

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR), Chris Puleston (CP), Clive Williams (CW), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO), Gerard Sebastian (GS), Serena Potter (SP), Ann Kerr (AK), Margaret Brett (MB) and Karen Gregory (KG).

Becky Watts (BW, Grid Mummies/Grid Alliance Co-ordinator), Cllr Guy Humphries (GH) Andrew Dunley (AD) were present at the start for the Grid Alliance item.

Actions from last meeting	Owner(s)	Status
Set up Mailchimp for database emails	SP	Open
Put a summary of the relationship between SGRA & other organisations on the website	CR	Open
Put together a note for the WhatsApp Grid Alliance group re: the remit moving forward	BW, GS, CR	Completed
Confirm that new details re: Public Realm works can be made public	CR	Completed
Subscriptions: Item in newsletter to explain system of subscription collection and GDPR consent on subscription envelope	tbc	Completed
Postcards to be updated and reprinted	CR	Open
Liaise with Philippa Hargreaves re: next Grid News Copies to be delivered to DeRosier Coffee & Chocolate, McCluskey's and Café in the Park	CR KG	Completed
Liaise with Graham Skyrme re delivery to shops in Replingham Road, GP and Dentists' Surgeries	CR/SP	
Add names of those Exec Committee members who wish to Facebook admin	CR	Open
Reports to be written for 28 th July meeting	All	Completed
Investigate the process of applying for the Grid to be a 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood'	MB	Completed
Set up working party for young tree watering	SP/AO	Completed
Consider recruiting 2 Street Reps per street	GS	Open
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Update WhatsApp group about Alliance plans	BW	Open
Update information on when the Barracks on Merton Road is open for Covid-19 testing and put on website	GH/CR	Open
Invite appropriate speaker (re: bikes or other matters) to the next Public Meeting	CR	Open
Donate £50 to Wandsworth Tree Wardens to go towards the cost of tree watering signs	SP/CP	Open
Discuss putting info about subscription collection/api on website with John Berkoski (website designer)	CP	Open
Organise stall for St Barnabas Autumn Fair	CR/All available	Open

1. **Apologies for absence** - none

2. **Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (28.7.20)**

- Details about the issue of overgrown hedges - CR will chase up

Minutes & Matters arising from last Exec Meeting (30.6.20)

- SGRA compliments slips have been printed and will be included with Newsletters to off-Grid 'VIPs'. SP will deliver them to any Committee member who would like to use them
- SP has set up a Mailchimp account using the email address sgrasecretary@gmail.com. Email design now needs to be completed. Thanks to Richard Silverstein who has been helping with the database.

3. **Grid Alliance Update – review current demand & future plans**

CR welcomed BW, GH AD who gave feedback. Key points:

BW: There is now a smaller pool of volunteers, but the system is ticking over nicely. The number of deliveries is lower; however, some people are reliant on us. It is all manageable and the feeling is we are in place to increase support in the future if needed.

AD: has been liaising directly with Cooks the Chemist on their deliveries. Cooks' requirement is not really a Grid based focus; only approximately 2% are from the Grid, and around 75% from the Augustus Road area and around. It had been extremely helpful for Cooks in the early days when they were very busy but as things have quietened, our input is now perhaps slightly unbalanced. For Andrew, it has highlighted how we may not know people in need who are very close to us geographically as there certainly are people nearby on the Grid in that category.

AK: has done many deliveries and enjoyed it but has been concerned there were people we didn't know about.

Agreement: the structure to be kept in place for future need.

Action: BW will write a note to update everyone on the Whatsapp group to thank and explain the current status.

GH explained there is much more testing now; the pickup rate is going up but hospital admissions are down, mirroring the national trend. The council are poised for the need to pick up support and are encouraging people to test. The Barracks on Merton Road are open at times for advance booking: it's not widely advertised.

Action: GH will inform SGRA when the next one is due, and this will be put on the website

4. **Santander Bike Scheme 'Back More Bikes 4 Southfields' petition – GH**

GH explained the background why a petition to bring Santander bikes to Southfields had been started.

Main points:

- It is not a council scheme but is the responsibility of the Mayor of London. Local councillors had received several requests to have the scheme brought to Southfields.
- The closest to Southfields now is one on the perimeter of the TfL boundary by Southside Shopping Centre
- Factors such as street clutter, impact on parking spaces etc will be carefully considered. It can be a small rack, reasonably close to the centre but perhaps in side streets so as not to 'clutter' the area outside the station. The least favoured option is always outside people's homes.
- Planning permission is needed and realistically it won't happen for at least another year

A general discussion of the pros and cons followed. Points included:

- The Improvement Scheme design has a bike rack in it, so perhaps this one could be looked at a little later
- CR felt reluctant to promote a petition that has an alliance with a political party as we need to remain neutral. KG suggested there is a difference between informing and promoting and we must be consistent
- There was acknowledgment that there will be strong opinions on all sides and GH emphasised that councillors are keen to hear from everyone

There was further discussion about bike parking in general and the new bike hanger on Astonville Street. It uses 1 car space and takes about 12 bikes and is causing some traffic problems, highlighting the difficulty of taking out parking spaces in front of houses. A point was made that nearby residents felt ill informed as they didn't know it was going to be installed. GH explained that Astonville Street residents would have known, but it was put in rather quicker than had been expected. MB pointed out that her planning notes in March mentioned this bike hanger.

AK highlighted the increase in bike theft recently and asked if other hangers had been requested? GH will investigate whether there has been a new one requested near the tube station. He explained that residents can request bike hangers via the online form: <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/october-2019/here-s-how-to-request-a-bike-hangar-for-your-street/>

(NB requests for lamppost charging points can be done in the same way).

Action: CR will ensure that any item in the Newsletter is accurate and suggested that someone be invited to talk about bikes at next Public meeting.

5. Wandsworth Tree Wardens & Grid tree watering initiative - SP

- All 45 young trees across the Grid have been 'adopted' and are hopefully continuing to be watered regularly by residents. Several children and families have become involved. SP thanked Green the Grid members and Street Reps for their help in recruiting adopters, for publicising via social media and for helping generally
- An item is going in the Newsletter. 2 children's posters were unable to be accommodated so SP has suggested she gives each child 5 laminated posters of their design which they can put on trees of their choice on the Grid. SP will look into a follow up item for the next Newsletter and see if the Montessori School on Heythorp would be interested in participating
- The Wandsworth Tree Wardens group have asked their members for donations to be put towards the cost of further tree watering sign printing. SP requested £50 from SGRA funds, which was agreed

Action: CP to arrange donation

6. We Recycle group - CR

- Sue Wixley and Sue Lovell Green have proposed the setting up of a recycling group. We are awaiting further information. There will be a mention in the Newsletter and we will invite them to speak at the next Public Meeting (29th September)

7. SGRA seat & proposed 'Mad John' 'memorial

- The seat will be delivered and reinstated when that area is ready. Caffe Nero are currently using the space. An item regarding this will be in Newsletter.
- Money was raised for John's funeral and the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability. Fleur Anderson and Guy Humphries were involved in discussing a memorial, but this has not currently gone further. MB explained it had been left with Sidonie Forrest-Brown to put something on the new benches outside the station. There was a feeling that SGRA should not initiate but support others who may

wish to do something in John's memory and that we let everything settle for the moment. CW suggested that if there is interest around the anniversary then we could revisit this. Charles will mention the discussion to Sidonie Forrest-Brown.

8. United Service Transport sign, behind the Shell garage, Merton Road - CP/CW

- This is the mosaic sign overlooking the garage and has recently been seen to be in poor repair; can we do anything to ensure its survival? It has been there since pre 1933. The company closed in 1965 and was taken over by Hertz. It was covered up by the next owner and revealed in 1984 when they left. The damage to the mosaics has only happened in last 5 years
- The current owners are Unicourt Properties
- There were originally 2 other similar mosaics, in Balham High Road and Drummond Crescent, Euston, but they no longer exist
- Rebecca King, of Heritage of London Trust, Grosvenor Gardens, will be coming to visit and inspect
- GH is aware of this and suggested perhaps a local listing rather than national (English Heritage had, in the past, said the building is 'unremarkable' so rejected the application)

9. Ongoing Executive Updates

- **Front Garden Awards (AO):**
 - Everything has been finalised and the Spectacular Sunflowers winners have been awarded. The Mayor visited the winning gardens to make the awards and this worked well
 - GS has designed a map showing all the sites; there will be an item in Newsletter and perhaps a trail using this and the tree watering map can be created and publicised at the St Barnabas Autumn Fair on September 19th
- **SGRA Planning Notes September 2020 (MB):**

The residents affected are still very concerned about the approval of the development to the rear of the little parade in WPR (2019/1231). There have been two applications to develop the basements of the shops as flats (235 and 237). Golfrate are seeking confirmation that prior approval is not required. We have written to object because the quality of the conversion will be poor, but they are probably permitted development. It would be impossible to create these flats if the approved development went ahead. (2020/2814 2020/2773)

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

The planning case to erect a 20m Huawei telecoms mast outside St Cecilia's school, (2020/2478) has been refused. It is regarded as visually intrusive and would impede pedestrian and highway safety. The application to build at the school remains open (2019/4422), with a further amendment to the plan lodged in August.

There are two new applications of interest. There is a proposal to demolish the two very 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. No details yet (2020/3111)

There have been two refusals of rear extensions on the ground that they are incongruous 39b Replingham (2020/0593) and 8 Lavenham, (2020/0229) the latter has gone to appeal

Local notes

Replingham Road closed in mid-August and remains closed while the traffic calming hump is being constructed. This is proceeding slowly and is causing issues with the businesses. It was supposed to last four weeks, but we are now in the fifth week.

The reception for low traffic neighbourhoods in Wandsworth has been very mixed and it is worth waiting to see how these schemes embed themselves before looking further at any proposal locally.

- **FoWP/FoCG:**

FoWP (AO):

- Table tennis court: the funders may fund another table
- Nick Steiner has submitted a planning application for the Revelstoke Rd entrance renovation. This should be responded to in late October
- Reseeding where pumpkin patch and other activities were has been done
- There will be no Fireworks this year due to Covid-19
- A Logo group to design a new logo has been set up

FoCG (CR):

- There is a Committee meeting on 9th September and the AGM will be held on 30th September
- Bins in the Gardens will be changed
- Matting to be installed at the back of school
- A membership drive is a focus

- **Neighbourhood Watch /Crime Update & stats(C/W):**

- There has been no advance to date on Neighbour Watch
- Crime stats: 46 crimes in total area (May) down to 19 (June) and 15 (July). Detailed info is on the website
- The Southwest Borough Commander, Sally Benatar, has retired after 31 years. Her successor is Lis Chapple
- CW is keeping an eye on 'OWL messaging', which sends out crime prevention messaging. There is very little about Southfields

- **2020-2021 subs (CP):**

- Envelopes to go out with Newsletter and then there will be a publicity focus
- A few small amendments are to be made to the envelope (it is a standard size)
- Wording: 'pay for' to be replaced by 'support'
- Direct debits: CP has looked at 'Gocardless' which provides an api. It could be put on the website as a soft launch. The process and pros and cons were discussed. Further information and discussion are needed; in the meantime the envelopes will be used. CP will talk to John Berkoski about the capacity to put on website

- **Street Reps (GS):**

2 people have volunteered to be additional street reps. GS to give the names to CR for Newsletter. We would still like to have more. CP suggested recruiting at the Fair.

- **Small Business Register (GS):**

12 businesses have made contact, 6 from SBF direct and 6 from Newsletter and have been uploaded to the website. No more have made contact recently. MB suggested canvassing the community groups that come to the Fair.

- **Newsletter (CR):**

This should be delivered to Andrew Dunley on Friday 18th September and delivered over the weekend and at the Fair. Newsletters and envelopes will be delivered to Street Reps together.

Charles acknowledged the work Philippa Haslegrave has done with the Newsletter and will be handing it back to her next time. Thanks to all who proofed and spotted errors.

10. Forthcoming events:

• **Autumn Fair, 19th September:**

CR will set up in the morning. Please bring any postcards and other paperwork you may have for the stall. There will be membership information and a supply of envelopes and Newsletters. CP has a card reader.

• **Public Meeting, 29th September:**

A discussion about offering times which suit working residents/families etc took place; perhaps ensure we have tried a range of times to see which can reach the greatest number of people. 7.30 - 9pm was agreed for this meeting

11. AOB

- AK: the library is now open for browsing, you need to check in a bit of a queue but it's lovely to go and get books again
- CR: Guest for next meeting – potentially from the proposed Recycling Group
- CP: GtG will put in application for grant for a green wall outside station (a green wall was in the original plans but was removed)
- AK: asked for clarification of the final wording of the social media post about for free bulbs from GtG at Fair. AO confirmed that bulbs are free but that a £5 donation will be gratefully received
- CW has several 'The way we were' Wandsworth magazines. He is donating them to the stand at the Fair

12. Next meeting: Tuesday 27th October 12.45 – 2.30pm tbc