

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee

Note of meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR) Margaret Brett (MB), Ann Kerr (AK), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO-M), Ian Shaw (IS), Clive Williams (CW).

	Update on actions from previous Exec Comm meetings	Owner(s)	Status
1	Set up Street Rep meeting to discuss possible audit of Grid streets' health and other matters	Was GS now CR	Consider Aut. '23.
2	Raise issues around mess and litter around tree bases/signage/litter bins with Councillors at next Public Meeting – 31/1/23. Update on dog mess bins proposal – liaise with Cllr Guy Humphries Clarify process for contacting council regarding such issues	CR SP CR	Closed
3	Involve Street Reps in identifying missing street signs/sites. Arrange a Street Rep meeting in the spring – see below	GS	Consider Aut. '23.
4	Investigate cost of printing and 2024 SGRA calendar	CP	Ongoing
5	Check in with new manager/owner of Krystals	GS	Closed
6	Meet with Ludo Press	CR & GS	Closed
7	Draw up reasons for increasing annual subscription for presentation to residents	CR	Closed
8	Put item in Grid News to inform residents about the possibility of applying to become a 'Conservation Area' and ask their views	CR	Closed
9	Put item in Grid News regarding replacement for FGA organiser	CR	Closed
10	GS to invite all street reps to the next public meeting 28-03-23	GS	Closed
11	Put together a 'blurb' for advertising via crowdfunding (UST sign) (10K)	CR/CW	Ongoing
12	Invite new SNT Inspector to speak at AGM	CW/CR	Closed
13	Put together list of ideas for street audit Put street rep remit on SGRA website	CR	Consider Aut. 2023.
14	WRWA/City Hall trips around Sept 2023	CR	Open
15	Sub-committee formed for SGRA calendar	CP/AK/CR/ AO-M	Open
	Actions arising from 27 June Committee meeting	Owner(s)	Status
	New website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact Rob Kennedy for advice re reclaiming domain name • Committee to decide management responsibility for site • To arrange for Constitution to be on new website 	CR All IS	Open Open Open
	Street Safety & Speeding to be discussed at July public meeting	CR	Open
	Paul James & Dan Joyce to be invited to speak at July public mtg	CR	Open
	Southfields Artist Group (SAG) – November event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To submit a paper requesting funding • CR to seek view of Committee on request 	SAG CR	Open Open

1. Apologies for absence & changes to Committee (Executive Committee)

Apologies were received from Kyle Forde, Rod Lewington, Ameet Phadnis, Serena Potter and Chris Puleston. CR then advised the Committee that IS would take on the SGRA Secretary role and confirmed that Gerald Sebastian had stepped down as Vice Chair.

2. Minutes & Matters arising from last Executive Meeting (25.04.23)

- Actions 1, 3 and 13: as Gerard Sebastian was leading on these when Vice Chair, following his departure they would be considered by the Committee during the Autumn of 2023.
- Actions 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10: as all had been carried out, they were considered closed.
- Actions 4 & 15: The Sub-committee had been formed and would take forward this project.
- Action 12: as the AMG held in May would be too soon to invite the newly installed SNT Inspector (Paul James), he would be invited to the July Public Meeting – see 7 below.
- Action 14: see item 4 below.

Minutes & Matters arising from last Public Meeting (23.05.23) - None

3. New Committee position on AELTC application

CR confirmed that he was acting on a commitment made at the AGM when responding to the question as to why SGRA was the only RA not to make an objection to AELTC's application on behalf of all the residents. CR said that the newly approved Committee would take an early position.

CR approached those who could not make the meeting seeking their views as what should be the agreed position of the Committee. He outlined two options, to: (1) continue with our current policy; OR (2) agree on a definite view pro or anti. Before the options were discussed by the Committee, MB stated that the SGRA Constitution did not require the Association to canvass views of residents to make an objection.

Option 1: To date, the Committee had always, in line with the SGRA Constitution, taken the view that SGRA ensured all information about the development like documents, flyers, news of meetings etc, had been put in the hands of Grid residents, whether through their door, on social media or in 'Grid News' issues. Thereby leaving the residents to make up their minds, and if they wanted to, to communicate with the Council expressing a pro or anti view as they saw fit. Unlike other local RA's, who've come out against the plans despite having no discernible published evidence, SGRA had never assumed the area's opinion.

Option 2: Some members experienced significant concern and negativity when having informal conversations with residents. Some felt that the lack of such action could be seen as reputationally strange. MB and CW wished to put on record their firm opposition to AELTC's application. Some also questioned whether the SGRA could reflect, as accurately as possible, the overall feeling of the Southfields Grid area or have the right as unelected persons to represent the view of residents without carrying out appropriate surveys. Added to which it may be hard for Street Reps when canvassing residents to know all the answers on a very complex issue.

Committee's votes on Options 1 & 2: As the Committee consists of 11 members, one member was ruled out due to a potential conflict of interest and another member did not vote. 9 votes were cast with both options receiving 4 votes each and as there was a draw, the Chair had the casting vote which was given to support Option 1.

4. Trips: City Hall/WRWA – CR will follow up in the Autumn 2023

5. New website design and build

There was an issue on when SGRA could claim back ownership of the domain name for the SGRA website. Ownership of the domain name seems to have been lost when the new website was being constructed. One option could be to reclaim the original domain name once it lapsed in October. AM-O suggested contacting with Rob Kennedy to seek his advice and assistance.

Action: CR to contact Rob.

In light of Gerald stepping down as Vice Chair, IS raised the point that someone on the Committee should take over his responsibility for the website as an SGRA asset to be managed.

Action: Committee to consider at a future meeting.

AK asked that a copy of the Constitution to be included in new website. **Action: IS to arrange.**

6. Street Safety – speeding issues on the Grid

CR had been in contact with Grid resident Kit Somers re speeding issues e.g. speed bumps and signage (encouraging better compliance with speed limits) and who had been in contact with Sam Merison (Road Safety Manager, Wandsworth). There will be a review of the signage in Southfields.

In respect of Speed bumps, the process is more complicated in terms of process. If the time lapsed since the last time an assessment to determine the need for speed bumps and under what parameters, is more than three years – another assessment can be carried out. Following that assessment, it would need the approval of 51%+ of the residents of that road to agree to have speed bumps. AO-M raised the issue of speeding as one of the most talked about in Trentham Street, a view echoed by other members. It would be a good topic for discussion at the next public meeting and show SGRA listening to the concerns of residents. **Action: this will be discussed at the July public meeting.**

7. Speakers for the next public meeting (25 July 2023) meeting

It was agreed that Inspector Paul James (Safer Neighbourhoods Team Inspector) and Dan Joyce – Grid Tree Officer, Enable plc should be invited to speak (NOTE: Dan Joyce cannot make it).

8. Christmas Calendar Updates – refer to paragraph 2 (cf Actions 4 & 15) above.

9. Funding application – Southfields Artists Group for November event

In the absence of a paper, CR explained that previously this initiative had received funding from Wandsworth Council but this was to stop. **Action: Southfields Artist Group to submit a paper on a sheet of A4 to CR who will seek Committee views.**

10. Ongoing updates:

Communication – Charles Runcie: mainly covered in website item above (see 5)

Planning/public realm improvements/ Allotments – Margaret Brett:

- The Rifle Club and allotments application (2022/1429) was refused. The Club continues to have issues with the freeholder about an extension of the lease but this refusal of planning permission to develop the site will strengthen their case.

- There is still an ongoing application for the detail of the work being done to the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road. The revised application, to which we objected, has been withdrawn.
- The AELTC application (2021/3609) remains under consideration with 1181 objections showing on the Wandsworth website. There are also many more comments in support and we are told that AELTC have employed people to collect these. The Council are batching these so there is not a total for individual support comments. There is a separate petition with 11,834 signatures. The Councils have delayed referring the applications to committees in light of the Supreme Court decision in March in the 'Day versus Shropshire' case.
- The public realm works have not been completed. Work outside the station is outstanding as are the issues of the telephone box and community notice board. Some work has been done to address the worst of the eroding surfaces. We are still waiting for the return of the water fountain.
- Wandsworth Local Plan should be adopted by the Council in late summer.

Local issues

- Re old Bulcraig's, planning permission for the new shopfront is awaited. Momo has moved but the shop area is being refitted. Michael, the owner of the Fish Bar, has acquired the Trieste site to become a Spanish tapas bar with a licence to sell alcohol until 2am during the tennis. Homework is incorporating a wine bar and has applied for a licence to sell alcohol up until 10pm.
- Gas works in Penwith Road and Heythorp Street are causing disruption to traffic.
- The DIY store in Lavenham Road has closed.
- Riversdale School has been included in the School Streets scheme and the junction with Pirbright Road has been changed. This is temporary and subject to review.
- We are being asked to make sure that batteries are recycled at the Library and not in the rubbish as this may lead to fires.

Crime – Clive Williams: please see Annex A for April breakdown figures for Southfields Grid and Pirbright Road.

Finance – Chris Puleston: £4, 144 in the bank. £1,195 in outstanding advertising from the Spring Grid News. £5,339.71 in total if all collected.

Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG) – Charles Runcie: A combination of the updated maintenance programme by contractors Enable, an increased watering regime in the hot weather and the work of our 'Gardening Club' on alternate Saturday mornings has all worked well. Three issues in particular:

- 'London in Bloom' awards - FoCG are being judged on Tuesday, July 11th in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category', the first time FoCG has entered.
- Playground – the final design is being worked on by specialist playground designer HAGS UK. The FoCG has a meeting (date tba) to discuss these plans with them in advance of them being made public. The play area will remain open over the summer holidays, with work starting in September for approx. 6 weeks.
- Fountain – the restoration continues, with a design for the missing figurine being worked up by Sebastian Bulmer, an expert on London fountains. We also intend to replace the missing plaque on the back of it to reflect its origins and restoration. We have also uncovered some interesting new facts about the fountain and gardens, which we shall write up for an interpretation board.

11. AOB

- Green the Grid and Repair Café on 17 June were very successful - @£300 raised in donations.
- Wandsworth Civic Awards – CR wondered if the Committee would wish to nominate two local event organisers. Although the Committee agreed that these two deserved to be recognised, now was not the right time.

Forthcoming event dates:

- Southfields SNT Ward Panel meeting: **Saturday 22nd July 10.30am, St Barnabas Church**
- Southfields Harvest: **Saturday 30th September 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church**

Dates of next meetings:

- Public: **25th July**: 7.45 – 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church, hybrid
- Executive: **5th September**: 8 – 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church

Crime Figures for Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road

Apr 2023

Apr 2023	Anti-Social behaviour	Burglary	Criminal Damage & Arson	Drugs	Other Crime	Other Theft	Public Order & Weapons	Robbery	Shoplifting	Vehicle Crime	Violence & Sexual Offences	Total
Replingham Road			1			2					1	4
Brookwood Road			1									1
Lavenham Road	1	1								1		3
Revelstoke Road												0
Elsenham Street												0
Heythorp Street												0
Clonmore Street										1		1
Engadine Street												0
Elborough Street												0
Trentham Street										1		1
Astonville Street		1										1
Hanford Close										2	2	4
Pirbright Road												0
Merton Road					1	1		1			2	5
Total	1	2	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	5	5	20

All Crimes reported in Southfields Ward in Apr 2023: 58 [including SGRA (20)]

Other Crime: Southfields LU Station (British Transport Police) (11) – Violence & Sexual (6), Robbery (1), Other Theft (1), Other Crime (3)

+Off-Grid: Heritage Wimbledon Park: (2)
 (LB of W) West Hill (2) Theft from the person (1), Vehicle Crime (1): (LB of M) Village (0):
 Wimbledon Park (0).

[Information extracted from the Crime Maps for Southfields Ward from www.police.uk]