



Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 25th May 2021, via Zoom

1. Welcome, apologies for absence: *Charles Runcie (Chair)*

Charles Runcie welcomed everyone to the AGM and reminded the meeting that the previous AGM took place in July 2020 in a simplified format due to the pandemic. He thanked the Executive Committee for their work in the past year.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Guy Humphries.

2. Chair's review 2020/21: *Charles Runcie (Chair)*

Charles Runcie presented his review of the year, which is posted on the website and can be seen here: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20210604-SGRA-Annual-Review-2020-2021.pdf>. He outlined the key activities and successes and the challenges for the year ahead. These included:

- The challenges of getting used to new ways of working during the pandemic
- The success of the Grid Alliance group and plans going forward
- The supporting of and linking to local groups and initiatives
- The continued increase of social media use and database numbers
- The new initiative of publishing the Executive Committee minutes, for transparency

3. Financial report 2020/21: *Chris Puleston (Treasurer)*

Chris Puleston presented his report, which can be seen here:

<https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20210603-Accounts-2020-2021.pdf>. Key points included:

- income/expenditure carried over from last year is just over £4300
- income this year is £7600, from advertising and street collections. Advertising revenue is lower than usual due to charging advertisers a lower fee during the pandemic
- the breakdown of street collection and expenditure detail

4. Confirmation of annual SGRA membership (£3): *all*

The meeting agreed that the SGRA subscription will stay at £3 minimum per household for 2021/22.

5. Election of SGRA officers for 2021/22

The following were nominated and elected unopposed as SGRA officials:

- SGRA Chair – Charles Runcie
- SGRA Vice Chair – Gerard Sebastian
- SGRA Secretary – Serena Potter
- SGRA Treasurer – Chris Puleston

6. Election of SGRA Executive members – minimum 4, maximum 8

The following were nominated and elected unopposed as SGRA Executive Committee Members:

Karen Gregory

Ann Kerr

Margaret Brett

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Clive Williams

Alise Veremeja

Charles Runcie welcomed Alise Veremeja to her first year on the Executive Committee.

7. Appointment/confirmation of street representatives for 2020/21

Gerard Sebastian updated the meeting. There is a vacancy for Revelstoke Road; we would welcome an offer to fill this. The aim is to have 2 street reps for each street and the role includes distributing leaflets etc, helping at events and generally offering community support.

8. Forthcoming events information:

- **Front Garden Awards Judging: 11-21st June**
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty reminded the meeting of the dates, with the hope that the weather improves. Posters will be put up shortly
- **Friends of Coronation Gardens summer picnic: Saturday 3rd July: 12-3pm.**
This will be going ahead, Government regulations permitting. Activities will include music and a circus act
- **Southfields Harvest @ St Barnabas Church, Saturday 25th September: 12-3pm** The theme this year is '**Spreading our wings again**'. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please email southfieldsharvest@gmail.com
- **Events at St Barnabas** include the return of theatre groups. This includes the recently created group, 'AnyWhichWay Theatre Company' which are presenting 'Citizens' Richard III' this Saturday, 29th May

9. Date of next public meetings:

- Tuesday 27th July: 2.00-3.30pm - via Zoom
- Tuesday 28th September: time and venue tbc

10. Latest news:

Allotments on Granville Road

Margaret Brett (Executive Committee) updated the meeting:

- The freeholder of the Granville Road allotments has told the Wimbledon Park Rifle Club, which is the leaseholder, that he wants to develop the allotment land that adjoins the shooting range, as a children's nursery. There is, as yet no planning application but the freeholder has said that he expects to put one in over the summer
- The allotment holders have banded together to oppose this and there is a successful petition running with over 23,000 supporters. There is active opposition from Pulborough Road residents as well as the support of the MP and local councillors. As the Triangle Residents' Association is currently reforming itself, the SGRA has agreed to apply to the Council for the land to be designated an **Asset of Community Value**. This is a work in progress as a fair amount of data has to be assembled, agreed and presented

- The names and addresses of 21 members of the SGRA who are on the Wandsworth Electoral Roll, and who support this application, are needed. A full complement is not yet complete; anyone who is willing to put their details forward, please send Margaret Brett your names and addresses: ma_brett@hotmail.com. To quote one of our councillors 'To develop this would be an act of vandalism.'

Discussion: Cllr Kim Caddy highlighted the importance of the current allotments and Fleur Anderson MP added her support. Both expressed how vital the allotments are in relation to biodiversity and the maximisation of green spaces.

Clive Williams (Executive Committee) made the point that the viability of the rifle club is also an important asset, given that it has been on the site for over 100 years and is also an asset. Ian Tattum (St Barnabas Church) highlighted that, even though it is a small site, because there are so few allotments it is a very important one. St Barnabas Church is officially backing the campaign.

Fleur Anderson gave the following link: https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-the-owner-of-the-granville-road-allotments-and-to-wandsworth-council-save-the-granville-road-allotments-we-support-this-petition-to-save-the-granville-road-allotments-from-development?recruiter=false&recruited_by_id=3752ae80-9777-11eb-9ac0-fd8d79541d18

Note from Margaret Brett following the meeting: *'We now understand that the Rifle Club are reconsidering their position and may wish to apply themselves to be an Asset of Community Value. We are awaiting developments.'*

AE LTC's golf course redevelopment

Nick Steiner (Friends of Wimbledon Park) summarised the various expert opinions and local group reports which he has received.

The FoWP has reviewed their Conservation Heritage Plan. The Wimbledon Society, Wimbledon Park Residents' Association and The Capability Brown Society responses, and detail on the HMG Land Registry lakeside walk have also been circulated and the AE LTC have all reports and documents.

There are general concerns around the proposed show court, the number and siting of other courts and the loss of trees. These concerns will be looked at and drawn together for the deadline of the third and final consultation date, which is June 16th.

Nick pointed out that FoWP website has been hacked so it is currently down.

The Chair explained that the Executive Committee has seen these documents, which have been thoroughly and carefully put together. In the interests in transparency and opening up debate, the Executive Committee has agreed to circulate the documents to the membership database and to put on them onto the website. They will include author information and provenance.

The Chair invited **Johnny Perkins (AE LTC)** to speak:

Johnny explained that there are a number of plans circulating and that there are different ideas on how the land should be used. The AE LTC would like to be able to work with everyone but reminded the meeting that the site, under a tripartite ownership, is on the Historic England 'At Risk' Register and that visionary plans are needed. He requested that residents look at the whole AE LTC vision, not just the detail. For example, to consider what the site will look like in 100 years not 10 years, as Capability Brown did in his day. The AE LTC would like to work with local groups to restore Capability Brown's visions and Merton Council's holistic vision for the next century. An example of this is the protection of trees; in this plan there will be a net gain on number of trees.

Fleur Anderson MP added that all planning applications must be agreed by both councils. She is looking closely at all the documents and welcomes comments direct.

Discussion: Simon Wright (resident) felt strongly that the SGRA should be forming an opinion and present it officially to the consultation. He offered his time to support the SGRA in producing the official response.

Nina Kowalska (resident) was heartened by the proactive stance on allotments and agreed that SGRA should actively take a position on this too, not just share information. She suggested considering holding a special meeting.

Charles Runcie reported that Dave Dawson's report has been published on www.nextdoor.co.uk and it seemed that many people do not know the consultation is occurring.

A suggestion to include allotments in the plan was made by a resident.

Another resident highlighted that the ability to walk around the lake and have better access would be a benefit and would be better than a golf course.

Nick Steiner explained that the 'Vision' document (CB Society) has a suggested walk around lake including the recognition of shy birds; he recommends people read this document. He also reported that the Lakeside walk can be started if Merton initiate proceedings once golf ceases to be played.

The Chair reported that the SGRA has allied with 7 other Residents' Associations in order to share information and come to conclusions.

Clive Williams (Executive Committee) questioned the diversion of public transport on Church Road. Johnny Perkins explained that it is a TfL decision; however, the AELTC has taken a trial bus along the proposed route: Southfields centre/Bathgate Rd/Queensmere Road/Wimbledon Parkside/Wimbledon Village and re-joining the original route at the Dog and Fox pub. They were satisfied that it will work. There may be a small delay but there is no disconnection within the route. There will be someone at the Wimbledon Parkside junction who will stop the traffic for the bus, if necessary. Johnny's view is that it will work but may take a little longer. One resident pointed out that this diversion might actually be easier than in previous years. Johnny explained that vehicle borne terrorism increase in recent years has triggered the decision.

Following the meeting the Executive Committee agreed to form a working party to prepare an official SGRA response to the consultation and to put this to the membership before its submission. The reports can be seen here: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/2021/06/all-england-lawn-tennis-club-aeltc-wimbledon-park-project/>

11. AOB: All

- **Ann Kerr** (Executive Committee) passed on a message from Sucheta Samant at **Southfields Library**, asking for more footfall to the library, especially during the week. Currently, books are returned to the trolley at the door and people can then check in to browse and use the computer. The numbers will be managed which may result in a queue. **Opening hours** are:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-2.30pm
Monday, Thursday, Sunday: closed
- **Cllr Terry Walsh** raised the subject of **wildlife corridors**, identifying that most people support helping their local environment but do not necessarily think to do so in their back gardens. He gave the example of 'hedgehog holes' and requested that people make these when new fencing is installed, to allow hedgehogs to move freely and improve their habitat. He will write something for the newsletter.

12. Close: 9pm

13. Appendix (i) – 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
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Ian Tattum	St Barnabas Church
Fleur Anderson	MP
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Cllr Kim Caddy	
Nina Kowalska	Green the Grid
Cllr Terry Walsh	
Rob Whitaker	
Ray Chapman	
Andrew Dunley	
Alise Veremeja	
Julian Fagandini	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Trevor Howes	
Shiraz Mehrundatoo	
Lesley McCaul	
Nancy Graham	
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	
J Cheney	
Kate & Duncan Lyons	
Simon Wright	
Peter Jackson	
Beth McKillop	
Rosemary Langford	
Janice Adamson	
Harry Allen	
Joseph's iPad	
Gordon Springett	
Chris Baker	
Jackie Pearce	
Liam Hannigan	
Marilyn Wilson	
Graham Skyrme	Total: 43