

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 27th November 2018

1. Apologies

SGRA Executive Committee: Karen Gregory

Southfields Councillors: Terry Walsh, Kim Caddy, Guy Humphries (joined part way through the meeting)

2. Southfields SNT Update – Southfields SNT

PC James Elvy and the rest of the SNT team gave an update on policing matters:

- There has been a recently been an increase in theft from sheds in peoples back gardens with a number of bikes being stolen (often the locks on these sheds are not very good)
- Precautions that can be taken against this include:
 - Use of better/sturdy locks on back garden sheds (a resident mentioned the Sold Secure website which provides reviews of locks <https://www.soldsecure.com/>)
 - Lock up the bikes with chains even when in the sheds
 - Install sensor lights in back gardens
 - Have bikes marked (there was a suggestion to hold a bike marking event in the new year although the team reported funding issues in this area). Any bike marking event which does take place will be advertised by the SGRA
- A resident raised the issue of the alleyway between Trentham and Astonville Streets which has now been cleared and provides access to the back gardens in those streets. The resident asked if grants or money could be found to put gates on the entrances to the alleys. It was suggested that this is raised with the local councillors.

A number of questions were then raised to which the SNT responded:

- Could any further information be provided regarding the car which crashed into Riversdale school?
 - This was a drunk driving incident and the driver was apprehended
- Kit Somers raised the issue of the crossing on Merton Road by the Aspire centre and how this is considered quite dangerous by a number of residents due to drivers going too fast and not stopping at the crossing
 - SNT were asked if the mobile speed camera could be used more in this area? The camera is better suited to smaller roads and the “speed van” would be needed which is not always/less available
 - Kit is raising a petition to have the safety at this crossing improved and potential a zebra crossing with lights installed. Cllr Guy Humphries stated he would help present the petition to the council however this road is the responsibility of TFL not Wandsworth
 - Leonie Cooper (London Assembly member) stated she could help raise this with TFL as she can raise a member’s inquiry to them
 - It was suggested that Kit works with Guy and Leonie to progress this
- Some residents expressed concern at the number of car thefts in the grid and the speed at which the police closed the cases. The SNT responded:
 - That the number of car thefts is generally quite low and the bigger issue is theft from cars although a number of cars have been stolen recently

- There is very little CCTV in the grid apart from potentially private CCTV and where CCTV does exist then can only spend 15 min's looking at this
- If no CCTV or witnesses exist, then there is very little the police can do to investigate further
- As thieves often copy car fobs to steal cars a very good deterrent is the use of steering locks
- When on patrol during the day the SNT team often find cars that have been left open so people should be vigilant to ensure their cars are locked
- Charles Runcie re-iterated that the Southfields grid is generally a low crime area as the crime figures which we report at each meeting show

3. Gas Works Update – Tony Hollis – Southern Gas Networks

Tony Hollis gave an update on the recent and forthcoming gas works:

- Replingham Road gas works are now complete and the gas main has been replaced
- Additional issues were found during the works which meant extending the works to Sainsbury's on Wimbledon Park Road. Also parts of the old gas main were encased in concrete which also caused delays
- Further gas works are now planned on Augustus Road from Inner Park Road to the bottom of Augustus.
- The first stage of the works from Albert Drive down Augustus were due to start in November and continue for six weeks however these have been delayed due to issues with the bus diversions
- The works will now start on Jan 7th and will involve one-way traffic on Augustus Road for the duration of the works
- Robust diversions will be put in place during these works

A number of questions were raised to which Tony responded:

- Are there any further plans for works impacting the crossings at the Augustus Road/Replingham Road junction?
 - There are no plans for works here
- Is compensation available to businesses for loss of income?
 - Yes, a compensation scheme is in place
- Could gas pipes be put under pavements to reduce traffic disruption?
 - No this is not possible due to the size of the gas mains and the number of other utilities under the pavements
- Were the delays to the Augustus Road works due to SGN forgetting to apply to for the bus diversions?
 - No this was not the case. Wandsworth were not happy with the proposed diversions which caused the delays and subsequent postponement of the works

3. Enable Update – Jessica Stocks (Arboricultural Officer, Enable Leisure and Culture)

Jess gave an update on the current tree maintenance activities:

- Work on tree maintenance is continuing as part of the two-year cycle to inspect and maintain the trees
- Once contractors have completed work on a particular street Jess then reviews the work
- There have been some issues in Heythorp Street where the contractors traffic cones and signs have been stolen four times and the contractors are now refusing to do the work on that street

- A number of trees have had to be felled this was due to trees dying as a result of the hot weather in the summer and two lorry collisions
- New planting of trees will take place from November through February and attempts will be made to replace the trees in every vacant plot
- Lots of subsidence issues arise due to trees. The mitigation used is to ensure the right trees are planted in the right place and that trees which are less demanding on water is used. This is something that is considered as part of the maintenance program

A number of questions were asked to which Jess responded:

- Charles commented that he had heard a number of additional trees would be made available / planted by the council
 - Jess responded that she was not aware of this but would look into it
- What she we do if we see a vehicle damaging a tree?
 - Take down the vehicle registration plate and report this to Jess/Enable who can then chase for compensation

Jess is happy for any tree related issues to be reported to her on: jstocks@enablelc.org

4. London Plan Update – Leonie Cooper AM Merton and Wandsworth

Leonie (our local London Assembly member) gave an update on the current London plan:

- Each new mayor can put in place a London Plan which sits between the relevant national and local plans
- The current plan is in a draft state and is about to go through an ‘Examination in Public’ process running from the 14th January to the 17th May
- This takes the form of a public enquiry run by planning inspectors
- The examination is based on prior feedback/comments made against the draft documents during the consultation period and as result 94 specific matters are being considered
- Housing and spatial development issues are the areas with most matters to be considered and the planning committee has been invited to participate in 53 of the matters
- Any organisations can submit (up to 2000 word) representations and many organisations have been invited to attend

A number of questions were raised which Leonie responded to:

- Is the current plan a draft as this not indicated on the London Assembly website?
 - Yes, the current 2016 plan is a draft. The last approved plan is from 2010
- Do central government changes get incorporated into London/local plans as the current timings do not align with central government document?
 - Leonie hasn’t looked at the central government document so cannot comment

Leonie is happy to be contacted regarding the London Plan (and indeed any other issues), specifically on the London Plan she can point out specific sections (of the very large document) which are relevant to certain issues. Her email address is:

Leonie.Cooper@london.gov.uk

5. Window Wanderland – Sam Geyer

Sam one of the organisers gave an update of the forthcoming Window Wanderland event:

- Next year’s event will take place on the weekend of the 9/10th February

- Sign up / collaboration hubs will be in place in the library and St. Barnabas church (in addition to sign up via Facebook)
- 140+ houses took park last year
- Overall area is being expanded to include Southdean Gardens and Princes Drive
- Fees charged by the Window Wanderland organisation are going up this year to £350. The organisers have paid these fees themselves but are hoping to recoup the money via sponsorship (via local businesses)
- This year the group are trying to encourage older members of the community and schools to take part in the activities
- SGRA will be supporting this initiative as much as possible
- Please contact the organisers if you wish to support, contribute or have any good ideas on how to build engagement or sponsorship (Sam can be contacted on samantha.geyer@icloud.com)

6. SGRA Executive Update

Chairs Report –Charles Runcie

Southfields Post Office

- A number of issues have been raised with the opening hours of the post office following its relocation into the (formerly) Southfields Food and Wine shop.
- Longer opening hours were promised but this has not been the case
- There seems to be a lack of resources to run the post office so closures sometimes occur when the required staff are not available
- Gil Habershon of the SBF mentioned this has been raised with Justine Greening
- The SGRA will continue to monitor this and push for improvements

Coronation Gardens:

- SGRA recently met with a representative from Enable regarding making improvements to Coronation Gardens
- Some work can be performed under general maintenance activities however larger jobs (e.g. the water fountain) would need funding applications to be made
- It was suggested a Friends of Coronation Gardens group is set up as this would help with funding applications. Phillipa Haselgrave has offered to drive this initiative
- Cllr Guy Humphries mentioned that one of the recent election pledges was to improve Coronation Gardens and he would be happy to work with Friends Group to progress

Local History:

- SGRA are putting in place in small group to collect information/memorabilia related to local/Southfields history.
- Let the SGRA know if you are interested in helping or contributing to this initiative

Planning Update – Margaret Brett

The following planning updates were reported:

- The two planning applications by Z Group at 2 Replingham Road are still open. One is for a sign (Z Group) and the second is for permission to retain the change already made to the front window.
- We have raised objections to the two applications for 243 and 239 Wimbledon Park Road to develop the basements as small studio flats. The Waste Strategy Manager has

raised concerns about the collection of waste from these properties and Transport are requiring a cycle parking space in a secure shelter.

- The appeal for the development for 143 Clonmore is still outstanding. Their application to develop right across the rear roof was refused, despite the officer noting that this had been achieved by neighbouring houses.
- The application to develop 87 Pirbright has been refused. They wanted to go up two storeys at the side and extend at the ground floor at the back. Planners considered it too heavy and dominant and not subservient to the host property.
- 89 Replingham was a hairdressers and there is an application to convert to residential and combine with the first floor flat.
- Work seems to be happening to relocate the street light from the front of the new Sainsbury's site.
- We are still waiting to hear more from the Council Officer who is trying to get the post box moved. It is still sealed following the gas works.
- The initial application for the phone mast in Merton Road has now been refused.
- Southfields Improvement Scheme. We have not heard anything more about the plans for this.
- We have been in touch with Cllr Sutter about the delay in implementing the new byelaws for the parks but have not heard back yet.
- There is a central government consultation on planning reform which runs to 14 January 2019. 'Supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes'. Initial scrutiny suggests that it will threaten retention of our local shops by allowing a change of use to residential as permitted development. We will do some more research but we should object to this strand of the document.
- We have spoken to Cllr Humphries about the need to repaint the line and the stop sign at the junction of Elsenham Street and Replingham Road as, now the traffic is back, the lack of a clear sign is causing difficulty for those cars turning right.
- The recent Tideway meeting about progress on work in King George's Park has been postponed.

Charles provided an updated on the current Sainsbury's works and displayed some plans of the planned development:

- Works have now commenced on the site:
 - The former canopy has been removed as well as the underground tanks
 - Highway works are now in progress and they anticipate the new loading bay and re-aligned pavements (in a temporary configuration) will be completed soon
 - Construction of the new building will then commence. One key element of this will require us to do piling, which is forecast to commence mid-December and is likely to take a maximum of 2 weeks. They will use a screw method of piling which is the least disruptive option available to them.
- Once completed there will be six flats above the new store

Crime – Clive Williams

Clive reported the latest detailed crime figures for Southfields.

- August 2018: 27 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 130 for the Southfields ward.
 - The 27 crimes included 5 for burglaries and 4 for vehicle crime
 - Merton Road accounted for 14 crimes

- Some streets had no crimes reported during this period e.g. Lavenham, Heythorp, Pirbright, Elborough, Engadine.

7. Southfields Business Forum Update – Gill Habershon

- Southfields Improvement Plan: A stakeholder meeting will be held prior to the works commencing which also need to align with the forthcoming gas works
- Nat West Bank: RBS are currently negotiating with the freeholders of the site and the site is expected to go to auction early next year
- The fruit stall outside the (former) Southfields Food and Wine has now gone
- The Southfields Christmas Lights event will go ahead as planned on Weds Dec 5th. The Singwell and other schools choir will sing at the event and the lights will be turned on by Phillip Brook the chairman of the AELTC

8. FOWP Update – Nick Steiner

Nick Steiner of the FOWP gave an update on recent FOWP news:

- FOWP have held (and will hold) meetings with a number of the interested parties (Wimbledon Club, AELTC and Merton Council) to push/progress Heritage Park status for the park
- A Capability Brown art competition has been held recently for 7-18 year olds and the entries will be displayed in the bowling pavilion
- The FOWP will be taking part in the City Nature Challenge in which London is taking part (<http://citynaturechallenge.org/>)
- The area around the vintage Oak tree (350 years old) near the disused Bowling Green is to be protected via fencing and hedging

9. Green the Grid Update – Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Amelia gave an update on recent GTG activities:

- Although it was a grey/rainy day the recent GTG planting was a great success and 321 out of 450 tree bases in the grid have now been planted
- GTG group have put in place a small herb garden at the gates of Wimbledon Park on Revelstoke Road
- GTG group met recently to discuss future activities including further grant applications, more planting of tree bases and how they can encourage and provide information on the greening of front gardens

10. SGRA Finance Update – Chris Puleston

Chris provided a brief update on SGRA finances and subscription collections:

- Street subscription collections for this year stand at £2,800 which is 6% up on last year
- 14% of subscriptions have been paid online with the majority via PayPal
- Lavenham and Revelstoke income are both up by 30% (congratulations to Margaret Brett and Lesley McCaul)
- Clonmore Street had the highest per property amount of £1.81 per property

11. Forthcoming Events

- The Southfields Christmas fair will be held at St. Barnabas church on the Sat 1st December
- Southfields Christmas lights event will be held on Wednesday 5th December

- The Window Wanderland event will be held again on the weekend of 9/10th February

12. Any Other Business

- A question was raised on if any streets had not received the recent copies of the Brightside magazine. Residents from Clonmore, Pirbright and Astonville confirmed that they had not received the magazine.

Appendix 1 - Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

| Date of Meeting | Type Of Meeting |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday 29 th January 2019 | Open |
| Tuesday 26 th March 2019 | Open |

Appendix 2 – Attendance List

| Name | Role |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Charles Runcie | SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman |
| Nigel Rawson | SGRA Executive Committee - Secretary |
| Joe Fagan | |
| Andrew Dunley | |
| Cllr. Guy Humphries | |
| Kyra Von Schottenstein | SGRA Street Rep |
| Sarah Hall | |
| Lesley McCaul | SGRA Street Rep |
| Clive Williams | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Rosemary Langford | |
| Nick Steiner | SGRA Street Rep |
| PSCO Donald Lopez | Southfields SNT |
| PC James Elvy | Southfields SNT |
| Margaret Brett | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Gerard Sebastian | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Laurence Sebastian | |
| Trevor Howes | |
| Ann Kerr | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Peter Jackson | |
| John Habershon | |
| Gill Habershon | |
| Chris Puleston | SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer |
| Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Kez Garner | |
| Aidan Magill | |
| Bridget Bryer | |
| Pauline Brueseke | |
| Diane Brennan | |
| Robert Feitelberg | |
| Cllr. Leonie Cooper AM | |
| Jessica Stocks | Enable |
| Danielle Cyrus | |
| Maggi Reading | |
| Pat Sheerin | |
| Kit Somers | |

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|---------------|-----|
| Serena Potter | |
| Tony Hollis | SGN |