

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR, Chair), Gerard Sebastian (GS), Clive Williams (CW), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO), Serena Potter (SP), Margaret Brett (MB), Chris Puleston (CP), Alise Veremeja (AV) and Ann Kerr (AK). Simon Wright (resident) for item 3.

Actions from last meeting	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. (NB SNT work due to Covid-19 has created delays). CW to also let the team know about a request from Trentham Street residents for speed bumps on their street.	CW	Closed
Seasonal Cheer organisation	AO-M, AK, GS, SP	Closed
Liaise with Cllr Humphries about the system with on street electric charging points – who can get them installed etc.	CP	Closed
Consider Southfields Christmas Lights participation	All	Closed
Consider Heritage Festival 2022 participation	CR	Open
Newsletter advertising responsibility: Obtain handover outline from KG. CP, AV & GS to work together until new person found	AV/CP/GS	Open
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Look into setting up a 'litter pick' trial in Lavenham Road	SP	Open
Article in Newsletter to be written regarding Platinum Jubilee Street Parties	CR	Open
Consider a SGRA stall at the Church Christmas Fair in 2022	CR	Open

1. Apologies for absence:

None. The Committee acknowledged that Karen Gregory has now left, but it is continuing to support the advertising in the Grid News for now

2. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (30.11.21)

- 5a) Planning: there is no news regarding the Barclays Bank or Starbucks sites.

Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (26.10.21)

- Speed camera Action point: Covid has continued to limit its use, and this is ongoing. The suggestion is to promote it again soon and perhaps liaise over its use on Replingham Road

3. AELTC update: Simon Wright/Charles Runcie

- A meeting was held today (called by a group of Residents Associations near the AELTC grounds) before a meeting to be held between Fleur Anderson (MP) & AELTC on 13th January. In summary:
 - The planning application will probably be heard by the Planning Committees towards the end of March
 - Merton Residents' Associations are working with a QC over the covenant challenge
 - The GLA do not yet view the application as 'very special circumstances' regarding the use of Metropolitan Open Land
 - A Wandsworth councillor is needed to represent views of local residents. Cllr Kim Caddy could be asked to do this. It is not possible for individuals to speak at Wandsworth Planning meetings

- The approach is to present a unified front and the consensus was to concentrate on areas which will make the most difference: the show court, access to park land, tennis court and concrete benefits
- AELTC is now contributing to, rather than funding the entire cost of the lake desilting

Discussion:

CR queried the status of the lake desilting - is it statutory? AO-M to consult Nick Steiner (FoWP) and report back. The reason the access to the lake is now closed is for the dam preservation work, not desilting

- SW will ensure that all areas of concern are fed back, including those which are supportive of aspects of the plans

4. Funding requests: Charles Runcie:

- **Window Wanderland** – this is an annual request. Sam Traynor is receiving donations from various local organisations. She has listed the request which has been circulated (£300) to the Exec Committee. A workshop on creating windows for older people on the Grid was suggested, but it is physically difficult for many and the Covid situation is still complicating matters
- **Street Litter pickers** – SP had met a Lavenham Road resident who was keen to start a street litter picking initiative as she felt there was a lot on the Grid. Discussion:
 - The pros and cons of residents supplementing litter picking as opposed to requesting more input from the Council was discussed. SP felt the focus could be on supporting community action and pride and care for the local environment. It is not evidently a very big problem although there are some ‘hotspots’ depending on the time of day/year, for example Replingham Road at the end of the school day and Elsenham Street when there have been events in the park
 - There are no bins on the Grid
 - Pirbright Road, by Zenith Dry Cleaners, suffers from fly tipping in the evenings
 - Ideas included: WhatsApp Street Groups to organise their streets and perhaps liaise with Southfields Academy

Action: SP to liaise with the resident and support the setting up of a Lavenham Road trial. To buy 2 litter pickers/hi-vis vests

- **Potential Platinum Jubilee street parties:** CR has approached Cllr Caddy to see if the usual £60 fee will be waived by Wandsworth Council; we are awaiting a response. If not, perhaps SGRA could provide the fee to those streets which request it. Given that it would cost over £1600 if all sections of each street were to request separately, perhaps £60 for the whole street could be offered. Encouragement to invite other blocks in a street could be offered.

Action: an article to be put in the Newsletter. **NB Since the meeting Wandsworth has confirmed the waiving of the fee.**

5. Review of:

- **Seasonal Cheer 2021: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**
This was met with a great response. Over 800 photos were taken by the group and put on social media; a different street each day was displayed in the lead up to Christmas Day
- **Christmas Lights Switch On & SGRA stall:** It was agreed that a SGRA stall didn't quite fit this event. Perhaps having a stall at the Church Christmas Fair as well as the Southfields Harvest next year would be more suitable
- **Sock Appeal:** over 400 pairs were donated, which was what was requested. A good success

6. Heritage Festival 2022 proposal: Charles Runcie

- There has been an invitation to participate from Battersea Heritage Centre. It will be held in late May 2022. CR will find out more and report back

7. New website design and build: Gerard Sebastian

- GS has suggested looking at the FoWP website to get an idea of the functionality as their website designer is being considered for the SGRA. There was some concern over the detail of the contract
 - The general feeling was that updating the website is advisable, but responsibility for ongoing maintenance is still needed
- Action:** GS and MB to liaise

8. Ongoing updates:

- **Communications including Grid News & advertising responsibility: Charles Runcie**
 - Social media channels are all working well
 - The Spring Grid News edition will be published in late March. The deadline is the end of February
 - Spring advertising is to be done by KG but we are still looking for someone to do it from the summer onwards. Andrew Dunley has offered. CR to ask Karen to write a brief note for handover

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

There is little to report on domestic planning locally. There has been the usual trickle of loft conversions and rear extensions. One of concern is an application to develop what is the garden space to the rear of Douglas and Gordon as housing. (2021/5729) The proposed house would have a very small footprint and would be out of character with the street. The proposed equivalent in Lavenham Road was refused and this was confirmed on appeal.

A further draft of the new Local Plan for Wandsworth has been issued for consultation (about 450 pages to read). It no longer designates the centre of Southfields as being suitable for tall buildings.

There are now 538 objections on the Wandsworth site to the AELTC development proposals. There are only 16 in support. It may go to the Planning Committee in March.

Public Realm

Contractors have now moved to the top of Replingham Road on the south side. This is causing short term pedestrian congestion.

Allotments and Asset of Community Value

The freeholder has conducted a public (virtual) consultation on his proposals to develop the site. He is entrenched in his opposition to extending the Rifle Club's lease. The proposal is for a Day Nursery accommodating up to 100 children with 3 junior hard courts for tennis coaching at the rear where the allotments are at present. This latter is an attempt to include replacement sports and recreation on land designated as this use class A planning application is expected at Easter.

Other

50 cherry trees have been planted in King George's Park along a pathway between Burr Road and the Henry Prince Estate. They were a gift from a cultural group in Japan.

- **Crime: Clive Williams**

CW is the new independent chair of our local police Ward Panel, which oversees police activity in our area.

Reported crime figures for Southfields Ward and the SGRA area in Sept, Oct and Nov 2021:

- Total crimes in **Sept** 2021: 150 (whole Ward) and 16 (in SGRA area)
- Total crimes in **Oct** 2021: 151 (whole Ward) and 16 (in SGRA area)
- Total crimes in **Nov** 2021: 124 (whole Ward) and 16 (in SGRA area)

September: Highest number of reported crimes: Replingham Road (4); all other roads 1, 2 or none except Hanford Close (3).

Highest number of offences recorded: Anti-Social Behaviour & Violence & Sexual Offences (5 each) and Vehicle Crime (3). All other offences 1 or 0.

October: Highest number of reported crimes: Hanford Close (4), Astonville Street (3).

Clonmore Street and Pirbright Road (2 each). All other roads 1 or 0.

Highest type of offences reported: Violence & Sexual (6), Anti-Social Behaviour (4) & 2 Vehicle Crimes. All other categories 1 or 0.

November: Highest number of reported crimes: Hanford Close (6), Merton Road (5), Astonville Street (3). Replingham and Brookwood Roads (1 each). No other reported crimes in the remaining nine roads in our area.

- **Finance: Chris Puleston**

- CP circulated detailed information prior to meeting. Advertising invoices are currently being sent out
- RecycleMoreSouthfields still have a grant to be used

- **FoWP: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

- The dam works have started. The Lakeside Walk will be closed for 8 weeks; this can't be changed for safety and practical reasons. AO-M will put details on social media
- Pines & Needles have left a large area of dead grass. The Merton Council contract with them comes to an end this year and the new contract will include a mandatory requirement for it to be sited on a hard base
- There is a new proposal for a Pub in the Park event, linked with Tom Kerridge. There is a post on Facebook. It will back onto Elsenham Street so objections may come forward
- The refurbished toilets are now open
- There may be some money available in April for toilets in the Sailing Club
- 100 trees will be planted at the end of February/beginning of March

- **FoCG: Charles Runcie**

- A new treasurer & a new membership secretary have been appointed

- **Streets Reps/Small Business Register updates: Gerard Sebastian:**

- Graham Skyrme is moving house so has stopped being Replingham Road Street Rep
- CP reported that some flats in Astonville Street don't receive the Grid News. He will look into this and find out what happens with the flats in Elsenham Street. Access may be difficult, but all Grid residents are entitled to a copy of the Newsletter

9. Forthcoming events

- Southfields Ward Panel: **15th February**, Parish Room at St Barnabas 10.30 am
- Window Wanderland: **26-27th February**

10. Dates of next meetings:

- **Public: 25th January:** 7.45 – 9.30pm via Zoom
- **Executive: 22nd February:** 8 – 9.30pm venue tbc

11. AOB

Elsenham Street Traffic Congestion Petition: this has been created by some Elsenham Street residents. SGRA has publicised it via social media channels and it will be emailed to Elsenham Street residents who are on the database.

Cllr Terry Walsh is standing down in May; the possibility of giving him gift was raised.

Food Waste Trial: CR to drop a note to Tom Newman (WBC) and ask for feedback. AK has heard that many people are using black bin liners and that people are running out of compostable bin liners.