

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2020 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR), Chris Puleston (CP), Clive Williams (CW), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO), Gerard Sebastian (GS), Serena Potter (SP), Ann Kerr (AK), Margaret Brett (MB) and Karen Gregory (KG).

Becky Watts (BW, Grid Mummies/Grid Alliance Co-ordinator), Cllr Guy Humphreys (GH) and Sue Wixley (SW) were present at the start for the Grid Alliance item.

Actions from last meeting	Owner(s)	Status
Feedback to GtG re: Parklets and contact Sidonie Forrest-Brown re: setting up of collaborative meeting. Not yet heard back from Sidonie	CR	Completed
Front Garden Awards decision	AO	Completed
Map out the historical creation and relationship between SGRA & FOWP, GtG, SBF, FoCG	CR & SP	Completed
Report back to Cllr Terry Walsh regarding Granville Road Traffic Experiment	CR	Completed
Review method of collecting subscriptions	All	Completed
Set up Mailchimp for database emails	SP	Open
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Put a summary of the relationship between SGRA & other organisations on the website	CR	Open
Put together a note for the WhatsApp Grid Alliance group re: the remit moving forward	BW, GS, CR	Open
Confirm that new details re: Public Realm works can be made public	CR	Open
Subscriptions: Item in newsletter to explain system of subscription collection and GDPR consent on subscription envelope	tbc	Open
Postcards to be updated and reprinted	CR	
Liaise with Philippa Hargreaves re: next Grid News Copies to be delivered to DeRosier Coffee & Chocolate, McCluskey's and Café in the Park	CR KG	Open
Liaise with Graham Skyrme re delivery to shops in Replingham Road, GP and Dentists' Surgeries	CR/SP	
Add names of those Exec Committee members who wish to Facebook admin	CR	Open
Reports to be written for 28 th July meeting	All	Open
Investigate the process of applying for the Grid to be a 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood'	MB	Open
Set up working party for young tree watering	SP/AO	Open
Consider recruiting 2 Street Reps per street	GS	Open

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Grid Alliance Update and plan on moving forward

CR welcomed BW, GH and SW and noted that today is Day 100 of lockdown.

a) BW: the feedback from the organisation of the Grid Alliance is similar to last time:

- the system is ticking over, there are more regulars and fewer new people. Not as busy as at the beginning but still plenty of people using & wanting it

Approximately 30 requests per week, mostly elderly/self-isolating, some vulnerable/ on medication etc

- There are currently 62 volunteers; people dip in and out of offering and there is a good spread
 - A query about the proportion of people who have no support of their own? Becky will ask at the end of calls from now on
 - SW made a point about being careful that the Alliance is not seen as replacing the delivery arm of the pharmacies
 - CR asked Andrew Dunley (who is doing the Cooks Chemist requests) how Cooks see the situation in the future, e.g. 3 months' time. He will get back to the group
 - MB knows some people who will not go out at all and do rely on help
 - GH (the Council perspective): there is a similar process with the Community Hub, considering what elements can go forward usefully. The Grid Alliance value is in the picking up of those who fall between stools. Wandsworth Social Care etc will pick up the more vulnerable people (i.e. not at volunteer level). It might be useful going forward to work out some guidelines ref the threshold for social care etc
 - AC has talked to a pharmacist in Boots, informally. The parking dispensation is coming to an end at the end of June, AC wondered if pharmacists might have a special dispensation as it is particularly difficult for them currently? GH will investigate this and report back
- b) GS explained his note suggesting the Grid Alliance utilises the bank of volunteers going forward rather than simply stop when the current need is over. He is happy to co-ordinate. BW agreed; she is happy to keep it ticking it over. She suggested pairing up volunteers with specific people, as many have developed personal connections, as well as the ongoing 'one-off' offers. The point was made that it is worth having an honest conversation with pharmacies to ensure they understand the remit. SW suggested there are several other areas volunteers could help with.
- Action: BW, GS, CR put together a note for the WhatsApp Grid Alliance group.**

3. Last Open Meeting (26.5) – Matters Arising

- Postponement of AGM – a simplified version of this, including elections, will now be held as part of our July 28th meeting
- Public Realm programme – we have received a note of the timetable of all works, and are planning to put on our website
- Parklets – there have been no updates to this issue since the meeting

4. Last Executive Meeting (28.4) – Matters Arising / actions

- a) Action: to map out the historical creation and relationship between the SGRA and connected local groups:
- SP outlined the historical context of the creation of Green the Grid: it was set up as a 'sister' organisation, it is under the wing of the SGRA but has a separate constitution. The Southfields Business Forum was set up in 2008 in response to the financial crisis and is separate but closely associated. It has its own constitution, as do the Friends of Coronation Gardens and Friends of Wimbledon Park. **CR to update information on the SGRA website.**
- b) MB reported that Tideway wish to return the renovated bench
- c) CR has received details about the amended Public Realm works. He is awaiting permission to make them public. **CR to contact Sidonie Forrest-Brown.**

- d) Discussion about publishing Executive Committee minutes on the website: this was agreed upon with the acknowledgement that a summary of points rather than detailed contributions may be preferable for some items. SP requested that members proof the draft carefully.

5. **Subscriptions collection process/timeline**

CP outlined that the setup is the same as last year: an envelope is put through every residential home's door and residents post them back through their Street Rep's door with their donation. He stressed that door knocking is the most effective way but that not everyone wants to do that. For example, Elborough Street collection went from £500 to £150 when door knocking stopped. A discussion about the process raised the following points:

- Bank vs PayPal – PayPal charges about 37p per transaction
- The biggest issue is people not seeing the envelope
- CP will investigate the option of setting up Direct Debits or Standing Orders. A possible issue is that there are fees and extra paperwork
- There was acknowledgement that we wish to keep up to date with how people like to pay and that systems update and change
- The Grid News is delivered with the envelope and the next edition is in August.
- GS suggested that the Newsletter could have a regular membership information space, alongside the other regular items
- Ideas for increasing subscriptions included:
 - writing an item in the newsletter directed at welcoming new residents to the Grid
 - A welcome pack for estate agents to give to new residents. This might include the SGRA postcards and information about Green the Grid. A new resident in Elborough Street cited the sunflower theme as a reason for moving to Southfields.

**Action: Item in Newsletter
 Postcards to be updated and reprinted**

6. **Membership/database latest**

- Richard Silverstein has kindly collated and updated the database which now has just under 300 members. This is now added to by SP in collaboration with CP and RS. There is now an email address for the SGRA secretary. Next step is to complete the process of setting Mailchimp for future mailshots
- When subs are collected, Street Reps need to check that the envelope still has consent tick if previously completed and chase it up if not

7. **Newsletters - 'Lockdown special' thoughts + summer edition**

- There have been enquiries for copies from just outside the Grid, which CR will arrange
- Advertising (KG) There were some advertisers who didn't want to advertise in the lockdown addition and there were some new ones. There were 3 pages of advertising; this was offered at half price, so income was lower. The Executive Committee had accepted this would be the case, but the income has gone a good way towards funding the edition
- Next edition: there are more than 10 new ideas for items for the next edition. Some organisations want to pass on news, so there is plenty to include. There are also new requests for advertising since the Lockdown edition came out, so the outlook is good

- Suggestion of a late August date for next edition, meaning the copy deadline will be the beginning of August. **Charles to liaise with Philippa Hargreaves**
- Suggestion that Grid News is delivered to the Merton side of Revelstoke Road was discussed. There was concern that this might be seen as encroaching on the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association area, who have their own magazine, and that going outside the constituency is not helpful. Agreed that Derosier Chocolate and Coffee and McCluskeys will be offered more copies and that the Café in the Park will also be included. **KG to do this**
- GP/Dentists' Surgeries/Shops on Replingham Rd; **CR to speak to Graham Skyrme (Street Rep) to clarify**. SP to deliver to shops, CR to continue to deliver to GP Surgeries

8. Response from small businesses to invitation to list online (GS)

Surprisingly, so far only 6 responses from newsletter and 6 from the SBF prior to the newsletter being delivered. However, CW felt this is a good start. Some businesses haven't reopened yet and they are all very busy.

- CW will speak to the hairdresser & Blooms.
- Suggestion that this item can be put in every newsletter.
- AO queried whether it had been circulated on Facebook? Agreement that all on the Executive Committee can be given admin rights so that they can post relevant information. **CR to organise**
- GS to investigate other possible avenues of businesses to contact, eg a contact in FoCG

9. AGM date

The Committee discussed the challenge of holding the AGM this year due to social distancing/Covid-19. The AGM should have been in May, but this wasn't possible at the time. CR has looked into this issue and discovered several other organisations are holding their AGMs. Our constitution requires 7-day minimum notice. There was a view that it should be rolled forward to next year for reasons such as the difficulty for the many older people who would normally attend. In addition, the usual large numbers might be difficult on Zoom. Holding it in September was also discussed.

Outcome agreed: Brief reports to be written for the July public meeting. Recommendation that, at that meeting, in place of a proper AGM, the Executive Committee is re-elected en-bloc until a proper AGM is held May 2021.

10. Executive Updates

- **Finance (CP):**
 - There has been no recent income and costs from the newsletter have been incurred. There is £3200 in bank; also £675 outstanding from the newsletter and some outstanding from the spring newsletter
- **Planning Notes (MB):**
 - The planning application for the development at the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road (2019/1231) was approved by committee last week. There was a last-minute revision of the ground floor plan to allow access to Chanteroy's basement at the rear. Planners seem to have argued away each of the objections in favour of the applicant e.g. not to refuse on the grounds of the lack of amenity space because of the proximity of Coronation Gardens. There are 18 conditions attached to the planning permission. One of these is to use permeable paving in the courtyard
 - The application to develop a further storey on Coleman Court in Kimber Road is still open (2020/0530). There are 98 objections to this

- Otherwise there are very few local applications

Local note

- The improvement work has now started on the north side of Replingham and has reached Chalk. The south side has been done to Cooks Chemist. They have left room for a tree in Elsenham Street
- The Boundaries Commission is consulting further on the proposed revisions of the Southfields Ward. It extends northwards to Granville Road and Braithwaite Road and includes the northern section of the park but not Southside. There is a reduction to 2 councillors. Consultation ends 27th July
- Wandsworth is also consulting on how to improve our parks. Consultation ends 8th August
- The footpath by the fish and chip shop has been widened and temporary barriers put in the road
- Low traffic neighbourhoods are being introduced. This is something we should be considering for the Grid. They provide for vehicular access only and prohibit through traffic. Replingham Road would have to be a through road, and presumably Revelstoke also because of the borough boundary, but the other streets are sometimes used as rat runs

The Committee discussed the details of the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and whether this could be requested for the Grid, as above. **MB to find out how to apply for this and report back. Perhaps an item could be put in the newsletter.**

- **Crime Update/Stats (CW):** Report has been sent to John Berkoski for the website.
Headline:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) increased in April; everything else reduced.
 - Vehicle crime reduced significantly but increased in May
 - Bicycle crime increased May
 - No further information about the Neighbourhood Watch/OWL link at present but will report back at next meeting
- **FoCG (CR):**
 - Relaying of tarmac of all roadways starting Monday for 3-week period
 - There will be an informal gathering of all the children/families involved in tree planting and watering on 11th July. Enable are aware and all social distancing etc will be complied with. No picnic this year
 - Gate locking: FoCG have asked Enable when they will start locking gates; not yet got had a response. However, Enable have been giving regular updates. There are lots of people visiting the Gardens and are generally using it kindly
- **Front Garden Awards (AO):** the judging has officially started. Certificates, canes etc have arrived, following a concern they might not. Fleur Anderson (MP) is doing some judging on Friday. This will be posted on the SGRA website/Facebook page
- **FoWP/GtG (AO):**
 - The National Grid are starting their underground cable removal on 13th July for 10 weeks until 18th September, so the area from Revelstoke car park to Horse Close Wood will be taken up and the car park will be closed.
 - BBQs have been temporarily banned, not sure for how long. Kingdom Enforcement are checking people are not lighting them.

- Closure of the Park is at 9pm but there are still lots of people staying in eg til 2am. Lots of litter and broken tables etc. AO will contact Doug Napier
- A survey has been carried out of views about the commercial activities in the Park. Results are not yet back but the headline is that the Big Top has not had many votes
- Meeting with Cllr Ed Gretton yesterday: there have been queries suggesting that renovating the paddling pool may not be the best use of funds and that use the allocation for the playground instead may be better. A survey about that may also be carried out
- Notices have appeared near the lake asking people not to feed the birds. Apparently, this has come from the Sailing Centre, who are looking to open and considering social distancing. There is a lot of bread so there are concerns about rats etc
- KG is now a member of the Executive Committee of FoWP, along with AO and CR

11. Tree Watering:

SP outlined her thoughts about co-ordinating a community approach to watering young trees on the Grid. She has compiled a survey of what and where these are: there are around 35 trees which have been planted in the past 3 years (these are colour coded). SP and CR are Wandsworth Tree Wardens (a voluntary organisation); at a recent meeting of this group it was decided that updated leaflets and signs for tree watering would be designed and printed for Tree Warden to use in their areas. Trees planted in the last year have a green painted stake and are watered twice monthly via Wandsworth Council, however during droughts there is more need than can be met.

Having discussed this with Nina Kowalska (GtG) and AO (GtG, FoWP) the suggestion is to liaise with GS (Street Reps) and form a working party across the organisations. Ideas such as:

- Residents 'adopting' a young tree close to their homes, possibly in small groups
- A ribbon around a tree to show 'adoption' (FoWP)
- Delivering leaflets and signs across the Grid
- Encouraging all trees to be watered and connecting this with planted tree bases
- Linking with the already started labelling of trees with species information (CP) and GtG recent tweeting

CR gave information about the Wandsworth Tree Wardens, who meet 4 times per year. There are currently only 3 Tree Officers across the borough and 3 vacancies.

12. Next Public meetings

Tuesday 28th July 4- 5.30pm Public Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday 29th September time tba

13. AOB

- Compliments slips: SP suggested having these printed to use, for example, when posting newsletters to 'VIPs', The Committee agreed to have 500 printed, at a cost of approximately £80-90
- There was concern about the 3 people who had been rough sleeping outside Carlyle Court. They have moved on to Tooting.
- CP asked about vacancies amongst street reps. Elborough Street is not covered. Perhaps Grid Alliance might have people interested. Someone in Hanford Close is interested. Perhaps also boost to 2 per street at this point. **Action: GS**