



Southfields Grid  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, via Zoom

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Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting. He explained that the Executive Committee had decided to revert to the evening time for this meeting, being aware that not everyone can meet during the day. Feedback regarding the timing of Public Meetings is welcomed.

Apologies for absence: Leonie Cooper AM, Fleur Anderson MP, Cllr Terry Walsh.

1. **Minutes + matters arising from meetings of July 28<sup>th</sup> (Public Meeting) and September 8<sup>th</sup> (Executive Meeting);** these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>

**Public Meeting:** Gerard Sebastian updated the meeting on the recruitment of a second Street rep for each street. This is going slowly but some have been recruited; if anyone is interested please contact: info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

Item 7: Abundance: Serena Potter outlined that Abundance had an enjoyable and successful stall at St Barnabas Autumn Fair with 8 or 9 cases of cider sold. Information from Richard Konig is that most of equipment packed away and the season is almost over. All the cider for 2020 has been bottled and the vinegar is brewing slowly.

Item 12: AOB:

- Litter and dog waste bins: Cllr Terry Walsh investigated the reason for having no litter bins on the Grid. It is generally linked to the closure of shops as litter bins were situated close to them and have been gradually removed; in addition, over time some residents requested removal of bins due to the dumping of rubbish nearby and bins overflowing. This information was reinforced by Cllr Guy Humphries. If anyone would like a bin reinstated, contact Terry Walsh or Guy Humphries. Trevor Howes felt there were not enough dog waste bins on the Grid and black dog waste bags can be seen dumped in many tree bases. Karen Gregory asked if further signs can be put up – Guy Humphreys will investigate this.
- Overgrown hedges: Guy Humphries suggested that if residents have asked neighbours to cut back hedges to no avail, a complaint can be made to the council who will cut it and bill the owner of the hedge. It is a security risk if a hedge is too high.

**Executive Meeting:** Charles Runcie praised St Barnabas Church for the efficient handling of Covid-19 restrictions, and for enabling concerts and other events to restart.

Memorial for 'Mad' John – there had been a suggestion for a memorial; this was debated at the Executive Meeting and it was agreed that we would wait until the first anniversary and then see what the feeling is. It was thought that the most appropriate people to lead on this were those who organised John's funeral and the collection.

2. **Special Guests:**

a) **Grid Alliance:** Charles Runcie updated the meeting as Becky Watts is away. Not much change since the last meeting. Ann Kerr fed back that the group is completing several requests per week and there are 54 people on the list. Becky is confident that all is running smoothly and there is a good system in place should the need arise.

**Guy Humphries** added that all the Council systems remain in place, that the Wandsworth statistics are relatively low although there is no place for complacency, and that there are no ICU Covid-19 cases in Wandsworth.

b) **Public Realm:** *Sidonie Forrest-Brown* thanked everyone for their continued patience with the Replingham Road works and noise. Main points:

- The Heythorp Road junction has just finished. Thames Water and the power network had emergencies nearby, so the work was held up; the next piece of work is up to Wimbledon Park Road junction which is due to finish by the end of November. There will then be a pause during December and work will restart in January. The full programme will be updated to reflect the delays and will be put into an easy read A4 format; Sidonie will circulate to Charles and it will be put on the SGRA website
- The bench has been refurbished but will not be reinstated until they are working in that area, towards the end of November
- Sidonie is having ongoing discussions with Nina from Green the Grid regarding planting in tree pits and the green wall by the tube station
- The Wimbledon tennis dates have been built into the programme and there will be a pause for 2 weeks then, with the finish date due at end of 2021/beginning of 2022. The last part will be outside the station, with higher quality paving materials and street furniture being installed

Nick Steiner asked if temporary seating could be organised until the bench is reinstated as several people rely on being able to sit in that area? Sidonie will investigate this.

Clive Williams asked if any resistance from Caffè Nero was expected from the bench being returned? Sidonie was not sure but will let the manager know.

Gill Habershon has been in regular contact with Sidonie so is up to date; some businesses have fed back views.

Kim Caddy is happy that all feedback has been dealt with satisfactorily.

c) **WeRecycle in Southfields Grid:** *Sue Wixley/Sue Lovell-Greene*

Sue Wixley explained they are in the early stages of this exciting project and would love thoughts, input and involvement. The aim is to develop a community approach to recycling, increasing the number of ways of recycling items which don't currently get recycled by making the idea more enjoyable and in the front of people's minds. She was given a tour of Smugglers Way and saw how orange bags are sorted and how items such as milk bottle tops, pens and carpets off cuts can be recycled. Practical ideas include:

- Organising easily accessible collection points, such as community areas, etc
- Collection drives, for example monthly
- Activities with local schools and children, like those seen at the St Barnabas Church Fair eg the Work and Play Scrap Stall who organise tours of what they do with carpets, wallpapers etc (<https://www.workandplayscrapstore.org.uk/>)
- Steering Group to be set up

Next steps: anyone interested please get in touch with Sue Lovell-Greene at [lovellgreene@aol.com](mailto:lovellgreene@aol.com).

Serena Potter wondered if her idea of starting a 'Repair Cafe' or similar, as suggested before Covid-19 and consequently put on hold, might be connected somehow.

Cllr Kim Caddy thought WeRecycle to be a great idea; Wandsworth Council has many initiatives in this area. She will get in touch to give names.

Charles Runcie raised the issue of the ULEZ changing in October 2021 meaning that visiting Smugglers Way may incur a fee of £12.50 per visit. Cllrs Guy & Kim are aware of the potential problem.

d) **Bike rental scheme:** *Cllr Guy Humphries*

A petition is being circulated asking for the installation of a Santander docking point and bikes near Southfields Station. Guy explained the petition is to the Mayor's Office/TfL as there have many requests made to the councillors. The nearest currently is by Southside Shopping Centre so extending boundary is the request. A general discussion was had with points being made including it needs to be part of a whole network and that it should be sited on a wide enough piece of pavement.

3. **Southfields “Safer Neighbourhood Team” police update:** Charles Runcie outlined there has been no change since the last newsletter. He will report back anything of urgency.
4. **SGRA Executive Reports:**
  - a) **Planning:** see Appendix (i) – *Margaret Brett:* Margaret went through her report.
    - The Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme, which has had a very mixed reception in Wandsworth and is currently suspended, was discussed. Charles Runcie explained there have been 3 or 4 detailed responses via the SGRA website; perhaps a Zoom meeting might be organised for those who wish to discuss it within Grid community? Guy Humphries emphasised that the council is not against them but ensuring they are installed in the right place at the right time is important and that it echoes the ambition for climate change awareness. Clive Williams expressed that he is totally against them, giving the example that if all traffic is pushed onto, for example Merton and Replingham Roads it would cause considerable difficulty.
    - Margaret Brett asked about the inconsistencies regarding morning closure timings on the letter about the Withycombe Road restrictions. Guy Humphries will investigate and report back
  - b) **Finance:** *Chris Puleston:* Chris updated the meeting on subscription collection which is going well and has exceeded last year’s amount.
  - c) **Crime:** see [www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/](http://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/) - *Clive Williams:* Clive outlined the recent figures: Total crimes recorded were up from 15 in July to 29 in August, with the bulk being anti-social behaviour (10 in August). A category on the increase is ‘other theft’ and bike theft remains the highest (4). Brookwood Road had the highest statistics (6). Clive reiterated that compared to Wandsworth as a whole, Southfields Grid has a low crime rate.
  - d) **Communications – Charles Runcie:**
    - Grid News: the latest edition has been delivered to all homes and businesses within the last 10 days and hopefully everyone is enjoying it. If anyone has not had a copy, please send an email request via the website
    - The SGRA website has approximately 15-40 separate users per day. In the last month there have been 440 unique visitors
    - The SGRA Facebook site has 1554 followers
    - Twitter feed has 458 followers
    - Instagram has 172 followers
    - The SGRA database is gradually increasing. We try not to overload people with too many emails
5. **Green Spaces Update:**
  - a. **FoWP:** *Nick Steiner* presented his power point which can be seen on the website at: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>  
Key points:
    - Slide 2: Neighbourhood Planning Area; listing was refused in 2017 and the focus now is on combining the areas
    - Slide 3: Replingham Rd entrance improvements. FoWP are hoping to get planning permission to do a range of improvements
    - Slide 4: Horse Close Wood information
    - Slide 5: aiming to improve the wildflower meadow which has degenerated since 2012
    - Slides 6/7: commercial use of Wimbledon Park
    - Slide 8: Other news – the new table tennis table – a big thank you to all those who made it happen!

- b. **FoCG:** *Susannah Perry-Greene (Vice-Chair)* updated the meeting on the latest news:
- New trees will replace those which have died
  - The north west area developments are due to start in November; these include a new water point and a new herb garden and bulb planting to be carried out with schools and residents. A new 'Friends' noticeboard is being installed
  - The Play Area will be split from the Nursery and will be open for all users of the park. **NB It has just been announced that it will be open from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.**
  - More families have used the Gardens since Covid-19 started. Some ASB has occurred but the gate closure time was amended, and this has now reduced
  - The AGM is tomorrow, 30<sup>th</sup> September, from 7-8pm (postponed from March)
- c. **Green the Grid:** *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty* updated the meeting:
- The stall at the St Barnabas Autumn Fair was very successful with about 90 groups collecting bulbs and packs were delivered to those shielding
  - A big thank you to Kyra of Heythorp Street who gave hollyhock seeds; thank you also to Cllrs Guy Humphries and Terry Walsh who visited the stall and to the SGRA for all their support
  - A bid was put to Wandsworth fund to install a green wall at the tube station, thanks to councillors especially Cllr Kim Caddy for supporting the GtG. The response is expected in early November.
  - GtG has a new website, thanks to John Berkoski. It will launch soon. There will be a toolkit to enable others to replicate the community planting aspect.
  - Activities: Nina gave a talk to the Battersea Society last week. GtG is involved with Wandsworth Love Gardening campaign and Riverside Radio will be doing an interview. Many organisations are interested
  - Amelia drew attention to the Wandsworth Urban Design Study and commented that it is good for the council to hear how many people value green spaces

6. **Forthcoming events:** No SGRA events due to Covid-19.

- Margaret Brett updated the meeting on concerts upcoming at St Barnabas Church: 2 concerts on Saturday and details are on website. One is free, both need booking. The usual seating in the Church has been removed and placed in the Lady Chapel. The current seating is safe and cleaned. Please do support concerts and other events
- Gill Habershon outlined the plans for the Christmas lights this year: Wandsworth Council will put the lights up on November 25<sup>th</sup> and they will be turned on at the same time without celebrations (due to Covid-19). The Council are providing Christmas tree with lights at the station, free of charge and put up at around the same date

7. **Any Other Business:**

- Sucheta Samant at Southfields Library: the library is now open for browsing, collecting reservations and computer use at the slightly restricted times of Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10.30-2.30pm.

8. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 2-3.30pm

**Appendix (i) SGRA Planning Notes September 2020**

There were two applications to develop the basements of the shops at 235 and 237 Wimbledon Park Road as flats. 237 has been refused as it would harm the sustainability of the unit and the key shopping area. 235 has been withdrawn. The application to develop a further storey on Coleman Court in Kimber Road is still open (2020/0530).

The proposal to erect a 20m Huawei telecoms mast outside St Cecilia’s school has been refused. It is regarded as visually intrusive and would impede pedestrian and highway safety. The application to build at the school has just been approved.

There is a proposal to demolish the two old houses adjacent to the Ayrton glass showroom on Merton Road and create two 3 storey buildings with 5 bedrooms each. (2020/2994). Also, a proposal to demolish the garages at 169 Elsenham Street and build a house there. This is a sympathetic development (2020/3111). There have been two refusals of rear extensions on the ground that they are incongruous 39b Replingham (2020/0993) and 8 Lavenham, (2020/0229) the latter has gone to appeal.

### **Local notes**

The reception for the concept of low traffic neighbourhoods in Wandsworth has been very mixed and Wandsworth has reviewed and suspended their installations. It is better to wait to see how thinking and practice develop on these schemes before considering any need for one locally.

The consultation on Wandsworth’s Urban Design Study closes on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

We are looking at the government’s Planning White Paper and will respond to the surveys and consultation.

### **Appendix (ii) – Attendance List**

| <b>Name</b>               | <b>Role</b>                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Charles Runcie            | SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman  |
| Karen Gregory             | SGRA Executive Committee             |
| Serena Potter             | SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary |
| Clive Williams            | SGRA Executive Committee             |
| Margaret Brett            | SGRA Executive Committee             |
| Ann Kerr                  | SGRA Executive Committee             |
| Chris Puleston            | SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer |
| Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty | SGRA Executive Committee             |
| Gerard Sebastian          | SGRA Executive Committee             |
| Cllr Kim Caddy            |                                      |
| Cllr Guy Humphreys        |                                      |
| Sidonie Forrest-Brown     | Senior Transport Planner             |
| Lesley McCaul             |                                      |
| Jackie Pearce             |                                      |
| Nick Steiner              | FoWP                                 |
| Gill Habershon            | Southfields Business Forum           |
| Sue Lovell-Greene         |                                      |
| Sue Wixley                |                                      |
| John Berkoski             |                                      |
| Susannah Perry-Greene     | Friends of Coronation Gardens        |
| Di Brennan                |                                      |
| Rosemary Langford         |                                      |
| Hilary Simpson            |                                      |
| Ray Chapman               |                                      |
| Mary Buckley              | The Gardens RA                       |
| Trevor Howes              |                                      |
| Bridget Bryer             |                                      |
| Peter Buchwald            |                                      |
| Rossi Naoumova            |                                      |

*Southfields Grid Residents Association Public Meeting – 29.09.20*

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|--------------------|--|
| Julia Raeburn      |  |
| Shiraz Mehrundatoo |  |
| Duncan Lyons       |  |
| Nathalie Mathison  |  |
| Jackie Lever       |  |