



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023

1. Welcome, apologies for absence: *Charles Runcie (Chair)*

Charles welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the procedure for the formal aspect of the meeting. He welcomed Cllr Kim Caddy from Southfields ward and Cllrs Tony Reiss and Jil Hall from Wimbledon Park ward (Merton Council).

Agenda change – item 9 to be moved to item 5 for clarity.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Guy Humphries, Ann Kerr (Executive Committee), Shiraz Dato, Rod Lewington (newly elected Executive Committee)

2. Minutes of 2022 for approval, and matters arising: *Charles Runcie*

- There were no matters arising
- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty proposed the acceptance of the minutes, and this was seconded by Ian Shaw

3. Chair's review 2022/23: *Charles Runcie (Chair)*

Charles Runcie presented his review of the year, which is posted on the website and can be seen in full here: **Chair's report:** [Meetings | Southfields Grid Residents' Association](#)

CR outlined the key activities and successes and the challenges for the year ahead. These included:

- 3 new additions to the Executive Committee in April who are standing for election
- A summary of the role of Street Representatives
- Membership numbers and subscription details. Approximately 2-4 emails are sent per month to the membership database
- The refreshment of the SGRA website: ideas from residents are welcome
- Local issues:
 - the committee are indebted to Simon Wright for his work on the AELTC proposals
 - Crime: regular reports on crime & safety on the Grid are given at meetings. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are regularly invited to meetings and Clive Williams (Executive Committee) chairs the quarterly Ward Panel meetings
 - Inspector Paul James (Wandsworth Neighbourhoods Inspector) will be speaking at the SGRA public meeting in July
 - Public Realm: CR communicates with Sidonie Forrest-Brown regarding outstanding work. Cllr Kim Caddy gave an update on this, explaining that the reason the barriers around tube station are not completed is a supply chain issue but will be installed after the Wimbledon Championships. She explained the water fountain reinstallation will also be done in this time scale and that a gas leak below it is the reason for the delay. The installation of the green wall outside the tube station has been promised

4. Financial review 2022/23: Chris Puleston (Treasurer)

Chris Puleston presented his report, which can be seen here: [Meetings | Southfields Grid Residents' Association](#)

Key points:

- £4,569 has been carried forward from last year and new income is £7,731. £12,300 is available, which is similar to last year
- Advertising costs were kept down for businesses in order to help them through the pandemic
- Donations online remain about the same; average per household: £1
- Expenditure: paper costs have increased significantly. There were 2x Tea Party outgoings this year due to the date change. 'Other' includes items such as the cost of hiring the room in church; subscription envelopes; insurance and the display board for the Food Bank

Acceptance of the 2022-23 accounts was proposed by Ian Tattum and seconded by Clive Williams.

5. Proposal to increase annual SGRA membership from £3 to £5 (item brought forward from item 9)

Charles Runcie put forward the rationale behind the proposal to raise the annual SGRA subscription to £5 minimum per household:

- Various items have increased in price (printing paper/tea/refreshments etc)
- There has been no increase for at least 5 years
- He has looked at subscriptions for other associations (Wimbledon Park Residents' Association: £5; Wimbledon Society: £15; Friends of Wimbledon Park: £5, Friends of Coronation Gardens: £10, Wimbledon Common West Residents' Association: £10)

A resident asked how this increase would be publicised? CR responded it will be clearly printed on the subscription envelope, explained in the next edition of Grid News and will be in the minutes.

CR asked the floor to vote on the proposal and this was carried.

6. Election of SGRA officers for 2023/24

The following were nominated and elected unopposed as SGRA officials:

- SGRA Chair: Charles Runcie
- SGRA Secretary: Serena Potter
- SGRA Treasurer: Chris Puleston

The role of Vice-Chair was declared vacant as Gerard Sebastian has stood down. Nobody had been nominated so this role remains vacant.

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

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

- Ann Kerr
- Margaret Brett
- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty
- Clive Williams
- Ameet Phadnis
- Ian Shaw
- Kyle Forder
- Rod Lewington

8. Appointment/confirmation of street representatives for 2023/24

- Vacancy: Revelstoke Road
 - Vacancy: Hanford Close
- Nobody stood so both roles remain vacant.

9. Guest speakers:

a. Tom Newman (Waste Strategy Department, Wandsworth Council): Update on Food waste recycling trial:

Tom updated the floor on the current status of the trial. It has now become a permanent service and is being rolled out more widely across the borough:

- The pilot started in November 2021 (80 weeks ago) and has given much valuable learning and operational experience
- Previously all the waste would have been black bag waste and been incinerated. Instead, this industrial composting produces biogas for the national grid; also digestate (a liquid used in agricultural soil improvement)
- Since inception 230 tonnes has been produced (equivalent to 13 full double decker London buses!) The target of 3.2 tonnes per week was being exceeded at the beginning; now it is a little below at approximately 3 tonnes per week, but this is not a concern. It is difficult to know the reason why, but it could be that the cost of living is causing people to waste less
- A residents' survey was launched in December 2022. Tom thanked all respondents; there were 200 contributors in the final week and the responses were heavily weighted towards those who were actively using scheme (90%). Interesting findings included over 50% suggesting it was having the effect of reducing the amount of food they waste
- The council provided the initial caddies and bags, and a new roll has been delivered to all households in the last 2 weeks. There have been many requests recently for new caddies; please be patient while these are being distributed
- Thanks to the Southfields Grid success the service is being expanded across the borough. In 3 weeks' time 4000 households in the Bedford Hill area (flats in estates and higher density households) will be included, also the blocks of flats in Southfields Grid. There is also an aim to link to schools in the Bedford Hill area

Discussion and questions:

Are foxes a problem? Tom stated there have been no significant reports.

Will restaurants be targeted? Tom stated there is a government target for this in the future, but this is not currently being carried out by the council. There are many commercial food waste collectors, but the council do not do this at present.

When people move into area, how do they find out about the service? It is a small geographical area therefore it can't be put on website. If anyone has ideas do let Tom know. SGRA can put details in Grid News.

b. Leonie Cooper, AM, London Assembly

Leonie gave an overview of the work of the London Assembly which includes being the 'voice of Londoners' and holding the mayor to account over a large area covering Merton and Wimbledon.

- Both Wandsworth and City Hall have committees and City Hall holds a 1x month Mayor's Question Time. There are also plenary meetings on a topic, for example questions to the Commissioners of Police/Transport
- **Main responsibilities** are the policing across London and Transport for London (not all overground trains but all buses and the underground), also the Fire Brigade. There is some responsibility for the upkeep of roads but not for bridges across the Thames. Development corporations, eg the Olympic Park, are also the responsibility of the London Assembly
- Leonie takes an interest in **green spaces**; she chaired the Environment Committee from 2016-2018 and is chair again in 2023. She discussed food waste: the mayor has the responsibility for the disposal of waste, but not the collection. Each borough is asked to produce an RRP (Reduction and Recycling Plan) and Leonie is a member of WRWA (Western Riverside Waste Authority) as a Wandsworth councillor, so focuses on this
- **Policing:** an extra 500 PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) are being recruited across London. How they are used is of concern. Londoners pay more, for example, for the security of Buckingham Palace, and the Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's funeral, and the King's coronation

were all very expensive in terms of policing. Wandsworth lost police as they had to attend those events, leading to possible local security/low level crime issues. This is against the background of the Baroness Casey report on police misconduct. Leonie has private meetings with the deputy mayors, for example of police and crime, to understand what is being done in terms of implementing the Casey report

- **The Fire Brigade** also commissioned a report after a firefighter in north London hanged himself following abuse. There is a high level of vacancy in fire service. There is an increase in new equipment post Grenfell (eg 64m ladders). Many procedures are changing and there is a significant amount of training to be done. The Assembly keeps close eye on the running of all these services and Leonie is on the fire committee.
- **Interface with boroughs** – for example Housing. Planning is complicated; buildings more than 30m high or with 150 dwellings need City Hall approval as well as council, so Leonie will see those too. NB AELTC is complicated due to both Wandsworth and Merton boroughs being involved, so Leonie is working close with the MPs Stephen Hammond and Fleur Anderson

Discussion and questions

What is the time scale for the increase in PCSO numbers? Leonie responded the process is currently underway; she will find out when the increase will happen in Southfields and let us know.

10. Updates:

a. AELTC Golf Course redevelopment:

Simon Wright updated the meeting:

- Cllr Guy Humphries sent apologies but emailed responses to Charles Runcie's questions, which Simon read out:
 - **Potential timeline?** 'Hopefully will come to PAC [Planning Application Committee] soon, but unlikely to be until later in the year'
 - **Why the delays?** 'Legal issues are still being reviewed, by Merton specifically'
 - **Will it be in conjunction with Merton?** 'We will continue to try to synchronise our calendars as closely as possible'
 - **What are the grounds for AELTC to appeal (presumably to the Mayor and ultimately the Secretary of State?) if the application is turned down or deferred?** 'One can't appeal a deferral, which would only happen if some extra information was required to reach a decision - unlikely now. The applicant can appeal any refusal, which would be adjudicated by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Other than that, the Mayor of London could still call in the application, and ultimately it could be decided by the SofS.'
 - **If one council approves and one council rejects, what then?** 'Not clear. They would certainly appeal if one authority was to refuse.'
- Simon clarified that Merton has more authority than Wandsworth and Leonie Cooper confirmed this, having put it to senior planners at City Hall. Merton is the leading planning authority
- **The covenant:** it is still not clear how this issue will proceed
- **'Day vs Shropshire' case:** in this recent case the Supreme Court Judge was clear that the Court's decision had application to other public authorities beyond Shropshire. The correct statutory procedure was not followed in the sale of an area of public trust land. Local residents took the case to court and won, and the planning permission was quashed. Because of the clear similarities, it is relevant to the sale of the land by Merton Council to AELTC and also the planning application. There is currently much legal discussion regarding the Court's decision and how this affects AELTC's planning application. The full paper can be seen here: <https://www.savewimbledonpark.org/post/wimbledon-park-residents-association-day-vs-shropshire-as-material-consideration-for-planning>
- It has been announced that Church Road will now always be closed during the Wimbledon Championships

Discussion and questions

Why is the SGRA is the only Residents' Association not to make an objection to the plans? CR explained the Executive Committee decided it couldn't speak for the whole Grid community of approximately 2600 households unless a targeted survey was carried out to understand views. It therefore agreed to circulate and publicise information only. In addition, he emphasised that an objection by the SGRA counts as one objection whereas encouraging individuals to object, having been given information, will generate many more. He suggested this can be reviewed with the new committee at their meeting in June and a survey considered

Cllr Jil Hall (Wimbledon Park) said it is significant that AELTC stepped up efforts recently with tours of golf course; they are giving out misinformation, for example on desilting the lake and are suggesting that various groups are all in favour, when they are not. They are also asking people to sign a petition in favour of the development.

How is Simon Wright's work being funded? Simon explained there is no funding. He is doing this as he believes the significance is enormous.

If Wimbledon loses, what will they do with the land? Simon responded he thought it would have to be kept as part of Wimbledon Park.

b. Coronation Gardens Playground

CR showed Phase 2 posters which demonstrate the type of developments being considered. Feedback is being taken and the master plan being designed. There were 2 consultation periods, with over 200 responses collected (more than any other Enable consultation for Wandsworth and they thanked residents for their contribution). The plan will be publicised, and the aim is that building will start at end of summer.

11. Newly planted trees across the Grid: Serena Potter

Serena said there have been 25 newly planted trees this winter across the Grid; they are attached to stakes which have white painted tops (last year's were navy blue). The council will water these once per month and more often in drought, but she will be recruiting nearby residents to 'adopt a tree' and supplement the watering. This is an enjoyable activity for children and families and complements the planting of tree bases.

Newly planted trees should have green 'Gator' watering bags, but several are currently missing. Enable, who plant the trees, say they will be installed when the watering starts. For any queries about street trees, contact the Arboricultural Officer for our area at: djoyce@enablelc.org. Further information can be found at <https://enablelc.org/parks/trees/>

12. Forthcoming events information:

- Mend, Fix & Repair Café & Green the Grid Plant Give away/Wandsworth Great Big Green Week: **Saturday 17th June 12-3pm, Patio Hall, St Barnabas Church**
- St Barnabas Performathon: **Saturday 24th June 7.30am – 7.30pm**
- Southfields SNT Ward Panel meeting: **Saturday 23rd July 10.30am, St Barnabas Church**
- Southfields Harvest: **Saturday 30th September 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church**

13. Date of next public meeting: Tuesday 25th July: 7.45 – 9.30pm St Barnabas Church

14. AOB:

- Cllr Kim Caddy reminded residents that the Schools Streets proposal around Riversdale Primary School is starting on 12th June
- Clive Williams alerted residents to the recent increase in thefts from some Mercedes cars, where a part relating to the emergency braking system located behind the classic Mercedes three-point star badge had been stolen after removal of the badge. There have also been some incidents (one during daylight hours just off the Grid) involving thieves drilling holes in vehicle doors to bypass the locking system of the vehicle
- Advance notice of the Christmas Lights 'Switch On': 6th December 2023

15. Appendix: Attendance List

Name	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Executive Committee – Chairman
Gerard Sebastian	SGRA Executive Committee – Vice-Chair (outgoing)
Serena Potter	SGRA Executive Committee – Secretary
Clive Williams	SGRA Executive Committee
Margaret Brett	SGRA Executive Committee/Lavenham Rd rep
Chris Puleston	SGRA Executive Committee – Treasurer
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Executive Committee/Trentham St rep
Ian Shaw	SGRA Executive Committee/Brookwood Rd rep
Ameet Phadnis	SGRA Executive Committee/ Replingham Rd rep (Zoom)
Kyle Forder	SGRA Executive Committee/Astonville St rep
Tom Newman	Wandsworth Council
Fred White-Overton	
Nancy Graham	
Simon Wright	
CLlr Kim Caddy	Southfields ward Councillor
Leonie Cooper	London Assembly Member
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park/Clonmore St rep
Rev'd Ian Tattum	
CLlr Jil Hall	Wimbledon Park ward councillor (Merton)
CLlr Tony Reiss	Wimbledon Park ward councillor (Merton)
Julian Barratt	
Lee Roberts	Putney Conservatives
Sucheta Samant	Southfields Library (Zoom)
Andrew Dunley	
Francoise Cluzeau	
Mark Lubienski	
Di Brennan	
Robert Mathieson	
Trevor Howe	
Richard Silverstein	
Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen	
Wendy Rose	
Peter Jackson	
Hilary Simpson	(Zoom)
Aidan Magill	
A Carthy	Total: 36