



Southfields Grid  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, via Zoom

---

Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Leonie Cooper (AM), Rev Ian Tattum

1. **Minutes + matters arising from meetings of 26<sup>th</sup> November (Public Meeting) and 5<sup>th</sup> January (Executive Meeting);** these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>  
**Public Meeting Item 1: Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes:** Cllr Kim Caddy explained that LTNSs in Wandsworth have been paused and there will be consultation in the future. Southfields might be a good candidate for a LTNS but there will be clear consultation and the council is aware there is considerable concern. A resident aired his concern about access for emergency services.  
**Item 2d: Recycling Group in Southfields:** further preparatory work is currently being carried out and we shall hear more in March.  
**Item 4: Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Meeting on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am.  
**Item 5d: Grid News:** there has been a change of editor as Philippa Haslegrave has stepped down and Charles Runcie has taken it on. More in item 7.  
Charles Runcie explained that Gill Habershon (Southfields Business Forum) has been poorly recently and we wish her well.
2. **Special Guests:**
  - a) **Grid Alliance:** Becky Watts updated the meeting. There had been a spike near the beginning of this lockdown and it is a little busier, but manageable. Requests are more mixed (eg some shopping as well as prescription collection) as more people are in isolation. There are currently approximately 60 volunteers. Cllr Guy Humphries thanked Becky and everyone who is involved. The council has a well-established system for more serious needs and the Community Hub is still operating: for further details see <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/coronavirus/where-can-i-find-help-or-support/community-hub/>
  - b) **Coronavirus/vaccinations update** – Naomi Good (*Patient and Public Engagement Manager, NHS SW London*) outlined her remit, which is to find out how people are feeling about NHS, within Wandsworth NHS. Her work includes:
    - reaching out to communities to find out how people are feeling about the Covid-19 vaccines and related issues, and ensuring they have access to true and verified sources of information
    - working with vulnerable groups across Wandsworth, for example those who are digitally excluded
    - regularly updating information, including about vaccine sites and updates from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
    - finding out where the problems are, what questions people have and delivering community workshops

Naomi will provide a PowerPoint and Q & A sheet which will be circulated to the SGRA database. Questions from the floor elicited the following information:

- **2 vaccines** are currently available and the Moderna one will be soon
- she has been given assurances that those who have had their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination will be prioritised for the second

- some glass vial supplies are low, so this is currently holding the process up
- people can't request which vaccine they will receive. Both are deemed safe but there are logistical limitations
- there is a **local hub at St Barnabas Church**. All sites around Wandsworth are working although they do close for the odd day while waiting for supplies or if there are storage issues at the site. Some sites are still waiting for some AstraZeneca supplies. NB St Barnabas had closed for a week due to a supply problem but is open now. During the closed period they vaccinated house-bound people
- **allergies** – there are no adverse reactions with basic allergies. Details are double checked on arrival and there are always medical staff on site. EpiPens etc are available
- **procedure for getting a vaccine**: People will be offered a vaccination at a local site; it may not be their own GP but will be local and may be at St George's Hospital. It will be via text or letter with a few dates to choose from. Naomi will share a list of vaccine sites
- the JCVI determine the **priority list**; generally, any leftovers are not wasted but go to a list of local staff/front line workers etc. This is strictly bound by JCVI

c) **Royal Mail issues locally**

Charles Runcie read a response from Fleur Anderson MP as she was in a meeting in Parliament and joined the meeting later.

Fleur has met with Royal Mail managers and understands that they have been extreme staff shortages with up to 80% absent at times. Seasonal staff have been retained and extra vehicles hired but they have had major operational challenges. The Royal Mail say they are nearly back to normal but some catching up is still to be done. Every Grid walking route is now fully covered and all parcel delivery is up to date. Letters inviting to vaccination appointments and all other NHS letters are being prioritised.

**Points from the floor:**

It was reported that the Pirbright Street postman is on holiday for a week and there is no cover. Engadine and Clonmore Streets are still having problems and it was suggested that people might try going to Twilley Street. It was agreed by many residents that it is seemingly a systemic problem.

The point was made that social distancing requirements within sorting offices is causing problems.

*When Fleur joined the meeting, she asked that if anyone has any further difficulties, she is happy to investigate further. She has a route to investigate queries about specific parcels. Please email her at [fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk)*

d) **Feedback re: donations to HMP Prison - Liz Bridge, Wandsworth Prison Chaplain** (see attached letter)

Liz updated the meeting:

- **Books**: there are now 14 trolleys of books in various wings, each one has 50 percent English/foreign language books. The trolleys are moved around regularly and seem to be well appreciated
- **Hats**: 1500 were needed for every man to have one by Christmas and that was achieved. A further 400 have been donated; however more men are coming in weekly and they have been given permission to be given a hat, so more are needed
- Margaret Brett thanked Maggie on Elsenham Street who knitted 44 hats

3. **Green Spaces Update:**

a. **FoWP: Nick Steiner**

Nick outlined 4 points:

- **The dam**: Nick has had a meeting with the dam engineers. There was a wish to turn the waterfall into a cascade as described in LBM Masterplan using a spillway, but this is not practical. Ashen Grove Wood will remain the primary spillway; this is in ancient woodland.

It will need to go for planning approval and the work should start in August and aim to be finished this time next year

- **Revelstoke Road Entrance:** Nick withdrew the plans submitted to Wandsworth and resubmitted them on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Following the reply, they will go to Merton Council, then permission from the owners (TfL and LBM) is needed and finally funding will be sought.
- **Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA):** these are being investigated on courts 11-20, to provide a better range of activities; there is not much for teenagers to do in the Park. The Wimbledon Park Councillors have asked LBM to look into costs and other practicalities
- **The Pines & Needles Shop** have left a mess by the Wimbledon Park Road entrance. Chains have been put up to protect the area and it will probably be out of use until May. Longer term, FoWP are hoping to get the shop put onto hard standing

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

Susannah outlined recent developments including:

- **Notice board:** this will be put up at the end of February and will advertise events etc
- **The Play Area** has opened; there have been a few complaints of some dirty areas. Enable have been contacted and they will make sure it is clean and check for health hazards/safety
- **A modern water fountain** for refilling water bottles will be installed. The aim is to conceal it as it is not in keeping with the Edwardian period. It is not currently clear if it can be opened during Covid
- **The North West corner** is currently open although the 'grand opening' has not yet been held. Plans include: a greenhouse, with the aim of bringing back the growing of fruits, herbs etc
- **Two recent grants**, from the Co-op and the National Lottery, mean that the FoCG are spending on various items, including educational and interpretation boards and a bug hut
- **A Rose Arch** is planned; if anyone can recommend specific roses, please let FoCG know
- If you want to become a friend contact: <https://www.focoronationgardens.co.uk/>

**4. Tree Wardens, and new tree planting – Pat Langley, Arboricultural Manager**

Pat explained that Enable are **planting** a high number of trees – 750 - across the borough. This includes 450 on residential streets. About 12 have already been planted on the Grid and another 12 will be planted soon. The dead silver birch tree in Coronation Gardens will be replaced this winter. They are keen to plant all suitable vacant sites, however a few are not possible. For example, the north end of Clonmore Street is not allowed to be planted as there has been building damage and thus insurance claims caused by tree roots.

**Tree watering and Gator bags:** these are being placed around each newly planted tree to help watering during dry months and also prevent runoff. The contractor will fill them with water 2/3 times per month. If trees have been in ground for more than 2 planting seasons, they should be able to cope without extra watering. Last year in the very dry months the watering schedule was increased.

If a tree has a stake attached, then it is young. The stakes are colour coded depending on the year of planting; this year the colour is yellow. Serena (Tree Warden on the Grid) will find out more about how the gator bags will work and whether a volunteer watering scheme like last year's 'adopt a tree' will be useful.

**Pavements:** a resident asked about tree roots deforming pavements. Pat explained there is a Street Services Department which deals with this and other reasons for disrupted footways. There is a specific Street Inspector allocated to the Grid who will come to look at problems and contact Enable if tree works needs to be done. NB cutting roots will hurt tree. Cllr Guy Humphries reminded people they could also contact one of the councillors if there are problems with pavements.

**Tree list:** A resident asked if there is a list of new trees available? Pat will forward it to the SGRA Email [trees@enablelc.org](mailto:trees@enablelc.org) for any queries.

5. **Wandsworth Local Plan: consultation period to March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Charles Runcie/Cllr Guy Humphries

see: <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan/the-adopted-local-plan/>

Guy explained this occurs every 5 years and it drives how development happens in the borough. It is a complex procedure, and the council try to make it digestible. He requested that as many people as possible contribute their thoughts. Charles highlighted concerns about local shops & businesses survival and how this will be encouraged. Guy assured the meeting this is on the agenda and that various grant funds are ongoing. Southfields has many great local shops and people are shopping locally but there are changes in legislation of use class etc so please do keep using local shops and sustain economy.

6. **Southfields Public Realm improvements:** Charles Runcie

- Charles mentioned an email recently received airing concerns over the status of the surface outside the greengrocer and read Sidonie Forrest-Brown's (*Senior Transport Planner*) helpful response:

*"We will be resurfacing the private forecourt outside the Greengrocers; however, we will be using a slightly different material to the surrounding area. This is because the forecourt has a thick concrete surface and when we did some trial holes in the area we found services underneath which would be expensive to move about. Therefore, we have chosen a slightly different resin bound surface which will look much improved from what is there now and will be in the same colour scheme as the surrounding area. The resin works best when laid in more favourable weather conditions than we have been experiencing recently so we are waiting for the temperature to rise a bit before carrying out this work. The greengrocer has been kept up to date with this decision."*

- The parking indent at the top of Elsenham Street is causing concern with a number of residents: it is very narrow, so parked vehicles jut out into the road and there are traffic jams. There appears to be confusion about parking restrictions: the signage is not clear if it is a loading bay. Can this be reviewed?
- The narrowed entrance from Elsenham Road to Replingham Road is causing a back up of vehicles; a resident expressed her concern and asked if there was any feedback from councillors? Margaret Brett explained the narrowing was a deliberate move to try to reduce the use of Elsenham Street as a rat run. Guy Humphries has had no queries about it but both he and Kim Caddy suggested that people contact them with concerns.
- There is a detailed timetable for the works on SGRA website. Please do contact Sidonie Forrest-Brown for any queries: [S.Forrest-Brown@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:S.Forrest-Brown@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

7. **SGRA Executive Reports:**

- Planning:** Margaret Brett: Margaret went through her report (see Appendix i). She will respond to the draft Local Plan. Charles Runcie emphasised the importance of using local independent shops to ensure they can stay open. Fleur Anderson explained that just 20 more customers a week can make the difference as to whether they can stay open or not.  
There was concern from a resident about planning permission for the building on the car park to the rear of Carlyle Court. Margaret explained that as planning permission is not revoked nothing can now be done about it.  
There is no news regarding the Barclays bank site.
- Finance:** Chris Puleston: the autumn street collections are nearly complete and are about £3500 up on last year (33%). The top streets were Astonville and Clonmore Streets. Elborough Street was up 74%. 29% has been paid online.  
Expenditure: just over £1000 to the Grid newsletter and donations to the Southfields Recycling Project, Seasonal Cheer and Window Wanderland. There is just over £6000 in bank.
- Crime:** Clive Williams: Clive went through his report; this can be seen on [www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/](http://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/crime-on-the-grid/) where detailed figures are available. The December figures not yet out. In November, the greatest was 'antisocial behaviour' (6) and 'vehicle crime' (6). No

street has more than 3 crimes. ASB increased over lockdown; reports to the police regarding people breaking lockdown rules were treated as ASB.

Social media has many comments regarding **catalytic converter thefts**. A suggestion is to ensure you know which side of your car the catalytic converter is located and park that side nearest the kerb to make it harder for thieves to jack up the car.

**Distraction thefts** – Wimbledon Park Road Sainsburys cashpoint has had some incidents; please be careful at cashpoints.

Guy Humphries warned that there are some **Covid related scams**, for example spurious emails/texts/door knocking etc for vaccination payment. Please be careful.

Fleur Anderson mentioned a **parking meter scam** where people ask for help then steal cards. Please be aware and share the information.

A resident reported a problem with **graffiti**; he reported it and it was removed within 48 hrs using the 'love clean streets' app. The Wandsworth 'report it' app was also recommended:

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/report/use-the-report-it-app/>

**It was reiterated that if a crime happens, please report to police otherwise it will not be recorded by them as a crime.**

- d) **Communications:** *Charles Runcie*: the Grid newsletter is under new editorship and an editorial team is to be developed. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Charles.

## 8. Events:

- a) **Review of SGRA Seasonal Cheer 2020:** *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*: Amelia thanked everyone for their contributions and hoped it cheered everyone up over Christmas. The Seasonal Cheer group designed posters and spread the word on social media. There was a great response and houses and front gardens were beautiful both during the day and evening.

b) **Forthcoming events:**

- i. **Police SNT meeting**, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am
- ii. **5<sup>th</sup> Window Wanderland 27/28<sup>th</sup> February**, time tba – *Samantha Traynor* outlined the event, now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. 'Decorate your window, light up the Grid'. At the time of the meeting 130 windows had been signed up; due to Covid registration had not opened until 1<sup>st</sup> January. Last year there were 203 windows and Sam is hoping for around 300. It is a nationwide organisation with around 31 events; there are clear guidelines and it is confirmed as Covid friendly. Please wear masks and stay within your bubbles. Further details from the SGRA website: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/window-wanderland/> Contact Sam if you wish to be added to map manually. Samantha thanked the SGRA for their donation and the Magpie Tree who sponsor the event.

## 9. Any Other Business:

- A resident queried whether the rumour that parking restrictions on the Grid are going to be changed to the whole day is true? Cllr Kim Caddy said that no changes are made to a CPZ without consulting local residents and she's not aware of this. Clive Williams reported chatter on Nextdoor about an erroneous sign in Clonmore Street at the junction with Brookwood Road; people had been issued with parking tickets erroneously. Perhaps this is linked
- A resident reported a problem on the Durnsford Road pedestrian crossing near Wimbledon Park Primary School 3 or 4 days out of 5 with vehicles parked on the zig zag lines. As this is off Grid he will take it up on Saturday at the SNT meeting
- Cllr Guy Humphries informed the meeting that Wandsworth has cleared over 100,000 Christmas trees (more than ever) but there are few that haven't yet been collected; please let councillors know

**Date of next Public Meeting:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 2.00-3.30pm

**Appendix (i) SGRA Planning Notes January 2021**

Cllr Humphries has spoken about the draft revised Local Plan and we will respond to that consultation. We are also responding to the current consultation on 'Supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure'. This is of great concern because of the negative effect it could have on our local shopping centre. Central government brought in revised change of use classes from the beginning of September. There is now unrestricted change of use for shops to other business and commercial uses and vice versa. The new consultation allows those in this new use class to have permitted development change to residential.

The freeholder has been asked for a retrospective planning application for the unauthorised changes that have been made to the frontages 235 to 243 Wimbledon Park Road.

There is an application (2020/5006) to increase the height of 259-263 Wimbledon Park Road (BestOne /Fara/Richards) by a further storey to create two more flats and also infill at the back to create a further flat. At 15.15m this would create a very dominant building in that row. This makes the 38th planning application for this site.

There is a further application (2020/5053) to extend Bank House (beside Gails) and create more flats there.

The proposal to develop the roof of Coleman Court (2020/0530) is still under consideration.

The Council has approved plans to turn the vacant Debenham store in Wandsworth town centre into an indoor entertainment hub complete with an indoor go-karting track, bowling alley and crazy golf course.

**Appendix (ii) – Attendance List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
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
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee
Becky Watts	Grid Alliance
Liz Bridge	Chaplain, Wandsworth Prison
Susannah Perry-Greene	Friends of Coronation Gardens
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Pat Langley	Arboricultural Manager, Enable
Naomi Good	Patient & Public Engagement Manager, NHS SW London
Sue Wixley	
Fleur Anderson	MP
Sam Traynor	Window Wanderland
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Cllr Kim Caddy	
Cllr Terry Walsh	
Cllr Guy Humphries	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Ray Chapman	
Mary Buckley	
Trevor Howes	
Shiraz Mehrundatoo	
David Chamberlain	

Southfields Grid Residents Association Public Meeting – 26.01.21

Diane Miles	
Jackie Pearce	
Jackie Lever	
Andrew Dunley	
Peter Jackson	
Bernadette Wills	
Hugh Reeve-Tucker	
Joseph	
Kate/Duncan Lyons	
Hilary Simpson	
Diane Hofkins	
Peter Smith	
Nancy Graham	
Aisling Turner	
Robert Whitaker	
Debbie Stone	
Beth McKillop	
Kyra von Schottenstein	
Graham Skyrme	
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	
Andy Adamson	
Diane Nielsen-Smith	
Hanna	
Harry Allen	
Nathalie Mathieson	
Ray J	
Rosemary	
Stephen Chenery	
Wendy Gibson	
Janice Adamson	
Bridget Bryer	
Chris Trenchard	
Katrina Ure	Total: 62