

Southfields Grid Residents Association Open Meeting

26th September 2017 at 8pm

St. Barnabus Church Hall

Minutes

1. Apologies

Jane Sheet, Lesley McCaul, Tania Kowalski, Oliver Ashbee.

2. Minutes from 28th June AGM - no comments so minutes accepted.

3. Local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team update

- PC Elvey updated on the recent murder of the Au Pair on Wimbledon Park Rd. Whole community shocked and saddened.
- Cllr. Guy Humphries reassured everyone that the 2 children are being cared for.
- Warning that some media have been pushing to get local comment. Reminder to all not to spread gossip and allow the authorities to get on with their work.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team have 3 dedicated officers for Southfields Ward. The biggest crime issue in the Grid is theft from motor vehicles. On recent check along 3 Grid Roads, 13 cars found unlocked.
- Recent spate of burglaries - 18 - in and around Wandsworth - culprit was arrested last week.

ACTION - reminder to all to ensure belongings not left in car and to lock your car. V impnt to register crimes with the Met Police - Tel 101.

Local Office - 0208 785 8874

Facebook page - Southfields Police

To receive local newsletter email james.c.elvey@met.police.co.uk (currently 1,300 on database)

Use 'REPORT IT' App

Next Safer N'hoods Team meeting is 25th Saturday November

Q from Robert on Revelstoke Rd - Who is responsible for fly tipping?

A - it's a Council matter - report it

Q - Margaret Brett raised the issue of the Mayor's proposal to close local Police Stations

Reminder to all to comment on consultation

Q - Who is responsible for dealing with Japanese Knot Weed?

A - Council issue not Police

4. Coronation Gardens update

- The July 2017 picnic was attended by approx 100 -150 people.
- The Exec committee has been considering how the Gardens could be improved for the community.

- Members of the SGRA Exec met with Wandsworth Council officers (Geraldine Kelly and Sam Kemp) to discuss potential ideas.
- Ann Kerr and Karen Gregory then met with other officers to explore potential funds to bid for to develop the Gardens. Clear that these funds have to deliver a long term legacy for the park/community so won't support next years picnic per se.
- Cllr Guy Humphries to help with identifying other funds eg. Waste organisations etc.

ACTION: Exec ctte to continue exploring options and to consult with Riversdale School etc. before bidding for funds.

5. Treasurer's Financial Report

- Accounts currently stand at £3,001.08
- Subs still to come in from various streets plus Newsletter advertising due in December.

ACTION: Still seeking a Treasurer - all to consider who might be suitable

6. Justine Greening MP updated on Southfields Post Office situation

- Current questions are
 - a) where can it go?
 - b) who can run it?

Questions over future of the Post Office have been going on for 3 years now. Developer has been very patient in waiting for solutions to above questions.

- New Post Master has been found (Justine met Chief Exec (Paula Vennells) at Parliament who is committed to finding a solution. The PO have put a Project Manager in place to try to resolve
- Library option? (though not open all days)
- Sainsbury's ? (apparently have said no)
- Bulcraigs? (not open to it currently)

The issue remains one of the most critical to the local community.

ACTION: SGRA Ctte to stay in contact with Justine Greening MP office and with other local officials on next steps.

7. New 'no waste' shop potentially opening in Southfields. Local resident wants to survey local people to ascertain support. Watch out for survey details. Justine Greening very supportive.

'Green the Grid' initiative also looking for support. Survey out shortly.

8. Planning - Margaret Brett update

- A Pirbright Rd application refused (can't build across garden space)
- Sainsbury's have asked permission for a gate for vehicle access to store
- Decision by council - not to list the Wimbledon Park Road shops
- Hoarding across Adnams hair salon is still up - presume still empty?
- Electric Charging vehicle positions have been installed on Clonmore St.

9. Friends of Wimbledon Park update - Nick Steiner

- Capability Brown walk went well on Sunday
- Presence at Southfields Harvest to promote Friends activities
- Merton Master Plan may be shelved - Nick and others met the Leader of the Council and asked them not to spend the proposed £25k on proposals. However there is a need for local residents to be aware of plans for the dam and lake.
- Bat Survey completed
- Pollution in the lake being monitored and discussions ongoing with Thames Water. Justine Greening MP encouraging authorities to consult local residents before any plan is finalised. Cllr Guy Humphries indicated that Wandsworth officers have been looking at what Merton Council can /can't do at the park. There is a Statutory obligation re flooding assessment.

ACTION: SGRA Exec to continue to ask when the flooding assessment will happen!

10. SGRA Website & Comms - Charles Runcie update

- Current website needs updating and made mobile friendly.
- Local resident John Berkoski on Engadine St. helping to update site.
- Will be more news, events, info focussed.
- Keen to have more local FAQ, crime figs, bring info together, also historic images, etc.
- November 1st deadline? Keen to tie in with newsletter timings

11. SGRA newsletter - Editor update David Lammie

- Looking for contributions
- Copy deadline is end of October
- Publication 10th November so distribution prior to next Open meeting on 28th November

12. Street Rep Reports

- Karen Gregory the Brookwood Rd rep mentioned couple of residents having experienced egg throwing at windows. Thought to be when schools broke up but all to be aware.
- No other street reports

13. Date of next Open meeting - Tuesday 28th November at 8pm

14. AOB

- Southfields Christmas Lights on Weds 6th December 4.30pm led by Southfields Business Forum. SGRA offered support.
- Clonmore Street - Electric charging points installed outside Olive Garden restaurant. There is a plan to install further points. Wandsworth has fastest growing membership for electric charging and fastest growth in cycling in any local authority.
- Pirbright Road - discussion re whether it can be made 'one-way'. Charles Runcie (Street Rep) suggested getting a petition was the best way to ascertain local feeling.

- Resident on Trentham St (Serena) asked for advice on getting security in place on the (private) alleyway between gardens. Advice was to meet other residents and agree way forward. Attention to be paid to need for fire access.

- Cllr Guy Humphries informed all that the consultation Merton Council undertook on Revelstoke Car Park charges in Wimbledon Park was 'called in'. Guy to represent local opinion at October meeting with the Council. SGRA Exec have commented and will also be represented.

- Clive Williams (Astonville St) provided local crime figures. June there were 15 incidents in the Grid (compared to 89 for all Wandsworth) July there were 35 compared to 140 in Wands worth (mostly shop lifting)

- Japanese Knot Weed -a local resident raised the issue of there being some present in local gardens and plot of land on Merton Rd. Question about responsibility raised. Understood to be responsibility of the land owner in first instance. Knotweed has to be treated and disposed of in correct manner legally.

15. Front Gardens Competition Award Ceremony

- Justine Greening MP presented awards to those present. (3 residents).
- Amelia and Ann put together a lovely presentation showcasing photographs of all the winners.
- Photographs taken.
- 7 categories awarded in total this year.

Meeting Closed at 10pm followed by drinks and networking.