



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2020, via Zoom

Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Fleur Anderson MP, Cllr Guy Humphries, Ann Kerr (Executive Committee)

1. **Minutes + matters arising from meetings of 29th September (Public Meeting) and 27th October (Executive Meeting);** these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>

Executive Meeting:

Item 5: Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme (LTNS) There have been several messages to the website from residents concerned about a possible LTNS on the Grid. This was discussed by the Committee and a decision made to wait until Wandsworth Council's plans with LTNSs are clear. Charles Runcie has responded to all those who have written.

Item 7: Suggested Hustings, May 2021: The Committee have decided, following a successful Hustings for the General Election, to hold one for the GLA elections.

Item 12: AOB: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty suggested a 'community activity' to brighten up what has been a difficult year; 'Seasonal Cheer' has now been arranged; posters have been put up around the Grid and it is advertised on social media.

2. **Special Guests:**

a) **Grid Alliance:**

Becky Watts updated the meeting: All is going well; numbers are fewer than during the first lockdown. There are several regulars and prescriptions remain the largest type of request. Boots use the Grid Alliance details. The system is manageable, almost all requests are carried out on the day and Becky thanked all volunteers. There have been more people offering to be volunteers recently. Charles Runcie thanked Becky for her work.

b) **All England Lawn Tennis Club Development Plans:**

Charles Runcie introduced Johnny Perkins and Ulrika Hogberg from the Wimbledon Foundation, the charity of the AELTC. Ulrika has been at the Foundation for 5 years and was recently appointed as Head of Community Engagement. She explained her role and the focus:

- To lead on the transformation of the Wimbledon Park Golf Course; how to open that land to local communities and beyond. The AELTC bought the golf course to be able to host the qualifying competition on site. The golfers will be there until the end of 2021; the AELTC will then take 9 holes and golf will continue on 9 holes
- The change will be a slow and complex process and planning permission will be needed. It is a Grade 2 listed landscape, originally designed by Capability Brown. Importantly, many veteran and ancient trees and heritage will be looked after
- Any buildings needed for activities such as the qualifying competition will hopefully be opened to the local community as well
- Johnny & Ulrika will be consulting with local councillors, Residents' Associations, community groups & charities to hear their ideas
- When the planning stage is reached, there will be a consultation period
- There is a new strategy being formed under the Chief Executive of the AELTC, Sally Bolton, to ensure the AELTC is at the pinnacle of the sport, to do good for tennis nationally and internationally, to be a force for good and to be a socially responsible organisation supporting local community and beyond

In response to a query on 'How much influence does Wandsworth Council have?', Cllr Kim Caddy explained that she will be a consultee on any plans, that the Council get involved on planning decisions, that she has already met with Ulrika and is keen to have as much input as possible and represent views of Southfields residents.

Nick Steiner (FoWP) explained that the Friends of Wimbledon Park Forum has been enlarged to include as many associations and groups as possible so all issues can be discussed in depth. This is vital, given that Wimbledon Park is on the 'At Risk' register (Historic England, meaning that the 3 owners must work together for the good of the Park).

Clive Williams queried whether the recent news of the AELTC harvesting the acorns from oak trees meant that there were plans to take down oak trees? Ulrika explained this was done to preserve the genetics of the ancient trees which are protected and so will be worked into plans; no ancient, protected trees will be felled. A key objective is to keep the landscape and remnants of the heritage as much as possible.

Jackie Pearce, a resident, asked if the area covered by the Wimbledon Foundation extends to the Southside flats, as the playground facilities (Elliot and Wentworth) are very neglected? Cllr Kim Caddy explained sources of funding to improve the playground are available and suggested Jackie contacts her to discuss these.

Hugh Reeve-Tucker, a resident, asked how many courts were envisaged to be built for the qualifying competition, in relation to the number of Wimbledon Park tennis courts (approximately 20 courts)? Ulrika responded the number is to be confirmed and emphasised the importance of working with the landscape and therefore likely to be in smaller groups of courts rather than big block.

Ulrika gave further information on the Wimbledon Foundation:

- To use the heritage to improve local lives, eg supporting small local community organisations with up to £5000 for year-long projects and the Get Set, Get Active Fund, across both Wandsworth and Merton boroughs
- The Health and Wellbeing strategic funding supports 8 organisations across both boroughs
- Since lockdown, it has launched a £1.2 million coronavirus fund, distributed locally. Also, emergency funding to small community projects facing a drop in financial support, food insecurity and poverty, etc.
- For further information, contact Ulrika on uhog@aeltc.com

Responding to a query about timing, Johnny Perkins hopes that the first ideas will be clearer by the 2021 Championships 2021. Charles thanked both Ulrika and Johnny and will invite them back again to update us.

c) **Hats for HM Prison:** *Liz Bridge, Wandsworth Prison Chaplain*

Liz thanked everyone for the huge book collection made by Grid residents over the summer. It was an overwhelming response and very gratefully received. She is now asking for 'Knitted hats for prisoners', as they exercise in prison tracksuits only, with no warm clothing. The building was built in the 1850s and is very cold inside in some areas. There are currently 1476 men on roll. 250 woolly hats have been collected to date. Beany, bobble, woolly hats all welcome, but NO black ones (as officers wear those) or any with a peak or ear flaps. If you can knit, please do! Or even buy.

Further details at: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/posts/>

Liz can be contacted at: liz@taxbridge.com

d) **WeRecycle in Southfields Grid:** *Sue Lovell-Greene:*

Sue explained that Covid-19 is slowing down the process, but the steering committee is active, and 3 more people are needed to join. The aim is to regenerate the idea of recycling and the committee are developing list of activities, including bringing food recycling to the Grid. The meeting on 26th is just for the committee. Cllr Kim Caddy is on the committee and explained that nothing goes to landfill at all, even black bin liner contents are recycled, and anything burnt goes to fly ash. Cllr Terry Walsh

reinforced the benefits of Wandsworth collecting from homes and that the council is open to new ideas.

An enthusiastic discussion ensued, raising many important points, including the following:

- The possibility of using Terracycle
- Toby Costin, of Crew Energy community group in South-west London introduced himself. They have a wide range of activities on offer and 6 schools have signed up to their Low Carbon Skills fund. He outlined several ideas, including hotbins for compost and gave this link for further information: <http://www.crewenergy.london/eco-living.html>
- Cllr Kim Caddy informed the meeting of the Wandsworth Council Climate Summit held on this month. All sessions are available online and include, amongst others: Greening your home, Transport, Tackling air pollution around schools and Greenspace: <https://wandsworth.gov.uk/climatesummit>
- Smugglers' Way offer tours of the Recycling Centre: <https://wrwa.gov.uk/schools-adult-groups/online/?fbclid=IwAR3nGl3g99oKW7tp-Q1mUtbu9FhQ4r-w8EpASXhf2VOWcJQQ3EsZM4bK0hA>
- A resident suggested 'Sharewaste' for those interested in composting: www.sharewaste.com. She has a number of other ideas and can be contacted on: julasztucka@gmail.com for further information

3. Green Spaces Update:

a. **FoCG: Susannah Perry-Greene:**

Susannah outlined recent developments including:

- 2 new committee members have joined – Ellora Coupe and Candice Cheers
- There is a lot of activity currently, including work on the playground, herb garden, the fountain and to the building (belonging to Wandsworth council), carried out by Enable
- The Gardening Club hopes to be up and running when Covid restrictions allow
- FoCG would like to be able to share the building, which is currently housing the Little Learners Nursery

Margaret Brett congratulated the committee on all their work and pointed out the history of the use of the building which had previously been the '1 o'clock Club'.

b. **FoWP: Nick Steiner**

Nick outlined the key points; 2 papers with further details can be found at <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>:

- The dam needs repairing; 4 options were proposed from Merton in May. Details will follow
- The Replingham Road entrance planning application has been withdrawn and is being resubmitted as LBW required more detail
- Improving 'Vistas' in Wimbledon Park will be looked at next

Cllr Terry Walsh asked if the Department of Environment safety certificate has been reviewed and is up to date? Walking around, he gets the feeling that parts of the Park are crammed; can more be kept with simply green space for people to enjoy? Nick responded that there is a dam supervisor and the work carried out is legally required.

c. **Green the Grid: Nina Kowalska**

Nina updated the meeting:

- The stall at the St Barnabas Autumn Fair was successful and she thanked the SGRA who enabled the giving away of thousands of bulbs; over 100 households benefited. 25% were hand delivered by bicycle.
- GtG was represented on a panel with the Carbon Trust and Battersea Power Station at a Wandsworth Climate Summit session, a great opportunity

- Forthcoming activities:
 - Offers of daffodil bulbs from Cllr Ed Gratton, Merton
 - Battersea Power Station have offered a bed with lots of mature plants; these are being distributed this weekend to keep up street planting and front gardens
 - GtG is not just looking at residential streets but the broader area, so is working with council, specifically Cllr Kim Caddy, to look at maximising the greening of improvement works. GtG feel more could be done, possibly planters could be obtained from the council and perhaps a wildlife corridor on Merton Road
 - SW Blooms have given bulbs for tree bases

Margaret Brett stated that there is now space for another tree to be planted in Replingham Road as part of the Public Realm improvements.

4. Southfields “Safer Neighbourhood Team” police update:

PC James Elvy updated the meeting:

- In the last 12 weeks there has only been 1 burglary on the Grid and 2 on Replingham Road; bikes stolen from railings count. There have been 12 thefts from motor vehicle. The team have checked parked cars recently and found several unlocked; he reminded people to lock their car doors
- Cllr Terry Walsh asked how often the speed guns are used; PC Elvy explained that lockdown has meant they have less time to do so as they have been visiting people who are breaking lockdown rules. They are hoping to enable its use with members of public in future
- The Met Police Christmas Tree project is to donate a gift to a child. There are 750 children in Wandsworth in social care and they are aiming to buy a present for all. If you would like to participate go to: www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/campaigns/2020/met-christmas-appeal/

5. SGRA Executive Reports:

a) **Planning:** *Margaret Brett:* Margaret went through her report (see Appendix (i))

A resident asked if the recently vacated Barclays building could be used by Post Office as that is often crowded and there is little room?

b) **Finance:** *Chris Puleston:*

Street subscription collections are almost finished; this year they are 19% up, to over £3000. 27% have come from on-line payments (up from 15%). Highest is Astonville Street, a 54% increase; then Clonmore, an increase of 41% on last year.

c) **Crime:** *Clive Williams:* Clive went through his report; this can be seen on www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/ where detailed figures are available.

Clive reported that Wandsworth's crime rate is the lowest in Inner London, that Southfields Ward crime figures are low within Wandsworth and that reported crimes in our area is extremely low. The figures for September were up slightly in Southfields Ward, with anti-social behaviour the highest and vehicle theft, including bicycle theft, the highest. However, the figures for the roads in the SGRA area reduced from 29 in August to 22 in September.

Cllr Terry Walsh informed the meeting that 2 papers from the Strategic Planning on Transport and Scrutiny Committee held on 4th November will be going out to consultation and will be debated soon. Some people had asked about the cost of the Southfields Public Realm Improvements: this was £1.6million, with no cost to Wandsworth. It was covered by TfL and the Neighbourhood Community Structure Levy. Contact Cllr Walsh for further information: Cllr.T.Walsh@wandsworth.gov.uk

d) **Communications:** *Charles Runcie:*

- Grid News: the next edition will be delivered over the weekend of 12/13th December

6. Forthcoming events:

- a. **Christmas Lights:** *Gill Habershon, Southfields Business Forum:* The Wimbledon Foundation have donated streetlights; the SBF are very grateful. Wandsworth Council will put the lights up on November 25th and they will be turned on at the same time without celebrations (due to Covid-19). The Council are providing Christmas tree with lights at the station, free of charge and put up at around the same date.
- b. **Seasonal Cheer 2020:** *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty:* Amelia outlined the idea, created as a way of cheering everyone on Grid up this year. People have already started decorating their houses/front gardens. There is a broad range of ideas and feedback is that people are looking forward to it.

7. Any Other Business:

Mary Buckley (The Gardens' Residents' Association) reported:

- They are aware of lack of trees on their side of the railway and are pushing for some to be planted on Wimbledon Park Road. They are 'greening' the Gardens, and have just planted hundreds of bulbs
- Policing of Wimbledon Park – this is carried out under a different SNT team; the team is responsible for Horse Close Wood and patrols are going to check it as they can. The owners of Pines and Needles Christmas Trees had half their trees stolen last night. If anyone has any information, please let them know.

8. Date of next Public Meeting: Tuesday 26th January 2021 from 7.30- 9pm
2021 Meetings:

30th March

25th May - AGM

27th July

28th September

30th November

Appendix (i) SGRA Planning Notes November 2020

There is little of concern to report this month on local planning.

The application (2020/2995) to create two 3 storey buildings, with 5 bedrooms each, adjacent to the Ayrton glass showroom on Merton Road was approved.

The application to develop the site opposite the church adjacent to 147 Lavenham Road (2020/3397) has been refused as it is a garden space.

There are two cases where planning applications for roof terraces have been refused which have gone to appeal. 47 Pirbright Road (2020/1472) and 39B Replingham Road (2020/0913).

There is another planning application to slightly change the design of the old Post Office building (2020/4010).

The proposal to develop the roof of Coleman Court (2020/0530) is still under consideration. There are 100 objections to this.

We responded to the consultation on the government's Planning White Paper. Our key concern is the recommendation to curtail any community input from the neighbours affected, or other interested parties, such as ourselves, at the time when specific planning proposals are known.

Local Notes

The public realm works will now continue in Replingham Road until mid-December. Work has been delayed because of problems with delivery of materials. They are due to start in Gartmoor Gardens in early January and then work back along Wimbledon Park Road for three months.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has produced final proposals for redrawing the boundaries of the Southfields Ward. All the ward boundaries in Wandsworth are set to change. The proposals need parliamentary approval; the effect of the change is that we become a smaller ward and will only be able to elect two ward councillors, rather than three, in the 2022 elections.

Covid - rapid testing is due to come to Wandsworth and local follow ups to those the NHS can't contact after 24 hours are in place.

Appendix (ii) – 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
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee
Ulrika Hogberg	AELTC Wimbledon Foundation
Johnny Perkins	AELTC Wimbledon Foundation
Becky Watts	Grid Alliance
Liz Bridge	Chaplain, Wandsworth Prison
Sue Lovell-Greene	WeRecycle
Susannah Perry-Greene	Friends of Coronation Gardens
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Nina Kowalska	Green the Grid
PC James Elvy	Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team
Gill Habershon	Southfields Business Forum
Lesley McCaul	
Jackie Pearce	
CLlr Kim Caddy	
CLlr Terry Walsh	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Ray Chapman	
Mary Buckley	The Gardens RA
Trevor Howes	
Shiraz Mehrundatoo	
Toby Costin	
Diane Miles	
Aiden Magill	
Jackie Lever	
Alisha English	
Peter Jackson	
Rebecca Ludbrook	
Hugh Reeve-Tucker	
Briony Yardley	
Rod Lewington	
Hilary Simpson	
Sophia Browning	

Southfields Grid Residents Association Public Meeting – 24.11.20

Aramy	
Nancy Graham	
Diane Hofkins	
Julia Sztucka	
Robert	
L Hannigan	
Cllr Peter Carpenter	
Kyra von Schottenstein	Total: 48