



Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 31st January 2023

Charles Runcie (CR) in the chair.

CR welcomed all, including those joining via Zoom, to the SGRA hybrid public meeting. He introduced Safer Neighbourhood Team members PCSO Don Lopes (Southfields) and PCSO Celia Allaker (Putney)

Apologies for absence:

Fleur Anderson (MP), Ian Tattum (St Barnabas), Aidan Magill

1. Minutes + matters arising from the Public meeting on December 2022 and the Executive meeting on 17th January 2023; these can be seen on: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/>.

Public meeting:

- All arising items to be addressed in this meeting

Executive Meeting:

- The committee had discussed the suggestion, made by a resident, of siting a further defibrillator in Southfields. There are already 2: one in Tesco on Replingham Road, and one in the tube station. Other suggestions were asked for. Krystals was mentioned again as it is open 24 hours. There was no clear solution following an in-depth discussion, but this will be considered further. There will be an item in the next Grid News letting residents know where the current ones are.
- A Southfields calendar was suggested for 2024 of recent and historical photographs. Costs are being looked into
- Lorinda Freint (Wandsworth Council) joined Fleur Anderson MP with others for a 'walkabout' to look at vacant business properties in Southfields. CR continues to liaise with LF regarding SBF
- CR reminded the floor that Southfields Harvest is still searching for someone to take over the running of this event

2. Special Guests: Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team - PCSOs Don Lopes (Southfields) and Celia Allaker (East Putney)

PCSO Lopes gave apologies from PC Robbie Quijano Amigo as he had been involved in a work incident and was unable to attend. He went through the recent data for: Burglary/Theft from and of motor vehicle and Violence against a person (with and without injuries). The statistics are for Southfields Ward and the Wandsworth average and show Southfields is well below average. Detailed data and advice given at the recent Southfields SNT Ward Panel meeting can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/WardPanelMtg28-01-23>

Key points:

- Southside is no longer in the Southfields Ward; Southside has a higher crime prevalence
- A resident raised the issue of catalytic converter theft. This is an ongoing problem
- **Speed gun use:** there is a plan to use this in the evenings on the whole of Wimbledon Park Road.
- Cllr Humphries told the floor that the **Wandsworth Council speed camera scheme** at the southern end of Wimbledon Park Road has been challenged in court and the outcome is not yet finalised. Currently warning letters are being sent but the ability to issue fines is being challenged
- **Cold callers:** there have been reports of an ex-offender knocking on residents' doors in the evening. He has a card reader (so non-cash) which is not acceptable; it malfunctioned, and he became angry. The Grid is a 'No cold calling zone' so please send footage to southfields@met.police.uk

- **Theft from vehicles** – PCSO Lopes emphasised the importance of not leaving valuables in cars. A Faraday pouch is recommended for keys. Keep keys away from the front door. People are trying doors; a Ring doorbell has been stolen by a burglar crawling on ground in the early morning, reaching up and pulling the doorbell off. They also use a hook through the letterbox to get keys. An example is of a recent burglary where keys were taken from the inside radiator using a long stick
- **Thefts of packages:** if anyone is seen hanging around, please let police know, they want to act. Send footage as they will reply and keep it. Also do use WhatsApp groups to let neighbours know they have packages etc. These are a great community resource
- **Distraction burglary:** eg a person knocking on the door and offering services such as decorating/plumbing. Also pretending to be delivering an item. Don't be conned or be 'too nice,' just say you're not interested. If you're not expecting anyone, don't let them in. (Older people are particularly targeted). Obtain footage if you can
- **UV pens** are available to use on electronic items – put your initials and postcode on back. This can enable recovered items to be returned to owners. Free pens available at this meeting
- PCSO Lopes did a straw poll, given the incident with PC Quijano Amigo, if the floor thought all police should have Tasers? 8 out of 34 people thought 'yes'. Comments included the need to be careful of vulnerable people and that they should only be in the hands of trained people. 5 felt 'no' with reasons such as potentially normalising weaponry. This issue is currently in discussion within the police

CR thanked PCSOs Lopes and Allaker for giving up their time in the evening and sent our best wishes to their colleagues

3. Council Matters: Cllr Guy Humphries

- **Southfields Business Forum & meeting with Fleur Anderson MP ref shops:**

GH reminded the floor that there are efforts to reinvigorate the SBF. There are many empty units which is a worrying trend. It is difficult for the council to get leverage to encourage landlords to fill them and several appear happy to leave them empty. Government legislation is currently going through as part of 'levelling up', meaning that after 2 years of a retail unit being empty, the council will have powers.

Examples in Southfields are Sikelia and the Barclays building. Key points:

- SBF are looking at holding a summer event. GH asked residents to support this
- Residents need to use local shops as much as possible – 'use or lose'

A general discussion elicited the following points:

- The cycle shop has recently closed and moved to Kingston
- Rents are very high for these units

- **Signage/Litter:**

Concern has been raised recently over the level of dog mess and litter in tree bases across the Grid. Following discussion at the Executive Committee meeting Cllr Humphries was contacted with suggestions for improving and updating signage across the Grid. Serena Potter outlined residents' concerns on the section of Heythorp Street nearest Replingham Road and their suggestion of introducing litter bins in that part of the street, possibly as a trial.

- GH suggested that standards are slipping as the cleaning contract is nearing an end. Bin collection appears sloppier and street sweeping is not as good. He pointed out that the Christmas tree collection this year has been late and sporadic and that there are still some to be collected
- GH suggested that the introduction of dog mess bins across the Grid could be a solution
- GH will investigate upgrading dog mess signs
- Perhaps a litter bin trial on the north section of Heythorp Street
- Street Reps will be asked to identify missing street signs. Some have been removed during building works to individual houses and not replaced

- **Abandoned Lime bikes:** Wandsworth had confiscated several but do not appear to be doing this. Council has limited powers
- **Public Realm improvement**

CR read out Sidonie Forrest-Brown's responses to the SGRA questions. Full text can be read here:

<https://bit.ly/PublicForumQandA31-01-23>

Discussion was focused on the extreme slipperiness of pavement surfaces, particularly in cold weather.

4. **Trips: WRWA/ City Hall:** *Charles Runcie*

- Western Riverside Waste Authority Tours are offered to groups of residents. Further information re: dates and signing up will be circulated
- Leonie Cooper AM has offered to take a party of Southfields residents around the new City Hall in East London. Up to 30 people will be able to attend. CR will find a date and circulate

5. **United Service Transport sign:** *Clive Williams*

This is a mosaic sign on the building behind the Shell Garage on Merton Road which is in poor order. CW outlined its history and the action being considered to save it:

- It was erected by 1933 and the company was sold to Hertz in 1966. HR Owen now occupies the building. The Heritage of London Trust are interested as it is a rarity and is possibly the largest mosaic of its type in country. It is an important piece of early 20th century advertising
- The Heritage of London Trust is proposing to pay half and renovate it. HR Owen will also pay half, and they will work with Riversdale Primary School on an art project and also Southfields Academy with a view to an apprenticeship link. It will offer a good community benefit

6. **Mend, Fix & Repair Café:** *Serena Potter*

SP reported a very successful first 'Mend, Fix and Repair Café' at St Barnabas Church on 21st January, following the 'soft launch' at St Barnabas Christmas Fair. 50 items were brought for repair and over half were mended. Others had advice given or were confirmed as 'end of life', meaning owners knew what their options were. 7 repairers (for electricals/non-electricals/phones/computers) and 1 clothes repairer attended.

There was a tremendous community atmosphere with refreshments, information and Toby Costin from Crew Energy gave advice on energy saving in homes. Serena thanked Elizabeth, Guy, Richard, Hilary, Di and Selina - who were at the meeting - for their help in volunteering.

The next event is planned for 18th March from 12-3pm. However, a person to PAT test electrical items is needed for it to be able to go ahead, for insurance reasons. If anyone can help, please let Serena know on restartsouthfields@gmail.com. More repairers, including for jewellery, are needed.

7. **SGRA Executive Highlights:** *Charles Runcie*

- **Finance** (Chris Puleston): £6000 in the bank. Expenses include the Front Garden Awards and Grid News. The Seniors' Tea Party will be held next financial year
- **Planning** (Margaret Brett):
 - SGRA have put in an objection to the proposal for a new house behind 24 Replingham Road (Heythorp Street)
 - The AELTC consultation is still open. There are 1022 objections to date
 - There are 550 objections to the Rifle Club application. It is still open
- **Crime:** (Clive Williams): CW reported that Southfields SNT had held a Community Speed Gun Event in Replingham and Wimbledon Park Roads on 29th January. All the Southfields SNT officers were involved as was one of the West Hill Team. A number of vehicles were found to be travelling well over the 20mph speed limit. They were stopped and their drivers spoken to. The SNT are hoping to arrange some similar events in the future.
- **Detailed Crime figures** can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SGRACrimefiguresDec2022>
- New ward maps are on the website

8. Coronation Weekend: Street Parties (7th May) and The Big Help Out (8th May): Charles Runcie
CR alerted the floor to these events and suggested there may be some street parties. Friends of Coronation Gardens are hoping to hold an event

9. Forthcoming events:

- Window Wanderland: 25-26th February. 5.30 – 9pm
- Southfields Ward Panel, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church: Saturday 22nd April, 10.30am

10. Green Spaces Updates:

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

NS went through his power point presentation which can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/FoWPJan23>

Key points:

- **Revelstoke Road Entrance:** Unsuccessful with the first grant application, a second has made to Civic Pride but NS is not hopeful. Estimates are being obtained. £5k has been obtained from the National Grid
- **AELTC 1993 covenant** – lakeside walk
A key point is that the covenant will not take effect until the leases 'ceases to subsist'. AELTC have retained the leases which appears to delay the dedication of the land as a public walkway until 2041.

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

CR encouraged residents to join; the fee is £10 per year

11. AOB

- AELTC is inviting people to take tours on the last Sat and Fri of each month in February and March
- St Barnabas Church is open on Saturdays and is a Warm Space: 9-12 noon
- 3000 flyers from the council will be requested to be inserted into the next Grid news

Next Public Meeting: Tuesday 28th March 2023, 7.45 - 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church

Appendix: Attendance List

| Name | Role |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Charles Runcie | SGRA Executive Committee – Chair |
| Serena Potter | SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary |
| Margaret Brett | SGRA Executive Committee/Lavenham Road Rep |
| Gerard Sebastian | SGRA Executive Committee Vice-Chair |
| Chris Puleston | SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer/Elborough Street Rep |
| Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty | SGRA Executive Committee/Trentham Street Rep |
| Ann Kerr | SGRA Executive Committee/Clonmore Street Rep |
| Clive Williams | SGRA Executive Committee |
| Nick Steiner | Friends of Wimbledon Park/Clonmore Street Rep |
| PCSO Don Lopes | Southfields SNT |
| PCSO Celia Allaker | Putney SNT |
| Sucheta Samant | Southfields Library (Zoom) |
| Clare Li | (Z) |
| Shiraz Datto | (Z) |
| Ian Shaw | Brookwood Street Rep |
| CLlr Guy Humphries | Southfields Ward |

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Public Meeting – 31.01.23

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| Trevor Howes | |
| David Boyle | Langton Place Street Rep |
| Ian Shaw | Brookwood Road Street Rep |
| Hilary Simpson | (Z) |
| Dr Sadar Ahmad | |
| Rosemary Langford | (Z) |
| Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen | (Z) |
| Diane Brennan | |
| Lee Roberts | Putney Conservatives |
| Lesley McCaul | Astonville Street Rep |
| Peter Jackson | |
| Kyra von Schottenstein | Heythorp Street Street Rep |
| Tim Taylor-Roberts | |
| Carlo Gallizia | |
| Eliana Basto | |
| Selina | (Z) |
| Bernadette Infante-Wells | (Z) |
| Tare & Elizabeth | (Z) |
| | Total: 34 |