

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 22nd February 2022 via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR, Chair), 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
Newsletter advertising responsibility: Obtain handover outline from KG. CP, AV & GS to work together until new person found	AV/CP/GS	Open
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	Completed
Consider a SGRA stall at the Church Christmas Fair in 2022	CR	Re-open in Autumn
New Actions	Owner (s)	Status
Follow up with Sidonie Forrest-Brown on Public Realm matters	CR	Open
Write newsletter item stating there are defibrillators at the tube station and in Wimbledon Park	CR	Open
Organise first steps for holding a local election Hustings on 25 th April	CR	Open
Confirm details of Heritage Festival 2022 participation	CR	Open

1. Apologies for absence:

Gerard Sebastian (GS)

2. Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (25.01.22)

- Item 2: Public Realm; Several points had been raised. CR to contact Sidonie Forrest-Brown for follow up on all, including the images of benches and the noticeboard
- Defibrillator proposal: there is a defibrillator at Southfields Station and one in Wimbledon Park. CP has investigated the cost of funding a second; British Heart Foundation suggests it would be about £700. There are currently shortages. The Committee discussed the siting, given the need to protect from for vandalism and theft

Action: CR to follow up with Sidonie Forrest-Brown. Write newsletter item confirming there are defibrillators at the tube station and Wimbledon Park.

Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (11.01.22)

- Item 7: Website; to be discussed in item 8
- Item 4: Street Parties. It is confirmed that the £60 fee is being waived by Wandsworth Council
- Item 5: Christmas lights; there is currently no new information; CR to liaise with Ulrika Hogberg later in the year

3. AELTC update: Simon Wright/Charles Runcie

- SW observed the meeting and the vote at Merton Council. The Liberal Democrats tabled a resolution calling for Merton Council to enforce the newly discovered covenant which would prevent the development of the golf course. Labour amended the wording to state the covenant would be acknowledged rather than enforced; this results in a significant

difference. The vote resulted in the Liberal Democrat's version being defeated and Labour's passed. There has been much media coverage, which has been reported differently

- Both Merton & AELTC are currently taking legal advice
- The local elections have added complexity and local councillors who are standing are making this a political issue. It is likely that Labour will continue not to attempt to enforce the covenant after the elections. It is unlikely that the planning application will get through before the elections
- At the meeting chaired by Stephen Hammond (MP), AELTC was clear they would not be changing the plans in view of public reaction before the Planning Committee meets
- Mark Allison (Leader of Merton Council) was adamant that any individual breaking confidence about the legal discussions would be held personally responsible

4. Potential next Public Meeting speakers: All

The Committee agreed the following for the next Public Meeting:

- Gary Murphy (TfL) to speak on step free access issue at station and related issues: **Agreed**
- Tom Newman (Wandsworth Council): Recycling Trial update: **Agreed**
- A Wandsworth traffic expert regarding traffic on the Grid: **Not agreed** for this occasion

5. One way street proposal for the Grid and Penwith Road petition: All

- The Committee decided that the query raised by a resident about making Grid streets one-way would not be discussed further at present
- The Penwith Road petition and survey has been publicised to the SGRA database and across social media. In addition, a proposer for the petition has suggested making Kimber Road one way the opposite direction from Penwith Road. This would be an issue for the Royal Mail Delivery Office. It is worth noting that TfL manage traffic lights
- Council are duty bound to carry out a survey if a petition goes above a certain number

6. Local election Hustings: All

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding of a Hustings for the local elections in May. Agreement was made:

- To hold a Hustings on 25th April 2022
- For CR to find out the process, make contacts and check if St Barnabas Church is available

7. Heritage Festival 2022 proposal: Charles Runcie

- CR circulated information prior to the meeting. The theme is 'Sporting Wandsworth' and the effect on Southfields itself between 1922 and 2022 is suggested as a focus
- CR proposed the SGRA host an event on a Monday, 7.30 – 9.30pm, in St Barnabas Parish Room, during the festival: between late May to mid-June
- Given it is also 100 years since AELTC moved to Church Road, CR suggested including the effect the championships have had on Southfields in transport, economic and sporting terms. Positive changes to the tube station, the queue, McCluskeys' perspective and accommodation rented to players, official and fans were all suggested for possible inclusion

A detailed debate ensued, with the following points made:

- The content should be a historical perspective, looking backward not forward
- It was strongly felt that the event should not become political in relation to AELTC and must be neutral. The focus should not be a celebration of AELTC, particularly given the current issues and due to AELTC being in Merton not Wandsworth

Agreed with some reservations, with the proviso that the 'Heritage' focus is maintained

- CR will liaise with Ulrika Hogberg, Head of Community at the AELTC

8. New website design and build: Gerard Sebastian

- GS was not able to attend this meeting
- GS has made suggestions to the website builder but has not had a definitive answer yet regarding the contract
- AO-M to check with GS if he has spoken with Rob Kennedy (FoWP)
- CR to liaise with GS

9. Ongoing updates:

- **Communications including Grid News & advertising responsibility: Charles Runcie**
 - CR is currently locked out of Nextdoor and the Admin there can't help so there is limited posting at present
 - The next Grid News is the current focus. This will be delivered by Yellow Print Shop on 25th March for delivery to residents over w/e of 26/27th March
 - The editorial deadline is this Friday, 25th February
 - There is space for more items if anyone has ideas
 - Advertising: this will be handed over to Andrew Dunley from Karen Gregory after this issue

- **Planning/Public Realm improvements/Allotments: Margaret Brett**

There is little to report on domestic planning locally. There are now 14 objections to the application to develop the rear garden space of Douglas and Gordon as housing.

(2021/5729)

- A consultation on the further draft of the new Local Plan for Wandsworth ends on 28 February. We wrote to object to proposals to designate the centre of Southfields and the west side of King George's Park as being suitable for tall buildings and this has been removed from the new draft
- There are now 556 objections on the Wandsworth site to the AELTC development proposals. There are only 21 in support but one of these is the London Wildlife Trust. Wandsworth is in discussion with the GLA and Merton about jointly approaching AELTC about issues on which they want justification. Any changes to the planning application will go out for further consultation
- MB attended the Planning Forum meeting. She asked about their green space policy in relation to private land and it was confirmed that the policy would apply even though the space had not been identified on a map included in the Local Plan. There are issues over the proposed gyratory system in central Wandsworth. TFL have withdrawn their funding and Wandsworth is seeking independent funding from other sources. Wandsworth has strengthened their Urban Design and Conservation Area team

Public Realm

- Contractors have now moved to the Wimbledon Park Road northwest side

Rifle Club Allotments

- There is currently no sign of a planning application to develop the Rifle Club site as a children's nursery

Other

- There is an application for a premises licence for the old Barclay's site: 8-23.00 Monday-Thursday and until midnight at the weekend plus recorded music until midnight at weekends
- Bournes has finally closed as has Freshers
- Costa closed on 18 February, and it is understood that the nursery at the back of the building is to take over the space
- There are two new flower planters outside the station and a water dispenser outside Caffè Nero
- Garden fence panels are down due to the storm damage

CR explained the scaffolding at 2 Replingham Road is still up; there have been delays to their opening due to Covid-19.

There is no news about Business Forum.

Crime: Clive Williams

December crime statistics:

- 127 in Southfields Ward, 17 on Southfields Grid. The highest was Revelstoke Road and Astonville Street with 4 each; Merton Road with 3. All other streets had 1 or 0
- Highest offences were vehicle crime with 6. 4 catalytic convertors were stolen in December. 3 were 'other theft; 3 were' violence and sexual offences'; 2 ASB and 2 burglaries

Other:

- The Ward boundaries are changing soon, and this will affect crime numbers
- The Ward Panel covers the whole of Southfields Ward
- An elderly person has been scammed by a person saying he was on Council – please reinforce to people not to let unknown people into their property

● **Finance: Chris Puleston**

- There has been no change since the last meeting
- £2797 is in the bank; £4375 is owed for advertising over the last year. CR to chase up

● **FoWP: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

- Storm Eunice resulted in 3 trees down: one in the glade in Horse Close Wood which will probably be left to decay; one on the stadium boundary and one near the brook
- 160 trees are to be planted and there has been a good volunteer response from public
- The AGM is at 8pm on 17th March at St Barnabas Church. It will be a hybrid meeting (in person and Zoom). Details on applying are on the website
- Andrew Kaufman (known from previous work with IdVerde) has taken over from Doug Napier (green spaces). FoWP are hopeful that this will be very productive
- The dam safety project is continuing. The promenade walk is fully closed until mid-March. It should be completed by the end of May
- The snagging in the new toilets is complete
- Dave Dawson's nature blog has been restarted and is on the website
- Many organisations are wanting to set up commercial activities in the Park: 'Pub in the Park' is going ahead on 27-29 May and a gin company has made an application for an event
- The old Pines & Needles site has been reseeded. There is hope for hard core standing in the future

● **FoCG: Charles Runcie**

- Geoff Davis and Mario Pisani have joined as the new Membership Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Thanks to some marketing there are a healthy 93 members of the Friends Group. We have five D of E helpers, 2 from Graveney and 3 Ibstock Place, all doing a great job of weeding, bed shaping, painting and planting as well as leaflet dropping
- The FoCG plan 3 events this year: The Easter Egg Hunt, the Summer Picnic and the Winter Wandergarden
 - Easter Egg Hunt: to be held on Easter Monday at 11am
 - Summer Picnic: date set for 2nd July 12-3pm
 - Winter Wandergarden: Saturday 10th December, but will confirm the date once schools have been contacted
- Two birch and a cherry tree have been planted in recent weeks
- The date is set for week of 21 February for the council to install a water tap

- The Edwardian Water fountain restoration is due to start week of 7th March, paid for by Wandsworth; it will be redesigned to its working order as close to the original design as possible
- FoCG have won a bid for £120,000 to redevelop the playground. Natural play items will be treated as a separate item, and therefore are in addition to the £120,000. Enable are waiting for the council to process documents and the tendering process
- **Streets Reps/Small Business Register updates: Gerard Sebastian:**
 - To be updated via email or at the next meeting

10. Forthcoming events

- Window Wanderland: **26-27th February 5.30-9pm**
- Author event at St Barnabas Church: **19th March 5-7pm**
- Southfields Ward Panel, Parish Room St Barnabas Church: **23rd April, 10.30 am**

11. Dates of next meetings:

- **Public: 29th March:** 7.45 – 9.30pm venue tbc – possibly a hybrid meeting
- **Executive: 26th April:** 8 – 9.30pm venue tbc

12. AOB

- **Gift for Karen Gregory:** CR will purchase a gift from Chalk
- **A O-M:** The Front Garden Awards will go ahead this year. Chris Puleston has stood down as judge, so a new judge is needed. The date is tbc and a small article will be in the next newsletter. Nina Kowalska has been asked to give a talk at Putney Society & Amelia will be joining her. This is on 28th March
- **AK** asked about whether the required number for the Elsenham Street petition has been reached; it was not known
- Retirement gift for Cllr Terry Walsh: to be discussed at the next meeting
- **CW** updated the meeting on the status of the United Transport Services mosaic. The Heritage of London Trust have been trying to contact H R Owen (the Landowner) to discuss but they have not responded