

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2019

1. Apologies

Southfields Councillors: Cllr Terry Walsh, Cllr Guy Humphries & Cllr Kim Caddy

2. Wimbledon Foundation Review – Helen Parker

Helen Parker from the Wimbledon Foundation gave a presentation on the work of the Wimbledon Foundation.

A presentation is available on the SGRA website:

www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/2019/04/wimbledon-foundation-march-2019-update/

The keys points from the presentation are detailed below:

- The foundation was set up in 2013 and is the charitable arm of the AELTC
- The key goals of the foundation are to
 - Strengthen the local communities (of Wandsworth and Merton). This includes the Community Fund which last year distributed £125,000 across 31 projects.
 - Support healthy and active lives. This includes a three-year partnership with Water Aid where £100,000 is being provided per year to help communities in Ethiopia, Malawi & Nepal
 - Develop young people. This includes the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative where 70 primary schools visited and 300 children receiving free weekly training
 - Help those in need. This includes proceeds from the ticket resale scheme being donated to local charities, e.g. the Glass Door charity that supports the homeless
- A future initiative (coming soon) is the WISE (Wandsworth Innovation, Skills and Empowerment) Leadership Scheme which will provide a one-year programme for people leading teams or projects in the Wandsworth voluntary sector
- The annual review from the Wimbledon Foundation is also available at <https://www.wimbledon.com/pdf/AnnualReview2018.pdf>

A number of questions were asked raised to which Helen responded:

- Does the Foundation have plans to provide funds beyond Wandsworth and Merton?
 - They are currently looking at how they can help young people across the UK
 - Internationally the Foundation is supporting Water Aid and also the Magic Bus project in India
- How much was distributed by the Foundation and the AELTC last year?
 - Foundation grants last year totalled £1million
 - All profits from the AELTC are given to the Lawn Tennis Association to help develop tennis – this was around £30million last year
- Is the Foundation involved in the plans for the Wimbledon expansion?
 - Yes, the Foundation is involved to ensure community use is taken into consideration

The contact address for the Foundation is foundation@aeltc.com and they will be happy to respond to any further questions.

3. AELTC/Expansion Update – Johnny Perkins

Johnny Perkins of the AELTC gave an update on the AELTC and expansion plans:

- There are limited plans in place at the moment
- A review of the park including an audit of the estate and environment needs to be performed followed by engagement with the local organisations and stakeholders
- A formal consultation process will take place before any plans are finalised
- The golf course will remain in place until the end of 2021 when it will reduce to a 9-hole course and eventually will close down
- The championships are striving to improve sustainability and reduce their environmental footprint and recently have employed a somebody with specific responsibilities for this area

4. Friends of Coronation Gardens Update – Charles Runcie

Charles gave an update on the recent activities regarding the formation of a Friends of Coronation Gardens group.

- The formation of a friends group has been a long held ambition of the SGRA
- A significant amount of work has been going on in the background to get the group set up and a public meeting will be held on the 3rd April where the group will be officially launched

5. Southfields Farmers Market – St. Michaels School – Simon Grieg

Simon Grieg, the organiser, gave an update on the new Farmers Market which is opening at St. Michaels school on Saturday 30th March.

- The market will be held every week on Saturday morning
- The market will supply meat, fish, vegetables, bread, baked goods and dairy products
- The intention is to have two guest traders each week, e.g. a supplier of olives will be at the first market
- The traders will arrive at the market no later earlier than 8am and will have vacated the school no more than one and a half hours after the end of the market
- All the traders are registered with Wandsworth and all the plans have been agreed with the council and conform to council regulations
- The intention is not to compete with the local shops and traders given the differences in produce that will be available and the costs of the goods that will be on offer
- A Sunday market may also be opened in Wimbledon village backed by the Wimbledon Business Association hopefully in the next couple of weeks

A number of questions were asked raised to which Simon responded:

- A number of questions/ comments were made regarding the market competing with local traders
 - Simon re-iterated that it was definitely not the intention for the market to compete with or harm the local traders and businesses
- Will the suppliers at the market come from the local area?
 - The target is that all suppliers will come from within a thirty-mile radius of Southfields
- Will the number of traders remain constant throughout the year?
 - The expectation is that there will be less traders at the market in the winter months

6. Window Wanderland Review – Charles Runcie

Charles ran through a review presentation on the Window Wanderland event which took place in February.

The presentation is available here:

www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/2019/04/window-wanderland-2019/

Some of the key points included:

- 156 windows officially signed up although some unofficially signed up over the weekend itself. This was an increase on previous years (129 windows in 2018 and 110 in 2017)
- The event was sponsored by Number Works 'n Words & the SGRA
- Number Works 'n Words have already agreed to sponsor again in 2020

7. Safer Southfields Update - Charles Runcie

Charles provided an update on activities in relation to the Safer Southfields initiative which is being put in place following the January SGRA open meeting:

- The intention is to form a Safer Southfields group consisting of concerned residents/stakeholders to discuss safety/crime issues and ideas and publicise safety information
- Charles is leading the foundation of this group and this is currently in progress with the intention of meeting by the end of April to discuss approach and next steps
- The Southfields Safer Neighbourhood team also hold regular public meetings details of which are published on the SGRA and SNT social media channels
- Wandsworth also hold a quarterly Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200491/community_safety/1769/wandsworth_safer_neighbourhood_board) where representatives from the police and the council meet to discuss crime issues. Members of the public can attend to observe but not participate. The SGRA will have a regular attendance at the meeting
- Charles read out an email from Cllr. Guy Humphries on safety update. The key points included:
 - Guy has had meetings with the SNT, the Wandsworth crime prevention department, local businesses and Justine Greening MP and is pushing the police Borough Commander for as much focus on Southfields as the police can provide
 - Guy has requested a mobile CCTV unit on the grid to act as a deterrent and to further reassure residents and will provide an update on this when further information is available
- Gill Habershon from the Southfields Business Forum spoke regarding crime which is affecting the local businesses and she is in contact with Wandsworth, the SNT and Justine Greening MP regarding this to understand what can be done to help. A meeting is being arranged with the SNT to discuss further
- The issue of balancing fear of crime with actual crime figures was raised and the fact that social media can exaggerate the situation and as such people need to be mindful of this
- Leonie Cooper AM (London Assembly Member for Wandsworth and Merton) spoke on a number of items
 - She mentioned that she sits on the Safer Neighbourhood Board as the local London Assembly member and any issues that need to be raised at the meeting can be fed through her
 - She can also raise crime issues at City Hall and she meets regularly with Sally Benatar the Metropolitan Police Commander for South West London (Wandsworth, Merton, Kingston and Richmond)

8. SGRA Executive Update

Chairs Report – Charles Runcie

Last open meeting matters arising:

- This mainly covered crime and safety issues which are covered by the Safer Southfields item above

Last executive committee meeting matters arising:

- The Royal Mail have agreed to install a new post box close to the new Southfields post office (by the Tesco store)
- The issue of donations being left outside charity shops was discussed, particularly Oxfam. Charles has been in touch with Oxfam and had discussions with the shop but there is no easy solution. Better signage has been requested (to advise that items left outside the shop will be thrown away) and Charles will meet with the new Oxfam shop manager who should be in place soon

A question was raised about the current state of the SGRA finances. Chris Puleston (SGRA Treasurer) responded that:

- Both subscription (over £3,000) and (Grid News) advertising were up this year and currently the SGRA has around £4,700 in the bank

Planning – Margaret Brett

Margaret provided an update on the latest planning news:

- There are very few local applications for planning permission at the moment (just usual loft and side return ground floor extensions)
- We have written to object to the development of 65 Elsenham Street. The application is to extend at the back and into the loft and then convert into 2 flats. We believe that currently this is not allowed by Wandsworth which has a policy to prevent smaller houses from conversion
- Although outside our area there is a similar application at 61 Longfield Street. The owner is seeking to demolish a mid- terrace house and then build three storeys plus basement to convert into 3 flats
- We have written in support of maintaining the status quo to the consultation on the Council's Licensing Policy
- We have sent a response to the planning consultation on the Local Plan
- Tideway have submitted the first of their planning applications for the structure that they intend to leave behind in King George's Park. This structure is considerably larger than they first proposed
- SGN have covered up most of their initial work in the lower part of Augustus Road but both ends are still closed on the south side. They are now working between Albert Drive and Beaumont Road
- Work on 150 Elsenham has not been completed and they are still taking parking space. There is an open planning application from December 2018/5574 giving details of the noise insulation
- Starting on the 25th March and for a minimum trial period of six months, vehicles will not be permitted to turn left from Wimbledon Park Side into Withycombe Road and the northern stretch of Inner Park Road. These restrictions will apply between 7am and 10am. Mon-Sat Buses and cyclists will not be affected
- Southfields Public Realm
 - Council officers came to Replingham Road in February and explained that the works are to be done in phases. They intend to start following the Wimbledon

Tennis and to focus on work around the station. They did not give details of the next phases other than that they will be in 2020

- The officers have not released details of the revised design but we understand the proposed Copenhagen crossing at the end of Heythorp will be replaced by a raised entry treatment but there will still be a raised cushion in Replingham Road
- Some earlier promises have not rolled over e.g. providing the community notice board. We hope that we will continue to have a traditional finger post
- The lack of momentum is disappointing and we highlighted the dangerous state of many of the pavements.

A question was raised regarding what will be put in place at the old post office however this is not known at the moment.

Crime Figures – Clive Williams

Clive reported the latest detailed crime figures for Southfields.

- December 2018: 28 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 122 for the Southfields ward
- January 2019: 21 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 121 for the Southfields ward

We now have the annual figures available for the last four years. These along with the detailed monthly figures showing breakdown by street are available on the SGRA website:

www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/

Street Reps Update – Gerard Sebastian

- Gerard reported that a Street Reps meeting was held in January to discuss current street rep activities and further meetings are planned moving forward

9. Green the Grid Update – Nina Kowalska

Nina Kowalska from Green the Grid gave a presentation on GTG latest news and activities.

The content from the presentation is available on the SGRA website

www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/green-the-grid/

The key points included:

- Two planting days held so far (June and October 2018)
- Two grants received from Wandsworth council
- Following the last planting day 321 tree bases (71%) had been planted
- Next planting day will be held on Saturday 27th April where free plants and sunflower seeds will be available for planting on tree bases
- Moving forward the GTG will be looking to:
 - Increase action on (and find support for) front garden greening
 - Raise awareness of environmental benefits
 - Encourage replication in other areas (create a DIY “toolkit” to enable others)
 - Increase partnerships (SGRA Front Garden Awards, Enable, London National Park City, Local businesses and schools)
 - Develop sustainable model for future

10. SGRA Front Garden Awards – Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Amelia gave an update on the forthcoming SGRA Front Garden Awards. The key points included:

- There will be two categories:
 - Best front garden. This will be a liberal interpretation to include window boxes, pots and hanging baskets so as not to exclude properties with no front garden
 - Best tree base. This to align with the GTG planting day activities
- Gold, silver and bronze awards will once again be given this year
- Judging will take place between the 15th and 29th of June
- Sunflowers will be distributed by Green the Grid on the 27th April and judged by the Front Garden Awards judges in late August

11. Friends of Wimbledon Park Update – Nick Steiner

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

- The FOWP has met with the three owners of the heritage park and they agreed to work as one group with a memorandum of understanding to be put into place
- A number of the Ash trees in Horse Close Wood have been cut down for safety reasons
- A new park management plan is being created and this will be put onto the FOWP website when available
- The FOWP hoping to improve the Revelstoke Road and a consultation should be out soon
- Improvements to the toilets in the park are under consideration
- The FOWP is currently considering what to do for a further Capability Brown weekend this year
- The draft AELTC consultation on the expansion into the park will be published on the FOWP website when available (expected May/June)

12. Southfields Library

Sucheta Samant gave a brief overview of some of the current activities at the Southfields library including.

- Free computer sessions at the library
- City Read – a London wide project where one book is read per month and then discussed at the library reading groups (see <http://cityread.london/>). Details of reading groups and other activities at the library can be found here: <https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library>

13. Forthcoming Events

- The Southfields Theatre Group will be performing Pride and Prejudice at St. Barnabas 27th-30th March
- The SGRA Spring Tea Party will be held on Sat 13th April
- The Green the Grid Planting Day will be on Sat 27th April
- The St. Barnabas Barn Dance will be held on Fri 17th May

14. Any Other Business

- Clive mentioned that London Ultra Low Emission Zone comes into force on the 8th April covering the current Congestion Zone area in Central London. The ULEZ is scheduled be extended to the area inside the South (and North) Circular Road from October 2021.

Appendix 1 - Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

Date of Meeting	Type Of Meeting
Tuesday 21 st May 2019 – 7.30pm	AGM
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Open Meeting

Appendix 2 – Attendance List

Name	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman
Nigel Rawson	SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Rosemary Langford	
Nick Steiner	SGRA Street Rep
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Peter Jackson	
John Habershon	
Gill Habershon	
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee
Simon Wright	
Brigid Rietcher	
Sucheta Samant	
Johnny Perkins	
Sue Lovell Greene	
Trevor Howes	
Nina Kowalska	
Richard Silverstein	
Simon Greig	
Kyra Von Schottestein	
Di Brennan	
Hilary Simpson	
Lesley McCaul	
Sheila Friel	
Diane Miles	
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee – Vice Chair
Karen Gregory	SGRA Executive Committee