



JESMOND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



JRA Newsletter – Summer 2014

Acorn Rd redevelopment and related schemes

Ron Armstrong

Last summer the City Council was awarded £5.7m by the Department for Transport (DfT) from the City Cycle Ambition Fund. With the matched contribution from the City the total package is worth £9.15m. Some of this money will be used to redevelop Acorn Rd, some to improve the situation around West Jesmond school, some to improve the streets immediately north of the Osborn Avenue entrance to the Cricket Club, and some to improve the strategic cycle route from Gosforth to the City centre. One complication is that DfT element must be delivered and spent by March 2015.

The City Council has selected Sustrans to develop the various proposals. Sustrans is a leading UK charity which has as its main objective the enabling of people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys that are currently made. It is responsible for the Millennium network of cycle paths around the country.

Acorn Rd - The JRA and Sustrans set up a joint meeting at the Cricket Club on Friday 29 November 2013 to discuss the redevelopment of Acorn Rd AND the approaches to Acorn Rd. At that meeting the only clear view to emerge was that residents were strongly in favour of retaining light controlled pedestrian crossings on Osborn Rd at the Osborne Rd/Acorn Rd junction.

At the Jesmond Fair on 10 May 2014 Sustrans presented two schemes for the redevelopment of Acorn Rd. One scheme involved making the road one way for vehicles, with a widened pavement on the north side. The other involved keeping two way traffic. Both schemes included raised tables to slow traffic. Details can be found here

<http://diystreetsnewcastle.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/112-acorn-rd-designs.pdf>

Residents were invited to comment on what they liked/disliked about the schemes. The majority of those who commented favoured the one-way scheme (see illustration on p.2). At the present time we are awaiting a decision from the City Council as to which scheme will go ahead.

Strategic Cycle route -The decision has been made that the strategic route for cycling from Gosforth into central Newcastle will now run down Highbury from the Toucan crossing (cycle and pedestrian) which is near the intersection of Jesmond Dene Rd with Ilford Rd. It will then run along Forsyth Rd and join the cycle path by the side of the Great North road. Some appropriate changes will need to be made to the west end of Forsyth Rd.

The original plan was to use the Great North Rd cycle path all the way from the Blue House to the city centre. This change is due to the risks for cyclists at the Blue House roundabout.

West Jesmond School – Here the proposal is to reduce the dangerous congestion at the school entrance by persuading car drivers to park a short distance from the entrance and then walk with their children to school. In detail- Brentwood Avenue would be closed immediately south of Forsyth Rd and some of the pavements around the school would be widened. The designs can be seen here

<http://diystreetsnewcastle.wordpress.com/>
To facilitate cycling to school there is a separate proposal from Jesmond Safe Cycling to suspend the parking on the west side of Tankerville Terrace and /cont on page 2

Acorn Road

Cont from page 1/ to put in place a double cycle lane (which runs down to Burdon Terrace) for a trial period of 6 weeks. This proposal is supported by all three schools on Tankerville Terrace and the JRA.

North of the Cricket Club entrance – Most of the effort here will go into redesigning the junctions to make them safer. The original proposals can be seen here <http://diystreetsnewcastle.wordpress.com/page/2/>



Acorn Rd – one way proposal

Licensing Decisions – Ron Armstrong

Two important licensing decisions have been made recently. The JRA objected to both and was represented at the hearings. In the first case the Cairn Hotel applied to open a new public bar on Osborne Rd – in addition to Bar Belise. This bar was to be associated with the hotel restaurant. Permission was granted by the Licensing Committee – but only when 4* status was achieved by the hotel. In the mean time the new bar can only be used by those taking a meal at the restaurant.

The other case involved Adrianos (the former Kitsch'n premises, 32 Acorn Rd). The original proposal was for the garden area on the corner of Larkspur Terrace and Acorn Rd to be used as an outside restaurant. This part of the scheme was dropped after many protests.

Hearing on letting boards – Tony Waterston

There was a well attended hearing on Letting Boards (LB) before the visiting Inspector on 20th May when local MP Nick Brown was also present. John Rippon outlined the council case for

a complete ban on letting boards within an area of Gosforth, Jesmond and Heaton which is chosen because it is the area occupied by HMOs and the problems are felt to be mainly related to these properties.

The council has attempted to enforce the current regulations which state that LBs should be removed after 14 days of letting the property, but this is extremely difficult owing to multiple rooms being let - hence the council (supported by many residents and the JRA) felt that a complete ban is the best way

Small landlords consider that they could be adversely affected by a ban since they may not be able to afford the fees of internet advertising. The representative of the Landlords association suggested that other parts of the city outside the proposed area have a similar problem, and questioned whether HMO licensing could be used to prevent bad practices.

The council officers felt that this would be very difficult in practice. Residents present at the meeting, and the local MP Nick Brown, strongly support a complete ban. The Inspector's report is awaited.

The JRA AGM
will be held
at the Jesmond Cricket
Ground
on Thur 11 September at 7pm
All Jesmond residents are
welcome

Flooding – Tony Waterston

Northumbrian water has been offering additional support for residents who experience flooding (and particularly sewage flooding) during the incidents in 2012 which were reported on in last year's newsletter. They have visited houses in the Brandling village area and will be renewing the sewer under Burdon Tce. New flood resistant doors are also being installed in some houses in this area. Further information can be found on <https://www.nwl.co.uk/your-home/your-services/sewer-flooding.aspx> or from the Investment Delivery project manager Mike Ciaraldi [Mike.CIARALDI@nwl.co.uk]

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Jesmond Library under new management – Sarah Breakey

customer information sheets, business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

If you explore the Publisher catalog, you will find many publications that match the style of your newsletter.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish the newsletter and its length. It's recommended that you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service.

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JRA COMMITTEE Summer 2014

Chair – Tony Waterston
Vice Chair – Ian Nelson
Treasurer – David Etchells
Secretary – Ron Armstrong
Sarah Breakey
Annabelle Coakley
Fiona Coleman
Nils Clemmetsen
Roger Loxley
Calum Mackenzie
Penny Shefton
Brian Yhearm

President – Jean Baty.

Lead members on different issues:
Planning - Nils Clemmetsen
Anti-social behaviour - Sarah Breakey
Flooding - Tony Waterston
Licensing – Ron Armstrong
Jesmond Library - Sarah Breakey

Contact the JRA via

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My experience as a user of Jesmond Library – Brian Yhearm

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50 years of the JRA – Tony Waterston

The JRA was founded in 1964 and celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. We are fortunate in having a founder member as current President in Jean Baty and she has written a fine history of the Association which will be available at the AGM. As she says in the opening words: 'It all started with a flier through the door in early summer 1964.' 'Come to a public meeting to discuss reducing the domestic rate.' The subject of soaring rates was a sore subject at that time and created great interest.'

As she describes, it took a while for the JRA to be accepted by councillors as a representative group for the community and over the years it has built up a considerable reputation for giving detailed analysis on planning issues. The JRA has also worked with the councillors on a number of issues such as the response to anti-social behaviour, licensing decisions and collaboration with the Universities.

The JRA is celebrating the 50th anniversary with events at the Community Festival (the Heritage walk, the Tour de Jesmond cycle ride and the Quiz night with Jesmond Sings), and a series of talks in the autumn at Jesmond Library – please check our website www.jesmondresidents.org

We are keen to hear from residents at any time about issues they would like us to take up and campaign on, particularly longer terms issues where real change can be brought about.

Planning and Development – Nils Clemmetsen

The JRA continues to take a keen interest in planning matters affecting Jesmond. In particular we main our interest in restricting the number of family dwellings being converted into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and generally register an objection where a change of use or increase in size is proposed.

The JRA will try to assist residents with planning matters where appropriate.

Barnardos Offices at Orchard House

Barnardos are seeking to dispose of their offices at Orchard House in south east Jesmond on the edge of the Jesmond Dene Conservation area. Whilst no one will miss the office building, the site currently has many trees that contribute to the character of the area. Barnados submitted a planning application with a developer to demolish the existing offices and replace this with 11 large family homes - a combination of detached and semi-detached houses. The proposals were rejected at the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 May 2013 as they would harm the site and the surrounding area however this decision was overturned on appeal.

La Sagesse

Work has now started on the redevelopment of the former La Sagesse School with the demolition works now complete. A significant change since planning approval was obtained is that the Grade II* listed Jesmond Towers is to be occupied by a single family rather than be converted into 10 flats.

The builder held a public meeting earlier in the year to outline their plans for construction to local residents. They plan to build the whole development in one go, rather than piecemeal, with marketing planned for around the turn of the year. The builder stated that they intend to build exactly to the plans that received planning approval. There were concerns raised by some residents regarding the car parking provision which depending on your point of view could be too much or too little, however is to be provided in accordance with approved plans that meet the planning authority's guidelines.

Improving gardens in Jesmond – Tony Waterston and Penny Shefton

The JRA has been working with the council and property agents since the beginning of this year on a scheme to improve the gardens in the areas where they are very neglected – mainly HMOs. Some streets of Tyneside flats (often the same ones afflicted by letting boards, see above) have a majority of front gardens which are overgrown, unkempt and full of bottles and other refuse. These make our lovely suburb very

unsightly.

With the help of Joe Hogan (Communities Facilitator) we are proposing a scheme for landlords and agents to opt into whereby a regular fee would be paid to the council for basic tidying and maintenance. We are proposing a pilot in Coniston Avenue beside Jesmond Methodist Church.