



## Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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Charles Runcie (CR) in the chair

Apologies for absence: Susannah Perry-Greene (FoCG), Gary Murphy (TfL), Samantha Traynor (Window Wanderland)

CR thanked Gerard Sebastian (Vice-Chair) for chairing the previous SGRA public meeting. He announced that Karen Gregory has now left the Executive Committee due to moving house and thanked her for all hard work, particularly the organisation of advertising for the Grid Newsletter. The gap on the Committee will be filled at the AGM.

**1. Minutes + matters arising from the public meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and the executive meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022;** these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>.

**Public meeting:**

**Item 2b:** Update on the Elsenham Street petition: Cllr Humphries explained the petition has not yet been presented to council. Cllr Caddy will follow this up and let CR know. The block benches by the tube station are due to be installed soon.

**Executive meeting:**

**Item 2:** The suggestion of providing a defibrillator in Southfields by Trevor Howes (resident): it is confirmed there is one at the tube station. Nick Steiner confirmed there is also one in Wimbledon Park next to the café. Trevor wondered what would happen if one was needed 'out of hours', pointing out that many in the country are sited in telephone boxes. He acknowledged vandalism can be a problem. Cllr Humphries will speak to Krystals on Replingham Road; they are open 24 hours.

**Item 7:** The Wandsworth Heritage Festival had approached the SGRA to hold an event this year. However the timing has proved too complex so it will be considered for 2023.

**2. Special guests:**

**a. Tom Newman (Waste Project Officer, Wandsworth Council): Food Waste Recycling Trial on the Grid Update**

Tom presented his PowerPoint, which can be seen here: [Food Waste Recycling Trial - An Update - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)

Main points included:

- The collection is above average nationally. The total amount of waste collected to date is 539 tonnes. Food recycling is 66 tonnes (12% of total)
- Just over 70% of households were taking part as of December 2021
- The recycling rate in the Grid is higher than in the borough overall; low rise housing tends to have a higher rate
- Tom has received many emails received regarding replacement compostable liners. He emphasised that the provided roll was just a starter pack, and this is a usual procedure. It is not possible within the scope of this project to provide more. When evaluating the project the council will consider providing rolls at cost
- It is important that liners are fully compostable. Check for the seedling logo. Newspaper/other paper is acceptable, just not plastic
- On collection day, please put the brown box as close as possible to your gate, not on pavement
- Contact Tom with any queries at: [foodwasterecycling@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:foodwasterecycling@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### Discussion

- Charles Runcie asked if Tom was happy with the 70% figure? Tom responded the figures [amount of waste and participation rate (70%)] were taken at the start and there is currently no comparative data. The next monitoring is in May
- Margaret Brett asked about the plan for the end of the trial? Tom explained that the reprocurring of the contract process starts in 2024; this will last for a year then a decision will be made
- A resident stated his black bag contents have reduced by 50%; he asked if there will be a questionnaire sent out to ask residents for feedback, and whether black bag volume has reduced? Tom responded there has not been much reduction in black bag waste to date and that the questionnaire suggestion will be taken on board

Other feedback from residents and responses included:

- A suggestion for another article and attendance at a future meeting when more data is available
- The observation that people who compost at home do not contribute as much; is this considered? Tom responded that this data is not known but that it would be very useful. He emphasised that home composting is significantly better than recycling as there is no heavy vehicle transport etc involved
- The highlighting of the value of home composting, allotments and Abundance Southfields
- A query about the reason for not putting brown boxes on pavements? The response was that it is a safety issue
- A question about how much recycling is sent abroad, if any? Tom could not answer but will follow this up. The WRWA facility determines the end destination, and it is published on website: [Where does my mixed recycling go? - WRWA](#) Residents are welcome to write to Tom on the email address (above)
- A suggestion that a questionnaire includes questions on home composting and wormery use

### Recycle More Southfields

Sue Lovell-Greene gave feedback on behalf of the group:

- They are very pleased with how it is developing. They now have someone who has taken over the social media campaign, with very positive results
- Half a tonne has been recycled (mostly crinkly plastic). Supermarkets are now taking more of this
- The main recycle point is 'Terracycle' which operates via producers of items sponsoring the recycling. The remit of what can be recycled is constantly changing which is a challenge
- They have been invited, via Simon Wright, to give a presentation at a Natural & Organics Trade Show at the Excel Centre and will be on the same platform as Terracycle. This is being chaired by Simon and the focus is on exploring how food shops, local area initiatives etc can use the ideas of Recycle More Southfields

Leonie Cooper (AM) pointed out the government has changed some regulations regarding the separation of food waste from 2024 so this trial is very helpful, and it would be particularly useful to find out about the level of composting locally. Combined with the work of Green the Grid, Southfields is an exemplar area in the borough in terms of interest and desire to participate in environmental issues.

### **b. Gary Murphy (Consultant Specialist, TfL): TfL step-free access and other issues**

Gary was unable to attend, but a representative from TfL will be present at the next meeting.

### **3. AELTC update: Simon Wright (resident)**

Simon updated the meeting:

- Following the publishing of the AELTC proposals and resultant feedback provided to both planning committees, they are now considering the application. The pre-election period means delays until later in year. Cllr Caddy has agreed to present the reservations of local Southfields

residents at the planning committee meeting. It is not known whether Merton or Wandsworth will hold their meeting first

- Attention has now shifted to the covenant on the land, and this is discussed in the Grid newsletter. In 1993 Merton sold the land to AELTC and placed the covenant to prevent building on it but this has no power unless it is enforced. At the recent meeting the Liberal Democrats unsuccessfully attempted to get Merton to enforce it
- GLA have produced a report on their view of the impact of development, writing that ‘very special circumstances’ are insufficient to justify the environmental impact. A commentary responding to the report has been written by Parkside Residents’ Association and supported by other local RAs, but not the SGRA. Simon would like the SGRA to put their name to it. It can be read here: [P20220315-RA-Commentary-on-GLA-Rpt-and-VSC-Case-Mar2022.pdf \(southfieldsgrid.org.uk\)](https://southfieldsgrid.org.uk/P20220315-RA-Commentary-on-GLA-Rpt-and-VSC-Case-Mar2022.pdf)

#### **Discussion:**

- Margaret Brett attended a Planning Forum meeting where AELTC was raised in AOB by the Wandsworth Society. The Planning officer explained work is ongoing to ensure departments are working together
- Cllr Humphries answered a query about the timescale of covenants; he explained they stay in place indefinitely and further clarified a covenant is a separate and parallel legal process to planning. Every application asks the GLA for comment. He outlined the process:
  - the next decision is to be made by both councils
  - City Hall can then overrule
  - it goes to central government (Secretary of State)
  - Sovereign decisions to be made by Merton and Wandsworth (unknown which will be first). The Metropolitan Open Land status is a key aspect. ‘Exceptional circumstances’ must be shown to be able to build on it

Residents are welcome to email Cllr Humphries for any process questions:

[Cllr.G.Humphries@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.G.Humphries@wandsworth.gov.uk)

- Leonie Cooper (AM) clarified that the Deputy Mayor for planning (who has made no public opinion) will make the City Hall decision rather than the Mayor. Leonie will check on the procedure for the Mayor calling in schemes; her understanding is that the Mayor can only intervene in planning applications that fit into Parts One and Two of the Order and AELTC comes under Part Three so the GLA may not get involved. This may mean City Hall’s role is much less important than the boroughs’  
CPRE have a London branch to whom Leonie has spoken. There have been other cases where it is possible for metropolitan open land to be used, for example a school in West London. Simon pointed out that the AELTC application is for spectator use, not participation, which is different legally
  - Cllr Humphries understands the order in which the covenants are addressed is important and that it is easier when planning comes first and the covenant second
  - A resident asked why the SGRA has not put its name to the Parkside Resident Association commentary. Charles Runcie responded the SGRA Executive Committee had taken the view the SGRA is neutral, with the aim of ensuring all residents have the facts and can then make their individual decision. He suggested the Executive Committee discuss this again at their next meeting
  - Another resident recorded his appreciation of the SGRA’s neutrality; in his experience many residents are in favour
- 4. Window Wanderland Review (organiser: Sam Traynor):** Sam was unable to attend at the last minute. CR stated that 241 households participated this year (fewer than 2021 but that was an exceptional year due to lockdown). There is an article and photos in the Grid Newsletter.

**5. Hastings – 25<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.45pm: Charles Runcie**

All candidates have been invited to attend. It will hopefully take place in person at St Barnabas Church.

**6. Platinum Jubilee Street Parties – discussion/which streets participating: Charles Runcie**

CR asked if any parties are being organised?

- Elsenham Street plan one on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Heythorp Street, southern end are planning one on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Heythorp north and centre sections are in discussion

**7. Front Garden Awards 2022: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

- The dates for judging are between 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June
- The criteria will be changing a little, details TBC
- The organisers are working closely with Green the Grid as always, with a focus this year on pollinating plants
- Amelia and Nina Kowalska (GtG) spoke at Putney Society on 28<sup>th</sup> March. They are hoping to set up something similar

**8. SGRA Executive Reports:**

**a) Planning and including Southfields Public Realm improvements: Margaret Brett**

MB gave her report:

There is not much change since the report included in the newsletter:

- There is an application, not fully registered (2021/3379), for two additional storeys at 271 Wimbledon Park Road (ex Costa Coffee). At 4 storeys this building is already one of the tallest in the row and 6 storeys would be out of keeping in the shopping centre
- There are now 564 objections on the Wandsworth site to the AELTC proposals. There are 22 in support. Any changes to the planning application will go out for further consultation
- The pavements in Elsenham Street are being renewed
- Trieste is under offer

**Public Realm**

- The contractors have now moved to Augustus Road

**Rifle Club Allotments**

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

**Other**

- The council want to introduce a speed enforcement scheme to support the police and be responsible for fining those who exceed 20mph. This is still under consideration, but Wimbledon Park Road will be targeted as one in five vehicles are speeding there
- The council are introducing green pillars by using lampposts as growing spaces at a high level
- King George's Park playground has been refurbished and is now open again
- The junction by the station which has been closed for weeks of gas repairs looks ready to open again as the enormous hole has been filled and the road surface laid
- The council has a new initiative on fly tipping. Signs will be placed on lampposts near hot spots to enable residents to notify problems via a QR code or text

**b) Finance: Chris Puleston**

- There is currently £5100 in the bank. Upcoming advertising will bring in around £7200

**c) Crime: Clive Williams (report sent after the meeting due to technical difficulties)**

Reported crime figures for Southfields Ward and the SGRA area in December 2021 and January 2022 were as follows:

- Total crimes in Dec 2021: 127 (whole Ward) and 17 (in SGRA area) [New ward =40]

- Total crimes in Jan 2022: 111 (whole Ward) and 12 (in SGRA area) [New ward =37]

**December:** highest number of reported crimes were Astonville and Revelstoke with (4) each. Merton Road had (3). All other roads had one or none.  
Highest number of offences: Vehicle Crime with (6). All other offences were two, one or zero except Violence and Other Theft which were (3) each.

**January 2022:** highest number of reported crimes were Hanford Close and the southern end of Merton Road with (3) each followed by Astonville Street and Brookwood Road with (2). Both Lavenham Road and Pirbright Road had one each, all other roads had no reported crimes.  
Highest number of offences: Vehicle Crimes (6) and Violence & Sexual Offences (2). There was one reported crime in each of the following categories: Anti-Social Behaviour, Burglary, Criminal Damage & Arson and Other Theft. All other categories had no reported crimes.

**d) Communications, social media and latest edition of Grid News: *Charles Runcie***

- The Grid News has recently been delivered to all. Please get in touch if more are needed. Nextdoor.com is still not allowing access.

**9. Green Spaces Updates:**

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

Nick presented his PowerPoint, which can be seen at: [Friends of Wimbledon Park - Update - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)

- **Revelstoke Road entrance improvements:** There have been lengthy negotiations with TfL. Their complaints procedure has now been activated due to the lack of the expected estimate from them and the receipt of an unexpected invoice
- **Dam safety:** The daylighting of the Wimbledon Park brook has been successful, effectively making a water garden area. However, it is in a 'pay to use' area
- **Wimbledon Park Volunteers:** Nick outlined all the work undertaken, including tree planting, pruning and seed sowing. Platinum Jubilee tree planting has been registered. For further information please see the PowerPoint
- The next meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm, via Zoom

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

- This year's theme is 'Plant for Pollinators', raising awareness for bees and all other pollinators
- Sustainability around purchasing plants has been discussed and this year 'Grid Growers' are being recruited to plant seeds bought by GtG
- A sack of sunflower seeds was bought last year and there are lots left over. If anyone knows of any community groups who would like them, please let Nina know
- GtG are keeping in touch with council re: greening the tube station area and has had walkarounds with council officers. She thanked them but made the point that the most sustainable options are not always implemented. For example, living pillars are more effective than hanging baskets. To be discussed separately with councillors

A resident acknowledged the great work done by GtG but pointed out that the boundaries around the trees can be difficult for people with visual difficulties. Nina took this on board.

**c) Friends of Coronation Gardens: *Susannah Perry-Greene***

Susannah was unable to attend so Charles Runcie updated to meeting:

- The water tap is about to be installed
- The gates will be closed between 9pm – 6am, Fridays to Sundays from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> October. This is in order to discourage anti-social behaviour. There are signs on the entrances giving times
- DoE students are weeding on Saturday mornings

**10. Forthcoming events:**

- Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 10.30am at St Barnabas Church
- Seniors’ Tea Party Platinum Jubilee Weekend, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 3-5.30pm, St Barnabas Church

**11. AOB**

- The Seniors’ Jubilee party will need lots of volunteers: please get in touch if you are able to help
- The St Barnabas Quiz night is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm

**Next Public Meeting:** AGM, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, 7.45 - 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church

**Appendix: Attendance List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee – Chair
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee – Vice Chair
Serena Potter	SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary
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
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Tom Newman	Wandsworth Council
Simon Wright	
Leonie Cooper	AM
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Nina Kowalska	
Cllr Kim Caddy	
Cllr Guy Humphries	
Cllr Terry Walsh	
Ian Shaw	
Kyle Forder	
Trevor Howes	
Rosie Langford	
Wendy Rose	
Johnny Perkins	
Robert Mathison	
Sue Lovell-Greene	
Peter Jackson	
Rob Whitaker	
Flora	
Diane Brennan	
Lesley McCaul	
Graham Skyrme	
Katrina Ure	<b>Total: 32</b>