

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2019

1. Apologies

- SGRA Executive Committee: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty
- Southfields Councillors: Guy Humphries

2. Chairs Review 2018/19 – Charles Runcie

Charles gave a presentation the SGRA year including key activities and successes and the challenges for the year ahead.

The presentation is available on the SGRA website here: [SGRA 2019 Chairs Review](#)

With regard to Grid news Charles noted that:

- The summer issue of the Grid News will have an additional four pages (3 content and 1 advertising)
- The advertisers in the Grid News provide very good feedback on the impact of the advertising and the advertising income now covers the cost of production
- We are always looking for interesting content so please get in touch if you would like to contribute

Charles noted a number of challenges and areas where the SGRA is looking to do more but we are always happy to receive feedback or suggestions on things we can better or more of.

3. Green the Grid Review 2017/18 – Chris Puleston

Chris gave a presentation the SGRA year including key activities and successes and the focus for the future.

The presentation is available on the SGRA website here: [GTG 2019 Review](#)

Chris mentioned some of the key original objectives of the GTG initiative including:

- Reduce the level of paving in front gardens
- Improve community spirit

He also spoke about the recent focus on tree bases which was partly as a result of the Wandsworth grant which required activities to be focussed on public spaces.

Moving forward the focus will be on supporting the greening of front gardens and working with groups to increase awareness and replicate the initiative in other areas.

4. SGRA Front Garden Awards – Ann Kerr

Ann provided an update on the forthcoming SGRA front garden awards:

- Judging will take place in the last two weeks of June commencing on the 15th
- Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be given for the best front gardens (including window boxes and pots so that paved gardens can be included)
- Awards will also be given for the best tree bases

- Spectacular Sunflower awards will also be given which will be judged in August. Sunflower seeds were distributed at the last GTG planting day and are also available at McCluskeys

5. Friends of Coronation Gardens (FOCG) – Susannah Perry Greene

Susannah gave an update on the recently formed Friends of Coronation Gardens group:

- The group was formed to help improve and encourage the use of the gardens which have suffered from a lack of investment and a range of anti-social behaviour in the gardens including significant issues with drug users
- The group is working with Enable to progress these improvements
- A (casual) picnic will be held in the gardens on Saturday 6th July as part of the Love Parks initiative and all are welcome to attend
- It was mentioned that there had been some 'push back' locally regarding encouraging the use of the park by children although it was re-iterated that it is better to have children using the gardens than drug users
- One issue raised on the anti-social behaviour was that the gates are not locked overnight however the FOCG are looking for people who are happy to work in a rota to lock/unlock the gates

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

Nick presented an overview of the FOWP activities and news.

The presentation is available on the SGRA website here: [FOWP 2019 Review](#)

Some specific items noted include:

- The latest Wimbledon park master plan (including the stadium move) has been published however Nick has been told by the park owners that this has been shelved and he is trying to confirm the status. Justine Greening stated she will follow up in this as well

A number of questions were raised to which Nick responded.

- What is the situation regarding BBQ's in the park? Nick responded that BBQ's are allowed in the park but not in certain areas, e.g. Horse Close Wood
- What is the situation regarding open air swimming in the park? Nick responded that a proposal has been put forward and we are awaiting a response from owners and stakeholders

Nick mentioned that the next FOWP forum will take place on Tuesday 16th July.

7. Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Update – James Elvy/SNT Team

James Elvy from the Southfields SNT team provided an update on the current key crime and safety issues:

- Car crime: This includes theft of and theft from vehicles have been an issue this year. James mentioned that the team often find cars unlocked from patrolling the streets so this is something to watch out for
- Bike thefts from bike/garden sheds have been on the increase
- Burglaries: Lower number are being reported at the moment
- Speed Gun: This is being used regularly in the Southfields area

James was asked about the mobile CCTV which appeared recently at the Coronation Gardens gates but then disappeared. James responded that a case has to be made for the use of the mobile CCTV unit but they will keep pushing for the use of this. James also mentioned that he has spoken to Wandsworth about putting barriers at the Coronation Garden gates to stop mopeds going through the park and this is work in progress.

8. Southfields Business Forum – Gill Habershon

Gill Habershon from the SBF provided an update on the latest business news:

- Sainsbury's: Build is in progress and the shop is expected to open in September
- Nat West Bank: The building is currently under offer
- Old Post Office: No concrete news on plans for this
- New Post Office: Now in place but main issue is that the promised longer opening hours are not in place
- Gas Works: Although these are complete in the Southfields business area they did have a big impact on the businesses
- Wimbledon Park Road shops: Current key issue is the planning application for six flats behind the shops
- Southfield Public Realm improvement: Currently no final design has been provided
- Crime: Crime in the shops is a major issue and the SBF are planning to meet with the SNT to understand how businesses can best protect themselves

9. SGRA Financial Report 2018/19 – Chris Puleston

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

The presentation is available on the SGRA website here: [SGRA 2019 Financial Update](#)

Key points included:

- Total income including last year's carry forward was £9,117
- Income from street collections and advertising revenue was up
- Expenditure for the year was down as the newsletter costs were down
- Around £4,300 will be carried forward into next year

10. Confirmation SGRA Subscriptions

It was confirmed that the SGRA subscription will stay at £3 per household for 2019/20.

11. Election of SGRA Officials for 2019/20

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

12. Election of SGRA Executive Committee for 2019/20

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

- Karen Gregory
- Ann Kerr

- Margaret Brett
- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty
- Clive Williams

13. Confirmation of SGRA Street Reps for 2019/20

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

- Elborough Street: Mike Caswell is standing down and we are looking for a new street rep (Andrew Dunley will fulfil the role in the interim) but we are interested in anybody who would like to step into this role

14. Guest Speaker – Justine Greening MP

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

- Justine firstly thanked the SGRA, GTG and FOWP for the great work they have been doing over the last 12 months which makes a difference and contributes to a strong sense of community
- Planning: Wimbledon Park Road continues to be an issue and we all need to remain vigilant on this
- Crime: This is a particular issue for the businesses around Replingham Road and as mentioned earlier the SBF and SNT are meeting to discuss this further
- Thames Tideway: Justine thanked Margaret Brett and Nick Steiner for their work and efforts in relation to the Thames Tideway project to reduce the impact of the project and to ensure a strong legacy post the works
- Heathrow expansion: Justine re-iterated that this does matter to Southfields due to the changes in flight paths and she is campaigning hard against this. However, there is still a long way to go in this process
- Underground/South West Trains: There have been no major issues on the District Line however lots of small/niggling issues. SWT have been in place a new timetable following the Waterloo expansion but Earlsfield station remains very busy. Justine meets with TFL regularly to discuss any issues that arise.
- Debenhams Closure: Justine has been touch with the Debenhams CEO regarding Debenhams store being an anchor for the Southside shopping centre and as part of the regeneration of central Wandsworth and she was very disappointed when the closure was announced
- Hammersmith Bridge Closure: This will have an impact in Putney and Roehampton and particularly Putney High Street from a viability and pollution perspective and Justine is pushing for funds to improve the high street
- Credit Worthiness: Justine is putting forward a private member's bill to ensure people who rent accommodation get a better credit rating. The bill has been through the House of Lords and now needs to progress through the House of Commons
- Social Mobility Pledge: Over 200 major companies have now signed up to the pledge and Justine is pushing to local businesses and Wandsworth council involved

15. Guest Speaker – Leonie Cooper AM

Leonie the local London Assembly Member provided an update on London Assembly activities.

- Leonie the congratulated the SGRA, GTG and FOWP for the work they do and is really pleased to see local groups doing things and making a difference

- Friends of Coronation Gardens: Pleased to see this being set up and would support any efforts to get the gates locked overnight. Leonie is also working to bring friends groups together via her environmental work at City Hall
- Leonie mentioned some of the achievements of the London Assembly including voting as one against Heathrow expansion, introduction of the Domestic Abusers Register, erection of the first statue of a woman in parliament square to mark the 100th anniversary of women receiving the vote and finally pushing TFL to recognise and take more seriously issues of noise caused by the introduction of the night tube

16. Guest Speakers – Cllr. Kim Caddy – Wandsworth Councillor and Minister for Housing

Kim Caddy local councillor provided an update on council activities and answered a number of questions.

- Kim thanked the officers and supporters of the SGRA, GTG and FOWP for helping to make a difference locally
- Public Realm Improvements: Surveying work has started and materials have been ordered. Work was held up due to the gas works but should start after the Wimbledon Championships
- Planning: Wimbledon Park Road is an issue and the developer keeps coming back with new planning applications however the local councillors will work to oppose this
- West Hill Traffic Trial: This involved restrictions on the traffic leaving the A3 and turning into Withycombe Road. This has been in place since 25th March and would normally be reviewed after 3 months. A link to provide feedback is provided below:

https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/west-hill-19/consult_view/

A number of questions were raised to which Kim responded.

- Local residents are not always aware of local planning applications and the area to which notifications are sent. For example a development on Pirbright Road was using a Replingham Road address so Pirbright residents were not notified. Kim answered that she would note these issues and see if any changes could be made
- The strength of opposition to some local planning applications by the council was questioned by a number of residents. Kim responded that development is only allowed when appropriate and the local councillors are happy to speak at planning meetings on behalf of local residents however we have to work with national planning laws and sometimes nothing can be done locally about this. Margaret Brett gave an example that the issue of waste at the rear of Wimbledon Park Road development was not taken into account due to national planning laws
- Pavement Refurbishment: A question was raised on plans for pavement refurbishment. Kim responded that a schedule is in place and she can provide details.

17. Forthcoming Events

Friends of Coronation Gardens Summer Picnic

The FOCG Summer Picnic will be take place in Coronation Gardens on Saturday 6th July from 12 until 3pm.

Southfields Harvest – Elizabeth Lloyd Owen

The Southfields Harvest event will take place again this year on Saturday 28th September.

18. Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

Date of Meeting	Type Of Meeting
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Open
Tuesday 24 th September 2019	Open

19. AOB

- Ismena Collective: Mayda Narvey from the Ismena Collective provided a brief update on the group who are a group of musicians and actors who regularly give concerts at St. Barnabas. The group are always looking for new people or help and further information can be found at the website:

www.ismenacollective.com

Appendix 1 – Attendance List

Name	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee – Chairman
Nigel Rawson	SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee – Vice Chair
Karen Gregory	SGRA Executive Committee
Diane Nielsen Smith	
Gill Habershon	
John Habershon	
Rosemary Langford	
Diana Brennan	
Magda Narvey	
Moira Buckley	
Brigid Rietchel	
Lesley McCaul	
Cllr. Kim Caddy	
Susannah Perry Greene	
Nick Bush	
Sandra Bush	
Bridget Bryer	
Serena Potter	
Jackie Pearce	
Bridget LaMarca	
Pietro LaMarca	
Tim Potter	
Elizabeth Lloyd Owen	
Aidan Magill	
Nick Steiner	
Cllr. Terry Walsh	
Leonie Cooper AM	
Cyril Birbeck	
Justine Greening MP	