

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2019

1. Apologies

Southfields Councillors: Cllr Kim Caddy

2. Southfields Public Realm Improvement

Charles mentioned that the senior transport planner responsible for the Southfields Public Realm improvements had been invited to this meeting but unfortunately could not attend. We are hoping that she can attend the next SGRA open meeting in January.

Margaret gave an overview of the proposed improvements (although a confirmed plan is not available currently):

- Improved pavements (however this is dependent on the shop freeholders giving permission to change the pavement in front of their shops)
- Raised entrances to roads to slow traffic
- Improved lighting
- More trees (although less parking as a result)
- Improved lighting
- Green wall at the tube station
- New street furniture
- Removal of central island on Wimbledon Park road

This implementation of the improvements has been delayed several times due to the gas works and more recently to ensure it had no impact on the SBF Christmas lights event. Works are currently expected to start in the new year.

Cllrs. Guy Humphries and Terry Walsh stated that:

- Works are due to start in mid-January and will be done as quickly as possible with an expectation of a nine-month project
- Plans are available in the library. Charles asked if the plans could also be put on the Wandsworth website and the Cllrs said they would look into this
- As much notice as possible will be given of road closures

A number of points were then raised in open discussion:

- A resident asked if the scheme would include cycle parking and Cllr. Guy Humphries replied that it would and that one of the goals of the scheme is environmental improvements
- Another resident pointed out that a lot of the shop properties are owned by foreign businesses and asked had it been possible to contact them regarding pavements. Cllr. Guy Humphries responded that Wandsworth have attempted to contact all owners/freeholders but some do not respond or are not willing to pay for improvements and nothing can be done in those cases
- Margaret Brett stated that the pavement outside Oxfam is in a bad condition and quite dangerous so the council should improve that whatever

3. Friends of Wimbledon Park Update – Nick Steiner

Charles mentioned that at the last SGRA executive committee meeting a discussion had taken place about the general condition of the park and the amenities in it and some of issues with them.

A representative from Idverde who maintain the park had been invited to the meeting but unfortunately no-one was available.

Nick Steiner from the FOWP then gave an update on the park and the proposed plans and issues from an FOWP perspective.

Nick ran through two presentations which can be found on the SGRA website here:

[Consultation Cafe and Play Area](#)

[Consultation Courts 11 to 20](#)

These covered the consultations and proposals regarding the play and café area and also tennis courts 11-20.

Some of the key points and related discussion points are given below:

- The Merton Wimbledon Park and Lake Masterplan covers improvements to the children's play areas, the white pavilion, the toilets and the café. With a total cost of around £900,000
- A question was asked around timescales for these improvements? Nick responded that there are no current timescales in place and Merton do not currently have the funds available to implement the proposed improvements. The FOWP are planning an application to the national lottery heritage fund to see if they can help
- A resident asked if the Wimbledon Foundation could help with this? Charles responded that the foundation has pre-determined aims which would be unlikely to cover this
- Cllr. Guy Humphries asked if money could be provided from the London Mayor's plan to help with this?
- A resident stated that the park provides few amenities for secondary school age children. Nick responded that the goal would be provide better facilities for young people, e.g. the possible multi-sports area instead of the tennis courts 11-20
- Nick stated that the FOWP are keen to lead on making changes happen in the park and want to engage with the local community to understand what facilities and options they would like see and in the park
- Cllr. Terry Walsh mentioned the extent of parking in the park during the Wimbledon Championships. Nick stated that this along with other commercial activities in the park are big income earners however none of this money actually goes to the park
- A discussion took place around how to keep the pressure and/or influence Merton council to do something about making improvements in the park:
 - Nick mentioned that the number of Facebook hits regarding the problems with the water play area did seem to have an impact on council representatives
 - Nick mentioned that FOWP is in discussions with all local residents' associations to try and help put pressure on local councillors
 - The possibility of raising petitions for specific issues was raised. Cllr. Guy Humphries mentioned that without political buy-in nothing will happen and petitions are a good way of making this happen
 - A resident asked if Wandsworth could have any influence. Cllr. Guy Humphries responded that Wandsworth has no responsibility for the park and could not help
- It was suggested that the SGRA attempts to convene a meeting the interested parties however Nick stated that a forum already exists for the park which includes the FOWP,

chairs of local residents' associations, local MP's local councillors and Leonie Cooper (our London Assembly member)

- It was agreed that Nick and Charles would meet offline to discuss how the SGRA can be involved and what measures might be put in place to move things forward

4. Safer Southfields/Crime Update

Charles provide an update on some of the Safer Southfields initiatives:

- Public event with community safety team – this has been delayed but is still planned to go ahead
- The recent Grid News included an article on crime and safety advice however it wasn't possible to include the leaflet from the Southfields SNT in the Grid News distribution as it as too large
- The Southfields SNT held one of their regular public meetings in November and there was a healthy turnout (20+)
 - Cllr. Guy Humphries mentioned that the SNT are doing what they can re advising the public on safety and will come and visit people's homes to do this. He also mentioned that the SNT do find too many cars unlocked or with valuables on show in the cars

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

- August 2019: 26 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 126 for the Southfields ward
- September 2019: 18 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 131 for the Southfields ward
- October 2019: 44 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 151 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/

Overall statistics for the number of crimes in Wandsworth were also provided for the year to August 2019. These were:

- Wandsworth: 25,142
- Southfields: 1,499
- Southfields Grid: 259

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 the ongoing issues with Catalytic Convertors being stolen from cars with hybrid cars the most likely to be targeted.

A number of other crime related issues were discussed:

- A resident asked whether the recently reported child on child muggings (e.g. single school children be targeted for expensive mobile phones or headphones) could be ascertained from the stats? Clive responded that it was not possible to get that level of detail from the stats he has.

- Cllr. Guy Humphries mentioned some useful advice to walk with friends or have an old phone or wallet that they could pass on
- Margaret Brett mentioned that the SNT will try and focus resources on the times and areas where these crimes happen
- Margaret Brett mentioned a recent issue in Tooting with people pretending to be parking wardens to get hold of credit cards to pay fines
- Nick Steiner mentioned a recent issue in Wimbledon Park where a group of women in the athletics ground were being harassed by a group of teenagers. The police were called and this was dealt with but it is a worrying development

5. SGRA Executive Update

Chairs Report and Matters Arising – Charles Runcie

No specific issues to report as these are all covered in other sections of the meeting.

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
- We have contacted Wandsworth about a 20mph speed limit in Merton Road. They will look at this again in the new year and we may need a petition. They are currently consulting about B roads elsewhere in the borough
- There are no planning applications for the changes made to the fronts of the shops in the little Wimbledon Park Road parade. There is to be a barbers in one of the shops
- Although there is planning permission for Gail's bakery for signage and a rear door for the old Nat West Bank building, (2019/4085), they have not yet applied for the change of use. Gill Habershon from the SBF mentioned that nothing was confirmed with regard to Gail's bakery taking over the property and they were only one of a number of organisations that had shown interest
- There are also proposals to develop the commercial areas above ground floor of Bank House, which is at the side of the old Nat West Bank, as residential (2019/4780). The drawing shows the ground floor as a cafe but details of the applicant are not shown.
- There is an application to develop the upper floors of 2 Replingham Road as residential and to change the ground floor use to retail (2019/4665)
- Thames Tideway have finished tunnelling towards the park. The tunnel boring machine will be moved back to Dormay Street before the end of December so as to tunnel northwards under the Thames to Carnwath Road. Tideway may be able to help with refurbishing the commemorative bench in Replingham Road once its status is resolved
- The pathways are very slippery with wet leaves and a resident asked if the council has plans to sweep pavements. Cllr. Guy Humphries responded that a schedule is in place but any significant issues should be reported to the council
- There is also a problem with the slope at the top of Pirbright Road by the M&S building as there are complaints that it is slippery when wet
 - Margaret mentioned that she would raise this with the Wandsworth transport planner as part of the discussion on the public realm improvements
 - Cllr. Terry Walsh mentioned that he had raised the possibility of railings being put in place with the council and M&S but had been told the pavements were in tolerance for not having railings. He promised to raise this again with the council

Street Reps Update

- Charles mentioned that we currently looking for street reps for Revelstoke Road and Elborough Street as the current reps have stood down

6. Forthcoming Events

- The Southfields Christmas Lights event arranged by the Southfields Business Forum will be held on Wednesday 4th December
- The St. Barnabas Christmas fair will be held on Saturday 7th December
- General election hustings will be held on Monday 9th December at St. Barnabas
- The Friends of Coronation Gardens Christmas event will be held on Saturday 14th December in the gardens

7. Any Other Business

- Gill Habershon asked if Water Board camera survey was still happening? Cllr. Guy Humphries mentioned that he assumed it was
- A resident asked if the pavement outside the new Sainsbury's is being lowered and is this official parking. Cllr. Guy Humphries replied that it was being lowered but it was not an official parking area. Cllr. Terry Walsh added that articulated lorries will not be allowed for deliveries and neither will three point turns be allowed outside the store
- Charles mentioned current consultation on Wandsworth boundary changes which affects Southfields and will potentially lead to a reduction in councillors from 3 to 2. Clive mentioned it may also impact the number of officers in the Southfields SNT team
- Charles thanked Mr. Ahmad who along with other members of his local community had been raising money for the poppy appeal
- Charles announced that Nigel Rawson the SGRA secretary was stepping down from that role due to time commitments and thanked him for all the work he has done

Appendix 1 - Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

Date of Meeting	Type Of Meeting
Tuesday 28 th January 2020	Open Meeting
Tuesday 31 st March 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
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
Karen Gregory	SGRA Executive Committee
Kyra Von Schottestein	
Di Brennan	
Lesley McCaul	
Diane Miles	
Dr. Sadar Ahmad	
Kate Lyons	
Trevor Howes	
Gerard Sebastian	
Amanda Powell Smith	
Sam Nicholas	
Cllr. Terry Walsh	
Peter Jackson	
Cllr. Guy Humphries	
Aidan Magill	
Rosemary Langford	
Cllr. Fleur Anderson	