

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR), Clive Williams (CW), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO), Gerard Sebastian (GS), Serena Potter (SP), Margaret Brett (MB), Karen Gregory (KG) and Chris Puleston (CP). Sue Wixley (SW), and Ian Tattum (IT) were present at the start for the Grid Alliance item. Guy Humphries (GH) joined later.

Actions from last meeting	Owner(s)	Status
Put a summary of the relationship between SGRA & other organisations on the website	CR	Open
Chase up info on United Service Transport sign	CR	Completed
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Plan for end/pause of the Alliance with Becky Watts	CR	Open
Contact Cllr Leonie Cooper re: AELTC road closures over the Tennis Championships, as per the March Public Meeting	CW	Open
Liaise with possible website volunteer/contact professional web support provider for immediate updating of the website	CR/GS	Open
To make an SGRA application for Asset of Community Value for the Granville Road allotments	MB	Open
Identification of possible sites on the Grid for a donated bench	All	Open
Contact Krystal's manager re: dustbins on Elsenham Street	GS	Open
Find out the current status of the speed camera use	CW	Open

1. Apologies for absence:

Ann Kerr

2. Southfields Grid Alliance Update:

There was a general discussion about the long-term future of the Grid Alliance. This was preceded by a discussion between CR and Becky Watts on 26/04/21. One solution is to stop at an agreed, official point, but to leave the phone number available.

CR welcomed Ian Tattum, Sue Wixley and Guy Humphries, who gave feedback and views. Key points:

- IT suggested a pause as vaccinations may be complete by the end of August. The need is still there in terms of Food Banks, but the church can continue to support them. The emergency is over, but the need is ongoing
- SW wondered if there is a potential for using the group in some ongoing way? MB suggested asking the volunteers what they think. There are support groups eg Hestia, which is trying to reform, and Age UK, who may welcome support. CR suggested the group might form a volunteer wing of the SGRA?
- GH explained the Council is considering a possible mechanism for continuing, given that there is a possibility of a surge in November. The Community Hub will go into the background. If there are any Adult Social Care concerns, he recommends going direct to the ward councillors. He will consult the Council officers and feedback any more concrete plans as they develop
- Perhaps a 'thank you gathering' to mark the official ending, so people can meet each other. Perhaps in the church garden or a room in the Grid pub

ACTION: CR to consult BW and ask her to put out an initial message out via WhatsApp group. To get a consensus by the AGM.

3. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (30.03.21)

- Southfields Harvest is confirmed as happening on 25th September
- Ward Panel –a Chairperson is still needed
- Homework WorkSpace – CR went there last week and had a tour with Cllr Kim Caddy; it is very impressive.

Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (23.02.21)

- Recycle More Southfields has taken off with a flourish. There are around 160 people on the WhatsApp group
- CR has received a lovely note from Becky Watts, thanking SGRA for the Derosier gift on the birth of her baby

4. Hustings thoughts: all

- The feedback is that it went well; there were 44 attendees
- 4 out of 5 candidates attended
- CW felt it was successful, from the audience perspective
- The chat room facility perhaps means people can put across their views easily
- There was a suggestion to hold a Hustings for the council elections next year

5. AELTC plans: all

- There is a meeting this afternoon: a report back on this year's championship and the future. Sally Bolton and the Chairman will attend
- The current consultation's end has been extended to Friday 7th May

A general discussion elicited:

- Members to provide individual responses rather than a SGRA Executive Committee response. NB SGRA has not consulted the community so an official SGRA response would not be appropriate
- Individual views from AO-M and CW were discussed
- AO-M to find out what FoWP are doing
- CR has been invited to a meeting for all Residents' Associations to get views this evening. He will take our concerns to that meeting and circulate feedback
- MB suggested going back to Cllr Leonie Cooper to ask for the follow up regarding the proposed Church Road closures for this year's Championships, specifically the Bus route 493 concern

ACTION – CW to contact Cllr Leonie Cooper re: no 493 bus route (as per the March Public Meeting)

6. Website maintenance: Charles Runcie/Gerard Sebastian

- JB has stepped down from maintaining the website
- GS is currently managing the website alongside Lara (a volunteer). Lara is at school and busy with exams so has limited capacity.
- A local resident (RK), via FoWP, has offered to help and has just taken on the membership secretary role of FoWP. This is potentially a solution but is not yet confirmed
- It was agreed that a longer-term solution for the website is needed. An option is to pay a professional consultant to complete the current necessary work
- Contact to be made with the Principal of Southfields Academy and possibly St Cecilia's for further possible volunteers for ongoing support

Action: GS will give RK passwords etc as necessary.

CR to identify immediate needs and contact the professional consultant previously identified

7. Granville Road Allotments update: Margaret Brett

MB summarised the context and current status of the concern about the survival of the allotments at the rear of 135 Granville Road. Sarah Donlan, an Elsenham Street resident and holder of an allotment there, has approached her for advice on allotment planning legislation. The freeholder wishes to develop the allotment land as a nursery; it is currently leased by Wimbledon Park Rifle Club. The allotments have been in existence for over 100 years and there are 3 beehives on the site. Currently the club is not under threat; it is the allotment land that the freeholder wants to develop.

Sarah has started a successful campaign, with a petition of over 22000 signatures. It has the support of the local councillors, the MP and others, including Pulborough Road residents. Although this is out of the SGRA area, there is no active Resident Association so the SGRA has been asked to make an application for the land to be designated as an **Asset of Community Value**. MB has checked with the council officers that this does not place the SGRA at any risk from the freeholder. To make an application, one must be a community or voluntary body, preferably with a constitution, with at least 21 members who are registered to vote in Wandsworth. MB asked the Executive Committee for agreement in principle to make this application. If agreed, support could be sought from 21 paid up members. Discussion:

- KG emphasised the importance of understanding the wider context and not ignoring the needs of the rifle club. MB explained that the 2001 Planning Inspectorate appeal decision should protect the rifle club.
- MB attended a meeting at the site last week. Cllr Kim Caddy is very keen to protect the allotments and there is much momentum. There does not appear to be a risk to the rifle club
- The Executive Committee approved the making of the application as it is in the wider interests of Southfields

Action: MB will feed back to Sarah and the active group. She will get the paperwork completed and a message to the database can be sent to recruit the 21

8. AGM thoughts re: guest, elections: all

- Guest suggestions included: the newly elected Assembly member/TfL representative/AELTC/representative from the Art Group/Fleur Anderson MP
- Any others, please let CR know

9. Suggested bench donation/s to Green Spaces – Serena Potter/all

SP outlined her thoughts for a possible donation of a park bench by the SGRA, either on the Grid or Wimbledon Park/Coronation Gardens. The idea was triggered by the wish to meet and sit with friends outside during the Covid restrictions. Discussion included the pros and cons of having a bench on the Grid and what constraints and possibilities are present:

- Is there room on the Grid anywhere for a bench? Is Wimbledon Park possible?
- GH explained it is possible on the Grid - not on normal pavements, but on inset areas on corners/sides of houses. This might involve negotiations as they may be on private land
- CP raised the idea of taking out a parking space. It is possible but very controversial and buy-in from people in that area is essential
- The Replingham Road area opposite the Astonville Street junction was suggested
- The problem of noise and encouragement of late-night gatherings on residential street corners etc was raised
- Merton Council charge £1600 for a park bench and it must be maintained by the donor

- Coronation Gardens is a possibility but there are benches there already

ACTION - GH will contact Highways and check measurements and other requirements. The meeting acknowledged that there may be too many constraints but identification of possible sites to be made.

10. Post Office updates: Charles Runcie

- The difficulties now appear resolved. Opening hours are now 8.30 – 5pm
- MB raised an issue with the area at the back of Krystal's: their dustbins are obstructing the pavement on Elsenham Street, making it particularly difficult for people with buggies etc

ACTION: GS to discuss with the manager of Krystal's.

11. Ongoing updates:

• **Communications: Charles Runcie**

- Grid News – the feedback on the quality of the paper for the last Grid News has been positive
- There were some errors in middle pages which made reading difficult. A suggestion was for someone to read the whole document for a final proof. CW will do this for the next edition.
- Next edition is due to be delivered over the weekend of 16th – 18th July
- Deadline is 18th June

• **Planning/public realm improvements April 2021: Margaret Brett**

Planning

- There are the usual side and rear extension applications but none that seem to be of real concern. Wandsworth refused the application for a rear and side extension at 64 Replingham (2021/ 0749) because of its size
- The Friends of Wimbledon Park's application to renovate the car park and pedestrian entrance to Wimbledon Park is at 2021/0432
- The application for the Elborough Street surgery (2021/1164) for a timber building in the back garden space as a rest area for the staff is still open
- The application for Coleman Court (2020/0530) is still undecided
- Sadly, the government is going ahead with its controversial proposals to allow commercial frontage to change readily to residential use as permitted development. This will take effect in August and applies to frontage that has been empty for at least 3 months, has been in the 'use category' for 2 years and is more than 37sqm

Public Realm

- Contractors are now working on the south part of Wimbledon Park Road. They have reached H&J Barbers on the east side and the old Sainsbury's on the west side.
- Separately, there are some very deep holes round two of the lampposts.

• **Finance: Chris Puleston**

- Chris will prepare a power point presentation for the AGM
- Advertising and street collections have both increased this year
- A grant proposal has been submitted to the council for £2000 for the Recycle More Southfields initiative

• **Crime: Clive Williams**

- The March figures are not yet out
- There are currently some phishing scams. The recommendation is to forward to report@phishing.gov.uk

- 'OWL' (Online Watch Link) is part of Neighbourhood Watch and has a Community message option
- Crime Prevention Advice might be given via a podcast. CW will circulate the link
- There was a query about whether the speed camera is in use?

Action: CW find out and feed back

- **FoWP: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

Several commercial events will take place this year:

- **May – July: Street Eat.** This is a commercial activity selling food and drink. The initial plan was for it to be located in the old Bowling Green but this was deemed too close to housing so it will be set up nearer the lake (by the Sailing Activity Centre) as per last year
 - **August: Food festival**
 - **Pumpkin Patch**
 - The details re: **Bonfire Night** are not yet decided
 - Residents are asking to get the park opened at 7am
 - BBQs will not be allowed this summer
 - There is no news on the lake/relevant applications
 - There is some possibility on getting toilets approved
 - The paddling pool may be reopened this year
- **FoCG: Charles Runcie**
 - The AGM was held on 7th April
 - CR will circulate the minutes
 - FoCG aim to hold a socially distanced picnic on 3rd July
 - **Streets Reps/Small Business Register updates: Gerard Sebastian**
 - 1 new small business has been included on website
 - We have a new Street rep – Alise on Replingham Road

12. Forthcoming events

- **Front Garden Awards:** Judging: 11th – 21st June. Sunflowers to be judged in August. GS has agreed to design a poster. The prize money will be the same: £25 to the winner and £15 each to the runner ups. There will be a new category this year: 'Whole street best planted street base'

13. AOB

- CP: The tree species labels are almost done. Hopefully, they will go up in May
- MB suggested putting physical notices up for AGM if we cannot get the website updated in time
- CR to thank Nina (GtG) formally for the Seed and Plant Giveaway

14. Dates of next meetings:

Public Meeting: 25th May: AGM 7.30 – 9pm

Executive: 29th June 12.45 – 2.30pm tbc

Apology from CP & KG for next Executive Meeting; perhaps it might be moved to the evening?