

Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Minutes of Open meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2020

1. Apologies

Southfields Councillors: Cllr Kim Caddy, Cllr Guy Humphreys

2. Matters arising from Open Meeting on 26th November 2019

Charles explained most items would arise during the meeting but highlighted the following:

- Safer Southfields Public Event to be held on Saturday 8th February (details below)
- Boundary Changes proposal: The Executive Committee suggest that people who wish to respond do so individually; it has agreed not to respond as a committee. Cllr Terry Walsh explained that the consultation has been extended to 17th February and that anyone wishing to comment can do so online (not to be confused with the Southfields in West London). The link is: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/16790?bbox=519246.1,169781.9,532002.9,178585.1>

3. Matters arising from Executive Meeting on 7th January 2020

- Update on Street Reps: Gerard Sebastian is arranging a meeting for Street reps; currently 2 more are needed, for Elborough Street and Revelstoke Road
- Charles has agreed with Wandsworth Heritage Centre to upload archived SGRA archives. We shall also be uploading recent newsletters to the SGRA website.

4. Southfields Public Realm Improvements

Sidonie Forrest-Brown, Senior Transport Planner (Wandsworth & Richmond Councils) and her colleague Tim Adlesee, Principal Engineer, attended and updated the meeting on the Improvements. Sidonie outlined the background and explained she had taken on the project in 2018. She explained the funding, key points arising from the original responses, the timescale and went through the detail of the diagram (see website):

<https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/2020/01/southfields-improvement-works-to-commence-january-2020/>

Key points were:

- The outlook aims to be traditional rather than modern, for example heritage style lamps
- Cycle parking/litter/congestion/pedestrian visibility were all high priority
- Pedestrians/cyclists form the majority of transport; Sidonie outlined the environmental benefits of this
- Junctions will have raised crossings
- It was decided not to proceed with “Copenhagen” style crossings as part of the Improvements
- Early release for cyclists at traffic lights
- Some pay and display parking is being removed for safety
- 7 new trees are being planted
- Guard rail around the station to be removed and seating, some with backs and some without, will be installed
- Legible London Wayfinding system

- Water fountain
- Sidonie is liaising with local businesses and acknowledged there have been some concerns raised via the Southfields Business Forum
- Almost all businesses have signed up for forecourt improvements
- Work has started on Clonmore; there was an acknowledgement that there had been a hold up due to gas works and Thames Water leaks in 2019. Businesses had also asked for it to wait until the New Year. This has allowed extra time to confirm funding

Margaret Brett queried the refurbishment of the bench and the noticeboard outside Caffè Nero

Tim went on to give details about colour schemes/materials etc. They have been chosen to work up the 'rustic village feel' and are of a 'higher standard than usual'. He showed samples of paving including Chinese granite which is non-slip. A resident asked about the carbon footprint; Tim responded that it was from China, as is most paving and so had travelled quite a distance.

The notice of proposed changes to waiting and loading restrictions and parking is attached to this email for those wishing to make comments or objections.

A number of points were then raised in open discussion:

- a resident asked about permeability, with reference to flooding on Elsenham Street. Sidonie responded that the tree pits can have plastic crates which mitigate to some extent
- a resident asked whether there would be any changes to road markings for traffic turning right from Replingham Road into Wimbledon Park Road as at present the current markings can cause extra congestion as traffic not turning right is held up leading to extra traffic pollution. Also whether there will be new signs, perhaps illuminating ones for the 20mph. This is more of a TfL issue and our local councillors are investigating this.
- Nina (Green the Grid) thanked Sidonie and Tim for their work and asked about the environmental focus and referred to the Climate Emergency Plan. She queried whether planting can be integrated into street furniture and whether the Southfields community can support Sidonie in keeping up with climate developments? Sidonie explained that TfL is planning a green wall by the tube station. Green the Grid is meeting with Sidonie soon.
- Charles asked if all plans are set in stone; the response was that there is room for negotiation and that residents are welcome to email Sidonie with comments and ideas: S.Forrest-Brown@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk
- Artwork on the station wall is still under consideration
- A resident asked about the funding; the response was that it is from TfL, Wandsworth Neighbourhood Fund and a number of other small pots of money
- A resident asked if some planters or other green areas could be included instead of only street benches and whether the AELTC had contributed, which they have. Schemes where Community groups have maintained planters etc exist and this could be considered here.
- There was a query about the number of trees; Sidonie clarified that the number of trees within the scheme has not been reduced
- There is an overall increase in cycle stands (from 22 to 42)
- Loading will be permitted on the north side of Replingham Road near Caffè Nero between 10 and 4pm

- There was a query about the extent of the new no loading times on the south side of Replingham Road. Sidonie will double check. Another resident made the point that fresh produce for shops arrives early in the day and this may be difficult for them. A further resident made the point that chemists can't stockpile their stock, which is important to consider in relation to deliveries. Encouraging local businesses to respond to the consultation is important. See Point 2 above.
- It was confirmed that there has been agreement from Boots and Cook about upgrading the surfaces in the area between them
- A resident asked how confident the council is of achieving the time scales as the work on Clonmore Street appeared to some to be very slow. The point was made that workers do need to take breaks and that it may be hard to accurately judge work pace
- The waste management issue was raised as the timing for when businesses can put out their waste for their private contractors to collect doesn't coincide with the times they are permitted to do so by the Council (9-11am). Sidonie will look into this and circulate information to businesses via the SGRA

Charles thanked Sidonie and Tim for coming to the meeting, especially as it was Tim's birthday.

5. Safer Southfields/Crime Update

Safer Southfields Crime Prevention Event to be held on Saturday 8th February:

- Revelstoke Road (outside McCluskey's) 10 – 11.30am
- Wincanton Road (11.45 – 1pm)

Clive Williams reported the latest detailed crime figures for Southfields covering October to December 2019. 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/

Key points:

- October 2019: 44 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 151 for the Southfields ward
- November 2019: 25 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 128 for the Southfields ward
- December 2019: 25 crimes reported in Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road out of a total of 116 for the Southfields ward

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

6. SGRA Executive Update:

Planning – Margaret Brett

Margaret provided an update on the latest planning news:

- The application for 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road 2019/1231 has been revised and we have until 14 February to respond. Many of our concerns remain, not least the loss of access to the rear of 233a which is used as a fire exit and delivery area. There are still no planning applications for the changes already made to the fronts of the shops in that parade. There have been unauthorised changes to 243 which involve a change of use from retail to residential. The barber is now open and we are told that a Polish deli and a juice bar are to go into what was Coral.

- 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.
- Robins in Replingham Road is being refitted as a hairdresser.
- 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.

Planning Forum:

- Wandsworth does not have any plans to bring basements under local planning control. Currently they are permitted development and it is only the light wells that are subject to planning control.
- Wandsworth are also reluctant to consider creating more conservation areas as this is a very expensive process.
- Thames Tideway have notified that they are partially closing Putney Bridge from 4am on Sunday morning to 4am on Monday morning, 3rd February, to move a crane to Putney foreshore.
- Tideway have generously agreed to refurbish the commemorative bench at the top of Replingham Road. It will be taken away for this restoration.

Local Plan:

- Two SGRA representatives attended the recent workshop event.

WESS:

Wandsworth's Climate Action Plan with an Environment and Sustainability Strategy has now been approved by the Council. This involves working in partnership with community groups as well as businesses and residents. The extensive action plan includes work on urban greening as well as opposing new dropped curbs for garden parking and also concreting over front gardens.

Grid Street Representatives – Gerard Sebastian

- The next meeting of Street Reps is on Wednesday 5th February. 2 more reps are needed, for Elborough St and Revelstoke Rd

Friends of Coronation Garden – Charles Runcie

Charles summarised the activity of FOCG to date, coming to the end of its first year:

- The Winter Wonder Garden was very successful. More tickets will be on sale from earlier next year
- They are working with Enable and the Council on plans for a green storage area to improve the northwest corner
- The AGM is on 25th March in the Scout Hut; all welcome to attend
- FOCG is involved with 7 other Friends Groups
- The gates are being locked at night for an experimental period; details will be on the gate from 29th January. The locking had been suspended as a gate was broken but is restarting soon
- A picnic day on 4th July, with an Edwardian theme, will be held to celebrate the first year of FOCG

Communications – Charles Runcie

- The SGRA website is being upgraded; reports, eg Crime and Planning, will be uploaded
- A survey about the website was undertaken before Christmas
- There is an active Facebook page
- Nextdoor.com has a 54% uptake on the grid

7. Friends of Wimbledon Park Update – Nick Steiner

Nick acknowledged the concern about the damage to the park made by the Big Top and Pines and Needles over Christmas. It is a big issue and talks are currently being undertaken with Merton Council. Other active matters are:

- Tree Planting of 200 trees on 8/9th February – flyers to follow
- Toilets in the park
- The Water Play area

8. Review of local events

- **Southfields Christmas Lights** – it was reported that it had the highest number of people ever
- **Hustings** – very positive feedback was received, and it was felt to be well organised. Charles will be writing to the agents for the GLA to offer to host a Hustings for the GLA elections in early May.

9. 'Southfields John' update

- Serena outlined the current situation as given by a local resident, Clair Marshall, who has set up a gofundme page. This is being regularly updated:
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/let039s-help-to-give-john-an-amazing-send-off>
- There are no funeral arrangements at present but there will be a cremation and Clair is liaising with John's sister, Margaret. The family is overwhelmed by the support of the local community. The Southfields Club, Standen Road, have offered to hold a wake and a raffle is being organised to raise funds.

A general discussion followed, raising the following points:

- There was an acknowledgement of the article reproduced from a previous Grid Newsletter
- There was a general feeling that a plaque in John's honour would be a good idea, perhaps on a bench, either existing or a new one as part of the Southfields Improvements. The point was made that the current bench was in memory of the Golden Jubilee in 2002 so a separate one might be more suitable.
- A resident pointed out that decisions should be made in conjunction with John's family

10. Proposed Southfields Environmental Association – Uzair Siddiq

Charles welcomed Uzair, from Pirbright Road, and invited him to outline his proposal:

- Uzair explained his concern about the lack of public facilities for recycling around Southfields. He has studied the data and compared with other boroughs; in 2017/2018 Wandsworth was awarded to lowest grade of D for household waste. There is a target to become carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050 by working with local groups.
- He suggested recycling bins on the streets and around the tube, and extending it to businesses

General discussion included the following points from residents:

- Merton have 'Landfill' bins
- Important to have the right kind of bins within the Public Realm improvements
- The 'dumping problem' outside Oxfam suggests the need for textile recycling
- An invitation to our local MP to help with this

Residents can contact Uzair with suggestions on: usiddiqi@icloud.com and he will be invited back to our March meeting.

11. Special guest: Fleur Anderson, our new MP

Fleur introduced herself and thanked the local community for welcoming her. She promised to be a strong voice in the House for us locally and acknowledged the strength of our community. She made the point that Putney, Roehampton and Southfields was the only constituency to make a Labour gain and that she had been the first to give her Maiden Speech. She acknowledged the work that Justine Greening had done locally and thanked the SGRA for the well organised Hustings.

Surgery arrangements are currently being set up but if residents wish to contact Fleur before they're finalised, they are welcome to contact her direct.

Issues that she is focusing on include:

- Adult Social Care
- Local schools and cuts
- District Line
- The possible 20mph limit on Merton Road/pedestrian crossing safety
- Setting up the Putney Environment Commission – being launched on 8th February at The Arches, next to St Mary's Church, Putney

Fleur has met with Sidonie and with Gill Habershon (Southfields Business Forum) and encourages communication.

Points made by residents during discussion included:

- Margaret Brett explained that Justine Greening chaired the Tideway Committee, will Fleur be involved in this? Fleur is happy to take this on; Margaret will give her further details.
- Ian Tattum wondered about the possibility of getting microgeneration launched eg solar generation, using the Church roof, and whether Fleur can help with this
- Nina Kowalska (Green the Grid) asked if there is any interaction with the government possible with reference to the London plan? Fleur explained that the Environment Bill is coming out soon and that a properly funded joined up approach is planned. Eg subsidies for solar panels

- A resident suggested that the River Wandle could be used for eg hydroelectric generation. The Wandle Valley Regional Trust, Wandle Forum and King George's Park could all be liaised with

12. Forthcoming Events

- Window Wanderland – 8-9th February
- Spring Tea Party – 4th April
- Safer Neighbourhood Team Public Meeting 15th February 10.30am
- Green the Grid Gardeners' Question Time – 2nd April 7.30pm

Date of next Open Meeting – Tuesday 31st March at 7.45pm (Parish Room, St Barnabas)

Any Other Business

- Putney and Roehampton Boxing Club have recently relocated to the RMR barracks on Merton Road and need volunteers. Please contact Charles for more information. They will also be holding classes in the church.

Appendix 1 - Dates of Future Open Meetings

All meetings commence at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting
Tuesday 31 st March 2020	Open Meeting
Tuesday 26 th May 2020	AGM

Appendix 2 – Attendance List

Name	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman
Serena Potter	SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Nick Steiner	SGRA Street Rep
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee
Karen Gregory	SGRA Executive Committee
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee
John Habershon	
Gill Habershon	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Nina Kowalska	Green the Grid
Oscar Hather	
Lesley McCaul	
Maggie Richard	
Jackie Lever	
Penny Terndrup	
Christine McDonald	
Colette S	
Diane Miles	
Beth McKillop	
Cllr. Terry Walsh	
Katrina Ure	
Aidan Magill	
Sidonie Forrest Brown	Richmond & Wandsworth Councils
Tim Addleston	Richmond & Wandsworth Councils
Fleur Anderson MP	New MP for Putney, Roehampton & Southfields
Kate Lyons	
Ross Young	
Rob Bumpstead	
Carol Birkbeck	
Diane Nielsen-Smith	
Jackie Pearce	
Graham Skyrme	
Ian Tattum	
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	
Richard Silverstein	