JESMOND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

JRA Special Meeting Wednesday 6th November 2024

Committee Members
Jonathan Scott, David Etchells, Nils Clemmetsen, Katherine Crosby, Annie-Ester Dugini, Ian Nelson, Yve Ngoo, Ciaran O'Shea, Ben Ponton, Aldo Spagnoli, Eileen Strouzer & Ralph Tatt

Present: Jonathan Scott, David Etchells, Katherine Crosby, Ciaran O'Shea, Ben Ponton, Aldo Spagnoli & Ian Nelson

Also Present:

Philip Browne:	North Jesmond Ward Councillor
James Coles:	North Jesmond Ward Councillor
Peter Allen:	North Jesmond Ward Councillor
Milo Barnett:	South Jesmond Ward Councillor
Coralie Morton:	End ASB

A JRA meeting took place on Wednesday evening the 11th of December to meet with the three North Jesmond Ward Liberal Democrat Councillors along with one Labour Councillor representing the South Jesmond Ward.

Following the requests of residents and notes received the committee put forward a number of points for discussion and action as follows:

E-scooters & **Delivery Bikes** - Numerous complaints have been received from residents in relation to the safety of both riders, pedestrians and other road users. Frequent riding on pavements is often seen along with riding 'two to a scooter' and at times without a helmet as well as riding these scooters unsafely on the public highways. There have been previous incidents where some scooter riders are clearly lacking in control and proficiency thus putting themselves and others at danger. As an example, there has been a case of a Jesmond e-scooter drunk driver who was fined and disqualified. The e-scooter contract is now up for tender and we will report on this as and when we have the full details.
We have also received reports of delivery bikers using pavements with some bikes being ridden without proper safety lighting and at speed.

Car & **Parking Issues**
The amount of vehicles in Jesmond is frequently mentioned, however we are now receiving increased reports of illegal and dangerous parking; for example, illegal parking on double yellow lines, parking on double yellow lined junctions, illegally taking a disabled parking space, parking without a permit or outside of hours, parking across and blocking cycle lanes, parking over pathways that narrow pavements resulting in pedestrians having to walk onto the road and around a vehicle, dangerous for all but especially so for the elderly, the disabled along with mums, tots and school children.
Car crime and petty crime is on the rise with a number of keyless break-ins being reported around the streets closest to Jesmond Dene. There are also reports of careless and dangerous driving in particular from speeding vehicles that include general motorists, taxis and delivery vans with many ignoring the 20mph speed limits. This is quite prominent and visible during the drive time rush hour period as well as during the late evenings with taxis for example.
Some road signage including some 20mph limit signs seem to have disappeared from certain parts of Jesmond. For example there was once two solar powered 20mph signs that were in place on the north

section of Osborne Road, (Between North Jesmond Avenue & Lyndhurst Avenue) both are now gone. Councillors to follow up on these points.

Disgusting State of Refuse

Some of the back lanes are constantly overrun with rubbish with some lanes being used for illegal dumping and fly-tipping. We don't believe that this is just an end of term problem but a regular occurrence during all months of the year. We have suggested some ideas over and above the normal refuse collections that would need further discussions and action taken by the Council. Residents believe more needs to be done to keep our streets free of litter and free of the dumping of illegal items.
Certain streets of Jesmond suffer from large amounts of pavement fast food rubbish along with broken glass and bottles; the reports received state that these are from alcoholic bottles and glasses used in public drinking. We have also received a number of reports complaining about vomit pools on pavements.
We have also had some requests to follow up on pavement cleaning particular during the Autumn period when fallen leaves can make pavements slippy. Councillors to follow up.

Advertising of Town Moor events.

These events are often very close to residential sections of Jesmond yet give very little advance notice other than using some social media platforms that many don't have or use along with some ill placed posters. Local residents have complained about noise levels particularly around the Brandling area that is close to allot of these events. Better information and better advance warning is being asked for.
Could Jesmond receive some additional support by way of additional ward funding that would help cover any additional cleaning costs that may be incurred after these events along with litter and rubbish clearance or any other costs such as Police or services costs? This was a point made to us and a request to ask this question.

Anti Social Behaviour

Aside from rubbish, litter, car crime, parking & car issues, Anti Social Behaviour is without doubt the largest topic of questions and complaints that we receive. The 'Anti Social Behaviour' fuelled by alcohol amplifies the behaviour of those responsible; increasing noise levels from those persons both in transient and from houses; this includes shouting, the use of foul language, the playing of loud music and general lack of consideration for their neighbours and/or other residents. Incidents of students putting themselves and others in danger for example by climbing out of dorm windows onto a house roof or assembling on top of bay window or garage roof that doesn't have the weight capacity. There isn't the space here to mention all of the incidents and stories discussed in the meeting, clearly though its a problem that needs attention. Jesmond Residents Association have recently been compiling a library of evidence and for this meeting put together and presented an audio and visual video presentation depicting some examples of Anti Social Behaviour. We also have a compilation document of comments and remarks along with photographic evidence to present to the Councillors today. All Councillors present took on board our research and evidence and have promised to take action.