

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR), Clive Williams (CW), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO), Serena Potter (SP), Margaret Brett (MB), Chris Puleston (CP), Karen Gregory (KG), Alise Veremeja (AV) and Ann Kerr (AK). Simon Wright (guest) present for item 3

Actions from last meeting	Owner(s)	Status
Put a summary of the relationship between SGRA & other organisations on the website	CR	Open
Identification of possible sites on the Grid for a donated bench	All	Closed
Advisory working group to co-ordinate response to AELTC proposal	CR/MB/SW	Closed
Donation to Royal Trinity Hospice	CP	Closed
Agree donation to Southfields Harvest	CP	Closed
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Liaise with possible website volunteer/contact professional web support provider for immediate updating of the website	CR/GS	Open
Find out the current status of the speed camera use	CW	Open
Finalise poster design and further notes for AELTC Working Group	SW, AO-M, AV, GS, MB	Open
Confirm who is taking on advertising role when KG leaves	KG/AV	Open

1. Apologies for absence:

Gerard Sebastian

2. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (30.06.21)

- The Rifle club has changed its position and carrying out its own Asset of Community Value to which Margaret has contributed. They are waiting for the planning application which has not yet been submitted
- Green the Grid has progressed with the possibility of a parklet in the car rental space opposite Greggs; this might involve a bench and is currently in the initial stages
- KS & SP are still investigating the possibility of a bench on Brookwood Road by Heritage Dry Cleaners, although this may be unlikely

Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (27.07.21)

- All to be discussed later in the meeting

3. AELTC update: Simon Wright/Margaret Brett

CR updated meeting on status of meetings/planning applications.

SW:

- the group kept the leaflet basic to prioritise speed in publishing it; the short consultation period on Merton website was a concern
- Deadlines on the website are inaccurate and it is confirmed to be 30th September, not before.
- SW is receiving a steady stream of questions via email and is hopeful these will translate into a good number of formal comments on both websites
- MB: Guy Humphries has confirmed the application won't go to committee much before Christmas and that people can still comment after 30th September

- Other leaflets have also been delivered to residents, eg from the Conservative councillors. AO-M will scan the WPRA leaflet and forward to CR
- Left over SGRA leaflets to go to the library
- Posters to be designed to draw attention to the campaign and remind people of the deadline. To be placed around the Grid, on trees, park gates, in shops. **Action:** SW & AO-M to discuss the detail. AV to work with SW to create a QR code
- AO-M to talk to GS about designing a simple graphic directing people to websites
- MB to put together a short paper for the website
- The AELTC will have a stall at Southfields Harvest
- CW pointed out that the report on the Church Road closures is still live on the AELTC website; it will be available to comment on until Christmas
- CR suggested a steering group be set up as was done with Thames Tideway and will suggest this to Ulrika Hogberg (AELTC)

4. Southfields Harvest 12-3pm 25th September

- **SGRA Stall:** rota to be worked out: 12- 2pm CR
SP, AO-M, CW, AV can help
CP: masks will be required inside

5. Forthcoming Meetings venues & format tbd:

- Public Meetings: 28th September 7.30- 9pm. Confirmed to be via Zoom. Further meeting venues to be decided.
- Future Executive Meetings: dates, times and venue tbd – CR will send an email round to see if it can be changed to a different evening.

6. Street Parties Funding: All

- **Recent request for a donation to the Engadine Street Party:** the committee agreed to donate £60 (the cost of the licence fee). They will be asked to write it up for the Newsletter
- More generally, there was a positive feeling for supporting community cohesion through street parties. One £60 donation per street per year was considered and a suggestion was to limit this to the whole street, not for each of the 3 separate sections as this would require higher resources.
- **Platinum Jubilee celebrations:** Will Wandsworth waive the licence (as previously)? Kim Caddy will investigate this
- The idea of a bigger party for this event was raised, perhaps along the lines of the Christmas lights on Replingham Road

7. Website maintenance: Gerard Sebastian

In Gerard's absence: CR explained that GS is creating more pages to add more AELTC information.

8. Karen Gregory: All

KG will be leaving London, possibly by the end of September/early October. She outlined her plans for handing over her responsibilities. Advertising will need to be picked up and she is currently talking to AV about the possibility of her taking this on. She is contacting all advertisers. There is one more edition this year and KG will do this as her final edition, working remotely as necessary, with AV shadowing.

KG is actively looking for a new Street Rep for Brookwood Road, Hanford Close and Langton Close. She thanked the committee for all their support etc and will be visiting the Grid regularly in the future!

9. Ongoing updates:

- **Communications including Grid News: Charles Runcie**

- Information is being posted on Facebook, Nextdoor and Twitter regularly
- Grid News: Autumn edition will be out in mid-November. Copy to be in by 22nd October
- CR is regularly speaking to the Councillors and AELTC so there is good communication

- **Planning/public realm improvements/Allotments: Margaret Brett**

There are very few applications apart from AELTC.

- The application for 75 Brookwood (Mowersure) for change of use from retail to residential (2021/2413) was approved
- The application for a further storey for Coleman Court (2020/0530) is still to be considered by the Planning Committee 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) This is still open
- The application for a basement and rear extension at 64 Replingham (2021/3091) was approved. They have now applied for a side extension (2021/3558) This is forward of the building line for the street, but it is a corner house and these have been approved before (cp 1 Lavenham)
- The refusal for development on land adjacent to 147 Lavenham (2020/3397) went to appeal and was dismissed
- The Council has issued an Article 4 Direction to protect the shops from 1-33 Replingham road from the new permitted development legislation. This will not come into effect until 1 August 2022. This begs the question why all the other shops are not protected

Public Realm

- Contractors are working on the new pavement in the north part of Wimbledon Park Road. New lamp columns have been installed around the station. The telephone box at the top of Replingham Road is to be removed.

AELTC proposals

- Planning applications are now registered on both the Merton (21/P2900) and Wandsworth (2021/3609) sites, and the hard copy is in the library. We can put some planning background on the website

Allotments and Asset of Community Value

- The Rifle Club is expecting the freeholder to make a planning application in the immediate future, and they will then make an application for it to be designated an Asset of Community Value.

- **Crime: Clive Williams**

Reported crime figures for Southfields Ward and the SGRA area in May, June and July 2021:

Total crimes in **May:** 108 (whole Ward) and 14 (in SGRA area)

June: 158 (whole Ward) and 24 (in SGRA area)

July: 129 (whole Ward) and 22 (in SGRA area)

May: Highest number of reported crimes: Hanford Close (5), all other roads had 1, 2 or 0.

Highest number of offences: Vehicle Crime (3) and 'Other Theft' included one Bicycle Theft.

June: Highest number of reported crimes: Hanford Close and Brookwood Road (4 each). Other roads were 3 or under.

Highest type of offences: 'Other Theft' (8) followed by Vehicle Theft (5) with 1 Bicycle Theft, and 1 'Theft from the Person'. All other categories were 4 or below.

July: Highest roads were Replingham Road, Hanford Close, Brookwood Road and Pirbright Road with 4 each. Apart from four roads with no crimes reported, all other roads in the SGRA area had 1 reported crime.

Highest number of offences: Vehicle Crime (7), Anti-Social Behaviour (6), Burglary and 'Other Theft' of which 4 each were reported. All 3 'Other Theft' were Bicycle Thefts. 1 other reported crime was a 'Violent and Sexual offence' reported in Hanford Close.

It is worth remembering that there are 1482 different criminal offences that people can be charged with. These are divided into 14 different groups on www.police.uk and 11 of these groups are used to compile these figures.

- **Finance: Chris Puleston**

Details sent prior to the meeting:

- £4599 is available; £2,885 is outstanding from advertisers. Total: £7484
- 2.5 of the larger streets donations are still to be made
- Street donations are variable - those that didn't do so well last year (Trentham and Brookwood) have had a good year. Possibly more people were at home etc plus the timing of the envelope was later last year
- Next steps - a reminder in the next newsletter and PR via Facebook

Discussion:

- CP proposed the Committee pay St Barnabas Church the usual amount this year as a donation, as it was not used during the last year due to Covid-19. This was accepted.
- MB suggested having a regular day per month for upcycling/swapping/giving. AO-M has suggested a street car boot/jumble sale previously. To be discussed at a later date

- **Green the Grid/FoWP: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

GtG:

- There will be a stall at the Harvest – giving plants & asking for donations. There will be a tree trail for children
- A meeting with Sidonie Forrest-Brown was held (Public Realm); there is not enough funding for a Green Wall by the tube station. Perhaps this could come from community funding – there are lots of ideas but nothing concrete
- There is concern about the number of front gardens being paved over; perhaps SGRA need to promote this concern more actively
- The Mayor of Wandsworth will be asked to present Front Garden Awards prizes between 12 and 3pm at the Southfields Harvest

FoWP:

- Nick Steiner has contacted Francis McParland, Green Spaces who seems amenable to talking with FoWP
- The toilets are being refurbished this month. They will be green with honeyed oak panels
- There is a petition for opening the park earlier in the day
- A new website is being launched next week
- The Lake/dam safety works are starting in October
- The aim is to repair the old bowling green (where the funfairs are held)
- A new table tennis table is arriving soon
- The Walk & Talk voluntary group is starting on Saturday 18th Sept at 10.30am

- **FoCG: Charles Runcie**
 - The Picnic in July was abandoned
 - Lots of plants were stolen from borders overnight recently; Enable has been asked to replace them
 - The water fountains will be installed soon
- **Streets Reps/Small Business Register updates: Gerard Sebastian:** to be discussed at a later date

10. Forthcoming events

- Clean Air Fair 18th September: GtG will be represented
- Ward Panel Meeting 2nd October 10.30am

11. AOB

- CR attended the Older Peoples Forum; Andrew Jolly spoke on 'scams'. CR will ask for an article for next newsletter
- Spectacular Sunflowers (AO-M): there were not so many this year, but they were lovely They have been posted on Facebook and have had over 1200 likes. Perhaps Dazzling Daffodils could be an event for the spring?
- Southfields Business Forum (CR): he will ask Sunny Patel what is happening. Nothing is known at present
- The Grid Alliance Party (CR): the Old Fields pub was excellent, and it was lovely to meet everyone. Fleur Andersen made a nice speech. The Manager of Boots offered a donation (£100) for which we are very grateful. He also made a speech and appreciated everything the Alliance had done
- Next Public Meeting: Sidonie Forrest-Brown to be invited to update on the Public Realm works Other possible people to invite to speak are: PC James Elvy on scams, Michael Singham, Waste Strategy Manager, to update the meeting on the new initiative. Anything else, please let CR know

Dates of next meetings:

Public Meeting: 28th September 7.30 – 9pm via Zoom

Executive: 7.30 - 9pm via Zoom, date tbc