

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th October 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).

Cllr Guy Humphries (GH), Andrew Dunley (AD), Ian Tattum (IT) and Sue Wixley (SW) were present at the start for the Grid Alliance item.

Actions from last meeting	Owner(s)	Status
Put a summary of the relationship between SGRA & other organisations on the website	CR	Open
Postcards to be updated and reprinted	CR	Completed
Update Facebook admin to include names of those Exec Committee members who wish to be added	CR	Open
Update WhatsApp group about Alliance plans	BW	Completed
Invite appropriate speaker (re: bikes or other matters) to the next Public Meeting	CR	Completed
Donate £50 to Wandsworth Tree Wardens to go towards the cost of tree watering signs	SP/CP	Completed
Discuss putting info about subscription collection/api on website with John Berkoski (website designer)	CP	Completed
Organise stall for St Barnabas Autumn Fair	CR/All available	Completed
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Respond to emails to website regarding the suggestion of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme for the Grid	CR	Open
Look into various Residents' Association Organisations	All	Open
Organise a Zoom Hustings for the Merton & Wandsworth GLA Elections	CR	Open
Consider a community 'activity' over Christmas	AO/GS/AK/SP	Open

1. Apologies for absence – Becky Watts

2. Grid Alliance Update – review current demand & future plans

CR welcomed SW, GH, IT and AD who gave feedback. Key points:

- **CR read a brief update from Becky Watts** – a few requests are coming from Boots and as people are isolating through Track & Trace there are a few more requests
IT reported that during the summer holidays it was quiet, but the church had supported families from Riversdale & Southfields Academy. There is now an increasing need and they are planning to follow the lead of St Pauls Church, Augustus Road, by offering monthly drop-in sessions for people to collect groceries. He is currently looking into dates and will possibly recruit new volunteers. More information to follow.
AD has been helping Cooks Chemist on a sporadic basis and has completed requests from Boots.
AK reported there were 6 requests last week, notably all requests have been off the Grid.
GH gave an update from the Council perspective and gave a huge thanks to all participating in the Grid Alliance. All systems are ready to scale up as and when there is a need. They are not anticipating the scale of that seen in March/April; numbers are up but hospital admissions are low. There has been 1 fatality since the recent increase. The council is looking into introducing further

financial assistance to help out, for example for local businesses and any tricky hotpots where compliance is not being adhered to.

3. WeRecycle Group – Sue Wixley

Sue reported that the newly formed Steering Group is up and running. There has been much interest, including from Green the Grid. She will give further updates at the next meeting.

4. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (29.9.20)

- None

Minutes & Matters arising from last Exec Meeting (08.9.20)

- The Actions list was reviewed and updated

5. Low Neighbourhood Traffic Scheme discussion/feedback via website - all

There has been some response via the website with detailed emails about how aspects of a LNTS could be done on Grid. A general discussion elicited the following points:

- Perhaps a working party for those who replied could be formed for a general discussion
- LNT Schemes are complex and we are still in very uncertain times
- A consideration of the Grid as a whole rather than as individual parts is preferable. Examples were discussed, such as the situation when Replingham Road has been closed and the impact of more traffic to the inner roads, particularly lorries up Brookwood Road. The observed balance between ‘through’ traffic and couriers/delivery vans and contractors was discussed
- The definition of a LNTS was clarified – it is focused on the discouragement of ‘through’ traffic
- Perhaps we should review when the economy and other issues are more settled. It currently seems quiet on the Grid

Action: CR has noted the comments and will respond to those who made contact via the website; we will review the situation in the New Year and, if a working party is created, will invite those relevant people.

6. Membership of NORA (National Organisation of Residents’ Associations) - Chris Puleston

There was a general discussion about whether this organisation, or others, should be joined. CP explained that membership of NORA is very low in London so it may not be ideal, but asked members to look at the website: www.nora-uk.co.uk

CR pays attention to the London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies:

<https://www.londonforum.org.uk/>

MB keeps an eye on Civic Voice (www.civicvoice.org.uk), but it is more relevant to Conservation Areas.

Action: It was agreed that we should be linked in with other groups. All to look at the various websites and discuss at a later date.

7. Suggested GLA Hustings April 2021 – Charles Runcie

The Hustings has already postponed for a year so it is likely that it will happen next year. CR suggested that the SGRA hold a Zoom Hustings, as at the last election. Leonie Cooper and Sue Wixley are both candidates; CR will update the full list of candidates.

Action: The Committee agreed to take this forward.

8. United Service Transport Company mosaic sign – Chris Puleston/Clive Williams

- Clive reminded the meeting that the sign has been in situ since 1920s and has become severely damaged during last 5 years. CR received a call recently from a representative of the Heritage of London Trust who has met with a representative of the Jack Barclay Service Centre, the current leaseholder of the site. The Trust is very keen on preserving the sign and was grateful for having had the damage pointed out. A structural survey has been carried out and the estimated renovation cost is around £17,000 (inc VAT). The Trust has approached the Jack Barclay Service Centre for a donation; they were very keen to help but cannot currently make an offer. The Trust is considering who else could be approached and will be in touch
- Various suggestions were made: KG suggested the Heritage Lottery Fund; CW has offered to approach car magazines; Cllr Guy Humphries is aware and has been talking to the relevant people in the Council
- The point was made that the freeholder would need to be consulted

9. Ongoing Executive Updates

- **Public Realm Improvements:** CR read out the update from Sidonie Forrest-Brown, which is as outlined in the previously published poster. He will post this on Facebook and the SGRA website. There are copies of the posters on lamp posts
- **SGRA Planning Notes October 2020 (Margaret Brett):**
MB stated there is little to report this month:
 - There are objections from neighbours about the impact of the proposal to demolish the garages at 169 Elsenham Street and build a house there, on the grounds of the loss of view and size of development (2020/3111)
 - The proposal to demolish the two old houses adjacent to the Ayrton glass showroom on Merton Road and create two 3 storey buildings with 5 bedrooms each. (2020/2995) has been approved. The report indicates that they are in poor condition
 - There is an application to develop the site opposite the church adjacent to 147 Lavenham. (2020/3397) The proposal is for 3 storeys plus basement and the design reflects the Ayrton building. Previous attempts to develop this site have been refused because it is supposed to be a garden for the Merton Road properties even though it has been sold off separately. We can send in comments to this effect
 - The application to develop a further storey on Coleman Court in Kimber Road is still open (2020/0530)

Local notes

- We will respond to the Planning White Paper - generally dissatisfied.

MB outlined her views on the White paper. Her response was agreed by the Committee.

AK mentioned that the bench outside Caffè Nero has been reinstalled – to everyone's surprise as this has completed in advance of the date given.

• **Finance (Chris Puleston)**

Not all street collection/online donations are in yet, but it appears to be an increase on last year. Online collections are up 105%. A further £700+ is estimated still to come. A reminder will go out a couple of weeks before the newsletter and a further thanks and reminder will be put in the Newsletter. There is approximately £2400 in the bank and £2900 outstanding from advertising.

KG is currently in discussion with advertisers and there are some new ones. Invoices will go out over the next few weeks, sensitively taking into account the current economic climate.

- **Crime (Clive Williams)**

There is little to report as the September crime figures have not yet been released. The October Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting was held 'virtually' for members of the SNB only so CW was not able to 'attend' as an observer, although he had received the publicly available agenda and documents.

Key points for the rolling 12-month crime data to the end of August 2020 were:

- Out of the 12 inner London boroughs, Wandsworth has the lowest crime rate for all Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (despite ASB increasing in the borough by over 75% in the year to August). Our borough also has the lowest rates for robbery, violent crime, violence against women (including domestic violence and rape) and has the second lowest rates for burglary and homicide
- Vehicle Crime is the only area where Wandsworth falls below second in Inner London with interference with a vehicle (3rd lowest), theft from a vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking (both 6th) and theft/taking of a vehicle (10th or second worst in Inner London). It is worth remembering that these figures are Wandsworth wide, not just for Southfields Ward nor Grid specifically. Those are the crime figures which are reported in our monthly Grid based crime figures
- OWL (Online Watch Link) has produced documents including 'How safe is your bike?' 'Impersonation scams (Covid-19 exploitation)' and 'Protecting catalytic converters'

- **FoWP/FoCG:**

FoWP (AO), key points:

- The application re. the Revelstoke Rd entrance has been withdrawn. This is to enable a more detailed submission to be made. Neil Thompson, a landscape architect, is going to help FOWP to resubmit the planning application at a later date
- The London Borough of Merton (LBM) consultation about parks has now ended. However, it appears the consultation process has not been finalised and Doug Napier, Greenspaces Manager, reports there is the possibility of some further, supplementary work to be done before it is deemed complete
- Some Luna Cinema lorries got stuck in the newly reseeded grass and there was some damage to the grassed areas. Doug Napier has assured us that the cost of the repair to the damaged field would be borne under contract by the operator i.e. Luna Cinema
- Nick Steiner, Chair of FOWP, recently met up with AELTC's Johnny Perkins and Ulrika Hogberg, who is the Operational Planning Officer now that Sally Bolton is CEO. AELTC are still considering their Masterplan and are in the process of consulting with various local groups to find out what the top five priorities for the park might be. The FOWP will prepare a list for the community and owners to consider
- Scarecrows have been put on the lake (by the Angling Club) to try and frighten off cormorants who are feeding off the young fish
- A FOI request made by the FOWP asking the LBM to publish their annual income and expenditure figures from commercial events in the park has been upheld by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). The FOWP should be receiving a response from Merton Council in due course
- The Technical Advisory Steering Group for the Wimbledon Park Lake Project Lake has now published the Flood Study Stage 2 full report but is not currently available online
- The application for a Green Flag award is on track
- The process of securing a new Logo design for FOWP has now been started

- **FoCG (CR):**
 - The AGM on 30th September had over 20 people attending, including Fleur Anderson and Leonie Cooper
 - The Northwest corner work is starting in November
 - Gate locking will be maintained throughout winter – kept at 9pm (not earlier)
 - The Play Area is now open to all and has been recently cleaned
 - The next step is to install new play equipment

- **Street Reps (GS):**

2 people have offered to be additional street reps for Lavenham Road and Elsenham Street, but GS has not been able to meet them yet.

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

There are currently 13 local businesses listed

10. Forthcoming events:

- Public Meeting, 24th November: 2-3.30pm: Possibly a representative from to be invited?
- Christmas Lights 25th November – CR to confirm with Gill Habershon

11. Confirm dates of Public & Executive Meetings 2021

CR will circulate a list of dates for consideration

12. AOB

- AO suggested the SGRA could organise something over Christmas to lighten up a bleak year. Ideas including lights in windows, without overlapping with other local organisations. How to appeal to a range of ages and family constellations was briefly discussed. Amelia, Ann, Gerard & Serena to discuss further. Perhaps a collaboration with Grid Mummies.
- ULEZ Charge Zone – October 2021. This is mentioned as there is a lot of local talk about it. Getting to Smugglers Way is the key point that is causing concern. MB suggested perhaps WeRcycle might be able to help, for example arranging to take local recycling for those whose cars don't meet the requirements
- Newsletter: the copy deadline is November 11th with the expected delivery to residents the weekend of 11/12th December. AO suggested an article about a lady who lived on Trentham Street for many years and has recently passed away; she will liaise with MB

13. Next meeting:

- a. Public Meeting: 24th November 2-3.30pm
- b. Executive Meeting: 5th January 2021 12.45-2.30pm