



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 30th March 2021, via Zoom

Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Kim Caddy, Cllr Guy Humphries, Rev Ian Tattum, Cllr Ray Chapman, Gerard Sebastian (Executive Committee), Samantha Traynor (Window Wanderland),

1. Minutes + matters arising from meetings of 26th January (Public Meeting) and 23rd February (Executive Meeting); these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>

Public meeting: Item 2b) Coronavirus Update: All involved with the vaccinations at St Barnabas have been amazed by the efficiency and helpfulness there. Charles Runcie will send a message and vote of thanks from all. A query about the plan for the use of the church going forward was answered by Margaret Brett: it is being kept under review and will certainly be used as a vaccine centre until mid-April. The long-term hope is that vaccinations will move inside the church so the Halls can be used by returning social groups (ballet etc).

Item 2c) Post Office and Royal Mail issues: Concerns about the queues and opening hours in the Post Office are ongoing. There have been meetings and Gill Habershon has been in contact with the Post Office and the council, but there are no conclusive decisions to date. A general discussion included a view that the Post Office website gives misleading information about opening hours and that what was initially promised (eg long opening hours to midnight) is not being delivered. There was acknowledgement from a resident that the queues have been generally lower since the beginning of March. The need for a good service for Southfields' residents was emphasised.

Fleur Anderson (MP) picked up on the delivery issues identified at the last meeting. She has talked to all the local post/sorting offices; staff off sick with covid was an issue. She had not been so aware of the opening hours issue (important given the number of banks closing) and will investigate further.

Item 2d) Donations to HMP Wandsworth: SGRA has stopping formally collecting hats etc on their behalf but if there is a further specific appeal we will do so. We are pleased that we helped with these appeals.

Executive Meeting: Item 4 Website help: a student at Putney High School has offered to help.

Item 7: Trees in the Grid: we will be starting to label trees with their species name. Also, will be helping to monitor newly planted trees and reintroduce the watering scheme as last year, as and when necessary.

2. Special Guests:

a) **Southfields Grid Alliance Update:**

- Ruth Fagandini is covering for Becky Watts for a few weeks, as Becky has just had her baby. Alliance requests are currently 1 or 2 per day, mostly prescriptions, although one lady had difficulty getting her census papers and this was sorted out via the Alliance. The SGRA sent a chocolate collection from Derosier Chocolate and Coffee, and Becky has thanked everyone. She will be back soon.

b) **Window Wanderland Review:**

- Apologies from Sam Traynor as she was unable to attend at the last minute

c) **AELTC: Johnny Perkins/Ulrika Hogberg**

Ulrika Hogberg outlined the status of the consultation process:

- The 3-stage process opened in early March. There is a Virtual Consultation with a Virtual Exhibition Room where everyone can see the plans and give responses:
https://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/virtualExhibitRoom/index.html

- The first consultation focuses on the history and heritage of the landscape on the golf course; it is a complex piece of land
- The second stage, beginning on 14th April and lasting to mid-June will start to present and respond to the excellent feedback from local residents, plus sketching out the thinking and emerging plans for the golf course. The main aims are to bring the qualifying rounds on site and to look to provide community benefit in different ways year-round
- The third stage will begin in mid-June; feedback will have been incorporated and a finalised version of what they aim to achieve produced
- Planning permission is to be submitted in July
- The work will go on until 2028 - taking the ecology etc properly into consideration eg ancient trees
- The AELTC have really appreciated and valued the feedback and comments to date; please continue to do so, via the SGRA or direct to Ulrika and Johnny. They have had well over 100 comments.

Discussion:

- Nina Kowalska (Green the Grid) asked about the awareness of environmental impact (EI): whether an EI assessment had been carried out and a biodiversity strategy developed? Ulrika explained an EI assessment is being undertaken and that they are working with several ecologists and other specialists to do an extensive range of surveys. These will feed into the plans and ensure the landscape is taken into consideration
- Fleur Anderson thanked Ulrika and Johnny and emphasised that the biggest input from the public is usually habitat and ecology, as seen with her involvement in the local Tideway Project. She also asked about the current information about the Championships this year. The response included the information that there will be no queue. Ulrika referenced the latest press update on The 2021 Championships which can be seen at: https://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/news/articles/2021-03-18/2021-03-18_update_on_the_championships_2021.html
The aim is to ensure the most covid secure tournament possible and there will be restricted numbers
- People can sign up to 'My Wimbledon' for information which will go straight to individual inboxes: <https://www.wimbledon.com/>. Click top left corner for the menu, select 'MyWimbledon' and join
- Leonie Cooper (AM) reiterated the importance of Wimbledon Park. People can get involved in recording vertebrates/invertebrates in the Park. Go to: <https://www.gigl.org.uk>
- Clive Williams asked about the proposed changes of the 493 bus route along Church Road? Johnny explained the proposal is to partially close Church Road from after the main school run to the end of play and reroute 493 bus; the decision is related to security advice during the Olympics regarding terrorism. He suggested it could be of benefit to residents as other through traffic would not be able to use the route. It was felt to have worked well at the Olympics and he acknowledged that it may be repeated in future years.
- Margaret Brett asked if there is a guarantee that the 493 will not miss out Southfields. Johnny will check the exact route.
- Leonie Cooper will check with TfL about the 493 route plans as she has access to the internal members enquiry system

d) **Recycle More Southfields: Dante Crowden**

Dante outlined the work of the 'Recycle More Southfields' initiative which launched in January 2021:

- Nearly 200 people have signed up
- The aim is to improve recycling numbers, simplify recycling and increase awareness of what can and can't be recycled

- Dante acts as a hub, on a 4-week schedule. She takes hard to recycle items, which the council does not take, mostly to Terracycle (a commercial company which makes some donations to charity)
- In the first 2 months 27 kg of waste was collected and in March another 27kg. This included 5.5kg of baby and yoghurt pouches and 4.5kg of crisp packets
- Bags: Some carrier bags etc will be taken by large supermarkets. Dante has given approximately 200 carrier bags to food banks for their food bags
- Educational input such as arranging virtual trips to Smugglers Way (highly recommended) has been organised

Discussion:

- Charles Runcie suggested people read the flyer which came out in newsletter
- How to join?
 - Website: <https://www.recyclemoresouthfields.org/>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RecycleMoreSouthfields/>
 - Email: recyclemoresouthfields@gmail.com
 - WhatsApp group
 - There will be a focus on enabling those who do not have smart phones etc to participate
- A resident asked if there is a definitive guide to what should go in the Wandsworth bags as it is confusing to understand what should go in them? Recycle More Southfields is working on a more complete guide of items; this is not yet finalised

3. Green Spaces Update:

a. Green the Grid: *Nina Kowalska*

- GtG are planning their next event on 24th April: a 'Plant and Seed Giveaway', with collection points around the Grid to avoid congregating in one space
- They are encouraging vegetables to be planted
- They are hoping that Southfields Harvest will be going ahead this year and plan to attend
- There is interest in the project by other communities – eg Amelia did a piece on BBC London News; Nina has talked to groups and societies eg Battersea Matters and a group in Merton
- They are working with Cllr Kim Caddy and Fleur Anderson to ensure the Southfields developments are greener. There has been confirmation there will be a green wall near the tube station. The detail will be confirmed by council. Also, it has been confirmed there will be benches with integrated planters

b. FoWP: *Nick Steiner*

- **Biodiversity habitat:** since 2016 FoWP have planted over 2000 trees around Horse Close Wood. (Note HCW is in LBW)
- **Batsurveys** were carried out in 2017; the report is published with these minutes
- **The lake:** FoWP are hoping for the installation of a common tern raft, a sandmartin bank and we need a large increase in insects and invertebrates
- **Dam safety works:** these are complex. They should start in August and Merton are legally required to complete by January 2022. There could be an opportunity to move the boat storage into the stadium arena when the Dam Safety team leave their compound in January 2022. This will solve the congestion on the promenade (dam path)
- **Water:** the water table is high and there is a lot of waterlogging. This creates an opportunity for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), eg more ponds etc. Wimbledon Park brook can be deculverted from the stilling pond in Ashen Grove to the bridge by the toilets, and a separate deculverting of the brook around the café
- **Involvement in City Nature Challenge:** this is an international movement run by the Natural History Museum and FoWP are hoping to participate. It takes place from April 30th to May 3rd

and is open to individuals, groups and involves identifying species of all kinds. Recording is done via the Inaturalist app: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

- **Monitoring events:** the park is currently opening at 8am. There is a demand by visitors for this to be moved to 7am. The Revelstoke Road entrance planning application decision is due on 19th April
- The **Capability Brown Society** (TCBS) will soon be circulating their Vision for the Heritage Park so the community can consider the options. It is a 1 in a 100 year opportunity to get the park properly improved

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

- New members have joined the Committee and a News Secretary has been appointed. Susanna is looking for an event organiser to support her
- A new noticeboard is up – displaying events, AGM info, poem competition for primary schools (£100 Amazon voucher prize, details on website)
- There are two new interpretation boards: one funded by a grant from the National Lottery Fund which will present the history of Coronation Gardens, the other by a Co-op Community Fund. That has been commissioned by ‘Draw My Town’ and will display the winning poem.
- A Co-op Community Fund has paid for gardening tools for Wandsworth Scouts and Riversdale School
- There is a new Bug Hut
- A water fountain has been funded by the National Lottery Fund
- The path for the Riversdale School entrance/exit is being sorted out
- The northwest corner is looking lovely with the rose arch, a seating area and a herb area
- Gate locking again during summer months
- Fundraising for playground
- FoCG AGM next Wed 7th April, 7-8pm.

4. **Front Garden Awards: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

- There is an article in Grid News and information on social media
- **Front garden and street planting:** Leonie’s suggestion to encourage fruit and veg planting this year has been taken on board and this will include veg such as courgettes, peas and runner beans
- **Spectacular Sunflowers Competition:** August
- **Front Garden Awards:** 11th – 21st June

5. **SNT Ward Panel Update: PC James Elvy**

PC Elvy thanked all those who came to the first Ward Panel Meeting. Theft from motor vehicle and some burglaries especially bikes remain the highest crime; this has been an ongoing theme since the first lockdown. Items being left in vehicles is also a problem. PC Elvy asked people to please remove them!

- Charles Runcie explained about the Ward Panel: all SNTs are being asked to change their structure and create a statutory organisation. This includes having a Ward Chair and Secretary to run meetings. They are looking for a Chair and Secretary; to date there have only been a couple offering to be Secretary and none for the role of Chair
- A resident highlighted that dog theft has increased significantly recently. PC Elvy acknowledged that the threat of violence while trying to steal dogs has happened in Wandsworth. The police guidance is to stay in well-lit areas, with other people nearby and to walk away from anyone that you feel suspicious about. Be aware of your dog being off the lead when approaching car parks as that is where it is most likely that thieves will snatch your dog.
- A resident reminded the meeting that there were issues with homeless people in the alleyway in Carlton Court last year and a couple have returned recently. In relation to a query about the power of SNT, it was explained that the owner of the building must ask them to move first, then

the SNT can issue notice to ask them to leave. The advice is to try to encourage them to move elsewhere and help them before arrest becomes indicated. Fleur Anderson gave this website for help: www.streetlink.org.uk

- A resident said he had a bicycle stolen recently and asked, if he submitted frame number would it go on a national register? PC Elvy explained it would only go on the crime report. If the bicycle has been marked by the police, it will be on their database

6. Southfields Business Forum: Gill Habershon

Gill updated the meeting on current information:

- During the past months, businesses have been struggling, including the coffee shops and estate agents. Hopefully, those reopening in a couple of weeks will begin to recover
- **Replingham Road** has 3 empty shops. The old solicitor shop is being done up and will have flats and 2 shops
- **Wimbledon Park Road**: Several leases are terminating in June 2021. Some landlords want to increase rents and many, eg KFH (rental), can't afford it. It is a complex situation. BestOne, HG Barbers and Fara all may be having problems with their landlord; they have been asked to reduce their properties but have higher rents. HG Barbers have been told they are unable to have a fire exit which is against the law
- A local resident – Emmanuelle, who wishes to promote local businesses has written to say she would like to share a shop; she offers consultation to nutritional therapists. Please contact Gill if you can help: habershonfamily@googlemail.com
- The old Sainsburys site is still empty. Trieste is perhaps still available; it is not clear if it is under offer or not. TfL is the landlord (this site is above the bridge/track).
- Fleur Anderson gave an update: the empty shops a concern. Fleur tells us that TfL have handed the lease to another company to whom she has written, and they have taken on board that now is not the time to raise rates. She has spoken to the managing agents and they are individually negotiating (not via TfL). Sunny Patel asked what would happen if there is a problem on the bridge? Sunny and Gill will discuss this further with Fleur
- Charles Runcie updated the meeting on the status of the old Post Office site. This has been taken by **HomeWork Workspace**, run by Claire Tucker. Charles welcomed Claire and her colleague Georgie Randon to the meeting and Claire outlined their development:
 - This is their second location, the first being in Putney. Their focus is on Southwest London. Putney opened in August 2019
 - It is a localised workspace and an alternative to working from home. It will be homely, welcoming, friendly, convenient and flexible.
 - It is a big site; small groups/teams will be welcome. 3/4 - 12 people groups can be accommodated. There will be good wifi and printers etc
 - There will be a 24hr section of the building
 - Facilities include: open plan/pods/bench desking/individual booths/private rooms/meeting rooms/phone booths/café/breakout spaces/fitness room (yoga, Pilates, showers etc).
 - It will be opening in June, covid dependent
 - Contact claire@homeworkworkspace.com if you wish to have a look round

7. SGRA Executive Reports:

- a) **Planning:** Margaret Brett
See Appendix (i)

- a) **Finance:** Chris Puleston

Income: Over the last 10 months income has been £7.5k of which £3.6k was from street collections, up 36% on last year and the rest from advertising on the newsletters.

Expenditure: This is £6.9k ytd and 61% has been spent on printing the newsletters.

The balance including money carried forward from last year is £5.2k.

b) **Crime:** *Clive Williams*

Clive presented figures for the last 2 months:

- January: 120 crimes in the whole Southfields Ward with 27 on the Grid. (compared with 2020: 144 and 30 on the Grid)
- February: 152 in Southfields Ward and 28 in the Grid (2020: 126 and 28 on the Grid)
- Astonville Street had the highest in January
- Antisocial Behaviour is the highest category
- Wandsworth is still one of lowest boroughs for crime and the Grid remains one of the lowest in Wandsworth
- Please report any crime to the police

c) **Communications:** *Charles Runcie:*

- Current number of followers is around 3000 on Facebook and 520 on Twitter
- Grid news and recycling leaflet have just been delivered. If any more are needed let us know

8. **Events:**

a) **Forthcoming events:**

- GLA Election Hustings: April 26th 7.30-9pm. We held a successful General Election Hustings previously, so will be holding one for this election. Candidates from all 4 main parties are attending.

9. **Date of next Public Meeting:** Tuesday 25th May with AGM 7.30-9pm

10. **Any Other Business:**

- None

Appendix (i) SGRA Planning Notes March 2021

Planning

There are a few of the usual side and rear extension applications but none that seem to be of concern. **Wandsworth** has had problems with their planning website but it appears to be functioning now.

We sent in an objection to the application (2020/5006) to increase the height of **259-263 Wimbledon Park Road** by a further storey. This application has now been withdrawn.

The new application (2020/5053) to extend Bank House (beside Gail's) and create more flats there has been approved.

The **Friends of Wimbledon Park's** application to renovate the car park and pedestrian entrance to Wimbledon Park is at 2021/0432.

The **Elborough Street surgery** has applied (2021/1164) to construct a timber building in the back garden space as a rest area for the staff. This does not appear to be intrusive and would be permitted development at a residential property.

The new use of the **old Post Office** building is known as touchdown space and the Wandsworth draft Local Plan supports this innovative use particularly for town centres.

There was government consultation on '**Supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure**'.

There is a proposal to allow commercial frontage to change readily to residential use as permitted development. Our response emphasised the negative effect this could have on our local shopping centre.

We also responded to the consultation on the new draft **Local Plan**. We were concerned to see their plans to identify Southfields centre as being suitable for tall buildings.

The new **London Plan** has now been published.

Public Realm

Contractors are now working on the south part of Wimbledon Park Road. They have reached Costa on the east side and are near Sainsbury's on the west side.

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
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Ruth Fagandini	Grid Alliance
Dante Crowden	Recycle More Southfields
Susannah Perry-Greene	Friends of Coronation Gardens
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
PC James Elvy	SNT
Fleur Anderson	MP
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Ulrika Hog	AELTC
Gill Habershon	Southfields Business Forum
Claire Tucker	HomeWork Workspace
Nina Kowalska	Green the Grid
Leonie Cooper	
Sunny Patel	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Trevor Howes	
Shiraz Mehrundatoo	
Lesley McCaul	
Downie	
Katrina Ure	
Aiden Magill	
Cllr Peter Carpenter	
Peter Jackson	
Bernadette Wills	
Rosemary Langford	
Janice Adamson	
Kate/Duncan Lyons	
Hilary Simpson	
Sunil Sood	
Rosemary Archer	
Alise Veremaja	
Katherine's iphone	
Sophia Browning	
Robert Whitaker	Total: 42