



## **Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021, via Zoom**

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Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Fleur Anderson MP, Sucheta Samant (Library), Ray Chapman, Cllr Kim Caddy, Cllr Guy Humphries.

### **1. Minutes + matters arising from the Public meeting & AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the Executive meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021; these can be seen on:**

[https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/.](https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/)

- The Committee are trying to find a possible site on the Grid for an SGRA commemorative bench to remember the pandemic period. If anyone would like to suggest a good site, eg on Brookwood Road, please let us know
- Status of the speed camera (Clive Williams): there is a comment in the Grid News from the SNT. Clive will confirm details and a note will be put on the social media channels
- The SGRA Executive has made a £100 donation to the Royal Trinity Hospice in memory of Gill Habershon and received a lovely note back.
- A donation has also been made to Southfields Harvest, more details later in the meeting

### **2. Special guests:**

#### **a) *Simon Wright (resident), Chair, Advisory Working Group: AELTC Plans: Update***

Simon summarised the position to date:

- The AELTC have had around 500 responses to their most recent public consultation stage. Their planning application is due to be submitted early to mid-August
- The Advisory Working Group have met and listed the 'known unknowns'. 26 questions have been drawn up and submitted to Justin Smith (Head of Estates at the AELTC). Simon will circulate these to the SGRA
- Fleur Anderson MP organised a meeting of local Residents' Association Chairs with AELTC officials, and they walked the golf course land. Similar tours will be made available to the public; Justin Smith will let Simon know when they are available. This gives a fascinating perspective and is highly recommended
- There has been confirmation that although the AELTC has not yet submitted its formal proposal, this is imminent and will go to both Merton and Wandsworth councils. It is the only stage which has legal status. The content of the 3 AELTC public consultations which generated information for the submission will be used internally. Merton Council has made certain requests to the AELTC as they have some queries
- A postcard to go to all residents has been designed. This is presented from a neutral perspective and is information giving. It will be printed and delivered across the Grid once the formal application has been made and is on the SGRA website. Residents will be encouraged to respond
- There is a short update on the front page of the recent Grid News; do contact Simon if there are any questions at [simon@ofplus.com](mailto:simon@ofplus.com)
- The Working Group has been working with other Residents' Associations who will be impacted (including the FoWP, WPRA and The Gardens)

**Discussion:**

**Charles Runcie welcomed Johnny Perkins (AELTC)** to the meeting. Johnny reiterated Simon's point about the usefulness of people actually walking around the land as it can be seen from a different perspective, meaning the contours can be appreciated and how things can be hidden can be understood. Also, how the landscape can be worked with. He understands there will be concerns but asked residents to remember that they will have new access to a 23-acre Park and asked them to consider the visionary and legacy aspect and to look beyond the short term and give it a chance.

**John Rubenstein (Advisory Group)** thanked Johnny for his input and asked him to pass on to his colleagues the plea to minimise the impact on the community of the actual process of the development. The construction of the new No1 Court had a significant impact and there is a worry that this could be repeated. There is a need for reassurance about, for example: the spoil/transport down Wimbledon Park Road, the removal of silt from the lake and the transport of topsoil for 39 courts. All the current turf apparently must be unpeeled as it is the wrong type of grass. There will be a massive amount of heavy construction and the local roads are not good enough. John queried if there will be a 1-way system to drop off and pick up?

**Leonie Cooper (AM)** has had a meeting with the AELTC and is happy for people to contact her. The New London Plan will govern this process and does cover many of these environmental issues so it must go through the process at City Hall as well as Wandsworth and Merton Councils.

**Chris Puleston (Executive Committee)** asked Simon if there has been discussion about benefits to Southfields, for example, increase in footfall for businesses and benefits for youngsters? The Advisory Group has discussed this with AELTC. They aren't clear how much is in the planning application, but the group is aware of the possible benefits. For example, desilting the lake is good for the sailing club, as is water improvement and the sorting out of culverts. Simon emphasised that the Advisory Group is aiming for a balanced view. He explained the work around the trees is very impressive. For example there is a policy called 'Home Sown and Grown' – growing oak trees from the acorns of existing onsite oak trees.

**John Rubenstein** agreed there will be benefits but emphasised the importance of liaison with TfL to attend to the greater footfall during the 3-week season coming through Southfields station. He is concerned to note that TfL plans for upgrading signals have been dropped and requested that AELTC pay attention to this.

**Margaret Brett (Executive Committee)** explained the process: the formal application will be registered by both boroughs, then put onto the websites. There will then be a minimum 3-week consultation period, and it will then go to Committee. Objections from Residents' Associations etc each count as one individual so it is important to get many individual responses to both planning applications. Merton won't dismiss any responses from Wandsworth residents; Cllr Terry Walsh will be asked to represent them. It will be considered at the highest level. People can attend the meeting but cannot speak.

**Simon** echoed the importance of submitting individual responses and emphasised how crucial it is that we as local residents have our say. He reminded the floor that if one doesn't respond there will be no right to complain later, so please ensure our democratic right to be heard is exercised and to take personal responsibility in doing so. **Residents are informed collectively but should respond individually.**

**Johnny Perkins** thanked the meeting for the opportunity to attend and thanked Simon and colleagues for taking the time to come and look at the Park. The pandemic has given the AELTC the chance to make a wider consultation format and they do want as many people to respond as possible.

**b) Michael Singham, Waste Strategy Manager, Wandsworth Council: Food Waste Recycling Trial on the Grid**

Michael explained the background to Southfields Grid being chosen for this trial. The Grid was involved in the original trialling of the clear sack recycling service back in 2002. The whole Grid can be covered by one vehicle in a single day. A separate food waste vehicle can work alongside, and this makes it easy to get accurate weighbridge data.

The initiative is part of the climate action plan commitments, and significant decisions will be made around the next waste contract in April 2024. It is a government stated intention to make food waste recycling compulsory for local authorities. In addition, the Mayor of London has this policy as part of the Strategy for London.

Details for this Trial:

- The aim is to start in September although there may be slippage on this date
- Every household on the Grid other than those with communal bins for refuse and recycling will be included. This numbers around 2200.
- Information will be sent via letter to all, early next week (w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> August)
- The service will be on Thursdays (the same as current collections)
- The collection point remains the same, ie within the front boundary of properties
- A week or 2 before the trial starts 2 caddies will be delivered. One will be a small Kitchen caddy and the other a larger one for outdoors
- Pirbright Road will be included in the trial
- All types of solid food can be included. It will be taken by road to Mitcham and fed into an anaerobic digestion process which transforms waste into methane to be fed into the gas grid. This will ensure less waste is incinerated. Digestate will be produced which will be used as compost for farmland
- Currently the vehicle will be diesel, but the aim is to use an electric or low carbon vehicle
- There will be a large financial saving. Currently costs are around £157 per tonne; this new system will reduce costs to £0-20 per tonne. However, the biggest impact will be reducing food waste in the first place. Success will be dependent on residents taking part as much as possible.

**Discussion:**

**Charles Runcie** explained that the newly formed 'RecycleMoreSouthfields' Group is proving very popular and asked if this trial will work in conjunction with them? Michael responded he has been liaising with RecycleMoreSouthfields and there is a wish to work closely with local community.

**Questions and answers:**

**Are there meat/dairy restrictions?** No, as it is anaerobic digestion, not compost. It is completely contained and can take all solid food waste. It cannot take liquid, eg chip oil.

**I live in a flat above shop so there is no space for caddy. Is this compulsory?** No, if a household has no external space, then it will not be in the trial.

**What will happen to the caddies if the trial is not successful?** The hope is for 1 year of data. This will closely coincide with the decision-making date for the next contract. If it is taken forward, the caddies will stay with residents. If not, the manufacturer will provide for taking them back.

**Fertilizer causes nitrogen pollution which is nearly as problematic as carbon/methane. Is there any other technology coming up as this seems a temporary fix?** Michael has no detail on this currently. Overall, in generalised carbon terms this performs better than composting as it captures energy. Every ton of food waste results in 3.5 tonnes of carbon impact.

**Leonie Cooper (AM)** mentioned that the WRAP programme has shown that people sorting their rubbish tends to reduce waste generally.

**Cllr Terry Walsh** expressed his enthusiasm for this scheme. He felt that people may wish to have more information and asked if it can be made more accessible? Leonie Cooper has access to briefings if people would like them about various aspects of Food Waste separate collections.

**c) Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen, Southfields Harvest:**

Elizabeth thanked Ian Tattum and all at St Barnabas for enabling the Harvest to take place.

Details:

- 25<sup>th</sup> September, 12-3pm at St Barnabas Church
- Green the Grid, FoWP, SGRA, AELTC and Hedgehogs SW15 will have stalls
- There will also be vegetable, honey, and cider (Abundance Southfields) stalls
- Jane Porter will run an art event
- The Southfields storyteller will be present
- There will be a BBQ
- The Covid-19 situation will be taken into account. People will be counted in and out. There will be contingency plans in case the church is still needed as vaccination hub.
- Volunteers are needed – please ask your networks if anyone would like to help & contact southfieldsharvest@gmail.com

**3. Green Spaces Updates:**

**a) Green the Grid: Nina Kowalska**

- 2 strands are being worked on: community activity locally & the spreading of the project to the wider community
- The plant and seed giveaway in April, with pickup points around the Grid, was very successful; over 140 households took part
- Labels have been put on trees around the Grid and a trail will be created for the Southfields Harvest
- There has been continued dialogue with councillors about further greening of the Replingham Road area. They feel more could be done to showcase the greening of an urban environment, for example a green wall and planters
- There is an update in the Newsletter on the Front Garden competition. The message is to 'plant, not pave' and there is still more to do. Some front gardens have been grassed over, which is lovely.
- The 'Spectacular Sunflower' Competition is coming up. It has a difficult year due to poor weather.
- The AELTC have donated plants from the Championships. The plan is to plant these around new tree bases where possible, Hydrangeas will be used to renew pots outside shops
- There is a lot of interest from other communities and GtG is looking at how to respond more easily; possibly online. 'Merton Garden Streets' has been set up using the GtG logo and over 90 have been started. This is a testament to GtG and the SGRA
- External events are coming up, including Wandsworth Climate Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Fleur Anderson (MP) is hoping to host the Putney Clean Air Fair on 19<sup>th</sup> September

Cllr Terry Walsh pointed out that, during heavy rain, paving creates run off and floods ensue. If the sewers can't take the level of water, raw sewage will overflow so it's very important to keep emphasising the problem with paving. On another note, 2 people have approached him about overgrown hedges which is a particular problem for those with visual impairment. He informed the

meeting that the Council must give 3 weeks' notice before intervening. Such properties are often rented.

**b) Friends of Wimbledon Park: Nick Steiner**

- Dam Safety Project: this is currently with Merton Planning. It should start in October and finish in March. They are legally liable to complete work by Jan 2022 so will have to explain any delay
- The stream will be de-culverted and go around mini golf course. It will improve biodiversity and play opportunities for children playing. They have asked for it to be widened, stepping stones installed and landscaped so a water garden can be put in
- The playground toilets: plans were submitted on 20<sup>th</sup> July. These include an enlarged area with sinks. The blockages due to small piping has, however, not resolved
- Revelstoke Road entrance improvements: waiting for the Wandsworth Council response
- A Wimbledon Park Gardening Group will hopefully be started

**c) Friends of Coronation Gardens: Charles Runcie**

- The picnic on 3<sup>rd</sup> July was sadly cancelled due to poor weather. They are hoping to reorganise this for early September. It is a free event, organised to celebrate the gardens.
- The Planting Club will be planting bulbs in the autumn
- The water point will be installed by the end of August

**4. 2021 Front Garden Awards review: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Chair of the judging panel**

Amelia explained that the detail has been covered in the Grid news and that the event was felt to have been a success. Some gardens are being depaved but some paving over is still occurring. However, more pots have been seen in front gardens. 94 bronze, 41 silver and 22 gold awards were made, plus 14 Tree Base awards. Astonville Street had the most planted tree bases. It was good to see more fruit and vegetables planted but this will be a focus for next year. Amelia thanked everyone, including the judges.

**5. SNT Ward Panel update**

There was no one available from the SNT for this meeting but Clive Williams (Executive Committee) gave the following information:

- There is another officer on the team who is currently being trained
- There are 2 priorities: theft from motor vehicle and violence around Southside
- The parking meter scam has returned
- There is concern over drug addicts trying car doors
- A chair has been found for the Ward Panel

Margaret Brett (Executive Committee) raised the issue of charging electric cars: they must have a cover over the cable. Action is being taken if this doesn't happen as it is a health and safety issue.

**6. SGRA Executive Reports:**

**a) Planning Including Southfields Public Realm improvements: Margaret Brett**

Margaret went through her paper:

- Another quiet month for the usual applications

- There is a planning application to extend at the back and change the front windows of 75 Brookwood (Mowersure) as part of their proposal for change of use from retail to residential. (2021/2413)
- The application for a further storey for Coleman Court (2020/0530) is to be considered by the Planning Committee today with a recommendation that it be approved
- We have objected to the application to retain the new shop front at 243a Wimbledon Park Road. (2021/2214) The original application fails to highlight that a change of use is also involved. There is now a revised drawing showing the basement access
- There are 2 objections to the application for a basement at 64 Replingham (2021/3091)
- The refusal for development on land adjacent to 147 Lavenham (2020/3397) has gone to appeal
- Wandsworth has issued an Air Quality Plan for consultation

### **Public Realm**

Contractors have started removing the central reservation in the north part of Wimbledon Park Road. Some new trees have been planted in the south part of Wimbledon Park Road.

### **AELTC proposals**

The scoping report has been copied to Wandsworth 2021/2132. We have responded on the narrow point that due consideration should be given in the Transport Assessment of the impact of heavy traffic arising from excavation and major construction works expected to come into Southfields. There are 2 objections - from The Wimbledon Society and the Gardens RA. Merton (21/P1709) has issued a response that does not accept many of the matters that AELTC did not want to be considered. There are two further applications (2021/2818) and (2021/2819) which relate to tree works in a conservation area.

### **Allotments and Asset of Community Value**

The whole site now seems to be under threat and the Rifle Club has decided to make an application for its own Asset of Community Value for their site of which the allotments form an integral part. We have contributed to this. There is no planning application yet. The petition has reached just over 24,500 signatures and is one of the most successful on change.org (the petition site).

#### **b) Finance: *Chris Puleston***

- Subs are currently being collected. NB Please put street name in reference if paying online.
- There is ca £6400 in the bank
- Expenditure includes the printing of the Newsletters and subscription envelopes. £400 has been spent on the Front Garden Awards

#### **c) Crime: *Clive Williams***

The May 2021 figure of 14 crimes are low compared with the last 2 years: in May 2019 there were 28 crimes and in May 2020, 46 crimes. All roads had 0,1 or 2 crimes other than Hanford Close which had 5 crimes.

Bicycles are still being stolen; please ensure they are locked and if possible chained inside sheds.

#### **d) Social media and Grid News: *Charles Runcie***

Social media ticks along nicely. The Newsletter came out last week; if anyone has not got one, let us know. The next edition will come out in mid-November

**7. Forthcoming events:**

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 12-3pm, St Barnabas - Southfields Harvest
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 10.30am, St Barnabas – Police Ward Panel meeting

**8. Date of next public meetings:**

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September: time and venue tbc although it will probably be in the evening. It may possibly be in person. The Executive Committee will take a view in early September.

**9. AOB**

- **493 bus:** as a trial it has been diverted away from Church Road for the duration of the tennis along Bathgate Road, Queensmere and Parkside. Justin Smith (AELTC) had travelled on it for several days and reported that it was a quicker journey than when the usual route was in place. This will hopefully allay fears. The process by which TfL will report back is not clear. Johnny Perkins will find out more.
- **AELTC road closures (Johnny Perkins):** the feedback was that they worked well, and Johnny would like feedback from SGRA residents on their views. For example, was it useful that ‘non locals’ were kept from local roads? Clive Williams felt that the fact cyclists were allowed through was a potential difficulty if the reason for closing the road was terrorist related
- **Sucheta Samant from Southfields Library** sent the following message:  
“Things are gradually returning to old ‘normal’. The opening hours are back to pre-Covid times of:  
**Monday, Thursday, Sunday closed, Tuesday & Wednesday: 9-7pm. Friday: 9-5pm  
Saturday 10 – 2.30pm**  
We would like to see more people after work and school. Events in the library such as Baby Rhyme time etc. have not yet restarted, however, I am sure that will come soon. The Summer Reading Challenge is back in place, where we encourage children and teenagers to read 6 books and earn stickers/badges/medals for the young ones and little gifts for the teenagers who complete the challenge. We have also created a new Teenage section in the library and have bought lots of new books. Also do pop by to see a display of Folded books – creating Art from unwanted books. Finally we would love to see part or all of faces again. (masks are encouraged but not mandatory). We have missed our customers. We are safe to visit as we still encourage social distancing and hand sanitising.”
- Peter Jackson (resident) raised the food collection trial, referring to the fact that on Thursday mornings there is oft a lot of rubbish out on streets. He asked if there can there be more emphasis on reminding people rubbish must be kept in front gardens. He also asked what can be done about significant puddles in the streets following rain, as road gullies are blocked. Margaret Brett explained this is done ‘on demand’ and notification on [FixMyStreet](#) is best. The number of cars parked means access is difficult. Perhaps the council might return to the old system of cleaning gullies 2x year

**10. Close: 9.20pm**

**11. Appendix (i) – 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
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Ian Tattum	St Barnabas Church
Michael Singham	Waste Strategy Manager, Wandsworth & Richmond Councils
Nina Kowalska	Green the Grid
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	Southfields Harvest
Simon Wright	SGRA Advisory Group (AELTC Plans)
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Leonie Cooper AM	London Assembly
Downie	
Duncan & Kate Lyons	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
EC	
John Rubenstein	
Lesley McCaul	
Nancy Graham	
Diane Miles	
Peter Jackson	
Kate & Duncan Lyons	
Marilyn Wilson	
Sunil Sood	
Hilary Simpson	
Jackie	
Victoria Oakley	
Sophie & Will Lovell	
Joseph's ipad	Total: 34