



## Note of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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### Welcome and apologies for absence

Charles Runcie (Chair) welcomed all to the SGRA hybrid public meeting. Apologies for absence were received from: Chris Puleston (SGRA Treasurer), Ann Kerr (SGRA Ex Comm), Kyle Forder (SGRA Ex Comm), Sucheta Samant (Southfields Library), Fleur Anderson (MP), Cllr Kim Caddy and Nina Kowalska (Green the Grid).

### 1. Issues arising from the 2023 Wimbledon Tennis Championships

- Johnny Perkins (JP), All England Club Communications Team, opened by saying that the first, second and third days of the first week did not go as well as they should have done. He recognised that there were long & slow queues and that there was a heavy security presence. A major issue raised concerned the small number of portable loos based in Wimbledon Park compared to the large number of people waiting to see the tennis. This situation was quickly resolved following the involvement of Fleur Anderson (MP, Putney & Southfields).
- From the floor the following issues were raised: 493 bus route and resulting congestion because of diversionary routes during the championships; difficulty of purchasing day tickets; security hold-ups especially when certain types of sun-tan lotion could not be taken onto the grounds or the Courts; ineffective cascading of information re accessibility for elderly people; late running of tennis matches resulting in crowds being directed to tube station away from local businesses; also a lack of information about businesses further down Replingham Road (restaurants in particular); and poor standards of cleanliness e.g. overflowing bins on morning of Men's final day.
- JP acknowledged these issues and outlined next steps. Various reports on how the championships were organised and managed were to be considered by the All-England Club Executive Committee who would then offer their considerations to the All-England Club Board.
- Around half of the public meeting attendees had attended the tennis and recorded their enjoyment.

### Golf Club Developments

- JP was asked whether there had been any new papers/decisions/developments on Golf Club developments. He replied none that he was aware of as all were waiting to hear from Merton.

### 2. Minutes & matters arising from the AGM on 23 May 2023 and Executive Committee Meeting on 27 June 2023 (accessed via: [https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/.](https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meeting-minutes/))

- a. AGM – the Chair confirmed that the new Executive Committee had 11 members who were elected. He also said that at their first meeting the newly elected Committee would agree a position on whether SGRA should continue to ensure that all residents have access to all the information about the development i.e. status-quo (option 1) or to make an objection to AELTC's behalf on behalf of all the residents (option 2).
  - b. Exec Comm – discussed the two options outlined above. Both options had 4 votes each. The Chair had not voted but as he had the casting vote, it was cast for option 1. This was on the traditional basis that the casting vote is normally cast for the status quo option. The Chair confirmed that although there were 11 members of the Exec Comm, one had ruled themselves out because of a conflict of interest, and another was not able to vote because of illness.
- Views from the floor covered: how SGRA carries out its obligation under 3.1 of the Constitution to represent the views of the residents – a stance which was different from adjoining residents associations (RAs). The Chair replied acknowledging SGRA's stance. However, he was not aware of what questions were asked by the other RAs, and therefore what the evidence would be for

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those RAs to base their stance. The SGRA did ensure that information about the AELTC proposals were accessible to all residents in the SGRA area (e.g. via newsletters, flyers, social media etc).

- Linked to this was the question as to whether SGRA would consider holding a public meeting to discuss the issue, as it was seen by some to be controversial. This question was preceded by a comment that a general survey of peoples' top 3 concerns in the Southfields area, which had elicited around 280 responses, had recorded that the AELTC proposals were seen as one of their top three priorities. Although the respondents seemed very informed on issues affecting SW18/9, they were not that well informed as to the controversy surrounding AELTC's proposals. The Chair responded by saying that the residential base covered by SGRA is around 2,600. Added to this were adjoining areas which were outside the geographical remit of SGRA, as outlined in its Constitution, who would also have an interest. What was undoubtable was that those who would attend such a meeting would be the usual attendees i.e. strong supporters/opponents of the proposals. Simon Wright proposed to the Chair that he could organise such a public meeting in September and the Chair agreed to consult the Executive Committee about the proposal.
- A direct question was asked about whether members of the Executive Committee were in receipt of gifts (e.g. free tickets) from AELTC – the Chair confirmed that to his knowledge no.

### **3. Council matters: Cllrs Guy Humphries**

- Wandsworth Borough Council had recently opened a consultation on the locations of 110 new Bicycle Hangars – the consultation would close on 15 August. The consultation can be found at <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/bikehangars-23/>. Under consideration are the following locations in Southfields: Camborne Road, Heythorp Street, Longfield Street and Penwith Road.
- Electric Charging points: new charging points are being installed during Summer 2023. A concern was raised as to whether the charging points could be better demarcated to avoid parking by vehicles which did not need electric charging.
- A reminder re crime, from conversations with the Safer Neighbourhood Team it was important that residents who experience or witness a crime to report it to the police as soon as possible before doing so on social media. Not only would this increase the possibility of a crime being solved, but would also provide evidence to the police when seeking to increase their resources.
- Traffic: The congestion on Elsenham Street was being looked at. Linked to congestion, was the issue of delivery vans blocking the roads, someone asked whether this be solved by giving them dedicated parking bays which may work for shops on Replingham Road but not on the other roads on the grid.

### **4. Speeding and road safety issues across Southfields Grid:**

- Building on discussions at the Executive Committee on 27 June, we heard from Kit Somers who in terms of signage said that the Road Safety Manager will have conducted a thorough review and SGRA will have an update at the September Public Meeting.
- On the question of the effectiveness of the 'smiley' signage vs speed cameras, the evidence for the former was stronger in managing the speed of oncoming vehicles.

### **5. SGRA Executive Updates:**

#### **Planning/public realm improvements: 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.
- The AELTC application (2021/3609) remains under consideration with 1,182 objections showing on the Wandsworth website. We are told that AELTC have employed people to collect support comments. The Council are batching these so there is not a total for them. There is a separate petition in opposition with over 12,000 signatures. Both Councils have delayed referring the applications to committees in light of the Supreme Court decision in March in the 'Day versus Shropshire' case. This states that where a local authority fails to comply with the law in a sale of public trust land, the trust continues so that the buyer owns it as trustee for the public. This was

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enough to quash that planning permission. It is being argued that Merton's sale was similarly defective as it did not follow the correct procedure in the sale of the golf course land to AELTC.

- The public realm works have not been completed. Some work has been done to address the worst of the eroding surfaces. We are still waiting for the return of the water fountain.
- The new Wandsworth Local Plan has now been adopted by the Council.
- **Local issues:** The old Trieste corner site is being brought back into use. The Momo offices seem to be becoming a hairdressing salon.
- **Crime** – *Clive Williams* Please see Annex A for crime figures for May 2023.
- **Finance** – Funds = £4,664. Outstanding Advertising collection from Spring Newsletter = £1015. Costs to come - Summer newsletter, Collection envelopes, liability insurance. Income to come Summer Newsletter Advertising and street collections.

### **6. Green Spaces Updates:**

#### *Friends of Wimbledon Park (FoWP): Nick Steiner*

- Merton treating Wimbledon Park as a low priority to the extent that FoWP are looking to fund activities themselves. For example, removal of the 'prison mesh' walls near the Revelstoke Road entrance will cost £2,500 per wall and £13-14K in total. However, before work starts on removal, TFL need to give their approval. FoWP are looking for help with their funding.
- Events on weekend of 22/23 July displaced many of the normal events and there were complaints about the noise arising from South African Day events (on top of the fact that they did not have a licence to sell alcohol). It was evident that this event was not included in the list of events.
- Re the café, FoWP are not involved in discussions – but that the proposed successor (Cooks) are coming from Holland Park.
- The water play area became fully functional that morning (25 July). The delay in getting it working was down to the split of responsibilities between Merton Borough Council their sub-contractor 'Id Verde'. Id Verde are contractually obliged to carry out repairs but if something is beyond repair, Merton will fund a replacement.
- A question was raised about how land in the great field (Merton responsibility) that had been churned up as part of the Wimbledon Championship preparations had not been effectively levelled out and when people were running, they were in danger of tripping over grass covered ruts. NS agreed to visit the area concerned and take photos.

#### *Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG): Charles Runcie*

- Recently FoCG became one of Wandsworth's Parks and Commons to receive a Green Flag award which recognises how managed the Gardens are and which have high environmental standards. FoCG are waiting to hear the outcome of the 'London in Bloom' judging session on 11 July.

#### *Green the Grid: Nina Kowalska*

- In preparation for 2023's Planting Day, Grid Growers grew salvia, verbena, echinacea and achillea, chosen for their drought-resistant qualities. 600+ plants were given away to a good home.

### **7. AOB**

- a. **Southfields Businesses:** There will be a meeting in September organised by Wandsworth Council's Head of High Streets and Local Growth Lorinda Freint with the aim of reviving the Southfields Business Forum.
- b. The Chair reported that during the Wimbledon Fortnight, the hospitality sector did well.
- c. Potential visits for the Wandsworth Waste Recycling and also the London Assembly likely to take place from September onwards.
- d. Sale of Abundance Southfields 2022 vintage ciders from 2 to 5pm on 29 July at the Southfields Lawn Tennis Club at the top of Gressenhall Road SW18 5PQ.

**Forthcoming events:**

- 'Cuppa with a copper': **Sunday 30 July**, 2-3pm, Caffe Nero 247-249 Wimbledon Park Road
- Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe: **Saturday 23 September**, 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church
- Southfields Harvest: **Saturday 30 September** 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church

**Next Executive & Public Meetings**

- Executive: **Tuesday 5 September**, 7.45-9.30pm, St Barnabas Church
- Public: **Tuesday 26 September**, 7.45-9.30pm, St Barnabas Church

**Attendance List**

<b>SGRA – Executive Members</b>	<b>Role</b>
Charles Runcie	SGRA Exec. Comm – Chair
Serena Potter	SGRA Exec. Comm – Joint Secretary
Ian Shaw	SGRA Exec. Comm – Joint Secretary/ Brookwood Rd Rep
Margaret Brett	SGRA Exec. Comm/Lavenham Road Rep
Rod Lewington	SGRA Exec. Comm
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Exec. Comm
Ameet Phadnis	SGRA Exec. Comm/Replingham Road Street Rep
Clive Williams	SGRA Exec. Comm
<b>Speakers/Main contributors</b>	<b>Role</b>
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park/Clonmore Street Rep
Guy Humphries	Wandsworth Borough Councillor
Kit Somers (Zoom)	Speeding and Signage
<b>SGRA Road/Street</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Astonville Street	Lesley McCaul
Elborough Street	Peter Jackson;
Elsenham Street	Andrew Dunley; Wendy Rose; Mark Lubienski; Sue Wixley; Simon Wright
Engadine Street	Jackie Pearce; Sally Morgan;
Heythorp Street	Kyra von Schottenstein; Nancy Graham; Ann Redman; Tristram Frost
Langton Place	Julia Saunders
Trentham Street	Trevor Howes; Di Brennan; Sailesh Patel
Tony Reiss	Merton Borough Councillor
Jil Hall	Merton Borough Councillor
Lee Roberts	Putney Conservatives
Richard Koenig	'Abundance Southfields'
Zoom:	Lucy Griffin Beale; Moira Slevin; Rosie Langford; Duncan Lyons; Robert Kennedy; Jackie Leaver.
	<b>Total: 39</b>

**Crime Figures for Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road**

**May 2023**

May 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	2											2
Brookwood Road						3				2		5
Lavenham Road												0
Revelstoke Road												0
Elsenham Street										1		1
Heythorp Street						1				1		2
Clonmore Street										1		1
Engadine Street			2							2		4
Elborough Street												0
Trentham Street										1		1
Astonville Street												0
Hanford Close										1	4	5
Pirbright Road												0
Merton Road		1										1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>

All Crimes reported in Southfields Ward in May 2023: 68 [including SGRA (22)]

**Brookwood Road:** Bicycle Theft (1)

Southfields LU Station (British Transport Police) (11) – Violence & Sexual (2), Other crime (6), ASB (1), Shoplifting (2)

**+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](http://www.police.uk)]