

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 23rd February 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). Chris Puleston (CP).

Sue Wixley (SW), Andrew Dunley (AD) and Ian Tattum (IT) 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
Discuss putting info about subscription collection/api on website with John Berkoski (website designer)	CP	Hold until May 2021
Organise a Zoom Hustings for the Merton & Wandsworth GLA Elections	CR	Open
Review Newsletter publication process in light of new editorship	CR & KG	Open
Invite appropriate speaker (re: bikes or other matters) to the next Public Meeting	CR	Open
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Chase up info on United Service Transport sign	CR	Open

1. Apologies for absence:

Becky Watts

2. Grid Alliance Update:

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

- Becky's baby is due in less than a month; regular helper Ruth Fagandini will take over for a little while, as Becky needs
- AD has started delivering for Cooks Chemist again. There are now more requests from residents on the Grid; the demographic has changed recently. IT agreed with this and stated the Food Banks are also busier. SW noted that the CAB in Wandsworth is dealing with a different from usual client group and queried if there enough people helping?
- AK clarified there are still around 60 on the WhatsApp Grid Alliance group. Help has been given a little further afield, eg an anxiety difficulty in Roehampton. There is good support and response
- IT: Looking forward, there is now more awareness this is a long-term issue. The church is currently concentrating on being a Vaccine Hub; it is not known how long this will continue. It may be until perhaps to June or longer. The church is helping Southfields Academy & Riversdale families and there is no sign of this stopping at present. They are planning for worship to restart on a small level within the next month but this depends on how the space needed for the Hub can be organised
- Recycle More Southfields: Sue Wixley
SW thanked the SGRA for their encouragement and support. A soft launch via the WhatsApp group started in January and the hub in Trentham Street is busy. The plan is to

launch in the Spring, online due to the pandemic. The next Grid Newsletter will include a flyer with map of local recycle locations. All to be up and running by 18th March, which is Recycling Day. Other plans:

- Website launch
- SWRGA (Smuggler's Way) have online slots for virtual tours; Grid residents will be invited to join
- Window Wanderland windows dedicated to rubbish will be designed
- They would like to involve schools and the Work & Play Centre
- A member of the Steering Group will speak at the next SGRA Public Meeting

3. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (26.01.21)

A record 62 people attended.

Item 2: Naomi Good (Patient & Public Engagement Manager, NHS SW London) has just sent her accompanying information. SP to send out to the database today.

Item 5: Local Plan: MB will respond to the Local Plan following discussion and agreement with the Executive Committee.

Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (05.01.21)

The Actions list was reviewed and updated. The 'bike' speaker suggestion is low priority currently but a speaker will be invited to the next Public Meeting.

4. SGRA website help latest: Charles Runcie

CR explained John Berkoski has new job which makes it difficult for him to maintain the website in a timely manner. We have put out feelers for web support on local social media, a local secondary school and to the database and have an offer of help from a student which may be successful.

5. Post Office complaints latest: Charles Runcie

CR has spoken to Gill Habershon (Southfields Business Forum) who is actively working on this. Cllr Kim Caddy is too, and CR has passed her correspondence on. She will let us know when she has further information. The Post Office hours are currently 9-4pm. The Committee discussed the difficulty in the building where all available space appears filled and it is hard for customers to socially distance.

6. Collecting for HMP Wandsworth: hats update + possible future 'Trainers appeal' (CR)

- **Hats:** none have been actively collected since Christmas, but a few have been donated and AD has passed them on to Liz Bridge.
- **Trainers and DVDs:** A request to collect these for HMP Wandsworth was discussed. A concern was that a DVD collection might mean a high number which would be difficult to manage, especially given that charity shops are currently shut, and donation boxes could be used as 'dumping points.' Used trainers may also pose a similar difficulty.
- The Committee agreed it was very happy to have co-ordinated the hat collection but there are currently many other activities happening. It was felt that signposting and promoting rather than organising such collections would be more suitable at present. If a specific, time limited request comes in in the future the Committee will certainly look into it again

7. Trees in the Grid update: Serena Potter

SP updated the meeting on the work of the Wandsworth Tree Wardens and plans for watering young and vulnerable trees this year:

- Enable are planting several new trees across the Grid this winter. They have yellow painted stakes and a 'Gator' watering bag attached. Enable will ensure these are filled (approx. 60 litres) but additional volunteer support may be required as last year. SP will do another survey in the summer of all trees looking vulnerable
- The Tree Wardens have agreed to support Enable in a voluntary capacity to monitor all 450 new street trees in the borough. This will involve checking their condition at 3 and 9 months after planting. Wardens have shared out responsibility via Wards and SP and another warden will cover the Southfields Ward.
- SP suggested residents might like to see trees labelled with their species. She will look into this. She will also liaise with Susanna re: Coronation Gardens and GtG on tree ideas

8. Ongoing updates:

• **Communications: Charles Runcie**

- CR is using Twitter more
- The Newsletter coming on nicely. Any more contributions welcome. Articles include Becky Watts writing on the Alliance's 1st anniversary, recycling, vaccination at St Barnabas, obituaries and a postcard collection

• **Planning/public realm improvements: Margaret Brett**

MB presented her report:

- **Public realm:** Contractors are now working on the pavement outside Costas on the west side of Wimbledon Park Road. There were complaints about the slipperiness of the new surfaces during the very cold weather
- **Planning:** There are a few of the usual side and rear extensions but none of concern
- The **planning website** has been down for a week; it is partially back up but one cannot access all the information lodged there. I have not received the weekly update information or the usual householder letter for proposed changes next door to me
- We responded to the government consultation on '**Supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure**' emphasising the negative effect it could have on our local shopping centre. Allowing commercial frontage to change readily to residential as permitted development could destroy our local centre
- We sent in an objection to the application (2020/5006) to increase the height of 259-263 Wimbledon Park Road (BestOne /Fara/H&J Barbers) by a further storey to create two more flats and also infill at the back to create a further flat. This would create a very dominant building in that row
- There is local support for the new application (2020/5053) to extend Bank House (beside Gail's) and create more flats there
- The issue about the **Local Plan** has been circulated. No reply has yet been received from the Planning Policy team about why they have suddenly decided to identify Southfields centre as being suitable for tall buildings. We have until the weekend to make our concerns clear - I have also contacted the Sutherland Grove RA, the Gardens RA and the Southfields Business Forum. I am also unhappy with a broad-brush designation of the area between the north of Kimber Road and Bodmin Street being similarly listed as being suitable for tall buildings as we need to keep the light industrial and commercial capacity there. Otherwise, there are no substantive concerns with the Local Plan. It could do with more emphasis on local greening and street safety but has good plans for improving the Wandle Valley. There is currently a consultation on the Council's Masterplan for the **Wandle Delta**

- Separately, there may be scope for creating more **conservation areas** and I think we should proactively consider this either for the whole Grid or for certain streets or parts of streets in the Grid. I have asked about this in the past and have been discouraged by council officers but in view of the real prospect of change I think this is one way forward for preserving the character of the area
- The latest consultation on **night flights** has been circulated

The committee discussion included the issue of designating tall buildings as this tends to be a slippery slope to even higher building allowances. The idea of applying to become a Conservation Area raised the suggestion of speaking to a local architect for views.

- **Finance: Chris Puleston**
 - Total funds: £6371. Only 2 businesses are outstanding from advertising collection. Street collections are up 34% on last year
- **Crime: Clive Williams**
 - The latest figures are not yet in
 - The **Wandsworth Policing Bulletin** has just arrived. This will be circulated regularly as the new Borough Commander is keen on community policing.
 - Clive has discussed **Neighbourhood Watch** with Mary Buckley (Gardens RA) to find out more
 - Some **cycle huts** have been broken into, eg an angle grinder was used on one in Putney
- **FoWP: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**
 - After pressure IdVerde have taken down the fencing on grass
 - FoWP are still pursuing idea of **opening the stadium gates** but Merton Council has not yet responded so Cllr Ed Gretton has been asked to help
 - There are many meetings concerning the **works due to start on the lake** at present; one is due on 24.02.21 which may clarify the situation. The Wimbledon Club have become involved re: flooding. Work should be starting in August and finishing early next year. Thames Water are talking to Wandsworth about the effects of possible flooding
 - **Logo** - FoWP successfully advertised for a volunteer with good response, and the logo has been designed and given the go ahead
- **FoCG: Charles Runcie**
 - Improvements have continued in the NW corner, with 3 new chairs installed and a “rose arch” about to be put in this spring
 - Locking has become an issue, with Enable saying it was stopped at the end of February because of the current contract changing. Discussions are ongoing re locking gates from the end of March - end of October, coinciding with clocks changing.
 - FoCG are buying and installing a bug hut which will be one of the new educational items that are being installed in the gardens.
 - A new notice board about FoCG activities is also on the way.
 - AGM at the end of March – do email focoronationgardens.co.uk to get involved with their work
- **Streets Reps/Small Business Register updates: Gerard Sebastian**
 - 4 streets now have 2 reps
 - Gerard will let Charles have an updated list for the website
 - No activity on the small business register
- 9. **Forthcoming events**
 - **Window Wanderland - February 27/28th**. Photos will be needed for the Newsletter

- **GLA Hustings: Monday April 26th**. Suggested time: 7.30pm. Sue Wixley and Leonie Cooper are both happy to come. Perhaps invite someone from the GLA to attend the meeting. A leaflet drop to every household to explain the system is being organised.
- The **Tea Party** may possibly be held in the autumn
- **Friends of Wimbledon Park AGM: 18th March**, 4pm (tbc)
- **Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM: 31st March**, 7-8pm
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team**: April (date not known)
- **Front Garden Awards**: Possible date 19th June. AO-M will be meeting the judges and agreeing awards; she is meeting Nina Kowalska on Friday and will send info to the Committee. There may be a children's competition for a poster etc.

10. **AOB**

- AO-M raised the correspondence from the **AELTC** re this year's tennis championships. There is disquiet about the proposed 493 bus diversion. AO-M will drop a note to Johnny Perkins to inquire. MB made the point that prioritising public transport should be done given that there is much emphasis on transport other than cars
- **Public Meeting Guest**: perhaps invite Ulrika from the AELTC to update us on plans for Championships and other related issues
- CP asked if there is any news on the United Service Transport sign in the Shell garage? No news yet but CR will chase it up
- **Green the Grid**: CR will ask Nina to speak at next Public Meeting; there is lots going on within GtG

11. **Dates of next meetings:**

Public Meeting: 30th March 2 – 3.30pm

Executive: 27th April 12.45 – 2.30pm