

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2019

1. Apologies

SGRA Executive Committee: Karen Gregory

Southfields Councillors: Cllr Terry Walsh and Cllr Kim Caddy

2. SGRA Front Garden Awards – Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Amelia introduced Cllr. Jane Cooper the Mayor of Wandsworth who:

- Thanked the residents of the grid for all of their efforts in both the front gardens and the tree bases making the grid such a pleasure to walk around
- And congratulated the SGRA and specifically the organisers of this year's front garden awards

Cllr. Cooper then presented the prizes to the winner (Nina Tjarks) and runners up (Susan Long, Clare James and Nick Liszka) of the overall Front Garden awards.

Amelia then gave a presentation on the SGRA Front Garden awards which included details of the awards given and photos of the many award winners.

The presentation is available here:

[SGRA Front Garden Awards Presentation](#)

Charles Runcie also thanked Amelia and the Front Garden Awards team for a great effort and also mentioned that it was great to see a relatively new gardener winning the award.

Finally, Cllr. Guy Humphries thanked the SGRA and GTG for a great effort.

3. Southfields Public Realm Improvements – Charles Runcie

Charles stated that a Senior Transport Planner from Wandsworth had been due to attend the meeting to provide an update however she had to cancel at the last minute. However, an email update was provided which is given below:

- We are due to start on site in late October, the programme is being finalised at the moment
- The work will be delivered in phases starting on Replingham Road between the junctions of Clonmore Street and Heythorp St. Work will stop for December to ensure there is no interruption to Christmas shopping and associated activities
- Phase two will start early in the new year and move towards the station and along Wimbledon Park Road. The final dates of the phases are being confirmed at the moment as we are ordering materials and street furniture and confirming delivery dates etc. I will let you all know once the full programme is confirmed, including how long the work will take
- There has been a delay to the start of the work due to ongoing gas works in the area and a trial traffic scheme
- I have chased BT for an update on the phone box removal and will let you know

Charles mentioned that he has also asked about the Community Noticeboard and is awaiting a response on this.

Cllr. Guy Humphries responded that:

- He will ensure the officer attends an SGRA meeting as soon as possible
- Things are happening and work will commence late October
- A noticeboard will be made available
- Good quality materials are being purchased
- A majority of businesses have bought into putting in place consistent front areas

A number of comments/issues were raised:

- Gill Habershon mentioned that she was concerned about the works and any delays impacting the SBF Christmas lights event on the 4th December
- Gill also mentioned that several landlords/businesses had queries over the works and had not given permission for the consistent front areas. Cllr. Guy Humphries said he would take this up with SBF offline
- Nina Kowalska asked what planting was in the plan. Cllr Guy Humphries responded that there are less trees than originally planned to avoid loss of parking however they are trying to make this as green as possible. Margaret Brett mentioned that six additional trees are planned

4. Abundance Southfields – Richard Konig

Richard Konig from the Abundance Southfields group gave an update on the groups aims and activities:

- The Abundance organisations objective is to reduce food waste
- They collect fruit that would normally just fall off trees and be left and use (apples and pears) to make cider which they then sell
- They have also had a stall outside Southfields tube station where they have given away and collected spare fruit
- The group has around 140 volunteer pickers but are always looking for more
- The group will come to your property and collect fruit
- The group have been given a lockup up in Roehampton by Wandsworth Council however they need better facilities with power and light where they can process the fruit that they collect. Nina Kowalska from GTG suggested Richard contacts her as she may have some suggestions for this

Further information on the group can be found on their website:

<http://www.abundancesouthfields.com/>

A number of questions were asked by the meeting attendees:

- How far will they go to collect fruit (e.g. Merton). Richard responded that they will travel further if required and also mentioned that an Abundance Wimbledon group also exists
- Is the fruit in the area safe to eat? Richard responded that they do not pick fruit from busy roads and it is generally taken from back gardens. Also all the fruit they pick is washed

4. Green the Grid update – Nina Kowalska

Nina from Green the Grid gave an update on behalf of GTG and the Southfields Harvest group and about the forthcoming Big Green Weekend/Southfields Harvest:

- The Southfields Harvest event will include food stalls, cider from Abundance Southfields, a Southfields bake off and Southfields Sausages

- GTG have held three community planting days and around 60% of tree bases are now planted however the bad news is that people are still paving over their front gardens. As such GTG are now changing their focus to promoting the planting of front gardens
- GTG will be providing drop in workshops and advice at the Southfields Harvest event and they have created a fact sheet which will be available. Part of this will be highlighting the importance of real (as opposed to artificial) lawns. They will also be giving away free bulbs
- GTG will also be organising a front garden trail on the Sunday of the Big Green Weekend where the winning gardens from the SGRA front gardens awards will be visited and talks given by the owners
- Moving forward GTG will take more of a campaigning stance around the planting of front gardens and will be discussing with Wandsworth council what can be done from a planning perspective to stop front gardens being paved over or turned into parking

Cllr. Guy Humphries mentioned that the front garden parking regulations have been changed and it is now very unlikely to be allowed.

Sucheta Samant from Southfields library mentioned that the library has many books on gardening to help people.

6. Safer Southfields/Crime Update

Crime Figures – Clive Williams

Clive reported the latest detailed crime figures for Southfields covering June and July.

- June 2019: 15 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 139 for the Southfields ward
- July 2019: 22 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 141 for the Southfields ward

Detailed crime figures (including break down by street and type of offence) are now available on the SGRA website:

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

Clive re-iterated that we live in a safe area/low crime area and overall Wandsworth has the lowest crime rates of any inner London borough.

Clive also mentioned recent issues with Catalytic Convertors being stolen from cars with hybrid cars the most likely to be targeted. Clive mentioned it is worth investigating where the catalytic convertor is on your car and then parking to make this as inaccessible as possible.

A number of other crime related issues were discussed:

- A resident asked what the level of burglaries was in the grid area. Clive responded that had been 2 burglaries in June and a further 2 in July
- The issue of the recent robbery at McCluskeys was raised. Charles mentioned that Eamon McCluskey had been very touched by the response and that they were finally getting back to normal. Charles also mentioned that a donation to the shop had been suggested however the best way to support them (and indeed all independent retailers in Southfields) is to shop there
- Gill Habershon from the SBF mentioned a new initiative to reduce the level of crime suffered by local businesses. A meeting will be held soon with the SBF, Southfields SNT and the Wandsworth Community Safety team

Safer Southfields – Charles Runcie

Charles provided an update on the Safer Southfields initiative which is intended to provide advice and raise the profile of keeping people and property safe. A number of activities are planned including:

- A Saturday “event” outside the tube station with the council’s community safety team, organized by Cllr Kim Caddy
- A feature page on our SGRA website and the next issue of Grid News, due out in mid-November and always delivered to every household on the Grid
- A Met Police leaflet about security with it, sourced by our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) delivered with our next issue of Grid News
- Reviews and updates at our SGRA 26th November public meeting and the SNT's next public meeting (mid-November)

A number of crime related points were then raised by residents at the meeting including:

- The police had advised (following a visit after a nearby attempted burglary) that people should double lock doors and not leave windows open as they often find that this is not the case
- Southfields SNT has previously had offered to visit people houses to offer advice and check security arrangements. Charles offered to check with them if they will still do this
- Nextdoor is a good way of communicating crime/safety issues although Charles raised that people do not to be careful not to alarm people unnecessarily
- There seems to be groups of youths congregating in Hanford Close. Charles agreed to contact the Southfields SNT to understand if this was causing any issues
- It was suggested that car fobs should be left in tin boxes as this can guard against cars being broken into by picking up the signals from these fobs

Gill Habershon from the SBF asked about the availability of more CCTV/security camera’s. This needs to be discussed with the Wandsworth Community Safety team although it is possible to petition for cameras but this can take a long time.

7. SGRA Executive Update

Chairs Report and Matters Arising – Charles Runcie

Swim Wimbledon:

- Following the presentation from the Swim Wimbledon group at the last open meeting some albeit slow progress has been made
- It was reported that Merton Council are minded to allow this but this is not yet confirmed

SGRA Archives

- The Wandsworth Heritage Service have agreed to hold the archive of SGRA material included the SGRA Grid News going back to 1975

Planning – Margaret Brett

Margaret provided an update on the latest planning news:

- The application for 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road (2019/1231) is still outstanding
- The application for 17 Replingham/6 Pirbright (2019/1369) has been refused - unsatisfactory outlook, poor daylight and no suitable arrangements for refuse

- The small house behind the new Post Office (2019/2365) has been approved as permitted development
- The application to convert much of the rear of 26 Replingham (2019/2562) (Robin's Cakes) to residential has been approved as permitted development. Robin's Cakes has moved to a unit near Wimbledon Stadium
- We objected to the application for 116 Revelstoke to build a larger loft extension and then convert to another flat because this is the loss of a family dwelling (2019/3193). There is a planning officer's recommendation to refuse
- We have objected to a similar application for 115 Elsenham (2019/3215) to extend the house at the back and then convert into 2 flats, again because of the loss of a family dwelling
- All the road markings in Replingham Road have now been replaced
- The Council have refused two applications of note. There was an application for two internally lit digital media displays on the roundabout bridge at Tibbet's Corner which has been refused because it is regarded as inappropriate development in the proximity of Metropolitans Open Land. There was also an application for an athletic centre in a warehouse at the back of the small industrial estate opposite Riversdale School. This was refused because of the loss of industrial space, specifically storage and distribution, in a Locally Significant Industrial Area.
- The speed limit in Durnsford Road in Wimbledon Park is now 20mph. We wrote about bringing Merton Road in line because of the schools and the crossing. The Council officer's reply reads:
 - 'The Council is currently delivering phase 2 of the 20mph proposal, where the focus is around classified Road where we have received petitions or it is part of a wider scheme, therefore Merton Road was not previously identified.
 - That said, the Council is aware of the change on the borough boundary when the signs went up, we are therefore looking in to the possibility of consulting on Merton Road in this financial year, the caveat being subject to outcome of traffic data.'
- Cllr. Guy Humphries noted that the police do not have power to enforce the 20mph limit and the focus has been on speeding on residential areas
- We have been asked why the SGRA is shown as being consulted on the Council planning website list of consultees. This is because we have asked to be notified of applications in the Grid area. Anyone can ask to be notified of applications or to receive the weekly published lists of applications and decisions. Anything that looks to be of local concern is raised with the Executive Committee.
- Gill Habershon mentioned that the old Corals property on Wimbledon Park Road is now available for rent which is positive sign in relation to that row of shops
- Charles Runcie mentioned that the new Sainsbury's is scheduled to open at the end of October and the existing shop will then be let

Street Reps Update

- Charles mentioned that we appointing a membership secretary who will be collating details of members help by all street reps
- Margaret mentioned she had seen good response from Wandsworth council on fly tipping so please report any issues seen to the council

8. Friends of Wimbledon Park Update – Nick Steiner

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

- The FOWP are looking at ways to improve the Revelstoke Road entrance to the park including the railway bridge in conjunction with Merton and Wandsworth councils and TFL
- FOWP have been told by Merton Council that the cost of repairing/refurbishing the water play area and toilets in the park is £300K which seems very high. FOWP will be responding to this with their own consultation on what can be done to play area/café/toilets

A number of other issues were discussed as detailed below:

- A resident mentioned that some people are using the woods in the park as a toilet and it would be good to have toilets at the Wimbledon Park Road entrance
- The issue of BBQ's in the park was raised and Nick responded that a public consultation may happen on this subject
- A resident asked about a recent event in the park which had a £8.50 entrance fee. Nick responded that this was in a sectioned off area of the park and was a commercial venture and not something that the FOWP were involved with

9. Forthcoming Events

- The Southfields Harvest Festival will be held again on Saturday 28th September at St. Barnabas
- The Wandsworth Open House arts event is being held on the weekends of the 5/6th and 12/13th October
- The Southfields Christmas Lights event arranged by the Southfields Business Forum will be held on Wednesday 4th December

10. Any Other Business

Ismena Collective – Mayda Narvey

Mayda Narvey from the Ismena collective provided details of a number of forthcoming classical music concerts for children's to be held on the 13th October and the 17th November.

Further information is available here: <https://www.ismenacollective.com/>

Mayda also mentioned that a Sounds of Southfields music and literature festival is being planned for June 2020.

Pavements

A resident asked if further pavement refurbishments were planned. Cllr Guy Humphries responded that a schedule is in place however if there were any specific issues with dangerous pavements then this should be reported to the council.

Appendix 1 - Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

Date of Meeting	Type Of Meeting
Tuesday 26 th November 2019	Open Meeting
Tuesday 28 th January 2020	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
John Habershon	
Gill Habershon	
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee
Sucheta Samant	
Kyra Von Schottestein	
Di Brennan	
Lesley McCaul	
Diane Miles	
Dr. Sadar Ahmad	
Shiraz Dato	
Nina Tjarks	
Clare James	
Diane Nielsen Smith	
Susan Long	
Sue Wixley	
Marjan Moosan	
Kate Lyons	
Duncan Lyons	
Tim Lynch	
Serena Potter	
Trevor Howes	
Jelka Mitic	
Mayda Narvey	
Elizabeth Berner	
Gerard Sebastian	
Vadood Nasir	
Cllr. Guy Humphries	
Richard Konig	
Nina Kowalska	