

**Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee**

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Members Present:** Charles Runcie (CR), Gerard Sebastian, Chris Puleston (CP), Clive Williams (CW), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO-M), Serena Potter (SP), Margaret Brett (MB), and Ann Kerr (AK).

<b>Actions from last meeting</b>	<b>Owner(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Set up Street Rep meeting to discuss possible of Grid streets' health and other matters	GS	Open
Check details of defibrillators in Tesco and at the tube station for next Grid News	CR	Closed
Contact Sidonie Forrest-Brown regarding outstanding Public Realm items	CR	Closed
Raise issues around mess and litter around tree bases/signage/litter bins with Councillors at next Public Meeting – 31/1/23. Clarify process for contacting council regarding such issues	CR	Closed Open
Involve Street Reps in identifying missing street signs/sites requiring them. Arrange a Street Rep meeting in the spring	GS	Open
Investigate cost of printing and 2024 SGRA calendar	CP	Open
Liaise with Lorinda Freint ref: Southfields Business Forum	CR	Closed
Check in with new manager/owner of Krystals	GS	Open
Liaise with EL-O regarding supporting hand over of Southfields Harvest	CR	Open
<b>New Actions</b>	<b>Owner (s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Meet with Ludo Press	CR & GS	Open
Draw up reasons for increasing annual subscription for presentation to residents	CR	Open
Put item in Grid News to inform residents about the possibility of applying to become a 'Conservation Area' and ask their views	CR	Open
Put item in Grid News regarding replacement for FGA organiser	CR	Open
GS to invite all street reps to the next public meeting 25-04-23	GS	Open
Put together a 'blurb' for advertising via crowdfunding (UST sign)	CR/CW	Open

1. **Apologies for absence:** None

2. **Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (17.01.23)**

- None which aren't to be discussed in this meeting. CP to look into costs for the proposed calendar and email the Executive Committee.

**Action: CP & GS to meet Ludo press**

**Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (31.01.23)**

- None which aren't to be discussed in this meeting

3. **Proposal to increase annual subscription from £3 to £5 at the 2023 AGM:**

*Comparative local organisations: FoWP: £5 WPRA: £5 FoCG: £10 Wandsworth Society: £15*  
Discussion elicited:

- a general feeling that it is a good idea to be competitive. However, there is a need to justify an increase to residents. For example, the SGRA could be more open to funding community activities etc
- CP explained lot of people do already give more than £3. The average per household is around £7 but those who do pay the minimum may feel unable to increase their contribution. There is a

drop of around £500 per Grid News publication recently as printing costs have gone up and advertising hasn't

**Action: Put together concrete reasons for increasing subscription**

4. **Grid status as 'Conservation Area'** *Margaret Brett*

- Wandsworth Council are revising their management plan for conservation areas. MB summarised the guidance on the website regarding the effect on conservation on planning laws
- Applying for the Southfields Grid to be a 'Conservation Area' was discussed a number of years ago and the opinion is that now may be a good time to revisit this. The best way to protect an area from significant change is to become a Conservation Area'

**Action: CR put item in newsletter to inform residents and ask their views**

5. **Executive Committee changes:** *Charles Runcie*

- Front Garden Awards: Amelia O-M is standing down from organising this. She will write an outline of tasks involved and will ask those on the FGA group if anyone will take over

**Action: an item to go in Grid news to ask for volunteers**

**Prospective new adopted committee members (4)**

- There are several enthusiastic Street Reps who could be invited to be co-opted to the Executive Committee

**'Minutes secretary' – new role / 'Membership secretary' – new role**

- SP would like to stand down from taking minutes at the meetings due to time and other pressures. She is also happy to hand over the database maintenance to someone who is more knowledgeable about IT/marketing
- One or more of the newly co-opted Executive Committee members might be well placed to take on these roles

**Action: GS to invite all street reps to the next public meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March**

6. **Southfields Business Forum latest:** *Charles Runcie/Gerard Sebastian*

- Southfields has not recovered post-Covid as well as other places, according to Lorinda Freint (Wandsworth BC) and colleagues
- GS has not yet met the Krystals' manager
- A friend of GS has created a local shopping app for residents in Sheen. This is of interest

7. **SGRA contribution to the UST sign:** *Charles Runcie/Clive Williams*

- CW: Heritage for London are hoping to match fund with HR Owen and have offered £10K. The total cost is £20K + VAT
- CR has put Heritage for London in touch with AELTC with the hope a contribution may be forthcoming
- CR suggested SGRA offer a contribution

**Action: CW and CR to put together a 'blurb' for advertising via crowdfunding.**

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

The plan is for tours of WRWA in early April and City Hall in May. Details to follow.

9. **New website design and build:** *Gerard Sebastian*

This is going well. Next step – to take photos of committee members for uploading

**10. Ongoing updates:**

• **Comms including Grid News:** *Charles Runcie*

The next edition of Grid News is due to 24<sup>th</sup> March to Andrew Dunley; delivery from March 25<sup>th</sup>

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

- The Rifle Club and allotments application remains under consideration (2022/1429) and there are 562 objections. MB sent in an additional comment highlighting a change to the draft Local Plan strengthening protection for sports areas
- The refusal for retrospective permission to change the shop front at 243a Wimbledon Park Road (2022/1817) is at appeal
- We objected to the revised application to develop the land to the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road (2022/0518) and this is still open
- We objected to the renewed application to build behind 24 Replingham Road as this is over development of a very small plot. (2022/5276). MB sent in a further comment as there has been a change to the draft Local Plan requiring an increase in private amenity space to 10sqm
- The AELTC application (2021/3609) remains under consideration with 1128 objections showing on the Wandsworth website. There are also more posts in support. There are some quite detailed analyses from other community groups
- The public realm works have not been completed as the work outside the station is still outstanding as are the issues of the telephone box and community notice board. We are told that something will be done to address the eroding surfaces. The damaged paving outside 26 A Replingham Road has not been repaired neither has the water fountain been replaced. This is down to the utility companies involved

**Local issues**

- Merton are proposing a 24-hour clearway on Church Road. This will impact on Wimbledon Park Road where there are speeding issues. Wandsworth's introduction of fines for speeding here have been deemed unlawful. The clearway is being introduced to deal with contractor parking causing blocking at busy periods It will affect the Wimbledon Club users at the weekend
- Fleur Anderson MP held a meeting to consider the state of the empty shops. Yellow Print and The Bicycle repair shop have closed. There are signs of refurbishment in Bournes, and the old estate agents next to Dropshot. We are told that there are problems with repairs at the Barclays site
- The draft Local Plan is in its final stages and should be adopted later in the summer

• **Crime:** *Clive Williams*

There was no new information since the last meeting.

• **Finance:** *Chris Puleston*

- There are 2 outstanding advertisers' invoices to be paid (£330)
- £6412 in bank
- There was no Senior tea party this financial year so there were no outgoings

• **FoWP:** *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

- The current focus is on work regarding AELTC and the Revelstoke Road entrance (no change since last public meeting)
- The Volunteer Gardening Group is starting up again
- AGM: 15<sup>th</sup> March

- **FoCG:** *Charles Runcie*
  - The Gardening group is going well
  - The Fountain will be restored. Steve Jukes from Wandsworth Council, and Wendy Cater from the Wandsworth Society, have provided more info about Edwardian fountain relating to the Coronation in May
  - Riversdale Fun Run (organised by PTA): Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March
  - AGM: Scout Hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm
  - FoC Coronation event on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May, possibly link with Big Help Out
  
- **Streets Reps/Small Business Register updates:** *Gerard Sebastian*
  - GS to arrange meeting for Street Reps, as above
  - GS will update interest for next Grid newsletter ref Small Business Register

**11. Forthcoming events**

- ‘Southfields Stories’ (Hannah Need): 18<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm St Barnabas Church
- Southfields Ward Panel Meeting: 10.30am, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10.30am St Barnabas Church
- Restart Southfields: Mend, Fix & Repair Café, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 12 – 3pm, St Barnabas Church
- Coronation Weekend: 6-8<sup>th</sup> May
- Seniors’ Tea Party, St Barnabas Church. **The Committee agreed to amend this date to 7<sup>th</sup> May 3-5.30pm**, to fit in with the Coronation Weekend

**12. Dates of next meetings:**

- **Public: 28<sup>th</sup> March:** 7.45 – 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church. Hybrid meeting
- **Executive: 25<sup>th</sup> April:** 8 – 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church

**13. AOB**

- Speaker for the next Public Meeting: Lorinda Freint
- Defibrillator: AO-M stated Trevor Howes has said Krystals had agreed to have one. GS to confirm with the Krystals manager
- Suggested pack of SGRA information to give to estate agent/s for new residents: AO-M raised this previously discussed item. Committee agreed that each Grid news contains much useful new information for people who move into the area. In addition, the SGRA postcards could be given out