

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2017

1. Apologies

Exec Committee and Street Reps: Carol Gray, Mike Caswell and Lesley McCaul

Southfields Councillors: Kim Caddy and Guy Humphries

Charles Runcie (SGRA Chair) advised that Mike Caswell is now stepping down from his role on the Executive Committee but will remain a Street Representative. Charles thanked Mike for his many years of service and contribution to the SGRA.

2. Southfields Improvement Plan – Abigail Hone

An update of the Southfields Improvement Plan was provided by Abigail Hone (Senior Transport Planner serving Richmond and Wandsworth Councils)

- Improvements originally discussed two years ago with a proposed plan put in place in Feb 2016. Since then nothing has really happened. However, Abigail who joined the council recently has been given the role of resurrecting these plans.
- The hoped for outcomes of the improvements are a well presented area, an increased visitor experience, better transport interchange and a pedestrian priority. The last item being the main priority.
- A web page is now in place which provides information on the plans and will be updated as new developments occur. This is www.wandsworth.gov.uk/southfields_station.
- The next steps are to put in place a focus group including local business, council, AELTC and resident representatives to review and update the plan with a goal to present an updated plan to the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February.
- Little movement is expected on implementing any approved plan until later in the year due to the upcoming council elections and the Wimbledon championships.

A number of discussions points / issues were then raised including:

- The original plan envisaged the removal of the railings however it was suggested that this was reviewed based on security considerations and the fact that this is often a meeting area for people exiting the tube. Abigail responded that this will be reviewed as part of the focus group review in the New Year and that discussions will be held with the Met Police on this.
- It was stated that although businesses were included in an initial survey there was not the later promised consultation on the plans and no discussion or feedback on representations made to the council. Abigail responded that she thought businesses had been consulted however she would be looking for input from local business during the review in the New Year. However further extensive consultation is not expected as this would delay the process.
- A number of other questions were raised which Abigail stated would be reviewed in the New Year. These included:
 - Possibility of the introduction of short term parking.
 - Supermarket delivery loading
 - Road crossing times particularly on the diagonal crossing.

Finally, Abigail suggested it would be good to have a single residential representative on the focus group from the various resident associations in Southfields.

ACTION: Charles to consider a single residents' contact from the various residents' associations.

3. Aspire Centre – Jacqui Vallin

Jacqui Vallin the principal of Southfields Academy gave details of the Aspire Centre and the facilities it provides for the local community particularly for the elderly.

The Aspire Centre provides a range of courses during the day and are relaunching a number of activities in the New Year. The courses and activities include:

- Swimming classes (including aqua aerobics, women only swimming and swimming lessons)
- Gym facilities and classes (including yoga, zumba, ballroom dancing, spin cycle) with membership cheaper than most local gyms
- 50+ activities including keep fit, IT & internet, cookery and languages

Jacqui suggested if other activities are needed then contact the Aspire Centre (Lorena Tesillo – Lorena.tesillo@southfieldsacademy.com) and they will do their best to accommodate these requirements.

A number of discussions points / issues were then raised including:

- Could amateur dramatics be provided at the Centre. Jacqui responded that the facilities are available but the amateur group would need to be organised by the community not the school.
- A question was asked about the “Chicken Shop” by the school and the view of the schools on this. Jacqui responded that she was surprised that this was allowed to open and the school was against having it there.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising – Last Open Meeting - Charles

Matters arising from the last Open meeting (on the 26th September) included:

- Post Office: No change in the situation, i.e. new premises have not yet been identified and the postmaster is still intending to retire. Cllr.Terry Walsh stated that a potential site may be available when Sainsbury's vacate their current site on Wimbledon Park Road.
- Zero waste food shop is still looking for premises. They have now started a Twitter account and a single page website.

Other items covered in this meeting agenda.

5. Key Points from Last Executive Committee Meeting - Charles

Key points discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting (on the 31st October) included:

- Wimbledon Park Lake: Potential flooding issues have been raised – covered in FOWP update.
- Coronation Gardens Improvement: SGRA is looking at ways that improvements could be made to Coronation Gardens with the aim of putting forward proposals on this.
- Coronation Gardens Picnic: SGRA is looking at ways to get funding to cover some of the costs of the annual SGRA picnic in Coronation Gardens.

Other items covered in this meeting agenda.

6. Southfields Events

St. Barnabas Christmas Fair – 2nd December

St. Barnabas Christmas fair will be held on Saturday 2nd December between 11.30 and 2.30

Southfields Christmas Lights – 6th December

Gill Habershon from the Southfields Business Forum gave an update on the Southfields Christmas lights.

- On Wednesday 6th December the lights will be switched on. The event will be opened by the Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth at 4.30pm and the lights will be switched on at 5pm. The event will include Christmas stalls, live music, choirs and carol singing.
- Gill requested volunteers to hand out flyers on the day and a number of people offered to help with this. Volunteers can also meet outside Cook (the food shop) at 4pm on the day.

Window Wanderland – 3rd / 4th February

Charles gave an update on the forthcoming Window Wanderland event (as the organisers were unable to attend the meeting).

- The event will be held again next year on the Sat 3rd and Sun 4th February from 6.30pm onwards and will cover the “greater” Southfields area including the grid, the triangle and Wimbledon Park.
- During the event anything can be put in the windows or room that is viewable from the street (although some form of lighting is preferable).
- Last year 108 houses took part and the organisers are looking to increase that number next year. Please contact Samantha Geyer (samantha.geyer@icloud.com) for further information.
- SGRA are looking at providing refreshments during this event using the Church Hall.

Southfields Harvest

Elizabeth Lloyd Owen gave a report on this year’s Southfields Harvest event.

- Over £1,000 was raised and this spread between the Ace of Clubs charity (£350), the Wandsworth Food Bank (£350) and St. Barnabas Church (£300 including the use of facilities).
- The event will take place again next year on Saturday 29th September and would welcome anybody who can spare some time to help.
- The Southfields Harvest works with Abundance Southfields group who promote community fruit picking and sharing.
- Several kilos of apples from the event have been taken to a community apple press to be turned into apple juice and cider.

7. Planning Update - Margaret

The following planning updates were reported:

- Wimbledon Park Road shops heritage listing: This has been escalated to the Culture Secretary for review however the decision to not list has not been changed.
- Adams Hairdressers (Momo Design) shop refitting: This now expected to be complete in the New Year.

- Townsends estate agents have now closed and currently no information on future plans for the site.
- Savannah site is still for let and currently no information on future plans for the site.
- Counts have now closed and currently no information on future plans for the site.
- Wandsworth Council are creating a Management and Maintenance Plan for King George's Park and are looking for community input. A survey is available on the council website until the 17th December.
- Sunny's newsagents will be closing down on March 28th.

The issue of fly-tipping was raised. It was reported that the council were normally quick to respond to fly tipping issues that were reported to them either via the Council 'Report it' (phone app) or 'Fix my street' (phone app and website).

8. Treasurer's Report - Charles

Charles reported that £3,261.11 is currently in the SGRA funds.

A question was asked if this amount is enough to fund current SGRA activities. Charles responded that the funds were sufficient as expenses (e.g. annual picnic, newsletter production, church hall rental, etc.) were not that high.

Charles reported that Carol Gray was standing down as SGRA treasure and thanked her for the service she has provided.

Chris Puleston will be taking over as the SGRA treasurer.

A question was asked if the SGRA contributions could be gift-aided however the SGRA is not set up as a charity. However, there may be ways around this which could be investigated in the future.

9. FOWP Update – Nick Steiner

Nick provided the following FOWP updates:

- FOWP in conjunction with Justine Greening held a public meeting held last week to discuss potential improvements or changes to the park (with over a 100 attendees)
- Merton Council have set up a steering group to consider the lake flooding and dam issues and £1.5M has been set aside to resolve the problems. The steering group consists of the owners of the park, Merton Council and Wandsworth Council but not the FOWP.
- As part of the Woodland Trust Charter for Trees a tree planting will take place in the park on Sunday 3rd December along with the planting of bulbs.
- FOWP are hoping to organise another Capability Brown weekend next year on September 8th / 9th. With the 8th being set aside for sporting events and the 9th for arts and music.

Cllr. Terry Walsh expressed surprise that the FOWP had not been invited onto the Steering Group and is pushing Wandsworth officers to find out from Merton what is happening.

10. Communications Update - Charles

Charles reported that:

- The latest SGRA newsletter has recently been published. This is the biggest issue ever produced (12 pages and colour).

- David Lammie is stepping down as editor of the newsletter. Charles thanked him for his efforts and reported he is in discussions with others to take on this role.
- SGRA is looking at moving to 4 issues a year of the newsletter from the current 3.
- Website and Logo update is still work in progress.
- SGRA Facebook page now has 750+ followers.

11. Street Reps Report

Charles reported that we have a new Street Rep on Heythorp – Kyra Von Schottenstein.

It was reported that an empty shop on Replingham Road has been converted to residential use and there is no protection to ensure these properties remain in business hands. If local businesses are not used, then this could happen to other shops.

12. Green the Grid – Chris Puleston

Chris Puleston gave an update on the Green the Grid initiative.

Green the Grid is a group of people who have got together with the objective of making the grid front garden friendly. Chris reported that:

- The group have recently done a front garden survey via door to door and survey monkey about people's front gardens. The results included 87% wanting greener front gardens and 20% of front gardens are currently paved.
- The group are looking to deliver a campaign in the spring next year.
- They are currently applying for funding from Wandsworth

A number of discussions points / issues were then raised including:

- Sheila Boswell (prospective Labour candidate) noted that Leoni Cooper (local GLA representative) is looking to provide funding in this area and would be interested in working with GTG.
- Greggs the Bakers have a green fund so it may be worth approaching them.
- A recent house redevelopment in the grid included the paving over of both front and back gardens. A request was sent to the council to see if anything could be done about this but no response was received.
- There is an initiative to make London a national city park (<http://www.nationalparkcity.london/>) however the council need to do this.
- When replacing fencing in gardens make sure you leave gaps or holes so that wildlife can cross between gardens.

13. Southfields Library – Sucheta Samant

Sucheta Samant the librarian from the Southfields library gave an update on the library and the facilities it provides for the local community including the wider Wandsworth library services. This included:

- Extension of the library opening hours. From 1st April 2018 the library will open on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm
- Use of the library – book issues and visits are increasing
- As well as providing books, dvd's and magazines a whole range of other services are available including:
 - Children's story time and rhyme time
 - Hall / rooms for hire for parties, business meetings, etc.
 - Knitting and Crochet Groups

- Free wifi and internet access
- Photocopying facilities
- Arts / heritage displays
- Heritage service (at Battersea library)
- English classes (in other libraries)
- Please contact Sucheta if you like to see other activities at the library
- Essentially it's a great community resource so come in and see it / use it

A number of discussions points were then raised including:

- A question was asked if the inter library service is still available. Sucheta responded that yes it was but the library would try and buy the book first and then check other local libraries followed by university libraries and the British library. A fee of £2 could be charged for the service.
- A question was asked if the library has books in storage. Sucheta responded that yes the library does have books in storage but are generally of lesser quality so they would not want to display them but she will think about how to make people aware of them.
- A question was asked if a book donation service was available. Sucheta responded that recently published books of good quality could be donated but please discuss with the library first. Other books could still be taken would the library would try and sell them.
- It was suggested that an article on the library is included in the next SGRA newsletter to spread the word on the facilities available.

14. Any Other Business

Southfields Xmas Lights – Pirbright Road Traffic

Charles reported that following the traffic congestion on Pirbright Road last year (caused by the closure of Replingham Road and cars using Pirbright instead) that preventative measures will be taken this year to avoid the issues re-occurring.

Tree Planting Policy

Charles reported that he recently received information from Wandsworth Council regarding their Tree Planting policy in Southfields which is:

- Current policy is to attempt to replant all of the eligible vacant sites in Southfields over the next two winters. We are hoping to start with approximately 40 sites this winter.
- The policy includes a wholesale ban on replanting sites implicated in proven subsidence claims, regardless of tree root stock. This has rendered many vacant sites in Southfields.

Disabled Parking

Charles reported that he recently received information from Wandsworth Council regarding the different types of disabled parking spaces in the borough which are:

- Advisory disabled bay where by the wording DISABLED is printed on the carriageway. There is no associated time plate and therefore can be used by disabled drivers but can also be used by other motorists.
- Disabled bay where the wording DISABLED is printed on the carriageway but there is also a time plate by the parking bay explaining the parking space is for Blue Badge holders only. This type of bay can only be used by motorist displaying a valid Blue Badge.

- Resident specific disabled bay where by a permit needs to be displayed alongside a blue badge. This type of bay has a sign with a D number on it which must correspond to the D number on the permit displayed on the vehicle.

Safer Neighbourhood Team and Crime Update

Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team open meeting was recently held which highlighted the following:

- Recent sweeps of the grid again found numerous cars unlocked
- A burglary has occurred recently where the Yale type lock has been opened via the letterbox so Mortice locks should be used where you have them

Clive reported the following crime updates:

- September: 23 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road (which includes Revelstoke and Merton Roads) out of a total of 110 for the Southfields ward.

Parking

- A couple of residents raised issues with problems parking in the grid (e.g. Revelstoke Road and Astonville Street) in the evenings and also the difference between parking restrictions on the two sides of Revelstoke Road.
- Parking issues should be raised with the Council along with any request to review the parking hours.

Speed Camera Gun

An update on the Speed Camera bought for local police was requested.

Cllr. Terry Walsh responded that Guy Humphries has been looking after this but the Speed Gun has been purchased but can only be used by the police and it should be in use soon.

ACTION: Charles will ask Guy to send around an update on this.

Greggs Bakers

The issue of the amount of rubbish left around Greggs the bakers was raised.

ACTION: Charles will approach Greggs to see if anything can be done about this.

Dog Waste

The issue of increasing amounts of dog waste / fouling on Trentham Street was raised and what if anything could be done to stop this.

Clonmore Street – Electric Car Charging Points

A question was asked about the level of public consultation on the positioning of Electric Car Charging points.

15. Dates of Future Open Meetings

Date of Meeting	Type Of Meeting
Tuesday 30 th January 2018	Open
Tuesday 20 th March 2018	Open
Tuesday 22 nd May 2018	Open and AGM

Appendix 1 – Attendance List

Name	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Chairman
Nigel Rawson	SGRA Secretary
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee
David Lammie	
Sarah Cox	
Trevor Howes	
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Guy Griffith	Labour Party Council candidate
Sucheta Samant	Southfields Librarian
Will Wilson	
Robert Feitelberg	
Diana Brennan	
John Haberson	
Gill Habershon	Southfields Business Forum
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee
Aidan Magill	
Joe Fagan	
Mary Buckley	Southdean Gardens Residents Association
Kyra Von Schottenstein	SGRA Street Rep
Karen Gregory	SGRA Executive Committee
Terry Walsh	Ward Councillor
Peter Jackson	
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Sheila Boswell	Labour Party Council candidate
Spencer Childs	
Nigel Plumbe	
Elizabeth Lloyd Owen	Southfields Harvest
Nick Steiner	SGRA Executive Committee
Cyril Birkbeck	
Chris Puleston	Green the Grid
Graham Skyrme	SGRA Street Rep
Abigail Hone	Senior Transport Planner serving Richmond and Wandsworth Council
Jacqui Vallin	Principal Southfields Academy