



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

**OPERATIONS GROUP**  
Housing & Revenues Division  
Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT  
DX69280 Darlington 6

TITLE OF MEETING	Leaseholder Group Meeting
Date	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Present	Jackie Brown (JB), Matthew Hufford (MH) & Fahima Al-Hafiz (FAH) -DBC staff  5 Leaseholders attended.
Apologies	Apologies received from two leaseholders who could not attend

Item No.	Item Heading	Comments	Actions
1	<b>Introductions</b>	Warm welcome to all Leaseholders including new Leaseholders	<b>N/A</b>
2	<b>Minutes from last meeting.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No proposed changes. Minutes Agreed</li> </ul>	No further action

3	<b>Tree &amp; Bushes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree at the rear of Gouldsmith Gardens is leaning and overgrown. Raised by leaseholder- BG</li>   <li>• Walkways that are located at Gouldsmith Gardens; (leading to Whinfield Road) the bushes are overgrown, and people cannot walk down them. Raised by leaseholder- BG</li> </ul>	<p>Email and photos from Leaseholder were passed to the Councils Arboricultural Officer. He has inspected the tree and found there is no structural weakness. He will instruct a crown lift to the low branches to 2.5 metres, within the next 3 months.</p> <p>Email and pictures have been forwarded to our Streetscene team and we are awaiting their response. Leaseholder will be contacted directly with an answer.</p>
4	<b>Any other business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees at the Sycamores are overgrown and are blocking natural light from entering block of flats. Raised by leaseholders at The Sycamores.</li>   <li>• Heatherwood grove estate is in a state of neglect. Leaves are blown to the side and not picked up, which results in them clogging drains. Leaseholders want to know if leaves can be taken away. Raised by leaseholder -CD</li> </ul>	<p>Query passed to the Councils Arboricultural Officer to investigate and provide advice/action where necessary.</p> <p>Housing Officer is working with Streetscene to get a solution for this.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pinecones and leaves are accumulated at the back of the Sycamores and are causing the fence to rot and is also a potential fire hazard. Raised by leaseholder- CD</li><li>• Resident at the Sycamores want to know why people on the ground floor are allowed to have items outside their flat. People on first and second floor are not allowed. Raised by leaseholder -CD</li><li>• Pigeon mess is trodden across the communal areas in the Sycamores, as residents are not allowed to have mats in the communal area. Raised by leaseholder- CD</li><li>• Coxwold house-Since the bike racks have been removed residents are carrying their bikes into their flats and the bikes are leaving marks on the wall. Raised by leaseholder - JH</li><li>• Heatherwood grove- Patio sheds are not allowed. However, one has been installed by a resident. The Council have set a deadline for removal which has now surpassed, and nothing has been done. Raised by leaseholder- CD</li></ul>	<p>Housing Officer is working with Streetscene to get a solution for this.</p> <p>Advised this is a fire regulation - and there is no movement on this. No further action.</p> <p>Advised this is a fire regulation - and there is no movement on this. No further action.</p> <p>MH has suggested a community engagement event to raise community spirit. He will lead this with Housing Officer- Ricki Hotton and will look to do this at the end of the summer.</p> <p>We are still waiting for this to be removed, the Housing Officer is working with the tenant to get it removed as quickly as possible.</p>
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Next meeting – To Be Arranged - June 2024