

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2020

Members Present: Charles Runcie (Chair), Ann Kerr, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Margaret Brett, Gerard Sebastian, Clive Williams, Karen Gregory, Nigel Rawson, Serena Potter.

John Berkoski attended for some of the meeting to give an update on the SGRA website survey

Summary of Actions from meeting

Previous Actions Outstanding	Owner(s)	Status
Meet with Oxfam Southfields manager to discuss donations left at the shop (on hold awaiting arrival of new manager)	Charles	Closed
Circulate ideas and ask for feedback from the local “great and good” regarding the Safer Southfields initiative. He will send the proposed email/circulation list to the exec first	Charles	Closed
Contact Guy Humphries for an update on “smiley face” speed signs on Replingham Road	Charles	Closed
Progress contact with Community Safety team regarding a safety event in Southfields	Charles	Closed
Check if space available at the St. Barnabas Christmas fair for an SGRA table	Margaret	Closed
Invite Sidonie Forrest-Brown to next open meeting in November	Charles	Closed
Invite Southfields SNT to next open meeting in November	Charles	Closed
Investigate details of the Fairfield Crime Reduction roadshow	Charles	Closed
Arrange for Meeting Minutes archive to be supplied to Wandsworth Heritage Service	Charles	Closed
Contact Caffé Nero to confirm if we can have the community notice board against their wall	Margaret	Closed
Pursue status of community noticeboard with council as part of Public Realm improvements. Progress at Nov open meeting when Wandsworth rep attending	Margaret	Open
Progress membership database solution and required activities. Meeting to be arranged to progress this.	Charles, Chris, Karen, Richard	Open
Contact Cllr. Guy Humphries for an update on the installation of CCTV in the grid	Charles Karen	Open
Speak to Oakley Locksmiths to see they could provide any specific advice around safety measures	Amelia Ann	Open
Get hold of material from last Southfields SNT meeting and have this uploaded to SGRA website	Charles	Open
Attempt to arrange a meeting with Merton representatives to push for improvements in Wimbledon Park	Charles	Open
Arrange a further Street Reps meeting	Gerard	Open

New Actions	Owner(s)	Status
Consider holding a Hustings for the Mayoral elections / London Assembly	Charles	Open
Business Directory – talk to Kyra/Susanna	Gerard	Open
Supply logo and short text for the Window Wanderland map. SGRA to provide a volunteer to give maps out	Charles	Open
Put PDF of all newsletters on website Send all recent newsletters which are already PDF Source more historical ones and contact Malcom Grimston Any other content for website/Facebook send to John	John Karen Clive All	Open
Discuss subscription envelope printing with Yellow Print Shop	Karen	Open
Working party to discuss layout of the newsletter	Charles, Ann, Karen, Philippa	Open
Write to the Council about the Public Realm regarding siting cycle stands parallel to road outside Tesco, also regarding parking	Margaret	Open
Respond to Mark Davie's email	Margaret	Open
Item to be written for the newsletter regarding Party Wall Agreements and what happens if water is found (ref Basement issue)	tbc	Open
Request list of commercial activities in Wimbledon Park	Amelia	Open
Arrange a meeting with Iain Simpson (WPRA) and inform Nick (?) ref Wimbledon Park	Charles	Open
Ask Green the Grid committee for help at Tea Party	Amelia	Open
Investigate 'Jumble Trail'	Ann/Amelia	Open
Investigate 'Repair Café'	Charles/Serena	Open

1. Apologies

Chris.

2. Last Open Meeting – Actions and Matters Arising

Matters arising all to be covered at later points in this meeting

Amelia mentioned her concerns about the FOWP issue – not knowing in advance - Charles apologised

3. Last Exec Meeting – Actions and Matters Arising

The following matters arising from the previous Exec meeting were discussed:

- Update on installation of CCTV on the grid (Guy Humphries): a strong case needs to be made. Charles will co-ordinate and Karen will contact businesses
- The handover of SGRA archive material to the Wandsworth heritage service is starting soon
- Material from last Southfields SNT meeting to be uploaded to SGRA website: Charles to email Robbie; Clive has a hard copy
- Best approach for an online Business and Services guide was discussed including:
 - perhaps it would be best as a separate project
 - a balance between being a paper directory, easily accessible, and truly online

- how to manage balance with Business Forum
- it remains an aspiration for further discussion
- Charles has e-mailed Golfrate regarding the Community Notice Board but has not yet received a reply

4. Review of December's local events

Southfields Christmas lights: lots of positive feedback. It was felt to be a sociable and successful event. A query was made as to whether more lights would be a good idea and it was pointed out that there were more this year than last, going further down Replingham Road.

Winter Wondergarden:

Feedback was that it was a successful first event. The Gardens were lovely as was the singing, and the atmosphere was positive. It was well attended. 631 tickets were sold within 4 days and there were 546 attendees. All tickets were sold by the time the Newsletter came out. There was insurance for up to 1000 people.

Some stalls had better lighting than others. It was windy, which had an effect on stalls outside the main area. A suggestion was made that SGRA exec members might be given a complementary wrist band. Some parents had wrist bands; others didn't; this was resolved by Amy / Susannah from FOCG

A small profit was made.

Ideas for next time:

- Release tickets in stages
- Sell a higher number
- Review use of wristbands

St Barnabas Christmas Fair:

Footfall was lower this year. Cost of entry was higher this year (NB £2, introduced in 2018)

Hustings:

Feedback was that it was a great success. All candidates were very happy. The church was very full. Charles thanked Amelia and everyone for their hospitality to the candidates beforehand; they were appreciative of the refreshments.

Action:

- Consider a Hustings for the Mayoral elections / London Assembly? Charles to inquire about this

5. 2020 – SGRA 'aims and ambitions' discussion:

The following were discussed:

- The possibility of holding a further Hustings
- Sort out the database (Charles)
- Business directory (Gerard). Gerard to speak to Kyra. Susannah (FOCG) may be a link
- Margaret raised the idea of linking issues around climate change/ environment/sustainability/energy efficiency (Karen) in relation to buildings and

involving children from the Grid where possible. This led to further ideas including a Jumble Trail (Amelia/Ann) / 'London Recycles' and a Repair Café (Charles/Serena)

- Building bridges with the local business community (Karen). Approaching the larger (non-independent) shops was raised and the potential difficulties; remit needs to be clear
- The Putney Society has ideas including a possible discount scheme (Charles)

6. Window Wanderland funding request:

Sam Geyer has left Southfields so Sam Traynor is organising on her own and it may be her last time. Resources are slim. A working party may be an option for the future and there was a short discussion as to how SGRA might be able to support this initiative.

The committee agreed to the request of £100 for map printing. We will also supply our logo and a couple of lines for the map and a volunteer to give maps out. Addresses of where maps will be available will be needed.

7. Executive Update

Communications – Social Media & website – Charles and John Berkoski

John kindly attended for this part of the meeting and gave feedback about the website survey which was live before Christmas. 48/54 of the respondents live on the Grid. The main point was a request for information to be more up to date. A discussion raised the following points:

- Charles is trying to find a volunteer to keep information up to date on the website/Facebook.
- Uploading information from the Archives and the Newsletters was suggested. Eg The Brief History of Southfields leaflet could be put online. Karen will send the most recent that are already in PDF form. Clive to find more historical newsletters from the library and also contact Malcom Grimston for his newsletter.
- John requested that any content for Facebook/website to be sent to him via email on johnb@roove.com or telephone him. He has provided some guidelines on how and what to send; please see appendix 1 below
- Perhaps a 'Did you know....?' section could be put on website in order to highlight current information
- 1 fresh news item per week could be posted
- Articles ref local events
- Draft agendas
- 51% of grid households are on Nextdoor
- The idea that social media be used to drive traffic into the website (not the other way around)
- Exec members to be added to be admin for Facebook

A summary of all results and comments was circulated to all via email on 08.01.20 by Charles and the comments are attached as Appendix 2 at the end of these minutes. Any feedback is welcomed.

Finance – email from Chris

Charles went through Chris' email as he was unfortunately not able to attend. This was circulated to all on 06.01.20. Key points:

- £2,500 has currently been collected; 15% down on last year

- All invoices have been delivered
- £1553 is available
- Approx £4,370 is still to be collected for adverts in the newsletter
- We will have £5,697 once the outstanding has been received.

- Karen explained she is chasing subs
- There was a discussion about envelopes – suggestions included that cheaper envelopes are likely to be a different, more usual size than the current ones. Karen will ask Yellow Print Shop about the cost

Grid News – Charles/Karen

- Next publication date: 20th March
- Copy date 20th February
- Difficulty of lead time was discussed
- More photos are needed for each edition
- The design aspect of the newsletter was discussed – Charles, Ann, Karen and Philippa to get together to discuss the layout

Planning – Margaret

Margaret provided an update on local planning news:

The application for 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road. 2019/1231 is still outstanding. There are still no planning applications for the changes made to the fronts of the shops in the little WPR parade. The barbers is now open.

We need to keep the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in Merton Road under review.

The notices about Gail's Bakery have returned to the old Nat West Bank building and they have planning permission for the signage (2019/4085), They have not yet applied for the change of use.

The application to develop the upper floors of 2 Replingham Road as residential and to change the ground floor use to retail. (2019/4665) is still outstanding.

We have contacted Wandsworth about the commemorative bench and they are content to leave it in place if it is refurbished. Margaret clarified that it is definitely sited on council property. We are waiting to hear back from Tideway whether they will undertake the project.

Public Realm.

There is finally progress on this with a start date of 20 January for Replingham Road. There is concern about the distribution of the notification letter as it did not reach the businesses despite being addressed to them. Also it is sad that Wandsworth does not know our postcode - they have us in SW19. The notification gives the design for Replingham Road from about Greggs to Clonmore Street and there are changes to the last published plan.

Trees:

One instead of two at the end of Elsenham.

One showing in Heythorp already exists. One instead of three in Replingham.

The type of tree is not given - previously Cherry in Elsenham and Heythorp and Beech or Acer in Replingham.

Cycle Stands:

These have been reduced in number significantly. However, there are issues about the location of those shown.

There was no previous discussion of the ones outside Tesco's. There is a pillar box and waste bin nearby and the Old Garage uses its forecourt. The new paved crossing will encourage more buggies, scooters and wheelchairs at this location. Placing three cycle stands at right angles will cause a major bottleneck. There was earlier discussion of having racks parallel to the road, and this would seem a better option. They propose this in Clonmore Street.

Originally there was only one cycle stand proposed on the pavement by the flank wall behind Caffè Nero. It was located by two benches which have disappeared from the scheme. Three stands at right angles to the road will interfere with the pedestrian flow on this very busy corner. A bike takes up almost 2m of space from the kerb. Again, can we suggest that these are parallel with the road. Margaret will write regarding this. *NB email from Sidonie to Margaret on 15.01.20 confirms that they will be parallel to the road*

Parking

They have reviewed the reduction in parking originally proposed, so parking has been restored outside Boots and the parklets done away with. the overall loss is 7.5 spaces.

Waiting times.

It looks as though loading will be permitted on the north side of Replingham Road near Caffè Nero between 10 and 4 where otherwise there will be no parking at any time. This needs to be confirmed.

The early morning controls on the north side of Replingham about parking enables Tesco's to do their loading and allows traffic to move. The new no loading 7-10 and 4-7 restrictions on the south side seems to apply to Clonmore to Heythorpe only but unless this applies all the way up on the south side there is going to be real difficulty early in the day as parking is to be permitted on the north side. Margaret to write regarding this issue.

Entry between Cooks and Boots.

Cannot understand the proposal for this point as it suggests the pavement carries on whereas this is a small road allowing vehicles to access the rear.

Telephone box

BT have refused to remove this.

Noticeboard

No reply from Golfrate on our request to use the wall.

Mark Davie's email

We have notified concerns about underground streams and water in comments on planning applications but this is not a planning issue. Basements are permitted development but planning permission is needed for light wells. They are subject to Building Control.

Primary legislation for basements has been tried and this foundered 2015/16.

The Mayor of London is keen on domestic basement development - see Draft London Plan.

Councils can adopt a policy on basements and need to use an Article 4 Direction to do so. This will bring them within planning control but this is more directed at size and impact of construction.

A way forward is via a Party Wall agreement. Suggest someone knowledgeable writes an item for the newsletter saying that there needs to be a party wall agreement and what happens if water is found should be addressed in the agreement. Margaret will respond to Mark's email.

FOWP

Amelia provided the following update regarding FOWP news:

Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) January 2020

Commercial activities in the park/ restitution of park surfaces

Many concerns from the public re the number of commercial activities being held in the park as well as the impact these have on the state of the grass e.g. where Pines and Needles were sited and also the Christmas Big Top which was put up in the same place as the Pumpkin Patch. FOWP park have written to Doug Napier (Merton Green spaces) expressing concern about both the number of activities taking place and asking for details about restoration of park surfaces once an event has ended. In response (via email), it would appear that details relating to the restitution of grassed areas are deemed 'confidential' and the 'oversight remains with the London Borough of Merton (LBM) parks....and Events Manager.' FOWP are due to meet Doug Napier on 14 January and Nick Steiner (Chair of FOWP) will raise this matter again. We will also ask Doug for a list of commercial activities that will be taking place in the park this year and, hopefully, advertise these so that everyone is aware of what is planned.

Paddling Pool

We are led to understand that Ed Gretton, Wimbledon Park Ward Councillor) is looking into the possibility of getting the present system up and working for Summer 2020. No update, yet, as to whether or not funding, as outlined by Doug Napier in 2019, has been allocated for this project by LBM. To be discussed at the January meeting with Doug Napier.

Toilets

No update. Requires either an overhaul now or plans for new toilets. Change of location? Definitely to be discussed with Doug Napier. Funding required - crowd funding?

The Lake Steering Committee

Still ongoing. Chris Laine (Historic England) is on the committee discussing what needs to be done to the lake. In an email to FOWP he states that there is 'recognition from all owners that major projects to improve the site will be required in addition to, and above, the reservoir safety works.' The LBM's starting point will be their Masterplan (published in December 2018). Moreover, nobody knows what the All England Club (AELTC) will be putting forward in their own Masterplan which is still underway. AELTC has now appointed Sally Bolton, formerly Planning and Operations director, as their new CEO. FOWP had a very constructive meeting with Sally last year (January 2019) but she was unable to tell us much about the Masterplan as discussions had only just begun. A FOWP meeting with Chris Laine is scheduled for 4th February.

Open air swimming in the lake.

This matter has been passed onto Christine Parsloe, Merton's Leisure and Culture Development Manager. It would appear that discussions are ongoing.

Table Tennis.

Doug has agreed that Table Tennis be introduced into the park. A couple of local mothers have been very keen for this to happen. Further discussions to take place. Also, the possibility of Paddle Tennis.

Amelia explained that there are limits as to what can be done by SGRA given its position as being Wandsworth. She emphasised that the Lake is the highest priority at the moment. An idea about joining forces with Wimbledon Park Residents Association was raised and Charles will speak to Iain Simpson and let Nick know.

GTG Update – Amelia

- 13th January is next GTG meeting
- 2nd April – Gardeners' Question Time

Upcoming ideas:

- Wildlife Corridor – next step is to talk to Guy
- Plants which don't need so much water
- Vegetables in Front Gardens
- Sunflowers are being done again
- Butterfly and Bee biodiversity 2020 count
- Talk to estate agents about leaflets
- A meeting will be arranged with Guy re: climate change

Crime Update/Stats – Clive

Clive provided a crime update and the latest crime figures:

- Crime figures:
 - There was a spike in October – 44/151 in the ward; 13 vehicle crime
 - November – 25/128 in the ward; highest was 8 (vehicle crime) with 5 in Astonville
- Clive will be observing the SNB Wandsworth meeting w/c 13th January
- Safer Southfields Day – 8th February. This will be held outside McCluskeys and the Astonville/Brookwood Road junction

Detailed breakdown is in Appendix 3 at the end of this document

Street Reps – Gerard

- Gerard will hold another meeting of the team soon

8. Friends of Coronation Gardens update

- Charles will send email to all regarding current works and plans

9. Boundary review discussion (Malcolm Grimston's e-mail)

- SGRA will not be sending a Committee response
- Individual responses should be sent via website

10. Forthcoming Events

- Spring Tea party – 4th April
- Budget to be agreed – Margaret to check with Chris
- Ask Chris to provide another photo display
- There will be a raffle, bingo and quiz. Possibly dancing?
- £75 was agreed to be donated to Cygnet Singers (an increase from £50)
- Help before and after the event is needed; committee if possible. Amelia offered to ask the Green the Grid committee
- Ann to message Salt and Pepper for catering (Ann has confirmed since the meeting; they will attend)

11. Date of next meeting:

- 28th January is next Open Meeting. New MP Fleur Anderson will be attending, as will Sidonie and Tim (engineer) from Improvements plan team.
- Charles confirmed the circulation of other 2020 dates. AGM has been moved to Tuesday 26th May

12. AOB

- Charles and Karen will be attending the Local Plan Workshop at Battersea Arts Centre.

Appendix 1

Guidelines for content for website, from John:

‘These would apply to recent additions like the Southfields John article and the autism concert, though are not needed for "regular content" like crime stat updates or SGRA meeting agendas’:

NEW WEBSITE PAGE

- Page title:
- Page copy:
- Main image:
- Additional image(s):
- Additional comments:

NEW EVENT

- Event name:
- Event date, start & end times:
- Event description:
- Cost (if applicable)
- Main image:
- Additional image(s):
- Additional comments:

UPDATE TO WEBSITE PAGE

- Page URL
- Content to change: (annotated screen shot):
- Updated content: (exact text or images)
- Additional comments:

Appendix 2

Poll results summary

Where do you live?

Southfields Grid	48
Southfield, not Grid	6
Not Southfields	0

What is your SGRA membership status?

Paying, regularly attends meetings	3
Paying, doesn't regularly attend meetings	31
Not a member	20

Site usage frequency

Once a week	1
Once a month	3
Once every few months	14
Once or twice a year	16
Didn't know about the website	20

How useful is the content on the SGRA website?

Very useful	14
Somewhat useful	29
Not useful	11

Open feedback (edited - removed non-answers)

- You might want to stick in a link to your Facebook page and any other social media pages you run, so that people using the website can hook up with other locals more easily.
- Updates on roadwork etc
- Caution with advertising meetings openly online- announces that many houses may we'll be empty. Should be a members log on area for meeting info
- I obviously haven't looked at the website for a while - not since the design changed. The new look is an improvement on the previous version, although the section about the individual streets seems to have gone. Having just had a quick glance through the various drop-downs, there don't seem to be much there. I notice some of the information seems is out of date (e.g. Justine Greening as MP!). If there was more local information and news it would

encourage me to look more regularly: information about classes (e.g. Pilates, yoga, crafts, languages), listings of services that are unique to Southfields, occasional blogs from neighbours, things for sale, book-clubs, conservation activities (in the Park), offers/requests for help/volunteering, reviews of restaurants, etc. The 'Nextdoor' social media postings go some way towards providing the type of information suggested above, but it tends to be fleeting posts rather than a useful resource to consult.

- "More regular update - i just went on the new section and the latest post was from 15 October. I'm surprised nothing was put up about the Christmas lights ceremony or even just a Merry Xmas message?
- What about updates on the local works on Replingham Road and an update on Gail's bakery for example.
- Updating content regularly and putting news stories up regularly will encourage return visitors. Without fresh and regular content, there is very little needs for residents to look at your site.
- I see you have a link to your instagram page - but not a single post - such a waste - even just re-posting images from locals of the area would be a good start."
- Details of upcoming events
- More up to date info would be good.
- Very local news, e.g. crime, Wimbledon Park events are always helpful - currently tend to get that on Next Door - but road/council info always useful.
- Not very up to date e.g. crime figures only for the first half of 2019. Websites like Nextdoor Digest are becoming more useful for local real-time information. This is a pity, since the SGRA has an overview and a social context that Nextdoor does not possess.
- More relevant up to date content. What's there is very useful.
- I'm more likely to look at the SGRA Facebook page for information than the website.
- Design is good.
- None. Your updates into Facebook are where I get the lowdown
- I find it very informative, and the newsletter is fantastic
- I think it's pretty good already
- Fine as it is.
- Very grateful for the work you put into this
- List of recommended local service providers: electricians, plumbers etc

Appendix 3

Crime Figures for Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road

November 2019

November 2019	Burglary	Anti-Social Behaviour	Robbery	Vehicle Crime	Violence & Sexual Offences	Public Order & Weapons	Shoplifting	Criminal Damage & Arson	Other Theft	Drugs	Other Crime	Total
Replingham Road				1				2	1			4
Brookwood Road				2								2
Lavenham Road				1								1
Revelstoke Road	1			1					1			3
Elsenham Street					1							1
Heythorp Street		1										1
Clonmore Street				1								1
Engadine Street									1			1
Elborough Street												0
Trentham Street				1	1							2
Astonville Street				1	3			1				5
Hanford Close												0
Pirbright Road		1										1
Merton Road					1				2			3
Total	1	2	0	8	6	0	0	3	5	0	0	25



All Crimes reported in Southfields Ward in November 2019: 128

Stop & Searches in November 2019: (No information available)

Other Crime: Merton Road - Bicycle Theft (1)

+Off-Grid:

Wimbledon Park Road (West Hill Ward) – on or near former petrol station: (9): Drugs (2), Other Crime (1), Other Theft (2), Violence & Sexual Offences (4).

Southfields LU Station (British Transport Police) (0):

Heritage Wimbledon Park (3): Drugs (3)

[West Hill (LB of W): Village (LB of M): Wimbledon Park (LB of M)]

[Information extracted from the Crime Maps for Southfields Ward from www.police.uk]

New data for Southfields Ward has been published on Police.uk.

Here is a brief summary of the crime information for the past two months:

	October 2019	November 2019
All crime	151	128
Anti-social behaviour	30	20
Bicycle theft	4	7
Burglary	9	12
Criminal damage and arson	6	5
Drugs	3	0
Other crime	3	1
Other theft	15	11
Possession of weapons	0	1
Public order	6	5
Robbery	10	5
Shoplifting	7	6
Theft from the person	4	5
Vehicle crime	31	29
Violence and sexual offences	23	21

Please visit <https://www.police.uk/shape/0BCMX9/> for more information including outcomes for these crimes and contact information for your local policing team.