

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2021 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR), 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), Sue Wixley (SW) and Andrew Dunley (AD) 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
Respond to emails to website regarding the suggestion of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme for the Grid	CR	Completed
Discuss putting info about subscription collection/api on website with John Berkoski (website designer)	CP	Hold until May 2021
Look into various Residents' Association Organisations	All	Completed
Consider a community 'activity' over Christmas	AO/GS/AK/SP	Completed
Organise a Zoom Hustings for the Merton & Wandsworth GLA Elections	CR	Open
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Invite appropriate speaker (re: bikes or other matters) to the next Public Meeting	CR	Open
Review Newsletter publication process in light of new editorship	CR & KG	Open

1. **Apologies for absence:** Chris Puleston (Treasurer)

2. **Grid Alliance Update:**

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

- BW is expecting a possible spike in requests, but many people do have plans in place.
- AD has had less to do recently; Cooks Pharmacy have a driver so do not request via the Alliance. He pointed out that the Food Bank has a bigger need.
- AK fed back that she had a visit from someone she helped in March and gave her a Christmas present as thanks.
- MB informed the meeting that St Barnabas Church is a Vaccine Centre. Next week the second vaccine will be available and the second dose of first vaccine. The GP Practice has recruited its own volunteers and will let us know if they need more. Ian Tattum has an emergency food store available if anyone local is in need. AK spoke to Amy (HT at Riversdale) yesterday; they have enough food, and they are also using the voucher scheme. The church is closed for services even though it is permitted; it is continuing online. The Halls are closed.
- SW has a query about the shops and suggested she speak to some, eg McCluskeys, to see if deliveries and other services will be rolled out again. This was agreed. She will check what is open and get back to us.
- The daily updated list on the SGRA website as before will not be repeated as most information is now known.

3. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (24.11.20)

- None

Minutes & Matters arising from last Exec Meeting (27.10.20)

- The Actions list was reviewed and updated

4. 'WeRecycle Group': Sue Wixley

SW outlined the status: The '**Recycle More Southfields**' is confirmed as the official name. The group aims to keep a Southfields and recycling focus. They have started by working with Terracycle as they have a structure, but it may not be restricted to this going forward. The collection point is on Trentham Street.

Currently there is a WhatsApp group only but they will look to expand the way of contacting people in the future, for example a street stall, a website, leaflets & posters. It will be a soft launch for now and the aim is to have a bigger launch in March.

CR explained the group is looking for a donation of £250 for admin/practical costs. The following points arose:

- Request was agreed. CR to notify CP
- An article for newsletter could be written
- There is potential confusion for Trentham Street residents; AO-M will suggest to Dante (the Terracycle co-ordinator who lives on Trentham Street) she clarifies on the street WhatsApp that this is the same scheme as previously mentioned to them; there is one scheme only.

5. Newsletter: Charles Runcie

AD will update newsletter numbers needed for each street.

- **Editorship** – CR to be the Editor going forward. He is aiming to create a small editorial team. All the Executive Committee can of course contribute. One idea is to perhaps spread the advertising throughout the newsletter rather than keep it at the back.
- **General discussion:**
- **KG:**
 - advertising has been tough this year. Many small businesses have really struggled and welcomed the half price for March offer and the Special summer edition. Effectively this means they are not getting a discount as there was the extra issue. She will liaise with them as invoices go out and will work hard to get both new advertisers and keep the current ones.
 - View on placement of ads within the newsletter: there are advantages to both ideas, but they may be lost if they are scattered throughout
 - There has been some difficulty over the last few issues with the YPS template. It does keep costs down but perhaps now is the time to get quotes from other local companies and ensure good value for money
- **AO-M:**
 - Questioned if the current paper quality is suitable or whether we could use a thinner type? KG explained the quality has changed recently and is heavier; she will investigate
- **Proofing:**
 - There have been some proofing issues, which can be rethought going forward. CW offered to do a final proofread before publishing. An aim is to cut down lead in time.

Action: CR and KG will review the process

6. Wimbledon Park, Revelstoke Road entrance: suggested developments (papers provided by Nick Steiner, FoWP) – all

Papers show suggested plans for improvements to the entrance area and the car park. CR explained the reason for this being on the agenda being the importance of everyone knowing the current situation in Wimbledon Park. A general discussion elicited the following points:

- MB explained that anyone can apply for planning permission; one does not have to own the land it is on; however, it does seem odd not to get some commitment from Merton councillors first as it may be an expensive way of proceeding
- AO-M emphasised that the car park does not suggest there is an anti car parking view. Wandsworth Council have said that the reduction of car spaces is the only way they would give planning permission. It will be complex going forward
- If anyone has any comments, please speak to Nick Steiner

7. Ongoing Executive Updates

• **Public Realm Improvements:**

- CR outlined communication from Sidonie Forrest-Brown (Senior Transport Planner): the works are on track to restart mid-January at the Gartmoor Gardens junction. There may be new government guidance this week due to the new Lockdown which may impact the timing

• **SGRA Planning Notes January 2021 (Margaret Brett):**

- There is little of concern to report this month on local planning.
- There are two cases waiting on appeal.:47 Pirbright Road (2020/1472) and 39b Replingham Road (2020/0913)
- The proposal to develop the roof of Coleman Court (2020/0530) is still under consideration
- Central government brought in revised change of use classes from the beginning of September. There is unrestricted change of use for shops to other commercial uses and vice versa
- The Council has approved a change of use for the Debenhams shop in Southside that allows for flexible use to include commercial, business and service, drinking establishment, amusement centre, indoor motorised electric go-karting track
- Notification just received of the draft revised Local Plan. This is a prepublication consultation and there are over 400 pages to read. It notes the White Paper of last August but is not bound by it, also the new London Plan has not been agreed yet
- Planning have contacted the freeholder of the little parade in WPR seeking a planning application for the unauthorised changes they have made to the frontages

• **Finance (Chris Puleston)**

- All had received Chris's paper in lieu of his attendance; this showed a healthy account to date following income from advertising and street subscription collection

• **Crime (Clive Williams)**

- Clive outlined the November figures. In summary, there were 19 reported crimes – down from October's figures. The most prevalent were anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime (6 each). There was no information on bicycle theft. Further details on the SGRA website
- The Safer Neighbourhood Board meetings are online and not open to the public, but CW will aim to go to the next Open meeting

- The recently retired Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar, former South West London Commander, has been awarded the Queens Police Medal in the New Year's Honours

- **FoWP/FoCG:**

- **FoWP (Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty)**

Key points:

- The item on the Revelstoke Rd entrance was covered in item 6
- The Lake Steering Committee has appointed an engineer and a landscape architect. There are several different options available. Nick Steiner has attended a meeting and the next meeting is on 13th January
- The Pines and Needles Christmas Tree site: the site needs reseeding. The grass is hard hit and perhaps a hard surface might be more suitable in future? Ed Gretton (Merton Councillor) is helping Merton Council to look at the revenue and costs and consider whether commercial activities are worthwhile. Nick Steiner has asked for a detailed breakdown via a FoI request but to date the council report this is not available
- FoWP are looking at planting trees in February towards Home Park Road, but this is dependent on the status of the current lockdown. They are liaising with the Merton Tree Wardens to do this

- **FoCG (CR):**

- Significant work was completed in the Northwest corner of Coronation Gardens before Christmas, including being turfed and the barriers being removed. There is more to do including putting up a rose trellis
- The playground is being well used and positive feedback has been given by parents
- The committee is working successfully
- MB, who is familiar with the history of the Gardens, was very positive about the developments and suggested a dog free zone would be a great addition. CR will add this point to the next agenda

- **Street Reps (GS):**

- Chris Puleston is now the Elborough Street rep
- Andrew Dunley & Oliver Ashbee are joint Elsenham Street reps

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

- No activity

8a Review of previous events

- **Seasonal Cheer:** this was very well received, and the working party is very pleased. There was a great community response, including on the SGRA website. It may well be repeated next year. The lights gave a lovely backdrop for the 'travelling carols' event
- **Woolly hats Appeal:** over 200 were collected altogether in the Grid. The Trentham Street Knitting Group knitted 22 hats; and a friend of MB knitted 44. A lady from Wimbledon Village donated many. Perhaps an item for the Newsletter from the prison might be written

Action: CR to ask Liz Bridge.

8b. Forthcoming events:

- **Window Wanderland - February 27/28th**
This is currently being organised but, due to Lockdown, the organiser will be guided by the national Window Wonderland in Bristol. May possibly be moved to October if it cannot happen in February. The Committee considered the funding application and will contribute

the £170 requested. *NB Confirmation has been obtained following the meeting that it WILL be organised for February*

- **Suggested GLA Hustings April 2021**
Assuming the election will go ahead, the suggestion is to hold a Hustings via Zoom. The Committee agreed that we could arrange a webinar or similar. CR to continue to organise it. Perhaps during the week 21-26th April. Elections on 6th May.

8. Confirm dates of Public & Executive Meetings 2021

- **Executive meetings to continue to be held via Zoom from 12.45-2.30pm:**
 - 23rd February
 - 27th April
 - 29th June
 - 7th September (in lieu of August)
 - 26th October
- **Public meetings to continue to be held on Zoom until further notice, alternating between afternoon and evening:**
 - 26th January 7.30 - 9pm
 - 30th March 2 - 3.30pm
 - 25th May - AGM 7.30 - 9pm
 - 27th July 2 - 3.30pm
 - 28th September 7.30 - 9pm
 - 30th November 2 - 3.30pm

9. AOB

- **Front Garden Awards:** the Committee agreed it would go ahead this year
- **Guest Speaker for the next Public Meeting;** any ideas please forward to CR. Possibly someone to discuss the Santander bicycles petition and other bicycle storage information (ref September meeting, item 4)
- A warning that there is a **coronavirus vaccination scam** involving 2 people saying they're from NHS; please emphasise to people that that they will be notified of vaccinations via their GP
- **Recent erratic postal service:** this has been widely covered on social media and has been a great concern locally. Fleur Anderson, MP, has been looking into it. It is clear that Covid has had a great impact on deliveries around Christmas and there has been an increase in volume

10. Next meeting:

- Public Meeting: 26th January, 7.30 - 9pm
- Executive Meeting: 23rd February, 12.45 – 2.30pm