



Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2022

Gerard Sebastian (Vice-Chair of the SGRA) in the chair

Apologies for absence: Charles Runcie, Chair (SGRA), Cllr Kim Caddy, Cllr Guy Humphries

1. Minutes + matters arising from the Public meeting on 30th November 2021 and the Executive meeting on 11th January 2022; these can be seen on:

<https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>.

Public meeting: None

Executive meeting: None

2. Special guests:

a) Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team Update: PC Robbie Quijano-Amigo & PC Dan German and Southfields crime statistics: Clive Williams, Chair, Southfields SN Ward Panel

PC Quijano-Amigo introduced PC German, who joined the team in November. Apologies were given from PCSO Don Lopes who was unable to attend.

Ward priorities are burglary, theft from autos and ASB (Southside and King Georges Park). The latter is generally youth smoking/drugs etc in the block and car park rather than violence against the person.

- PCSO Don Lopes manages the social media information
- Crime statistics are low for burglary. Theft from cars remains a concern so this is a focus for the team; they are patrolling hot spots and checking car doors
- Please dial 999 if you require an immediate response. Don't hesitate if you're unsure if a situation merits 999; the operator will determine risk
- Dialling 101: there can be a delay, but it can also be completed online. A report is generated, and you will be contacted
- Theft of catalytic converters is a well organised crime. Please dial 999
- 'Ring' and other CCTV doorbells are useful crime prevention tools, and the footage can be used. The information can also be used for 'stop and search'. A resident asked for the rate of success from CCTV doorbells; PC Quijano-Amigo explained that it is successful – photographs are put into circulation and can be recognised but he currently has no specific figures
- In response to a question: the best number for a local police station is 101 (closest are Wimbledon or Lavender Hill). An officer/car can be arranged to attend your house. [Contact us | Metropolitan Police](#)
- The next Ward Panel meeting is 23rd April; 10.30am at St Barnabas Church

Clive Williams reminded the meeting to park in well-lit areas and the importance of knowing which side of the car the exhaust system is and to park that next to kerb. He has recently had his catalytic converter stolen.

Crime figures for Southfields Ward, September – November 2021: Clive emphasised that Southfields Grid does not have a high crime rate but reminded residents to stay alert and report anything which seems suspicious. NB Please do not just publicise it on Next door.com etc.

- 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.

Discussion:

An online community messaging/watch link has been set up by Richmond & Wandsworth councils in conjunction with Met Police call 'Owl'. CCTV Watch is intended for residents with CCTV. You can sign up here: [OWL - London Neighbourhood & Business Watch - Community Messaging Alerts](#)

Gerard Sebastian suggested that Street Reps and WhatsApp groups might use it. He will discuss this with Clive Williams following the meeting.

b) Public Realm Update: Sidonie Forrest-Brown (Senior Transport Planner, Wandsworth Council)

Sidonie said the work is progressing well; she appreciated that it has taken a long time and that the pandemic and supply chain issues have added to the length. These are now mostly resolved.

- The footways are due to be finished by the end of May, then the carriageways will be resurfaced. This timescale is not confirmed, and the Wimbledon Championships dates will be worked around
- The bus stop opposite Marks and Spencer bus stop is currently suspended but will reopen by the end of this week
- Sidonie is aware that a petition has been lodged regarding the Elsenham Street junction with Replingham Road. Once the petition is signed by 51% of residents on the street and formally lodged, a traffic survey will be carried out, in line with policy. Sidonie was not in the position to comment further in this meeting
- An Elsenham Street resident raised concerns including: safety when crossing Elsenham Street at the junction; only 1 car at a time being able to exit; the space taken in the half parking space opposite on Replingham by delivery vehicles and pollution. Sidonie noted that more survey work is clearly needed and acknowledged residents' wishes to be involved. She will set up a site visit and look at the issues; signal phasing can be studied
- Further concern was raised about the traffic lights leading to long queues and idling pollution as far as Pulborough Road. A non-resident has tested the pollution levels and found they were over WHO limits, a great concern given the climate emergency. Active travel is needed but this requires cycle lanes. The roads in Southfields are very narrow and all junctions have now been narrowed further. Can cycle lanes be added? Sidonie explained that advanced signal release has been put in on traffic lights, which helps cyclists. There is more cycle parking, but she acknowledged the roads are too narrow for cycle lanes
- A resident pointed out the paving slabs around the newly planted tree by Marks and Spencer have already been smashed. Sidonie will contact colleagues
- Square block sandstone benches are due to be installed; these will also be used as 'hostile vehicle mitigation' (for speeds of up to 40mph). She will send images which can be circulated. There will be 5 sited around the station, plus a legible mapping system and finger signpost. These will be installed around the end of March

- The forecourt outside the station is very shallow so it isn't possible to plant trees, but a green screen/planting is being looked at. There are more trees going in elsewhere
- Margaret Brett (Executive Committee) queried if some forecourts on the south side of Replingham had not joined in with paving? Sidonie understands that permission has been given for all forecourts to be included and are in the scheme, but she will double check. TfL has given permission for theirs, which is on the corner
- A community noticeboard is still planned. Sidonie will confirm the location, but it will probably be in the Caffè Nero area
- A resident asked about the position of the taxi stand outside station. Sidonie explained they are retaining some space, but she will check the detail

c) Window Wanderland (organiser: Sam Traynor):

Sam gave the meeting the details of the upcoming event:

- Window Wanderland returns to Southfields for its 6th Year on Saturday 26th & Sun 27th February
- She thanked the SGRA for their continued sponsorship, which helps with PR materials (posters & map printing). New sponsors are on board this year: iActive Me (local personal trainer) and Sutherland Grove Residents Association, who are joining the ongoing sponsorship from the Magpie Tree and the SGRA
- Numbers:
 - 2017 – 110 windows
 - 2018 – 129 windows
 - 2019 – 156 windows
 - 2020 – 203 windows
 - 2021 - 329 windows (amazing achievement given we were in lockdown)
- The target for 2022 is 400 windows
- 160 posters have been distributed to a team of volunteers who will be helping to put them up over the next week. If anyone else would like to help, please contact Sam
- The social media campaign is in full flow on all local groups
- Sadly workshop plans are on hold due to covid
- If any of our older residents would like to get involved but don't have supplies, please contact Sam who can deliver packs
- Sam can be contacted at windowwanderlandsouthfields@gmail.com

d) Wimbledon Park Walk and Talk Movement

This is organised by Ali Palmer, who was unable to join the meeting. However, she provided a short video which was enjoyed by those in attendance.

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (Executive Committee) gave an overview from her perspective, having been on one of the walks. It is evolving into a lovely group, with everyone very friendly and getting to know each other. It is easy to go on your own and is a great way to bring the community together.

Details:

- Takes place on Saturday mornings at 10.30am
- Meet by Mario's café in Wimbledon Park. No booking required, just turn up
- Decide on which of 3 different walks you wish to do. Each is about an hour

3. AELTC update: Simon Wright (resident)

Simon updated the meeting:

- There have been two meetings recently:
 - **1: chaired by Fleur Anderson (MP)**; a meeting with 7 local Residents' Associations. Sophia Browning (The Gardens RA) co-ordinated the response. There were 3 main points: Ecological impact, Impact on Air Quality and Impact on Public Amenity. There was a robust discussion around the plans as they stand.
 - **2: chaired by Stephen Hammond (MP)** on 19th January which was open to the public. This was a similar meeting with additional discussion around the legal covenant on Wimbledon Park and the concept of permissive access. Timescale of the process: it is currently unclear if there will be a review before or after local elections, also whether Wandsworth or Merton will be the first council to assess the planning application

Discussion:

- It is understood that Justin Smith (AELTC) has stated the whole plan must be considered as a package. However, Simon understands there are some elements which may be reviewed. It is not known if there were changes in application whether they would be made before or after the planning assessment
- 2029 is stated as the end date – 8 years from the start
- The current work on the lake is not related to the AELTC plans
- A request that AELTC make public the security advice they received about Church Road has been declined

Leonie Cooper (AM) made two small points of clarification:

- i. the scheme must be agreed by GLA planners who report to the Deputy Mayor and then the Mayor (The London Assembly do not approve the scheme)
- ii. During the pre-election period (24th March – 5th May) important decisions are not permitted so neither planning committee will be able to look at such a significant decision. It will not be able to go to the GLA during that period. This means that a decision is more likely in the early summer

Gerard Sebastian invited Johnny Perkins (AELTC) to comment. Johnny highlighted the recently held Community Days and commented it was interesting to hear different points of views from different parts of community who are in favour. He explained that events such as 'Walk and Talk' will be able to take advantage of the additional 23 acres of the new public park at the south end. This will be open from 2026. The extra space available had been requested during the pandemic and he asked that residents think of the advantages: public access, the boardwalk, the enjoyment of the different views looking back at lake which Capability Brown had planned and encouraged people to have open minds. In response to a query about what the scheme entailed, Johnny spoke of 38 new courts and a possible show court in the future. Simon Wright remarked that the show court is an integral part of the scheme.

Johnny confirmed the desilting of the dam is separate but that it is essential and AELTC are contributing to the cost. AELTC are aware of the inevitable local disruption and will work hard to ensure mitigation as much as possible. He asked people to look at the vision and make up their own minds. There is a process to go through and AELTC will abide by decisions.

Nick Steiner (FoWP) pointed out that lake has stood for 200 years, and the silting is slow. Desilting is very expensive and needs a separate planning application so costs and analysis can be made.

A resident raised the concern over traffic impact, remembering the impact when Court 1 was built. Another resident stated the roads are not suitable for commercial vehicles, especially not for 10 years. Johnny responded that the transport plan will be discussed in depth with the 2 councils.

Johnny thanked the meeting for opportunity to discuss the issues. Any questions can be emailed to him at: JPer@aeltc.com

4. 'Seasonal Cheer' update: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

Amelia reminded the meeting that residents had been invited to decorate their homes over Christmas. The team (Amelia, Gerard Sebastian, Serena Potter and Ann Kerr) felt that it was a great success and the Grid looked lovely both during the day and the evening. Wreaths, baubles and lights were all evident and it was very creative. The team walked the streets and took over 800 photos, which were put on the SGRA Facebook and received lots of 'likes'. Amelia thanked everyone.

5. SGRA Executive Reports:

a) Planning including Southfields Public Realm improvements: Margaret Brett

MB gave her report:

There is the usual dozen or so applications for loft conversions and side/rear extensions. One of concern is an application to build on what is essentially the garden space to the rear of Douglas and Gordon as housing. (2021/5729) Garden spaces are usually protected.

A further draft of the new Local Plan for Wandsworth has been issued for consultation. We commented on the initial draft to challenge the proposal to designate part of the Southfields shopping centre as being suitable for tall buildings. This has been removed from the Plan but something new has been introduced in the latest draft that I will contact the Planners about

There are now 544 objections on the Wandsworth site to the AELTC development proposals. There are only 18 in support.

Allotments and Asset of Community Value - Rifle Club Granville Road

The freeholder has conducted a public (virtual) consultation on his proposals to develop the site. 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. A planning application is expected at Easter.

Other

- More electrical charging points on lamp posts are appearing in the Grid
- 50 cherry trees, a gift from a cultural group in Japan, have been planted in King George's Park
- The council has said that there will be no charge for closing roads for Jubilee parties
- There is a delightful new topper on the pillar box on Wimbledon Park Road

Discussion points:

- The greengrocer in Replingham Road has closed down
- Ian Tattum (St Barnabas) raised a concern that 3 parking places outside the church have been replaced with electric charging points. This makes parking even more difficult than usual, particularly for example such as when funerals are taking place. There had been no public consultation. Margaret Brett will raise this at the next Forum meeting. Leonie Cooper suggested contacting the local councillors
- A resident said that a bin on Replingham Road has been moved and a bin is missing in King George Park. Margaret Brett explained they do get moved around
- Sara Nairn (STRA) asked about the allotments and the division between the allotments and the Rifle Club members. Tim Evans & Mike Smith are working together on this. Margaret Brett will put together information and give it to Sara. Clive Williams asked if there is a publicly available record of the meeting with the freeholder. There is not but a presentation pack is available which can be sent out
- Plans for the area behind Carlisle Court are not currently known

b) Finance: Chris Puleston

- There has been one expenditure - £300 donation to Window Wanderland
- Invoices are being sent out to advertisers – this amounts to just over £7000
- A resident stated this amount was more than in previous years and asked what it will be used for? Chris acknowledged that some regular events which are often donated to had not taken place due to the pandemic. The SGRA welcomes ideas for new expenditure. The resident suggested a defibrillator in Southfields.

Post-meeting note: there is currently a defibrillator at the tube station

c) Communications, social media and latest edition of Grid News:

The recent edition of Grid News had positive reviews. The next edition is due on 26th March; the copy deadline for articles is 26th February.

6. Green Spaces Updates:

Friends of Wimbledon Park: Nick Steiner

Review:

- The **dam safety works** are underway. This is a legal requirement and should take 8 weeks
- **Wimbledon Park brook** will be deculverted. The aim is to develop this area into a water garden and move the crazy golf
- **AELTC:** an objection on the car parking in Wimbledon Park will be made and circulated
- **Revelstoke Road entrance** improvements: Nick has contacted TfL and arranged a meeting on 10th February. Estimates and then funding will then be sought
- **Wimbledon Park volunteers** – a paper has been completed which will be circulated to the Executive Committee and then more widely
- **Tree Planting:** 100 trees to be planted on weekend of **5/6 March**. A stone pine has been offered, which will be planted in the southern section of park. The area north of the Bowling Green is more for native plants
- **Open water swimming** is now being reviewed and hopes to be approved
- **AGM:** 17th March at St Barnabas Church
- **Commercial events** – the Great Field was green for 2 months until the Pines & Needles Christmas Trees sale. Merton are looking to get events onto hard surfaces where possible:
 - **Pub in the Park** - 27-29th May: Tom Kerridge event in the Great Field. This will displace several events, so it is in consultation
 - **Capability Brown Society** - 2/3 June & 28/29 August: **Classic Car event**
- **FoWP website** has been enormously improved: [Friends of Wimbledon Park | Working together for Wimbledon Park](#)
- All information is on the Facebook and Twitter pages

7. Forthcoming events:

- 26-27th February: Window Wanderland
- Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meeting: 23rd April, 1030am at St Barnabas Church

8. AOB

- None

Next Public Meeting: Tuesday 29th March 2022, 7.45-9.35pm

Appendix: Attendance List

Name	Role
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee – Vice Chair
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
Alise Veremeja	SGRA Executive Committee
PC Robert Amigo	SNT
PC German	SNT
Sidonie Forrest-Brown	Senior Planner, Wandsworth Council
Simon Wright	
Leonie Cooper	AM
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Sam Traynor	Window Wanderland
Ian Tattum	St Barnabas Church
Cllr Terry Walsh	
Kate & Duncan Lyons	
Beth McKillop	
Trevor Howes	
Rosie Langford	
Kiran Phadnis	
Sucheta Samant	Manager, Southfields Library
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Rosemary Iveson	
Peter Jackson	
Geoff Davis	
Shiraz and Mehrun Dato	
Diane Brennan	
Lesley McCaul	
Tanya Latif	
Sara Nairn	Southfields Triangle Residents' Association
Jane Lloyd	
Aidan Magill	
Katrina Ure	
Jeffrey Barber	
Jackie Pearce	
Andrew Dunley	
Hilary	
Marilyn Wilson	
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	
Rod Lewington	Total 43