



## Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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Charles Runcie (CR) in the chair.

CR welcomed all, including those joining via Zoom, to the first SGRA hybrid public meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Guy Humphries and Cllr Kim Caddy (Cllr Humphries was at a planning committee. Cllr Caddy was indisposed but sent a report); Nina Kowalska (GtG)

CR welcomed Cllr Samantha MacArthur, the new Wimbledon Park councillor (Merton), and Johnny Perkins and Ulrika Hogberg from AELTC.

**1. Minutes + matters arising from the public meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and the executive meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022;** these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>. No matters which weren't due to be raised at this meeting.

**2. AELTC update:** *Johnny Perkins and Ulrika Hogberg*

**Tickets:** Ulrika Hogberg explained that this year's tickets had been rolled over from 2020. The 'Middle Sunday' had been added for the first time, and tickets for this had been sold via the 'community offer'. AELTC are interested in residents' experience of this. 1500 tickets had been allocated to refugees from Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan, and to NHS heroes. This initiative will continue.

**The Road closure** was an experimental traffic order, with traffic being diverted from Southfields. Initial reactions seem positive, and Ulrika asked for local feedback from this also. She noted that although we are in Wandsworth, it is a Merton decision.

**The 'Queue'** was back for the first time since 2019. Numbers were lower in the first week; the numbers in the second week were back to normal. The space taken up in the park for the Queue was planned for a certain level and it is understandable there is local concern when it appears space allocated is not used. AELTC will work on being more agile so that no more space is taken than needed and ongoing local activities (eg football) are not impeded unnecessarily.

It was not clear why visitor numbers in Southfields were lower this year.

Contact for feedback: [ulrika.hogberg@aeltc.com](mailto:ulrika.hogberg@aeltc.com)

### Residents' queries:

- **Empty seats:** A resident acknowledged the Championships were well organised but raised concern over the number of seats apparently empty. Johnny Perkins pointed out that people with tickets do go in and out to other courts and to walk around the grounds. NB There is the ticket resale point available. Returns do occur as there is a generous refund on ticket up to 24 hours before
- Another resident pointed out the facility to buy tickets came quite late this year, so it was hard to find a companion to go with. This was taken on board; AELTC will try to publicise these tickets earlier next year
- A resident asked why a charity he supports – Love All Serve All - wasn't permitted to give refreshments this year to those in the queue, when they had in previous years. Ulrika will find out why this happened
- There was a query about why the bag searches appeared cursory. There were several examples given, including a report of a camera operator whose large bags were not searched. This will be passed on to the relevant people

**The Wimbledon Park Development Project:**

Charles Runcie read from Cllr Kim Caddy's email: *'Officers are collating responses to the re-consultation and the scheme is unlikely to come to planning earlier than October. Timings will also depend on Merton as there is a preference to have them come to both Boroughs in the same month.'*

Ulrika and Johnny agreed this was accurate.

**Discussion:**

- Cllr Samantha MacArthur explained there is a lot going on behind scenes and that people are continuing to respond
- Fleur Anderson MP has met with Merton Council representatives and with Stephen Hammond MP. She explained the application should be considered by the planning committee as a standalone item, but this is not a given
- Charles Runcie reminded the floor that the SGRA website has posted papers from WURA (Wimbledon Union of Residents' Associations), urging residents to respond: [Posts - Southfields Grid Residents Association](#)
- Simon Wright read a note from Stephen Hammond MP confirming the Officer's report is likely 10 days prior to the meeting and that Wandsworth will be first. The report is reviewing the response to the application. It is very comprehensive, referring to the relevant planning regulations and legislation, the comments and objections and includes the Officer's recommendations. The planning committee councillors must decide. It will be put on the council website within Application Documents so the public can see the direction in which it is going. Simon pointed out it is very unusual to have a cross boundary planning application
- Margaret Brett reminded the floor that, as there has been a change, they should reinforce their previous comments. The due dates are: Merton 15<sup>th</sup> August; Wandsworth 2<sup>nd</sup> August, but Wandsworth will continue to accept comments after this date
- A resident expressed how the large number of documents makes finding specific information very difficult. She asked about the length of the closure of Church Road and the possibility that it might close permanently. Ulrika explained the application doesn't include Church Road, but the suggestion is to close for 3 weeks, and it will remain open for the rest of the year. It will categorically not be closed for more than three weeks (it is not part of AELTC). Ulrika and Johnny both added that there will categorically not be a hotel built on the site
- Fleur Anderson MP asked if there has been consideration to ensure, via a trust fund or other means, that further development of courts, accommodation etc on the golf course cannot be carried out? She asked for clarification of how many weeks in total the new park may be out of action. The response was that exact details are not clear, but AELTC are working on keeping some access during championships. It will be a 3-week period, with not much temporary structure added, perhaps with a week either side
- The long-term future of parkland: there will be part of a section 106 agreement in terms of ensuring access to the general public
- A resident asked if more people might use Wimbledon Park tube station to access the championships if the main entrance is via the park? The response was that the platform is quite narrow and the exit small
- **Repairs to the field and pavement cleaning in Southfields:** Ulrika explained that this year IdVerde are carrying out repairs in a coordinated approach with AELTC and this will be carried out in September. AELTC have offered to contribute to the deep cleaning of the pavements along Wimbledon Park Road and are working with the council to do so. Further details on this, and on the status of the Wimbledon Foundation's Community Fund Grant can be found in the 'Short AELTC and Wimbledon Foundation update': <https://bit.ly/3oFrSv9>

**Post meeting note: there has been confirmation that the application will not be heard before October. The aim is for the application to go to both committees in the same month.**

### 3. Council and public realm latest:

Charles Runcie read notes from Cllr Kim Caddy regarding local issues: <https://bit.ly/SGRAlocalissues>  
He reminded the floor that Southfields Ward now has 2 councillors only.

The aim is for the public realm works to be finished by November.

Discussion:

- A resident asked if Lavenham Road can be resurfaced
- A resident had recently slipped on the pavement; it was recommended she contacts Cllr Caddy directly
- Margaret Brett (Executive Committee) stated that the repaving of areas such as outside Oxfam and KFH Lettings have still not been carried out, despite assurances that they would be. In addition, we are still waiting for our community noticeboard. She requested these issues be chased up
- A resident raised the issue of the 'Human Forest' scooters, which have recently been seen around the Grid and are taking up parking spaces. He has raised this with Human Forest and direct with Cllr Guy Humphries

Fleur Anderson updated the meeting about issues on which she is currently focusing in the Grid:

- **Cost of living** concerns are a main focus. Please contact Fleur asap on all concerns including evictions, bills, money worries as she will signpost onwards
- **Passport** help: there is now a special office in parliament for this: contact Fleur if there is an urgent need
- She is working with the **Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce** to support the Southfields Business Forum
- She has met the **Youth Services Cabinet Officer** as there is a lack of services in the local area
- Fleur can be contacted at: [fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk)

### 4. Platinum Jubilee Street Parties and Seniors' Tea Party reviews: *Charles Runcie*

Charles acknowledged the success and number of street parties and the success of the Seniors' Tea Party. He reminded the floor that the recent edition of Grid News has many photographs which are a lovely record.

### 5. Front Garden Awards 2022 review: *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

Amelia thanked everyone for making such an effort with their gardens and window boxes. She pointed out there are still many paved over front gardens but also several newly planted gardens. It is lovely when new people get awards, and she has had much positive feedback.

Awards:

- Awards were given to 'Delightful' and 'Outstanding' gardens; this was new this year.
- 28 'Outstanding' awards were awarded and overall there were 150 awards; some streets were better than others!
- The overall winner was in Trentham Street and the 2 runners up were in Lavenham Road and Elborough Street. There were some lovely tree bases, while some do need a bit more TLC
- The presentation will take place at the Southfields Harvest, hopefully by the Mayor of Wandsworth
- In response to a question from a resident, Amelia explained there were 6 judges, who used clear, agreed criteria

### 6. SGRA Executive Reports:

#### a) **Planning:** *Margaret Brett*

- There are only two applications of concern - the Rifle Club and AELTC
- There are now 394 objections to the Rifle Club and allotments application (2022/1429). They have nationwide support as colleagues and former members are rallying to their cause. They have also demonstrated that there is plenty of capacity in local children's nurseries

- The retrospective planning application to change the new shop front at 243a Wimbledon Park Road (2022/1817) has been refused
- The appeal against the refusal for a second storey at the rear of 162 and 164 Heythorp Street remains undecided. (2021/4828)
- A revised application to develop the land to the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road (2022/0518) is still open but not fully registered so there are no details published
- The application (2021/3379), for two additional storeys at 271 Wimbledon Park Road, formerly Costas, was refused but they have been making changes to the front of the building without planning permission
- Thai Girder has reopened as Chilli and Beans. Bournes is being refurbished. Chalk has changed hands. The work on the old Bulcraig's site is proceeding slowly. Despite the height of the scaffolding, the roof level and general appearance at the front is being retained
- AELTC have slightly revised their application in response to discussions with the two Councils and the GLA. This has generated numerous new or revised documents and a further official consultation by both Councils. Merton (21/P2900) until 15 August and Wandsworth (2021/3609) until 2 August. Further information is in the recent newsletter and on the SGRA website. The changes are primarily about clarifying and increasing the community benefits, eg 500 tickets available for local residents daily at the new Show Court and pressing their case for Very Special Circumstances. There are now 651 objections with 25 in support
- WBC have a new policy imitative on climate control. They are convening a Citizens Assembly in the autumn. They hope to have more school streets and improve road safety around schools, more bike hangars and more charging points, are considering an e-hire bike scheme, expanding the food waste recycling scheme, and have monthly mega skips to help tackle fly tipping

In response to a query about what businesses may be moving into empty shops, Margaret explained it is difficult to know as there is currently no Southfields Business Forum. Many properties have lease problems. The Barclays licensing application was made before February.

b) **Finance:** *Chris Puleston*

There is £5300 in the bank; we are currently in the middle of the collection season; a further £2300 is expected from that. £600 has been paid online, a usual amount (usually 30% is paid online). Bills outstanding include Grid News payment. The expectation is to pay approximately £6500 for projects. There is no deadline for subscriptions; please write your street name in the description when paying.

c) **Crime:** *Clive Williams*

Clive is the Southfields Neighbourhood Panel chair and has access to the Safer Neighbourhood Board meetings. They provide rolling 12-month data for the whole borough. NB the total was 25814 crimes in whole borough; Wandsworth is the safest in inner London and there has been a 1/3 drop in Southfields crime figures since the recent boundary change. A detailed breakdown of crimes can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/AprilMayCrimeFigures>

There is a family event at AFC, Plough Lane on 31<sup>st</sup> July, organised by SW Command Unit.

d) **Comms, website, social media and latest Grid News:** *Charles Runcie*

There are healthy numbers on all platforms.

## 7. Green Spaces Updates:

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

Nick prepared a detailed PDF which can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/FoWPJuly22>

Main points:

- Dam safety: the daylighted brook is in the pay to use area; the aim is for it to be free to use and developed into a water garden

- Stage 1 – Merton local plan examination: please do read the extract regarding treating the park holistically
- Revelstoke Road entrance: TfL continue to be very difficult, so this has been re-referred to Leonie Cooper (AM)
- AELTC – the car park is to be reduced from 650 to 350 spaces, ceasing in 2026. FoWP argue it should cease in 2023. Please send views on camping in public park. The fifth submission put in is based on new papers. Community assets include the junior golf academy which is not able to continue
- WURA 'Save Wimbledon Park' campaign: details on website. FoWP have added a paragraph on alternatives and will put out a separate document
- Merton Heritage Strategy 2021-25: more involvement in recognising the park as a heritage asset
- Volunteers – tree planting and other activities have taken place. The hot weather is brutal to trees, some hornbeams are wilting
- Phil Walker sadly died in July this year; this is a great loss

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

Nina Kowalska sent her apologies. Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty outlined GtG's recent work:

- There was a successful plant giveaway day on 14<sup>th</sup> May. These were grown from seed by around 20 residents, known as 'Grid growers'. More details in Grid news
- A big thankyou to Eamon McCluskey for letting GtG use his premises, which is a great community hub
- The next big day is Southfields Harvest. GtG will be giving away plants, crocuses, wallflowers etc
- Covid permitting, a wreath making workshop will take place
- Nina has written to Cllrs Guy Humphries and Kim Caddy and Sidonie Forrest-Brown (Senior Transport planner) about 'greening up' Southfields
- Thank you to AELTC for giving plants from the Championships. They will be planted in tree pits in central Southfields

**c) Friends of Coronation Gardens: Charles Runcie**

FoCG had a low key but successful picnic last weekend; there were free cupcakes, and more sign-ups for membership. There are plans by the council for improvements; flyers regarding the initial consultation are available and can be seen online here:

<https://bit.ly/CoronationGardensImprovements>

£143,000 has been granted for improvements to the play area and £30,000 for biodiversity improvements. The council are interested in hearing from regular users about how to spend the fund.

**8. Forthcoming events:**

- Southfields Harvest, St Barnabas Church: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 12-3pm. This is a great community event. People are needed to help set up, please contact Elizabeth on [southfieldsharvest@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldsharvest@gmail.com)
- Southfields Ward Panel meeting: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am at St Barnabas Church
- 7<sup>th</sup> December: provisional lights switch on

**9. AOB**

- None

**Next Public Meeting:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 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
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Ulrika Hogberg	AELTC
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park
Fleur Anderson	MP
Cllr Samantha MacArthur	Wimbledon Park councillor
Helen Forbes	
Simon Wright	
Ian Shaw	
Kyle Forder	
Georgia Forder	
Trevor Howes	
Rosie Langford	
Hilary Simpson	
Shiraz Dato	
Mark Lubienski	
Aidan Magill	
Diane Brennan	
Lesley McCaul	
Peter Jackson	
Rosemary Iveson	
Fiona Guthrie	
Paul Rogers	
Katrina Ure	<b>Total: 31</b>