time.



Become a Volunteer?

We are very proud of our dedicated team of volunteers.

Volunteering at the library develops a range of skills – customer service, time management and organisational skills and many more. Although it requires commitment; volunteers tell us that they enjoy the experience, especially as we have such a varied number of events taking place at the Library.

Come into the library or visit the website to become a volunteer.

Children at the Library

Jesmond Library's Children's area is an inviting and a well-resourced section of the library for parents and carers to spend time with their children. We are continually adding to our book collection as well as offering additional activities for you to enjoy with your children.



Christmas Craft event on Saturday 17 December. 10.30 – 12noon

Get Out and About in the Autumn sunshine around Jesmond

Walks for Well Being – 6 leaflets on 'Short Walks in Jesmond' are now available at Jesmond Library. 50p each.

West Jesmond School

Our links with West Jesmond Primary School continue to be successful. Different year groups visit the Library with their teachers fortnightly to experience the Library and all it has to offer as well as choose a book to borrow for a week.

Opening Times:

Tuesday 9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm

Address St George's Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2DL
Telephone 0191 281 2385

Website www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk
Facebook www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary

Email enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk – for general enquiries and volunteering
Email events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk – for courses/events/room bookings
Email finance@jesmondlibrary.co.uk – finance enquiries/donations/gift aid

Visit the Library and get a friendly welcome from the volunteers and appreciate all that this valuable community resource has to offer – right in the heart of Jesmond!

Planning Issues update – Nils Clemmetsen

41 Jesmond Vale Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1PG

This is the old Northern Sinfonia rehearsal hall in Jesmond Vale. There is an application to convert the building into a children's nursery and offices with a two storey residential extension on the roof.

The JRA has objected to this application on the following grounds.

1. The description is incorrect as it states that one residential unit will be created. The plans show two units on separate floors as the two units have separate entrances with individual kitchens and bathrooms.
2. Inadequate consideration of the transport implications and impact on the residential amenity of the proposed development on neighbouring streets - in particular drop of and pick up for the nursery.



Bluebell Public House, Jesmond Vale, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1PH

There is a planning application to erect an external wooden structure (9m x 6m – single storey with low pitched roof), 4 no poles for support of festoon lighting, extension of wooden decked area and raising of perimeter wall to public house grounds (part retrospective). The standard consultation expires on 17 November 2016.

Conversion of Dwelling Houses into HMOs

There continue to be a steady stream of applications to convert Dwelling Houses (Planning Class C3) into HMOs (C4 or sui generis – depending on number of occupants, C4 is 3-6 occupants, sui generis is 6 or more). Unless there are special circumstances planning permission will not be granted.

25 Lily Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2SP

There was application for a Lawful Development Certificate Application for existing use as an HMO (Class C4) for this property. The application was on the basis of a claimed 10 years continuous use as an HMO. The JRA supported neighbours in writing to the council as the supporting evidence did not demonstrate continuous use as an HMO. The application was withdrawn.

41 Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DN

This property is occupied as an HMO and did not have an HMO Licence or Planning Permission. We have been advised by the Planning Department that they are intending to serve an Enforcement Notice requiring the use of the property to cease as a C4 House in Multiple Occupation. The date for compliance with the Enforcement Notice will tie in with the end of the current tenancy agreement. Jesmond Local wrote a story on this event: [HMO licensing faux pas leaves students living unlawfully](#).

Planning Applications in Brandling Village

There are two planning applications in the Brandling Village area that may be of more general interest:

19 Clayton Road Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4RP

Change of use from condition-restricted cafe to Use Class A3 cafe with ancillary takeaway products, with kitchen, servery and seating at ground floor level, overflow/quiet seating area at first floor level and private meeting room and staff room at second floor level.

Reference No: 2016/1609/01/DET Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Fri 11 Nov 2016

Conversion of former Synagogue at 39 Eskdale Terrace Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DN

Change of use from existing school building (Class D1) to 10 residential dwellings (Class C3) with associated alterations, including the demolition of the existing rear extension and link building, erection of a reduced one storey extension. Reference No: 2016/1586/01/DET |

Standard/Neighbour Consultation Expiry Dates: Tue 08 Nov 2016 / Thur 10 Nov 2016.

Recent Notable Applications Granted Conditional Approval

Change of use of former care home (Class C2) to 2 dwellings and Flats | 35-43 Grosvenor Place Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2RE. This was the subject of four separate applications.

Change of use from restaurant (Class A3) to restaurant/leisure (Class A3/D2)

Louis Restaurant 71-73 Osborne Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AN. Although the proposed development has received planning permission, licensing is a separate matter. The licencing application was refused by the City Council and the applicant has appealed. The appeal will be heard in the Magistrates Court.

JRA communication

Your views on how the JRA should communicate are welcomed and we are planning a survey on this in the New Year.

Currently we use linkmail for those on the internet, notice boards for specific events, a print file in the library for those without email, and Facebook and Twitter for certain topics. We have a website with a Forum which is not that well used, but is the only way to conduct interactive discussion with residents. We send out one printed newsletter every year to all Jesmond residents.

We would like to know –

- how to increase the coverage of linkmail
- whether you prefer to use noticeboards over electronic media
- what would encourage you to use the forum.

We shall report on this in the New Year.

JRA Committee Autumn 2016

Chair: Tony Waterston

Vice-Chair: Ian Nelson

Secretary: Nils Clemmetsen (Planning)

Treasurer: David Etchells

Sarah Breakey (Library matters)

Kathleen Cunningham (Licensing)

Sarah Kettle (Child friendly Jesmond)

Dorothy Fellows (Jesmond Vale)

Prem Khanna (Link with local businesses)

Roger Loxley (Food Market & Local Resident Groups),

Crispin Welby (Library file)

Carolyn Wood (Minutes)

University of Newcastle student rep - Andrew Stark

University of Northumbria student rep – Tally Kerr

You can contact the JRA via

jesmond@jesmondresidents.org

The Chair, Tony Waterston can also be contacted on 0191 281 6752

Financing the JRA – Nils Clemmetsen

The JRA is entirely run by volunteers who give their services for free. However there are a number of unavoidable costs such as

1. Room hire,
2. Maintenance of the JRA web site,
3. Printing and distributing the hard copies of the Summer newsletter.

To meet these costs the JRA relies on donations. If you appreciate the work done by the JRA you may like to give a donation. For a one off donation you should send a cheque, payable to the *Jesmond Residents Association* to:

Nils Clemmetsen, 3 Bemersyde Drive, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2HL.

If you are prepared to set up a standing order please contact me

(jesmond@jesmondresidents.org) and I will send you the appropriate standing order form. For standing orders we recommend a donation of £10 per year.

Streets for People - Jesmond

Cyclists say the main issues are

speeding **39%**

difficult crossing **26%**

irresponsible parking **26%**



want segregated
64% cycle lanes

Walkers say the main issues are

difficult crossing **40%**

irresponsible parking **24%**

speeding **31%**



53% want safer crossings

Drivers say the main issues are

irresponsible parking **41%**

congestion **41%**

speeding **23%**



want responsible
40% parking

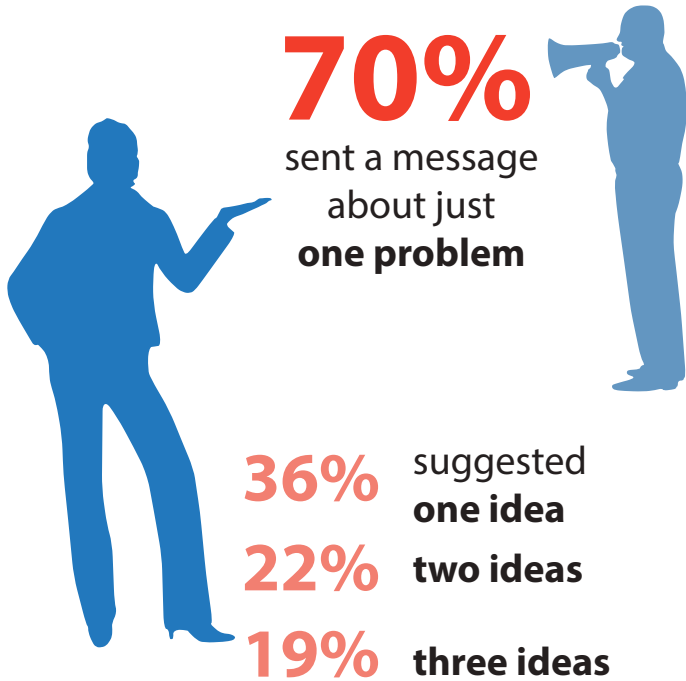
All groups agree they want

Less and **slower**
traffic



Streets for People - Jesmond

Most people were rational in their use of the feedback form.



Listed streets account for **50%** of all issues

