

## **Southfields Grid Residents' Association**

### **Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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#### **1. Apologies**

SGRA Executive Committee: Karen Gregory, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Southfields Councillors: Terry Walsh, Guy Humphries

#### **2. Minutes and Matters Arising – Last Open Meeting - Charles**

Relevant items will be covered during the meeting.

#### **3. Key Points from Last Executive Committee Meeting - Charles**

The following points from the last exec meeting were noted:

- We currently have hard copies archives of SGRA documentation going back many years. As part of the SGRA website update it is the intention to digitise this documentation and make it available on the website.
- Exec committee is looking at how we can collect and publish local history of Southfields ensuring that the information from elderly residents is not lost before it is too late.

#### **4. Southfields SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) Update**

James and Robbie from the Safer Neighbourhood team provided the following updates:

##### Southfields Speed Gun

- The Speed Gun has been used on Wimbledon Park Road and a number of drivers have been stopped (around 20) and given warnings.
- Although the 20mph speed limit is in place in and around Southfields this is not actually legally enforceable as the national 30mph speed limit overrides this. As such only warnings can be given for speeds under 30mph.
- The Speed Gun only records vehicle speed not the vehicle number plate so the officers must flag down and stop the vehicle to take any action against the driver.
- A number of community speedwatch events will take place in and around Southfields and the Grid after Easter and further information on these will be provided as and when they are confirmed

##### Neighbourhood Watch

- The SNT are looking for Neighbourhood Watch representatives in a number of streets in the Grid including Heythorp, Clonmore, Engadine, Elborough, Trentham, Astonville Streets and Brookwood and Replingham Roads. Please contact the SNT to become involved.
- It was noted that historically this role had been taken by some of the SGRA Street Representatives and perhaps we should now take this approach again. It was agreed to discuss the approach at the next SGRA Executive Committee meeting.

##### Other

- Three residential burglaries have occurred in the grid in the last four weeks. This includes theft from bike sheds which often have poor locks on them.

- The officers have noted a number of parcels being left on doorsteps by delivery companies. Where ever possible alternative arrangements should be made (although it was noted that some delivery drivers will just leave them anyway).

## **5. AELTC and Wimbledon Foundation Update – Johnny Perkins**

Johnny Perkins from the AELTC provided the following updates:

### AELTC Building Works / Improvements

- Work on the roof for Court 1 continues with 700 workers onsite. Work will be halted in May and then in September the large Trusses will be lifted onto the roof. These weigh 90 tons each and are 80m long. A super crane will be built on-site to lift them.
- The dressing rooms are currently being refurbished.
- An application for a further storey on top of the museum / turnstiles area has been made to allow for office expansion.
- An application has been made for 16 new grass courts at the Raynes Park Community Sports Ground Site. These are needed due to extra practice needs during the championships as a result of the date change in 2015 but are also intended for community use as well.

### Wimbledon Foundation

- The Wimbledon Foundation which is the AELTC charity provides support to a number of local organisations. Recent support has included Linden Lodge school and STEM4 working St. Cecilia's school to support mental health issues in teenagers.
- More information including how to apply for funds can be found at [http://www.wimbledon.com/en\\_GB/foundation/index.html](http://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/foundation/index.html)

### Other

- Stewarding in Wimbledon Park and on Wimbledon Park Road is to be increased this year to improve traffic flow as a result of issues raised by the Gardens Residents Association.

A number of questions were asked and the details are given below:

- Was Wimbledon involved in the discussions around the Southfields Improvement? Johnny replied that they had been but he personally had not been involved so could not give any details.
- How does Wimbledon support / encourage local children to become involved in tennis? Johnny replied that the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative (funded by the Foundation) visits local schools to encourage children to take part in sport generally (and reap the overall benefits) but with a focus on tennis. Johnny also stated that 90% of Wimbledon profits go to the Lawn Tennis Association who are responsible of grass roots tennis.

## **6. Southfields Improvement Plan – Margaret**

Margaret gave an update on the Southfields Improvement Plan.

- The third draft of the Plan has been published following the two meetings of the design steering group late last year / early this year and no further steering group meetings are planned. This design is scheduled to go to Wandsworth Committee in June.
- This third plan includes a number of items that were not agreed by the design steering group and which move away from the original design principles from 2015. Specifically

moving the focus away from business needs towards pedestrians and cyclists leading to the loss of further parking spaces on Replingham Road.

- A Southfields Business Forum meeting was held recently and attended by the local councillors and Justine Greening where dissatisfaction with the plans were raised. The local councillors requested that SBF provide comments on the plan and details of any changes that they would like to the plan for consideration.
- SGRA are also looking at producing a submission to the councillors (required by 3<sup>rd</sup> May) with our comments / wish list on the plan.
- The plan does include some good ideas such as removal of railings outside station and replacement with street furniture, wider pavements, removal of telephone box outside Oxfam, Green Wall at the station, removal of 'ugly' notice board (and replacement with a community notice board), retention of finger post and commemorative bench, etc.
- However, some contentious issues remain, specifically:
  - Loss of disabled parking space in Elsenham Road.
  - Potential further loss of parking at the top of Replingham Road beyond the four spaces agreed and the one at the bend.
  - Raised crossing or zebra crossing on Replingham Road near Boots which is close to existing crossing and would mean further lost parking spaces. Some form of crossing further down the road could be acceptable if a solution for parking could be found.

Kim Caddy (local councillor) raised a couple of points:

- She is working to push for the introduction of short term free parking on Replingham Road.
- There might be the possibility of installing a water fountain as part of the changes.

## **7. Southfields Business Forum Update – Margaret**

Margaret provided a Southfields Business Forum update as Gil Habershon was unable to attend the meeting.

- A plan had been put forward for Sunny Patel to take over as postmaster and locate the post office in the 'Budgens' supermarket however this has been rejected by the Post Office due to concerns over the viability of the Budgens site.
- The Post Office is believed to have identified an alternative site possibly Southfields Food and Wine but this has not been confirmed.
- The current post office was due to close at the end of March when the postmaster retires.
- Oskar Knight will be opening on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## **8. Window Wanderland Review – Charles Runcie**

Charles provided an update on the recent Window Wanderland event in the absence of the organisers who were unable to attend.

- Around 135 houses took part this year which was an increase of 25 houses.
- No flyers were created instead the event was publicised via social media.
- Local schools were also involved this year.
- Charles commented that overall it was considered to be a success and a great community event.
- It's not clear if the event will take place again next year as the overall Window Wanderland organisation have stated that future events must raise money and donate at least £300-£400 plus the £95 social media Kit fee to the Window Wanderland

organisation. The donation was asked for this year but the local organisers refused to pay due to the late request. However, this may impact if future events are held.

### **9. Local Postal Deliveries Discussion – Charles**

Charles raised the question to all attendees if they were seeing any issues with postal deliveries. Issues were raised by a number of people including:

- Deliveries occurring at different times of day.
- Different postmen delivering.
- Deliveries to the wrong streets / addresses.
- Letters delivered partially opened.

General the delivery service was considered to be poor and deteriorating.

Charles is speaking to the Post Office to try and get somebody from the Post Office to attend one of our future Open meetings.

### **10. SGRA Executive Update**

#### **Planning Update - Margaret**

The following planning updates were reported:

- SGRA have raised an objection to the planning application to convert 150 Elsenham Street into three flats due concerns about losing a family dwelling. Thirty-nine objections have been raised. Kim Caddy mentioned that this was expected to go before the planning committee in April.
- A planning application has been made to develop the rear spaces at 98 Pirbright Road to build two houses including a basement. One of which will take up more than half of the garden. We intend to raise an objection in principle.
- The old Savannah will become a coffee shop.
- Sikelia deli has closed citing costs and competition.
- There has been an unregistered application by Chocolate and Coffee (De Rosier) to convert the old Townsends property to a coffee shop including enclosing the forecourt with railings.
- An issue has been raised in Wandsworth Park which is that residents of Deodar Road are trying to take a strip of land from the park and lease it for 30 years. This has been refused by planning but has gone to the planning inspectorate on appeal. We should look to support the Friends of Wandsworth Park in their objections to this application as we do not want to encourage encroachment in our public parks.
- The burst water main in Replingham Road has been finally repaired after 20 days. The smaller burst main on Lavenham Road has also been repaired.
- The Tideway Tunnel local group meeting took place in February. They have a policy of helping the local community and have painted the local scout hall. They are also going to do some painting at Riversdale School.
- Nick Steiner (SGRA and declared chairman of FOWP) is following up with Tideway and Enable (who control the parks in Wandsworth) to ensure that reparation is made for any damage done in King Georges park and to ensure the legacy of the park remains.

#### **FOWP Update – Nick**

Nick provided the following FOWP updates:

- FOWP are progressing with plans for a Capability Brown weekend this year on September 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup>. With the 8<sup>th</sup> being mainly set aside for sporting events and the 9<sup>th</sup> mainly for arts and music.
- Planning application has been made on Ashen Grove (ancient woodland) to remove saplings which was approved without any documentation. This will potentially impact the local bat population. FOWP are raising the question of how this can be approved with no documentation.
- The plans to turn the current mini-golf into an adventure golf site are progressing. FOWP are monitoring this as there are some concerns.
- The encroachment into the park from Southdean Gardens has been amicably resolved. This was the builders fault and they have corrected the encroachment.

### Crime – Clive

Clive reported the latest crime figures.

- December: 22 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 124 for the Southfields ward.
- January: 14 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 125 for the Southfields ward.

### Communications – Charles

Charles gave an update on SGRA communications.

- Latest newsletter is due for delivery this week, produced by a new editor and with a new look.
- The goal is to make the newsletter self-funding with advertising revenue covering the costs of design and printing. As such we would like to say thank you to all of the existing and new businesses who have advertised in the latest issue.
- Facebook followers are now up to 842.
- Website updated in progress and expected to complete in next few weeks.

### Street Reps – Charles

- We have an upcoming Street Rep vacancy on Elborough Street.

## **11. Southfields Events**

### SGRA Spring Tea Party - Margaret

- The SGRA Spring Tea party for elderly residents will be held again this year on April 14<sup>th</sup> in the church hall from 3 until 5.30pm.
- Food and refreshments will be provided by Salt and Pepper.
- Entertainment will be provided by Cygnet.
- Posters are now available for the event which Street Reps should put up in their streets.

### SGRA Summer Picnic

- The annual SGRA summer picnic will be held in Coronation Gardens on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## **12. Green the Grid Update - Chris**

Chris gave an update on the Green the Grid initiative:

- An initial public meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March with good responses and ideas.
- A number (10) local like-minded groups have been contacted.
- GTG team are looking / applying for funding from a number of different places.
- The group are hoping to publicly launch the initiative in early May with a planting / do something in your front garden day in June.
- Any volunteers will be gratefully welcomed.
- Further details will be in the SGRA newsletter.

### **13. Greater London Assembly Update – Leonie Cooper AM Merton and Wandsworth**

Leonie Cooper (who chairs the GLA Environment Committee and sits on the Housing and Audit Committees) provided an update on a number of GLA matters.

The GLA committees are intended to hold the Mayor to account and scrutinise and challenge the plans put forward by the Mayor. The chairmanship and make-up of the committees is split between the political parties within the Assembly to ensure a cross party view and consensus.

A number of plans have been put forward by the Mayor, these include:

- Transport Plan which has been finalised.
- Environment Plan which is in consultation and includes an All London Green Grid initiative.
- Spatial Development Strategy (i.e. Draft London Plan) which is in consultation.

From an environment perspective the Environment Committee has produced a number of recommendations which are now being reviewed. Also a fund of around £10 million is available for environmental initiatives. This money is available due Business Rates changes and further details are available on the London.Gov.Uk website.

From a planning perspective the hierarchy consists of the national, then the London planning followed by local planning policy framework. Each of the lower levels must adhere to the higher levels however the Mayor would be unlikely to change / challenge local plans.

Leonie was asked for an update on the Draft London Plan and in particular housing density. Leonie stated:

- The Deputy Mayor has been before the Housing Committee over the London Plan.
- Density increases are intended to be on the same site, e.g. replace garage with multi-storey dwelling or use of one-bedroom flat to house a family.
- Two thirds of the housing density increase are planned for outer London Boroughs.
- The committee was very dissatisfied with the responses around housing density provided by the Deputy Mayor.
- The committee has produced a 150-page response to the plan.
- The plan will now be re-drafted to take into account feedback.

Leonie mentioned that once a month there is a Mayor's question time where she is usually allowed to ask one or two questions. However, she can submit as many written questions as she wants. As such please send any questions you have to Leonie at

[Leonie.Cooper@london.gov.uk](mailto:Leonie.Cooper@london.gov.uk).

### **15. Any Other Business**

None

### **Appendix 1 - Dates of Future Open Meetings**

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Type Of Meeting</b>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2018 (7.30pm)	Open and AGM
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Open

### **Appendix 2 – Attendance List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman
Nigel Rawson	SGRA Executive Committee - Secretary
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Guy Griffith	
Diana Brennan	
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee
Peter Jackson	
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Sheila Boswell	
Nick Steiner	SGRA Executive Committee
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee - Treasurer
Graham Skyrme	SGRA Street Rep
Jackie Pearce	
Janice Adamson	
Sam Nicholas	
Kim Caddy	
Lesley McCaul	SGRA Street Rep
Nina Kowalski	
Robert Feitelberg	
Trevor Howes	
Sian Wilson	
Keir Mather	
Duncan Lyons	
Kyra Vin Schottenstein	SGRA Street Rep