

**Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee**

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Members Present:** Charles Runcie (Chair), Ann Kerr, Chris Puleston, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Margaret Brett, Clive Williams, Karen Gregory, Serena Potter.

**Summary of Actions from meeting**

<b>Previous Actions Outstanding</b>	<b>Owner(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Contact Cllr. Guy Humphries for an update on the installation of CCTV in the grid	Charles, Karen	Closed
Speak to Oakley Locksmiths to see they could provide any specific advice around safety measures	Amelia, Ann	Closed
Get hold of material from last Southfields SNT meeting and have this uploaded to SGRA website	Charles	Closed
Attempt to arrange a meeting with Merton representatives to push for improvements in Wimbledon Park	Charles	Closed
Arrange a further Street Reps meeting	Gerard	Closed
Business Directory – talk to Kyra/Susanna	Gerard	Closed
Supply logo and short text for the Window Wanderland map. SGRA to provide a volunteer to give maps out	Charles	Closed
Write to the Council about the Public Realm regarding siting cycle stands parallel to road outside Tesco, also regarding parking	Margaret	Closed
Respond to Mark Davie's email	Margaret	Closed
Item to be written for the newsletter regarding Party Wall Agreements and what happens if water is found (ref Basement issue)	tbc	Closed
Request list of commercial activities in Wimbledon Park	Amelia	Closed
Arrange a meeting with Iain Simpson (WPRA) and inform Nick (?) ref Wimbledon Park	Charles	Closed
Ask Green the Grid committee for help at Tea Party	Amelia	Closed
Working party to discuss layout of the newsletter	Charles, Ann, Karen, Philippa	Closed
Pursue status of community noticeboard with council as part of Public Realm improvements	Margaret	Open
Progress membership database solution and required activities. Meeting to be arranged to progress this. Pirbright Road possibly to trial it.	Charles, Chris, Karen, Richard, Serena	Open
Consider holding a Hustings for the Mayoral elections / London Assembly	Charles	Open, in progress
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

Investigate 'Jumble Trail' Contact Jennifer Drysdale (Acer Lettings) who runs Grid Mummies	Ann/Amelia	Open
Investigate 'Repair Café'	Serena	Open
<b>New Actions</b>	<b>Owner (s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
GtG item for newsletter	Amelia	Open
Feed back to SNT ideas for higher visibility in order to improve their crime prevention days	Charles	Open
Give Karen the Wimbledon Park newsletter for some advertising leads	Chris	Open
Start organising Neighbourhood Watch	Clive	Open
Meeting with Enable ref Coronation Gardens gate locking	Charles	Open
Relationship between SGRA & GtG	All	Open
Invitations to be sent re Spring Tea Party	Charles/Serena	Open
Microphone to be sourced for Tea Party – Ronald Ross?	Charles	Open

### **1. Apologies**

Gerard.

### **2. Last Open Meeting – Actions and Matters Arising**

General feedback was that it was a positive meeting; there were three useful presentations (Sidonie/Tim, Uzair Siddiqi and Fleur Anderson). Regarding the Southfields improvements to date, it was noted that Clonmore Street has been completed.

- Green the Grid has had a meeting with Sidonie. Margaret made the point that it is important that Sidonie realises Green the Grid is a separate entity to SGRA.
- John's funeral – still no date (NB Since the meeting it has been announced that it will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am, Putney Vale Cemetery). Date to go on Social media when it is announced. Clive explained that there is an implication that SGRA will be organising a plaque/bench and that Sidonie has been approached about it. He emphasised that there is a suggestion that a different bench from the Jubilee one be identified and that SGRA is not responsible for this.

### **3. Last Exec Meeting – Actions and Matters Arising**

The following matters arising from the previous Exec meeting (7.1.20) were discussed:

#### **Actions:**

- Discussion about database: Pirbright Road could be a guineapig in order to trial a database. Discussion over whether we actually need one or whether a spreadsheet is good enough. Mailchimp is a possibility
- Next newsletter: Amelia to write an item on GtG and send to Philippa; a space has been kept.
- Copy deadline to be put prominently in the newsletter
- List of commercial activities in Wimbledon Park: Amelia has asked Merton and was sent to the website. There are many events listed so there is potential for further damage. Amelia went through the list. Wimbledon Park appears to fund other parks in Merton (as it generates more).

- Jumble Trail: Amelia has investigated. The idea is that people sell jumble in their front gardens (not pavements as that would involve getting permission from the council). Karen suggested it being organised via the Grid Mummies and SGRA could support by funding posters etc.

#### **4. Review of February's local events**

- a. **SNT Day 8<sup>th</sup> February:** PC James Elvy and the SNT were all present together with PS Adam Garcia and a PCSO from West Hill Ward. Two members of Wandsworth Council's Community Safety Service, Andrew Jolly, responsible for Southfields Ward and Roger Lyddon, responsible for the Wandsworth Business Against Crime (WBAC) scheme recently rolled out in Replingham Road were also present. The event took place at two locations, McCluskeys at Revelstoke Road and in Wincanton Road off Wimbledon Park Road. There were disappointing public numbers. PC Elvy thought that about 10 to 15 people had engaged with the police at McCluskeys. There was some confusion about as to the exact location of the site at Wincanton Road and there wasn't a stand, although the Community Safety Service Van was present. Perhaps it could be held outside the tube station another time, even though it's actually West Hill, or outside the Post Office where there is higher footfall.
- b. **SNT Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February:** 16 people attended; more than usual. **Action:** Charles to feedback to SNT ideas for raising visibility. Ann explained that she had been to Oakley and Laura was interested in doing a crime prevention day but it didn't happen. Its difficult for the Police to show favour to particular shops so this may not work.
- c. **Window Wanderland:** there was a query about whether it was too early in the year given the weather and perhaps March would be better. This was, however, the weekend that all Winter Wanderland events were happening. Sam has let Charles know that she wants help with organising; hopefully it will continue next year. From an admin point of view there were about 20-25 posts (Ann and Amelia) and not all were able to be put up. Coverage of the event on the website was discussed; Ann suggested it was a shame not to have photos of windows from each street.

#### **5. Executive Update**

##### **Communications:**

- Newsletter: Leaflets ref car crime/burglary prevention tips. Committee agreed to put the car crime one in the next newsletter and the burglary one in the summer newsletter.
- 55% households now on Nextdoor. The ward of Southfields has the highest of any Wandsworth ward.
- Facebook account launched 4 years ago. There are now approximately 1600 people signed up

##### **Planning – Margaret**

Margaret provided an update on local planning news:

'We wrote to object to the application for 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road 2019/1231. There are numerous objections to the revised plan. There are still no planning applications for the changes already made to the shops in that parade. There have been unauthorised changes to 243 which involve a change of use from retail to residential although there is now a small outlet in the remaining space.

Gail's Bakery has opened, and although there is an application for an air vent there is still no application for the change of use.

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

There is a structure outside Sainsbury's that was not in their design and I have notified enforcement.

There are issues with graffiti and Wandsworth are taking swift action once notified.

#### Public realm.

The pavement from Clonmore to Heythorp is almost completed. They have not closed Heythorp yet and have moved on to the next area of paving. It is a pity that some of the businesses/freeholders have opted out. The work in Clonmore looks good and the new metal bollards are very elegant.

I told Sidonie that there was not a consensus on the plaque for John.

The bench has been taken for refurbishment.

I am still waiting to hear back about the notice board and will pursue this.

#### General discussion about parklets:

Amelia mentioned that Garrett Lane has some planned; it is a new plan and indicates that Wandsworth is keen on them. Fleur Anderson is keen. SGRA is clear that we have a position. The impact on parking is the key issue.

#### **Finance – Chris**

Chris handed out hard copies and went through his report (cashflow table previously emailed and in Appendix 1 of these minutes):

He suggested that we become proactive in how to spend as we have a healthy amount in the account. Points made included:

- Street collection has stayed fairly steady
- Advertising has increased
- Chris will continue to write a short article in each newsletter

Karen said that a couple of advertisers have dropped out but new ones are coming in. Chris will give Karen the Wimbledon Park newsletter for some advertising leads.

**Grid News** – next issue out March 19/20<sup>th</sup>. Summer issue out approximately July 17/18<sup>th</sup>

#### **Green the Grid, including Front Garden Awards – Amelia**

- Next event: 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Gardening Question Time at St Barnabas 7.45-9pm**  
Still at the planning stage but the following was outlined:  
There will be 4 people answering questions. Sustainability will be a theme.  
Raffle  
Refreshments – donations, not priced
- Giving out sunflower seeds: 4<sup>th</sup> April – 10-12 noon outside McCluskeys**  
Seeds will also be given out at the Tea Party and Gardening Question Time
- Front Garden Awards – 13-28<sup>th</sup> June    Spectacular Sunflowers early August**  
Ann has stood down and Amelia thanked her for her inspiration and support. It was felt to be very successful last year and not much will change this year. Bronze/silver/gold

awards, Best Street Planting awards but NO gnomes as several were taken last year.  
1<sup>st</sup> prize: £25, 2x runner ups: £15 each  
Spectacular Sunflowers will be in early August; just one judging this year.  
£392.81 was spent last year; £450 is requested for this year.  
There will be a piece for the website and for the newsletter. Judith Chegvidden (Putney Society) came to talk about doing a Front Garden Award in Putney.  
Wandsworth are very keen on promoting front gardens (Steffi Sutters)

## **FOWP – Amelia**

- **Tree Planting:** there was a lot of interest. It clashed with Storm Ciara. There will be a further event coming soon.
- **Weekend of 25/26<sup>th</sup> April** – events, still at the planning stage
- **AGM** – 19<sup>th</sup> March at St Barnabas, 8pm
- **Merton budget** – may allocate £40K to the toilets in Wimbledon Park. Budget meeting in early March
- Margaret suggested using drainage maps
- The paddling pool won't be opening this year but there will be a search for money for next year. It has been estimated that it will cost £200K
- Ongoing concerns about the lake/flooding. There is a 2022 deadline to overcome reservoir safety risks; this is still in progress.
- Sophia Browning, Chair of The Gardens Residents Association joined us at the FOWP Forum meeting in January
- Swim London is to be debated this week (NB Decision deferred – safety)

## **Crime Update/Stats – Clive**

### **a) Clive provided a crime update:**

As figures for January 2020 had not yet released, Clive reported on the annual crime figures for the last 2 years:

- In 2019 there were 275 crimes reported in the SGRA area compared with 306 in 2018. Vehicle crime is highest (79), shoplifting is lowest. Southfields remains the lowest in Wandsworth. Clive produced a spreadsheet showing that over the last 5 years total crime in our area has ranged from 230 (2015) to a high of 330 (2016) but is now (2019) down to 275.
- Charles requested that Clive send a snapshot of these figures to John for the website

### **b) Neighbourhood Watch and Online Watch Link (OWL):**

- Clive had circulated two emails to Exec members about Neighbourhood Watch (NW) and the Online Watch Link (OWL). Clive has discussed with Andrew Jolly whether a SGRA wide NW scheme might be feasible, rather than the street by street model previously favoured by the Council. Wandsworth Council now says that Neighbourhood Watches can be organised by district not just streets, so would entertain a SGRA wide NW scheme.

Each NW must have a co-ordinator and must a police check in advance. Andrew Jolly suggests that each NW should ideally have more than one co-ordinator for continuity. The NW co-ordinator acts as the link between Council/Police service and NW members and disseminates information from and to all parties. Clive is happy to get it started and be co-ordinator and to look for other volunteers. The committee agreed to this and thanked him.

In the SGRA model it is envisaged that relevant information could be distributed via our already existing social media, via our website or through Street Reps. Clive wondered if it would be possible to set up a dedicated email using the name 'GridWatch@southfieldsgrid.org.uk' or similar as a contact point for SGRA's NW.

- Last January Wandsworth joined Online Watch Link (OWL) ([www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk)), a community messaging service used by 12 London Boroughs and the Metropolitan Police (including SNTs) to communicate with local NW members. OWL is replacing the previous DISC system for NW, which is now being used for business crime. Clive circulated a booklet about OWL and will sign up to it

### Street Reps – Gerard

In Gerard's absence, Charles outlined his notes from Gerard's e-mail (sent to all on 25/2/20). Gerard's summary:

- I met with Kyra and have discussed to progress the Southfields Grid Business Directory. Please see below email sent to Kyra
- I also met with our Street Reps, and some of you were present. Notes from meeting below
- You already have an update from my meeting with a representative from the Rory Stewart Mayoral Campaign. Also attached below
- Uzair has been unwell and has been unable to progress the project to set up a Southfields Environment Association

A good Street Reps meeting has been held and Charles thanked Gerard.

### Friends of Coronation Gardens update

- a) Diary dates:
  - 14<sup>th</sup> March** – National Spring Clean Day
  - 11<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March** – 3 days of bulb planting
  - 25<sup>th</sup> March** – AGM, 7.30pm. All welcome. Guest speaker is Steffi Sutters.
- b) **Gate locking:** this is in conjunction with Enable. Charles has a meeting with Enable on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Feedback from dog walkers and others is that gates are closing too early (Margaret). Further discussion needed.
- c) **Nursery play area:** the lease is being renegotiated and the play areas will become available to all. Equipment to be updated

### 5a. Green the Grid funding application

Nina has submitted a detailed application. Self-sufficiency ref funding is an aim for the future. Eg sponsorship from shops. Chris suggested this is quite tricky and felt SGRA should fund it as it gets a lot from it. Time is an issue.

2 ideas: door knocking – this has been thought about – and grant application for specific costs. Printing is the main expense (including laminating)

Karen suggested estate agent as a potential target for inclusion. Chris wondered about a potential difficulty if eg a poster goes up and acknowledgment of sponsor is needed. Could SGRA be a sponsor?

Amelia suggested there is a general feeling that GtG is the 'green arm of the SGRA' and given the direction of climate change etc this may be positive. Perhaps a percentage of street collection money could go towards the GtG?

Margaret suggested the relationship needs clarifying

Chris suggested the street collection envelope could say something along the lines of 'supporting GtG'

Committee agreed to support this year's request of £672 and continue to think further about the relationship between the 2 organisations and possible sponsorship

## **6. Restart Project – Serena**

Serena attended the Transition Town Tooting/Restarters Tooting event on 1<sup>st</sup> February and met Hilary Jennings, organiser, who was very supportive of the wish to start a similar SGRA event. Majority of items being repaired were electronics/electrics (small items such as computers/radios/lights/hover etc).

Val Jones (Putney Society) and Paula Reynolds (Woodfield Pavilion, Tooting) were also attending with a similar aim and all were introduced to Mike Grahn who co-ordinated the 'fixers' at Tooting. He is willing to offer advice on insurance and related issues and the possibility of developing a supportive network of Repair events between our local organisations was raised. There is a 'Volunteer Welcome Session' at 1pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March before the next Tooting event which will elicit more information and networking potential: <https://www.meetup.com/Restarters-London/events/268656155/>

Serena will attend; others are very welcome. It will be held at Mushkill Aasaan, 222 Upper Tooting Road SW17 7EW. Further information from <https://therestartproject.org/parties/tooting-20/>

Vanessa Ternes (organiser at Restart) will try to come to the next Open Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March to give a brief presentation about the concept; if she can't, she will ask someone else from the organisation.

Main challenge and focus is to recruit volunteers who are willing to attend and repair items. Serena has written a piece for the newsletter in order to start this. Perhaps a post on Nextdoor as well.

Serena also attended a similar event in Borough (Goodlife Centre) in February, had a table lamp mended and linked with the organiser. However, the Tooting group seems to be more likely to provide support and ideas for starting our own.

## **7. Forthcoming Events**

- Gardening Question Time – GtG – 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Spring Tea Party – 4<sup>th</sup> April
  - Cygnets have confirmed
  - Raffle prizes are needed (Charles has offered a bottle of whisky)
  - Bingo/Quiz on each table
  - Anne Patterson (local author) to speak
  - Chris will show his photographs
  - Invitations to be sent out (Charles and Serena). Charles suggested sending a personal invitation to Justine Greening; committee agreed
  - Microphone or other amplification needed – Charles to ask Ronald Ross

## **8. Date of next meeting:**

31<sup>st</sup> March – Next Open Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> April – Next Executive Meeting

## **9. AOB**

- a) Gerard has had a meeting with Oli Ramsay Gray, Regional Co-ordinator for Wandsworth & Merton for the Rory Stewart Mayoral Campaign. Details in Gerard's email
  
- b) Hustings for the GLA election in our constituency:
  - All known candidates are willing to attend
  - Late April date to be arranged
  - A blurb about the remit of GLA could be organised
  
- c) AGM:
  - Suggested invitees: Fleur Anderson, someone to discuss/present on Climate Action/Sustainability, perhaps a Communications representative

## **Appendix 1 Finance**

Cashflow for the 2020/21 Financial Year		
	Amount	Notes
Current Cash	£ 5,893.00	Assumes final outstanding advertisers pay (£700)
Less April to June costs	£ 1,500.00	One more newsletter and the tea party
Subtotal carried forward to FY21	£ 4,393.00	
<b>Income</b>		
Street collections	£ 2,800.00	Estimated on this years actual - collected Summer
Advertising	£ 4,470.00	Assumed collected 1st quarter 2021
Subtotal	£ 11,663.00	
<b>Outgoings</b>		
Expected costs	-£ 4,000.00	Printing, Competition, Party
Petty Cash	-£ 300.00	
Subtotal	-£ 4,300.00	
Cash surplus for 20/21	£ 7,363.00	Note cashflow means that only £3,000 up to 1st quarter 2021