



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2020, via Zoom

Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting

Apologies for absence: none

1. Minutes + matters arising from meetings of May 26th (Open Meeting) and June 30th (Executive Meeting); these can be seen on:

Open Meeting 26th May: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SGRA-Open-Meeting-Minutes-26.05.20-FINAL-1.pdf>

Points to be covered later in the meeting:

- Gerard Sebastian had proposed a register of small businesses (however, there was insufficient time to cover this)
- The Public works timetable changes - Sidonie Forrest-Brown
- Information about subscriptions

The Grid newsletter will be placed in more public places, to make it more widely read, Covid-19 permitting. The next edition is due in early September.

Margaret Brett outlined the idea of the '**low traffic neighbourhood**'. The local community needs to decide its wishes in terms of deterring traffic. It is a complicated application process and there are a range of options. A petition will need to be raised, residents must agree, then it is put to the Council and a response awaited. Cllr Guy Humphreys explained that the idea is to try to restrict traffic to those who do live in the area. Please get in touch if you wish to participate, via street reps or to the Executive Committee direct.

Street Representatives: We are looking to recruiting further Street Reps so each street will have 2. Members of the Grid Alliance have been invited. If anyone is interested please contact Gerard Sebastian on info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

Charles explained that Executive Committee minutes will now be posted on the website: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SGRA-Executive-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-30.06.20-FINAL.pdf>

2. **Grid Alliance latest: Charles Runcie/Becky Watts**

The Grid Alliance has 2 main tasks: the hotline for support, and the regularly updated shop/business opening times etc. The hotline was set up and is co-ordinated by Becky.

Becky updated the meeting: the hotline is still ticking over, albeit with a definite reduction of numbers. There are many regulars and pharmacies are still giving out our details. The GP surgeries also still have details and are using them. Food shop delivery and pharmacy use are the biggest sectors. Last month's requests were almost all prescriptions.

The Grid Alliance has taken the decision to keep going, bearing in mind the possibility of further waves of need. It is an extension of 'friends and family' for some vulnerable people. Volunteers have been consulted and most would like to continue. After a peak of around 63, about 60 are keen to remain. Charles asked if the Alliance acts 'in loco parentis' and are there people who need to be referred on? Becky explained that occasional recipients have caused concern, but this has been discussed with pharmacies as they arise.

Charles paid tribute to Becky who has kept this going with no break. Fleur Anderson commented that it shows the value of a strong community, shows the best of us at the worst of times and thanked all involved.

Cllr Terry Walsh fed back from the Council's perspective: the Council's hub took a lot of calls and was very helpful. He has visited the Wimbledon Football Club depot off Brathway Road; they are making deliveries and he knows of several neighbours who have knocked on doors. Southfields' efforts have been very good.

Cllr Guy Humphreys added his thanks to Becky & the Grid Alliance and felt it is a tribute to our area.

Rev Ian Tattum outlined St Barnabas Church's involvement: Storage has not been needed so much recently. Involvement has evolved into providing food parcels weekly for those whom local schools knew were in need and this is continuing over the summer (including Riversdale and Albemarle Schools). South West Fruit and Veg (swfruitandveg.com) is providing food for the church and the local community.

Aidan Magill (resident) explained that the Trussell Trust has switched to delivering food parcels to voucher holders to keep vulnerable people safer. The old PC World warehouse on Wandsworth Bridge is the distribution centre.

Fleur Anderson thanked the SGRA for involving her in the Front Garden Awards and all who had lovely gardens. She explained that Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are being introduced during August and it might be helpful to have a look at different versions; those coming are: Thamesfield, West Putney, Tooting Bec and Tooting Broadway.

3. **Items held over from postponed AGM, May 26th:**

- a) **Chair's annual report** (see attached): Charles Runcie went through his presentation.
- b) **Treasurer's annual report** – see Appendix (i): Chris Puleston went through the figures which were presented to the meeting. Pirbright Rd, Heythorp St and Engadine St had the highest collection last year. Overall, street collections were down. Information about this year's collection will be in next Newsletter. Expenditure this year is 34% up; the newsletter has got bigger & the contributions to GtG and FoCG have increased. There was no Spring Tea Party due to the pandemic. Trevor Howes (resident) asked for clarity about the carried forward figure which was explained to be the current bank balance.
- c) **Elections for Executive Committee** -see Appendix (ii): The Chair suggested that, due to current extraordinary situation, all those proposed be elected en bloc for a further term of 10 months to May 2021. Rev Ian Tattum made the proposal, and this was seconded by Cllr Guy Humphreys.

4. **Public Realm Improvements Update: Guest, Sidonie Forrest-Brown, Senior Transport Planner**

The Chair thanked Sidonie for attending. She updated the meeting:

- There has been a pause for lockdown but work recommenced in June. All is going well except for the delay and the completion date is November 2021. She is happy to circulate the programme with clear dates and timetable
- w/c 10th August: partial road closures for about 4 weeks. Maps will be available. There will be one-way working in sections. The dates are indicative and can change at short notice, it is a guide only
- All information will all go out in a separate email and will be posted on the website
- Aidan Magill expressed disappointment that the camera on a pole outside Cook remains as it may be obstructive for wheelchairs etc. Sidonie will double check the situation. New pavement has been put in all round
- Trevor Howes pointed out that the contractors have put in a temporary pathway for pedestrians which is narrower than 2 metres. Sidonie clarified that they are working to new government guidelines but will check with the manager
- Margaret Brett asked if the completion of works will be affected by the TfL funding crisis? Sidonie explained that there have been changes to funding. There is no delay or issue at the moment but they are looking at other ways to plug the gaps

- Cllr Guy Humphreys gave a reassurance that councillors are committed to ensuring funding will be in place

5. **2020 Front Garden Awards review: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Chair of the judging panel**

Amelia reported that the Awards had gone very well and thanked all involved in the gardens and street planting. She thanked the judges for all their hard work and Fleur for taking part. She acknowledged that it had been difficult this year to find plants.

Over 176 awards were given: 20 golds, many more silvers than last year and fewer bronzes. She illustrated the success in encouraging the greening of gardens by explained that one resident had written to say she had dug up her paving since last year when she received a bronze; this year she received a silver award.

Overall winner: 98 Elsenham Street. **Joint runners up:** 16 Lavenham Road and 62 Hanford Close. All results are on social media and will be in the Grid newsletter. A presentation will be organised, and the **Spectacular Sunflowers Competition** is still to come in August.

Amelia outlined the benefits of making gardens more attractive, including making happy habitats for wildlife and improvement of air quality. She will talk to estate agents to help encourage new residents to help to work towards the community and a greener environment

Leonie Cooper (London Assembly Member, Merton & Wandsworth) reiterated the importance of retention of rainwater and reducing surface water runoff but also the growing fruit and vegetables. Perhaps that could be added that to front gardens.

6. **Southfields “Safer Neighbourhood Team” police update: Guest, PC Robbie**

Figures for April to June for all Southfields (not only the Grid) were given: Burglary and theft from vehicle are the main issues

Crime prevention: advice is to make sure sheds and windows are locked, use security lights and Banham locks. The team can offer home security advice to those needed.

Vehicle theft: residents are advised to double lock vehicles, have no valuables showing, use magnetic key boxes and report suspicious behaviour.

Bicycle theft is increasing: 2 in April, 11 in May and 6 in June. The SNT will target the hardest hit areas and deliver leaflets where bikes parked outside. Please ensure the correct security in sheds.

The Metropolitan Police website has good crime prevention advice:

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

Locksmith labels on doors: Trevor Howes asked about this issue. The police are aware; there are currently no burglaries related to the labels but please remove them and call the police if anyone is seen attaching them. A resident explained that many people have video evidence and have posted on nextdoor.com. It can be difficult to contact the police and she asked if they can check on nextdoor.com. Robbie suggested 3 ways: 999 / 101 / email to: southfields.snt@met.police.uk
Clive Williams explained that the police have restricted access to nextdoor.com so emailing is best.

7. **Abundance Southfields summer fruit-picking plans: Guest, Richard Konig**

Richard gave an overview of Abundance Southfields: <http://www.abundancesouthfields.com/>

The aim is to reduce food waste across London by helping people to pick the fruit in their gardens. In previous years, apples and other fruit have been distributed outside the tube station and turned to vinegar and cider, some of which is sold, and the profits put towards further equipment. 2019 had a bumper crop and promotion in Brightside magazine meant a higher profile. Abundance Southfields is active from Barnes to Balham, Clapham to Roehampton. Festivals were attended last year to promote the project.

This year has 2 challenges: Covid 19 and the dry May mean it is not likely to be a bumper year. The focus may be more on cider and vinegar. Giving fruit away at the tube may be more difficult due to crowds and issue of close contact, but the aim stays the same. They will encourage people to make contact, they can lend equipment or send someone with masks, gloves and gel to help pick excess fruit from people's gardens.

Aidan thanked Richard and said how satisfying it is to pick your own fruit; he borrowed equipment last week.

8. Southfields Business Forum update: Gill Habershon, SBF Chair

Gill outlined various points regarding the impact of Covid-19, for the businesses in Replingham Road and Wimbledon Park Road. She thanked shops including Southfields Village Butchers, John Walker, Food & Wine, newsagents and others who stayed open during the crisis so the community could shop locally:

- After the shortage of items during lockdown, for example of canned and dried goods, wholesalers had put prices up and supermarkets did not give any discounts; this all added to the difficulties
- Most independent businesses are operating again now but all have different needs, and all are suffering and struggling. Many have received grants. However, 5 shops closed, for example Trieste Pizza and it is not yet known if Derosier Chocolate and Coffee will re-open. In addition, Sikelia and the old Sainsburys are still closed and the shop next to Prime News is empty
- There has been damage to the Fish and Chip shop this week and to Costa Coffee
- 2 shops on the Wimbledon Park Road Parade have opened. However, the buildings change has changed the character of these businesses. It is a struggle but if residents want shops to remain then they must continue to support them

Cllr Guy Humphreys reiterated that it is good to see lots of people supporting local businesses and that there is a desire to do so. He suggested that Southfields is fortunate to have comparatively few empty units.

9. New tree watering initiative (Wandsworth Tree Wardens): Serena Potter

Serena carried out a survey during Lockdown of the young trees on the Grid. Around 40 trees have been planted in the last 3 years; those planted during the winter of 2019/20 have green topped stakes, the year before have red topped stakes. (see attached map). They are vulnerable to drought and although Wandsworth arrange watering this isn't sufficient in hot, dry conditions.

Wandsworth Tree Wardens are piloting a Watering Hub Scheme and Serena has set this up on the Grid with the support of the SGRA Street Reps and Green the Grid. She suggested this could be a positive community initiative, fitting in well with the planting of tree bases, GtG and the Front Garden Awards. 'Please Water Me' signs have been put on trees and residents living near each have been invited to 'adopt a tree'. However, ALL trees would benefit from being watered and they cannot be overwatered. Serena asked if everyone would spread the word and encourage neighbours to water trees near them. This initiative will be posted on social media and an item will go in the next Newsletter.

Cllr Terry Walsh explained that the Council has carried out an audit and some trees have been removed due to faults such as crowns being unstable. They are trying to take account of the loss of trees and increase the planting of new ones. Leonie Cooper explained a main road such as Merton Road is the responsibility of TfL. The planting of trees there is dependent on issues such as location of water pipes. Clive Williams explained that sites will not be replanted if there has been disease.

If anyone has queries about trees on the Grid get in touch with Serena (sjpotter304@gmail.com) and she will pass it on to Enable who have the tree maintenance contract with Wandsworth. Contact Serena or info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk if you are interested in becoming a Tree Warden.

10. 'Friends' updates:

Time did not allow for reports to be presented at the meeting but see the following:

- Friends of Wimbledon Park: Nick Steiner, chair, prepared a presentation which can be read at <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>
- Friends of Coronation Gardens: Charles Runcie, chair, reports the following:
 - 'Locking the park gates from 9 pm-6 am from Thursday to Sunday nights has resumed, to combat anti-social behaviour

- After discussion with the gardens' management the nursery play area, which had been out of bounds for more than 10 years, is to be returned to general gardens use. Safety work will be done during the autumn, with new equipment a possibility. Super news
- The informal picnic and musical entertainment planned for Bank Holiday Monday 31st August has been scrapped owing to the amount of admin needed
- The first AGM of the Friends, postponed from April 1st, will be held on Wednesday 30th September. It will probably be done via a Zoom conference during the day – time TBC

Please consider joining the Friends and help them to maintain and enhance park facilities. It's only £10 per annum. Go to focoronationgardens.co.uk for more details.'

11. SGRA Executive Reports:

- a) **Planning:** see Appendix (iii) – *Margaret Brett*: Margaret highlighted that the development at the back of the Wimbledon Park Road shops has caused upset. Cllr Guy Humphreys explained these are civil issues eg party wall/access, rather than planning law issues
- b) **Crime:** see www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/ - *Clive Williams*: Clive explained recent crime figures show that anti-social behaviour is the greatest

12. Any Other Business

Litter bins on the Grid: Serena Potter asked about litter and dog mess on the Grid and why there are no bins? Cllr Terry Walsh agreed this is the case and will contact the relevant people.

Overgrown hedges: Cllrs Terry Walsh and Guy Humphreys will check guidance. After 3 weeks a complaint can be made. Karen Gregory made the point that sometimes hedges belong to older residents who find them difficult to maintain. Perhaps residents can offer to help their neighbours?

Homeless sleepers: Ann Kerr asked if SBF have a policy on what to do in these cases which are causing concern? She suggested a cohesive approach to prevent cash being spent on drugs (which was observed in Carlyle Court). According to the SNT, a business owner had given £60. Gill Habershon had contacted Cllr Kim Caddy and the council had helped. Cllr Guy Humphreys explained if someone is in the shop doorway, it is the responsibility of the freeholder to ask them to move on but it is a delicate issue so a team effort is appreciated.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29th September, time tba but likely to be during the day via Zoom unless regulations change.

Appendix (i) Treasurer’s report

Brought Forward from Last Year		£ 4,018.26
Income	Advertising	£ 4,460.00
	Street Collections	£ 2,434.00
	Total	£ 6,894.00
Expenditure	Newsletter	£ 3,612.45
	Green the Grid Support	£ 578.36
	Church Hall Hire	£ 450.00
	Collection envelopes	£ 390.00
	Coronation Gardens Support	£ 384.00
	Front Garden Competition	£ 303.60
	Liability Insurance	£ 232.72
	Election Hustings Cost	£ 120.00
	Window Wanderland Support	£ 100.00
	Other	£ 355.43
	Total	£ 6,526.56
Carried Forward to 2020/21		£ 4,385.70
Petty Cash		£ 149.00
Ousting Advertising from Spring Newsletter		£ 830.00
Total		£ 5,364.70

Appendix (ii) Elections for Executive Committee

Nominations for the Election of Officers and Members to the Executive Committee:

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Charles Runcie (Chair)	Krissy Hatfield	Sheila Shaw
Gerard Sebastian (Vice-Chair)	Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	Ann Kerr
Chris Puleston (Hon. Treasurer)	Ann Kerr	Charles Runcie
Serena Potter (Hon. Secretary)	Charles Runcie	Di Brennan
Margaret Brett	Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	Ann Kerr
Ann Kerr	Margaret Brett	Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	Ann Kerr	Margaret Brett
Clive Williams	Karen Gregory	Charles Runcie
Karen Gregory	Serena Potter	Charles Runcie

Appendix (iii) Planning Notes July 2020

The planning application for the development at the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road (2019/1231) was approved by the Planning Committee in June. There was a last-minute revision of the ground floor plan to allow access to Chanteroy's basement at the rear. Planners dismissed each of the objections in favour of the applicant. There are 18 conditions attached to the planning permission. We will monitor this location for any further changes to the approved design.

The application to develop a further storey on Coleman Court in Kimber Road is still open (2020/0530). There are 99 objections to this.

Not in the Grid but of concern to residents who have children attending St Cecilia's, is the planning case to erect a 20m Huawei telecoms mast outside the school. (2020/2478) There are also proposals to extend the school to take an additional class. The planning application (2019/4422) is for a two- storey classroom block at the rear, and a hall, to extend capacity to 1150 children.

Otherwise there are only a few local applications.

The Planning Forum met remotely on 1 July. We were reassured that the new permitted development relaxation on adding two storeys to buildings was for free standing flats only and for buildings dating from 1.7.1948. There has been an extension to the hours of construction allowing work to continue until 9pm and 8pm on Saturdays. Some more changes to permitted development rights are expected.

They invited contributions to early thoughts on Area Strategies feeding into the new Local Plan.

Local notes

The improvement work has now started on the north side of Replingham and has reached Cooks, the caterers. The south side has been done to Cook's the Chemist. They have left room for a tree in Elsenham Street.

There is now a speed indicator in Replingham Road monitoring the west bound traffic.

Wandsworth is consulting on how to improve our parks. Consultation ends 8th August.

Low traffic neighbourhoods are being introduced. This is something we should be considering for the Grid streets. They provide for local access only and are designed to deter

through traffic. We would need to agree a local proposal, gain support by means of a petition, then put this to the Council for a decision and implementation if agreed. We have seen how quiet and safe our streets can be without through traffic.

The Council is changing the way it updates the electoral register and will no longer be sending the standard form. Instead we will be sent an email or text. The email will be sent from electoral services and the text will be from LBW – Elect. We may also be contacted by post.

Appendix (iv) – Attendance List

Name	Role
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
Becky Watts	Grid Mummies/Grid Alliance
Fleur Anderson	MP for Putney, Roehampton & Southfields
Cllr Guy Humphreys	
Sidonie Forrest-Brown	Senior Transport Planner
Leonie Cooper	London Assembly Member
PC Robert Amigo	SNT
Nick Steiner	FoWP
Ian Tattum	St Barnabas Church
Cllr. Terry Walsh	
John Habershon	
Gill Habershon	Southfields Business Forum
Richard Konig	Abundance Southfields
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Hilary Simpson	
Kyra von Schottenstein	
Mary Buckley	The Gardens RA
Trevor Hawes	
Kate Humphreys	
Peter Jackson	
Aidan Magill	
Julia Raeburn	
Shiraz Mehrundatoo	
Kate Lyons	
Gordon Springett	
Lesley McCaul	
Janice Adamson	
Liam J	
Martin Chitty	
James McGuire	
John Stocker	
Emile van den Berg	
Jackie Lever	
Gordon	