

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2018

1. Apologies

- SGRA Executive Committee: Karen Gregory
- Southfields Councillors: Kim Caddy

2. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) – Nigel Rawson

Nigel Rawson explained that new data protection regulations (GDPR) come into force on May 25th. These require the SGRA to have the consent of individuals to retain and use their contact details. Consent can be provided via the open meeting attendance sheet or email.

3. Chairs Review 2017/18 – Charles Runcie

Charles provided an overview of the SGRA year including key activities and successes and the challenges for the year ahead.

Further details are provided in the Chairs Review presentation document.

A question was raised regarding the standing of the Friends of Wimbledon Park and Green the Grid organisations in relation to the SGRA.

Charles responded:

- The FOWP grew out the SGRA, Wimbledon Park Residents Association and Wimbledon House and is aligned with the SGRA
- Green the Grid is a fairly new organisation which is currently under the wing of the SGRA and also has received some funding from the SGRA

4. SGRA Financial Report 2017/18 – Chris Puleston

Chris provided an overview of the SGRA accounts for the year.

Further details can be found in the SGRA Accounts presentation document.

Chris mentioned that the large increase in costs for the newsletter this year included the costs of the logo and newsletter redesign (around £800) which will not be the case in future years.

A number of questions were raised to which Chris responded.

- Is there a figure available for average amount per raised per household (via street collections). Chris responded that we do not have a figure for this at the moment.
- A question was raised about how the money from street collections is collected and would it be possible to pay online. Chris responded that money is collected by Street Reps by visiting each household or by residents providing monies using the collection envelopes that are provided to all residents. Online payments are not currently available but it is something that the SGRA will look into.

5. Friends of Wimbledon Park Review 2017/18 – Nick Steiner

Nick provided an overview of the FOWP activities and news.

Further details can be found in the FOWP update presentation document.

Some specific items noted include:

- FOWP formed in 2012 and SGRA along with WPRA & WHRA have a custodian role
- Wimbledon Park is a Historic England Grade II* Registered Park and Garden however it has been included on their 'At Risk Register'
- The lake is part of the public park and owned by Merton
- The Wandsworth/Merton borough boundary roughly cuts the public park in half although Wandsworth do not own any of the park
- Fish stocks have decreased by up to 95% according to the local angling club however no major pollution incidents have been reported this year
- FOWP will be working with idverde to get a green flag award however this requires a number of improvements to be made and FOWP is trying to get all owners to buy in to the green flag objective and the required improvements
- Capability Brown weekend being held September 8th/9th which is also the first week of the Wandle fortnight which is a community led celebration of all things Wandle.

A number of questions were raised to which Nick responded.

- Does the FOWP have any views regarding the use of BBQ's in the park? Nick responded that BBQ's are not allowed in many parks and the FOWP would like the use of BBQ's to be banned in Wimbledon Park. FOWP have written to Merton asking for this ban but have had no response and now collecting further evidence to provide to Justine Greening MP, Leonie Cooper AM and Merton and Wandsworth councils
- Are there any plans for a path around the lake? Nick responded that currently nothing can be done until 2041 when the lease for the golf club expires. However, should the latest AELTC bid to reduce the lease be successful then this can be looked at earlier

6. Green the Grid Review 2017/18 – Nina Kowalska

Nina provided an overview of the GTG activities and news.

Further details can be found in the GTG update presentation document.

Some specific items noted include:

- Green the grid initiative formed a year ago to highlight green issues such decrease in green/planted front gardens which impacts both wildlife and the water table
- Front garden survey highlighted the low numbers of planted gardens in the grid with 53% either fully or partially paved
- Initial GTG day held in May where residents could meet the GTG team and sign up to become involved and over 50 people did
- Community planting day to be held on Saturday Jun 9th where free plants will be available for planting in front gardens or for street guerrilla gardening
- GTG has had good support from SGRA with some initial funding provided however the group are looking at other grant opportunities (e.g. Wandsworth local fund or Wimbledon Foundation)
- GTG also looking for community volunteers to help others who are less able to garden

7. Election of SGRA Officials for 2018/19

The following were nominated and elected unopposed as SGRA officials.

- SGRA Chairman – Charles Runcie
- SGRA Vice Chairman – Gerard Sebastian

- SGRA Treasury – Chris Puleston
- SGRA Secretary – Nigel Rawson

8. Election of SGRA Executive Committee for 2018/19

The following were nominated and elected unopposed as SGRA Executive Committee Members.

- Karen Gregory
- Ann Kerr
- Margaret Brett
- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty
- Clive Williams

9. Confirmation of SGRA Street Reps for 2018/19

All existing street reps will remain in place with the exception of the following:

- Elborough Street: Mike Caswell is standing down and will be replaced by Andrew Dunley
- Engadine Street: Carol Gray is stepping down and will be replaced by Jackie Pearce

10. Guest Speaker – Patrick Phillips - idverde

Patrick Phillips is a director of Idverde who are Europe's largest green space provider and are responsible for the maintenance of parks in most of south London including Merton and Wandsworth.

Patrick provided an update on their activities in the local parks.

- Contract with Wandsworth is a simple contract which just covers ground maintenance
- Idverde are currently in the middle of an eight-year contract with Wandsworth
- Coronation gardens is an important green space for the grid and is a heritage park although some heritage features are no longer in place
- Contract with Merton is a parks management contract not just ground maintenance which covers a lot more activities
- Current Merton bye laws do not restrict the use of barbeques in Wimbledon Park however no real flames are allowed and BBQ's should be disposed of in the bins provided. Effective enforcement of this is very difficult even with bye-laws in place

11. Guest Speakers – Guy Humphries and Terry Walsh – Local Councillors

Guy Humphries and Terry Walsh the newly re-elected local councillors provided an update on council activities and answered a number of questions.

- Wandsworth gyratory system. TFL are currently working on an updated scheme for Wandsworth high street/one-way system and more consultation is expected
- New London cycle route is planned through Wandsworth which will go through St. Georges park and parts of Southfields
- District Line improvements
 - Terry is part of the Passenger Transport Liaison committee which meets with TFL and SWT
 - Improvements have been made to signalling at West Brompton so that Wimbledon trains can now use both platforms 1 and 2 at Earls Court station
 - Improvements have been made to reduce speed restrictions at Putney Bridge
- Bus improvements

- Councillors are pushing for the introduction of a bus route to link Earlsfield, Southfields and West Hill
- Councillors have spoken to TFL regarding overcrowding on the 39 bus and the possibility of increasing the frequency. The use of double decker buses is not possible due to the road / roundabout layouts

A number of questions were raised to which Guy and Terry responded.

- How will residents be engaged in the Southfields Realm Improvement Plan and what is current status?
 - A display of proposed improvements is available in the library and also on the council website
 - Large consultation exercise was held in 2016
 - Recently the council has been working with local resident's groups (including SGRA) and the Southfields Business Forum to ensure all views are taken into account. However, the situation is complex due to the numbers of stakeholders
 - Current plans are due to go before the council committee in June
 - Margaret Brett responded that the SGRA has responded that the changes to be made should not affect the sustainability of the businesses in Southfields
- What is the expected impact of the Ram Street development?
 - Large consultation on this development and councillors will work to ensure and minimise any ripple effect on Southfields
- What are the councillor's views on the planning application for three flats at 150 Elsenham?
 - All the councillors are opposed to this development and will try to ensure it is not granted
 - Application goes to planning committee next week
- What are the council's plans for Coronation Gardens park?
 - The council has no specific plans but the councillors would welcome any suggestions for improvements

12. Guest Speaker – Justine Greening MP

Justine the local MP provided an update on local news and her current activities.

- Justine firstly thanked the SGRA and GTG for the great work they have been doing over the last 12 months.
- Southfields Post Office: Justine has been in touch with the Post Office to ensure a solution is found to the current post office redevelopment and retiring postmaster and the new post office will now be located in Southfields Food and Wine. Justine is pushing to make sure that the new post office will provide a small parcels service and services for small business however it is not expected to provide a passport service
- Tideway tunnel: Justine is working to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum as part of the tideway tunnel works and that improvements to the park are made as part of the work
- Southfields Realm Improvements: Justine is working with the local groups on this (SGRA and SBF) to resolve the issues around parking and shop deliveries
- District Line: Although steady improvements have been made and new trains put in place there are still some delays and issues (e.g. changes to train destinations). Justine has been raising these issues with TFL
- Wimbledon Park: Justine is working with the FOWP and Merton council to make a number of improvements to the park and its facilities, e.g. earlier opening and improved toilet facilities. Also on how to improve the condition of the lake which is not in a good state

- 150 Elsenham Street: Justine echoed the concerns raised by local councillors and residents regarding the planning application to turn 150 Elsenham into three flats
- Plastics: Justine is working to put in place actions and activities to decrease the use of plastics and is currently working with a number of schools in Putney on this initiative
- Social Mobility: Justine is working on an initiative to help improve social mobility issues including the creation of a social mobility board and support from a number of FTSE 100 companies and the CBI to encourage companies to support disadvantaged children. More information can be found at www.socialmobilitypledge.org
- Finally Justine reminded that she holds weekly surgeries rotating around the constituency including some at Southfields library

Finally, Justine gave a presentation to Mike Caswell. Mike has been involved with the SGRA for many years and was its Chairman for over a decade but has finally decided to retire from SGRA duties. Justine thanked Mike for his many years to service to the community both with the SGRA and in other areas.

13. Forthcoming Events

SGRA Front Garden Competition – Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Amelia gave an overview of this year's Front Garden Competition.

- There are four categories this year: best front garden, window boxes and pots, hanging baskets and guerrilla gardening
- For the best front garden:
 - Individual judges will be handing out bronze, silver and gold awards
 - There will be more bronze awards than any other as we want to encourage and applaud all those who have made an effort to green their front gardens
 - All the gardens given a gold award will be in the running for the overall winner which will be decided upon jointly by all the judges
- For the other categories the individual judges will chose the best window boxes/pots, hanging basket and guerrilla gardening garden in their allocated streets with the eventual winner of each category being jointly decided by all the judges.
- What will we be looking for? (this is not prescriptive - there is no tick-list but some ideas)
 - A pleasing garden. Some thought given to layout, design, texture and colour. A degree of originality. Something that attracts wildlife. Well cared for but not pristine. Makes viewer want to see more. Gives onlookers a sense of well-being.
- The judging period will be from 16th - 30th June. There are six judges and, with only one exception, none will be judging the street they live in.
- Prizes
 - Front garden - £25 plus name engraved on a silver platter
 - Other categories - £15 for each category.
- Winners will be announced at the Coronation Gardens Picnic on 7th July.

SGRA Summer Picnic – Charles Runcie

The SGRA Summer Picnic will be held again this year in Coronation Gardens on Saturday 7th July from 12 until 3pm.

Southfields Harvest – Elizabeth Lloyd Owen

Elizabeth gave an overview of this year's Southfields Harvest.

- The Southfields harvest event will be held again this year on Saturday 29th September and will be an opportunity to buy/consume local produce, sample pressed apple juice (from locally picked apples) last and meet your neighbours
- Southfields bake off will also be held as part of the event
- The knitted fruit and vegetable trail will be held in the local shops
- The Abundance Southfields wide apple picking will also take place with the apples subsequently be pressed into apple juice
- More help and support for the event is needed so please let us know if can help

14. Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

| Date of Meeting | Type Of Meeting |
|---|------------------------|
| Tuesday 24 th July 2018 | Open |
| Tuesday 25 th September 2018 | Open |

Appendix 1 – Attendance List

| Name | Role |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Charles Runcie | SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman |
| Nigel Rawson | SGRA Executive Committee - Secretary |
| Ann Kerr | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Diana Brennan | |
| Margaret Brett | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Peter Jackson | |
| Clive Williams | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Nick Steiner | |
| Chris Puleston | SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer |
| Jackie Pearce | |
| Janice Adamson | |
| Lesley McCaul | |
| Nina Kowalski | |
| Robert Feitelberg | |
| Trevor Howes | |
| Keir Mather | |
| Duncan Lyons | |
| Guy Humphries | |
| Jeremy Steele | |
| Serena Potter | |
| Tim Sheppard | |
| Bridget LaMarca | |
| Pietro LaMarca | |
| Robert Whittaker | |
| Tim Potter | |
| Mike Caswell | |
| Mike Cox | |
| Terry Walsh | |
| Aidan Magill | |
| Carole Birbeck | |
| Elizabeth Lloyd Owen | |
| Richard Silverstein | |
| Karen Stacey | |
| Kate Cooper | |
| Moira Buckley | |
| Sue Wixley | |
| Gerard Sebastian | SGRA Executive Committee – Vice Chair |
| Gordon Springett | |
| Pat Sheerin | |
| Diane Miles | |
| Peter Buchwald | |
| Cyril Birbeck | |
| Rosemary Langford | |
| Marilyn Wilson | |
| Will Wilson | |
| Deirdre Goodwin | |
| Elizabeth Berner | |
| Brigid Rietchel | |
| Judith Edwards | |
| Patrick Phillips | |
| Justine Greening | |
| Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty | SGRA Executive Committee |