



## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

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Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Leonie Cooper AM, Cllr Kim Caddy, Terry Walsh, Sidonie Forrest-Brown (Public Realm, Senior Transport Planner)

#### 1. Minutes of 2021 for approval, and matters arising: *Charles Runcie*

- **Item 10a: Allotments on Granville Road:** Margaret Brett (SGRA Executive Committee) had lent her expertise to the allotment holders last year and she updated the meeting: The planning application must go to committee as there have been 375 objections and it has been designated an Asset of Community Value. Local nurseries report there is no shortage of nursery places so there is no justification for the provision of another nursery. Similarly, there is good local provision for tennis courts
- **Item 10b: AELTC proposals:** As an update, CR read out an email from Johnny Perkins, dated 31/5/22:

*'Earlier this week we submitted minor updates to our WPP planning application (all documents can be found [here](#)) in response to points raised by planning officers and highlighted the range of community benefits set to be unlocked through the project. These include:*

- *a new 9.4ha public park providing an increase in biodiversity on the Wimbledon Golf Course site, alongside 1,500 new trees*
- *a new level access boardwalk around Wimbledon Park Lake*
- *proposals to fund the essential desilting of this vital community asset to ensure its preservation for generations to come*
- *community access to our new grass courts and Show Court, outside The Championships period.*

*Separately, we wanted to let you know that the Wimbledon Foundation has made a £30,000 donation to the Coronation Gardens, which we hope will provide even further value to this well-loved community garden and green space and complement the £120,000 Enable is investing in the garden and improvement works.'*

- Cllr Guy Humphries explained that, with the new submissions, the application is still in consultation and will take some time
- CR paid tribute to Simon Wright (local resident and chair of the SGRA Advisory Working Group) who has done so much regarding information finding, publishing and advising on this matter; this is very much appreciated
- Simon Wright reported he has seen the many new submissions/documents and that he thinks very little has changed. He identified that 500 tickets per day will be allocated for the Parkland court (separate from the additional tickets on the middle Sunday). Also the park land will be open for the same hours as the rest of the park. However, everything else

remains the same. A local resident asked if the middle Sunday ticket offer was a sweetener and why only to local residents

- **Public Realm improvements:** Sidonie Forrest-Brown was unable to attend this evening; CR read out her email to the meeting:  
*'The Southfields improvement scheme is coming towards the end of the programme. The majority of the new paving has now been laid. We have arranged for additional cleaning of the new paving to ensure any residual dust is removed and the anti-slip properties are maximised. We have also arranged for the drainage gullies to be cleared on Wimbledon Park Road as they were blocked and the water couldn't drain. The new paving outside Southfields station has been laid, however there has been a slight delay in manufacturing of the new HVM (Hostile Vehicle Mitigation) seating. This will now be installed towards the end of the summer, dates TBC. The resurfacing works will take place once all of the paving works are completed. Work will pause for the duration of the Wimbledon Tennis championships'*
  - Clive Williams (Executive Committee) asked if there were details of the funding for this project as the amounts are large? He understood there is misinformation on social media regarding the funding and that people may think it comes from AELTC. CR will write clarify the funding source in the next edition of the Grid Newsletter
- The acceptance of the 2021 AGM Minutes was proposed by Andrew Dunley and seconded by Clive Williams

## 2. Chair's review 2021/22: Charles Runcie (Chair)

Charles Runcie presented his review of the year, which is on the website and can be seen here: [Documents from the AGM - 31 May 2022 - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)

A resident asked if, given the recent school shooting in the USA, there is satisfaction with the level of safeguarding local schools? CR directed this to the local councillors and Cllr Guy Humphries offered to speak directly with the resident following the meeting. He explained there is regular communication between schools, the councils and the police and that there is constant vigilance without being heavy handed. CR stated that as a school governor at Ronald Ross he is satisfied there is good security there.

## 3. Financial review 2021/22: Chris Puleston (Treasurer)

Chris Puleston presented his review, which can be seen here: [Documents from the AGM - 31 May 2022 - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#). Key points included:

- There were fewer activities this year so there was less expenditure
- Paper costs have gone up significantly so profit is less
- There was an extra (Covid) newsletter last year
- Insurance, hire of hall, envelopes, misc printing of posters/leaflets/ hospice donation totalled around £1600
- Advertising income used to be collected at the end of the year; going forward the aim is to collect it at the time the newsletter goes out
- Trentham Street brought in the highest street collection; Brookwood Road had the best increase
- Green the Grid is a good example of 'seeding', helping groups to set up and enable them to become self-funding. At their last event (plant giveaway in April) they generated their own income

A resident asked where the suggested benches might be placed; this is still under consideration but the aim is for them to be an acknowledgement of the Covid pandemic.

Defibrillators: the provision of a further one in Southfields is still under consideration.

*Post-meeting note: as well as in the tube station, there is one situated in Tesco on Replingham Road.*

#### 4. Election of SGRA officers for 2021/22

The following were nominated and elected unopposed as SGRA officials:

- SGRA Chair – Charles Runcie
- SGRA Vice Chair – Gerard Sebastian
- SGRA Secretary – Serena Potter
- SGRA Treasurer – Chris Puleston

#### 5. Election of SGRA Executive members – minimum 4, maximum 8

The following were nominated and elected en bloc, unopposed, as SGRA Executive Committee Members:

- Ann Kerr
- Margaret Brett
- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty
- Clive Williams

#### 6. Appointment/confirmation of street representatives for 2020/21

There are two vacancies for Street representatives: Revelstoke Road and Langton Place. The list will be updated as there are some changes.

#### 7. Confirmation of annual SGRA membership (£3): all

Charles Runcie explained the subscription has remained at £3 minimum per household for several years and suggested that now is the time to increase to around £5 minimum. Several residents agreed. The Executive Committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

#### 8. Community organisations reviews:

##### a. Friends of Wimbledon Park: Nick Steiner

Nick presented his powerpoint, which can be seen here: [Documents from the AGM - 31 May 2022 - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)

Key points included:

- An overview of the Merton New Local Plan and implications of this in relation to the AELTC development proposals. Key dates are June and October 2022
- Permission has been granted for the Revelstoke Rd entrance improvements. There is difficulty as TfL own the land under the bridge and are being difficult and obstructive. A complaints process has been started
- Wimbledon Park Brook has been 'daylighted' and should become a water garden. Further excavation and landscaping is needed. It is currently in the 'pay to use' area (NB 56% of the whole park is 'pay to use')
- Ideally, there should be a holistic approach to how Wimbledon Park is managed, rather than piecemeal. Phased developments would then be possible
- Volunteer projects have been set up. These include tree planting (further details on presentation)

##### b. Friends of Coronation Gardens: Charles Runcie

Charles reviewed the year's work, which can be seen here: [Documents from the AGM - 31 May 2022 - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)

- A range of successful activities has taken place and there is good liaison with a number of local groups and council organisations
- There are a number of plans for the next year, including the return of 'Winter Wondergarden' and the summer picnic
- There has been some Anti-social Behaviour; this decreases when more people use the gardens

**c. Green the Grid: Nina Kowalska**

The GtG presentation can be seen here: [Documents from the AGM - 31 May 2022 - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)

- Nina outlined a number of successful events attended during the year. These included Southfields Harvest, where a Tree Trail initiative around the Grid was launched; the Putney Clean Air Fair and the highly successful 'Planting for Pollinators' – the plant giveaway outside McCluskeys. Over 100 households came to this, with the 'Grid Growers' providing plants grown from seed for the first time
- The newly launched successful 'Merton Garden Streets' was inspired by GtG and GtG representatives spoke at Putney and Wandsworth Societies meetings
- The greening of the local high street development has taken time and can sometimes be frustrating. There are more trees now than on the original plan. HVM seating near the tube will have planters at each end and the green wall will continue to be requested. Other aspirations include a test Parklet and living lamp posts
- Possible new projects for the future include a wider pavement by the bus stop on Merton Road, developed in collaboration with Southfields Academy.

Nina thanked the SGRA for their support and acknowledged the aim of being self-sustaining. GtG is now asking for donations of £5 at, for example, the Plant Giveaway, for those who can afford to do so.

**d. Front Gardens Awards: Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty**

The Front Gardens Awards are taking place from 18-27th June this year and posters will go up this week around the Grid. The poster has a QR code which gives a link to the website with further information about the criteria for judging (eg 'Plants for pollinators') and other details.

There are a few changes this year; instead of the bronze/silver/gold system there will be 2 categories: 'Delightful' and 'Outstanding'. The prizes have gone up to £35 for the overall winner (from £25) and £20 for the 2 runners-up.

**9. Guest speakers:**

**a. Diana Chitty, Elsenham Street resident: Trussell Trust Food Bank**

Diana outlined the work of the Trussell Trust and her part in it - providing a Food Bank drop off point at 154 Elsenham Street. She has written a piece for the next Grid Newsletter and emphasised that demand is currently very high. She thanked residents for all the donations received and the SGRA for recently funding 2 easels.

- Diana has been a volunteer for 2 Food Banks for the last 5 years. When Covid-19 started in April 2020 she put posters in her garden and organised it as a drop off point. Since then she has collected 8000Kg of donations; most of this from members of public and some from supermarkets
- Recipients are referred via their GP/Job Centre/school/church. During Lockdown donations were delivered but Centres have now reopened. As well as being given food and other goods, access to services such as counselling, CAB and lawyers is provided. It is an opportunity to 'Meet & Greet' and chat with the purpose being to get people out of poverty
- People get a standard package; each is nutritionally balanced and is a 3 day emergency supplement. No alcohol is given so donations such as Christmas puddings cannot be taken. Fresh food cannot be taken
- Demand: in the last few weeks this has tripled as the cost of living has increased. Many people are single parents/single men who don't have such support, some are asylum seekers/refugees including Ukrainian families more recently
- Diana encouraged residents to bring donations and chat at the door
- The Trussell Trust has options for volunteering. Cash donations can be made online at <https://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/donate>

**b. Fleur Anderson MP**

Fleur addressed the meeting and highlighted the cost of living crisis as being key. She thanked the SGRA Committee for their work for the local community, including with the Grid Alliance during the pandemic. Fleur summarised her work over the past year for the SGRA community:

- She has put in an objection to the AELTC planning application and continues to work with Merton Council/Stephen Hammond MP to ensure a united voice. She has met with the new council leader Simon Hogg
- She has been working with the Rifle Club and allotment holders and noted that there is a 10 year waiting list for an allotment in Wandsworth
- Her 'Stop plastic in wet wipes' campaign is making great strides: Tesco has now banned plastic in wet wipes. They block drains and significant money is spent by Thames Water to rectify this. She has visited all the local schools for this campaign
- Local schools have been involved in creating Jubilee art work which Fleur took to Buckingham Palace and presented to the Countess of Wessex.
- Southfields Business Forum revival: Fleur has spoken to all who are concerned about significant increase in bills. Local businesses need our support more than ever and she will be working with them

A resident asked what the change in the council leadership will mean regarding projects which are in the pipeline? Fleur explained there are new cabinet members and changes regarding open spaces/housing etc are already in train but there will be no immediate changes. Change will happen via committee and she recommends talking to newly elected councillors to ask about specific points.

**10. Forthcoming events information:**

- **Seniors' Jubilee Tea Party:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 3-5.30pm, St Barnabas Church
- **Platinum Jubilee 'Big Picnic':** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 11-4pm, Coronation Gardens
- **Front Garden Awards Judging:** 18-27th June
- **Southfields SNT ward panel meeting:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 10.30am, St Barnabas Church
- **Southfields Harvest:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church

**11. Date of next public meeting:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July: 7.45 – 9.30pm St Barnabas Church

**12. AOB:**

- **ULEZ expansion consultation:** Charles Runcie directed residents to the information sent out with the agenda (see below):  
Extension proposal flyer: <https://bit.ly/ULEZextensionproposal2022>  
Extension proposal map: <https://bit.ly/ULEZexpansionProposalMap>  
The consultation details can be found online at: <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/cleanair>  
TfL are encouraging people to complete the consultation or to email their thoughts to [cleanairyourview@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:cleanairyourview@tfl.gov.uk)  
Clive Williams reminded residents that the consultation period ends before the next meeting and urged them to give their views.
- **St Barnabas Refugee Welcome Café:** Margaret Brett explained this weekly cafe is starting on Saturday 18th June with the aim of enabling Ukrainian and other refugees and their hosts to meet and support each other. It is planned to be a low key event, providing a safe venue and space for local people to support each other. Volunteers are needed from 1030 –12 noon. Please contact Margaret at [ma\\_brett@hotmail.com](mailto:ma_brett@hotmail.com) or 020 8870 5364.

**Close: 9.35pm**

**Appendix (i) – Attendance List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee - Chairman
Serena Potter	SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee - Vice-Chair
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee
Ann Kerr	SGRA Executive Committee
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Fleur Anderson	MP
Nina Kowalska	Green the Grid
Cllr Guy Humphries	
Andrew Dunley	Street Rep
Diana Chitty	
Martin Chitty	
Di Brennan	
Rosemary Langford	
Trevor Howes	
Michael Parker	
Lesley McCaul	Street Rep
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	
Moira Buckley	
Dr Sadar Ahmed	
Simon Wright	
Christina McDonald	
Ian Shaw	Street Rep
Rod Lewington	
Sucheta Samant	Southfields Library
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>