



Note of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 26 September 2023

Welcome and apologies for absence

Serena Potter welcomed all to the SGRA hybrid public meeting, on behalf of Charles Runcie (SGRA Chair) who was away. Apologies for absence were received from: Charles Runcie, Ameet Phadnis (SGRA Ex Comm), Rod Lewington (SGRA Ex Comm) and Cllr Kim Caddy.

1. **Minutes & matters arising from 25 July and Executive Committee Meeting on 5 September 2023**

(accessed via: <https://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/meetings?eeFolder=Meetings/2023-Meetings&eeFront=1&eeListID=1&ee=1>). There was only one update from both meetings which concerned the speed and data review across the Grid. According to the study not much had changed however, the good news was that a speed indicator device/smiley face will be allocated to the Grid. Guy Humphries, whilst acknowledging the good news, said that he hoped there would be some input from residents when determining best location.

2. **Don Lopes – Dedicated Ward Officer, Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team**

- Ward priorities: anti-social behaviour, thefts, violence (especially against women and girls). Don would leave behind a range of security advice leaflets for attendees to take home and read.
- In respect of thefts involving cars/bikes/packages: Don reiterated the importance of not having any valuables in cars, to use steering locks, and Faraday Boxes (which can prevent burglars breaking into those cars with keyless locks). In terms of residential burglaries, main instances have involved bikes and packages, linked to the former were burglaries from sheds. Don stressed the importance of bikes being locked securely in sheds – the more secure the better as burglars, who look for a quick robbery, don't want to be inconvenienced. Don also recommended that if people are aware of their neighbours being away, to keep an eye on their properties and to contact the police if suspicious behaviour is detected.
- As far as anti-social behaviour is concerned – main issue has been the smoking of cannabis in properties. Also a beggar had been moved on from Southfields to Tooting. The violence situation concerned a shoplifter.
- Comments from the floor concerned Heythorp Street where residents, experiencing shed robberies, were resorting to taking their own footage – Don would continue to go round and alert people to protecting their sheds better (using 'Sheduction') and also recommended using 'Next Door' to alert more people; Pirbright where packages had been stolen and where M&S were experiencing shoplifting instances. Also there was a lot of activities in Carlyle Court (behind M&S). A question was raised about the use of cameras – real or fake – it was confirmed that private individuals and community group can install cameras.
- Take home messages were: alert the police, report crimes & make property as secure as possible.

3. **Slavica Struthers-Kennedy - Southfields Artists Open Weekend (7/8 & 14/15 Oct)**

Slavica gave a brief background to this year's Open Weekend. It would be the first since Wandsworth stopped running the event. However, Wandsworth have sponsored it and grants would be allocated on a yearly basis. Wandsworth Artists have set up a new website and 20 artists had signed up to it – for the Southfields page please go to <https://wandsworthart.com/profile-area/southfields/> . There was much support from the floor for this initiative. Leonie Cooper suggested that in future in terms of grant application, it would be good for the local councillors in different wards to work together with the artists.

4. Wimbledon/AELTC plans latest

Serena Potter read out a statement on behalf of the Executive Committee (see Annex A) which confirmed that it was prudent to get a representative view of the Grid residents and this would be conducted via a survey targeting those on the SGRA database. This survey would take about two weeks and the results would be looked at by the Executive Committee before deciding next steps. SGRA would put a copy of the Statement on the website later in the week.

Simon Wright spoke about latest developments re Wimbledon/AELTC plans. It looked unlikely that Merton and Wandsworth Borough Councils would be reviewing the plans in the immediate future (possibly early in the 2024). The Public Meeting he organised and chaired on 12 September was well attended (approx. 300-350) with expert speakers and representatives from Parliament and also both borough (Merton and Wandsworth) Councils. Borough split reflected in the audience looked like a 50/50 split. In response to the Executive Committee statement, Simon said that though he welcomed the statement, he hoped that the questions would not be too complicated – even though there was an understanding in the statement which alluded to some nuancing to ensure that people could qualify their answers if necessary. A few commented from the floor about their frustration at SGRA, in their opinion, not representing the general interests of the area – i.e. SGRA had not, unlike the other local Residents' Associations, taken an initial stance against the proposals.

Guy Humphries warned the meeting that it was important to recognise the good work that SGRA was doing. It was very easy in accusing SGRA for not acting like other RAs, to dismiss the positive things they had done – in terms of information gathering and ensuring effective debate in the public meetings. In response to a question from the floor, both Leonie and Guy confirmed that when it came to the Planning Committee considering the proposals the results would either be a categorical endorsement or refusal.

5. Council matters: Cllr Guy Humphries

- There would be no bins for dog waste (in the grid) but there may be increased signage.
- Ongoing gasworks in Penwith Road (and affecting traffic in Southfields) likely to end 25 October.
- Wandsworth Bridge to be reopened on 2 October.
- On waste collection, he would welcome feedback from residents as to odd activities when their waste was being collected for example, a large settee (bulky item) going into landfill lorry.
- Merton Road 7am-7pm bus lane (from Brookwood Road towards Wandsworth) was imposed on Southfields with no consultation beforehand. A review would happen either 6 or 18 months time.
- Guy would look into when the Southside Bus stop would be open again.

6. SGRA Executive Updates:

Planning/public realm improvements: *Margaret Brett*

- There are now copies of several legal opinions showing on Wandsworth's planning website for AELTC (2021/3609) discussing the relevance of the Supreme Court decision in 'Day versus Shropshire' and whether it applies to the Golf Course land.
- We have objected to the proposed change to the frontage of 243 Wimbledon Park Road (2023/2491).
- The Olive Garden's (42 Replingham Road) application to effectively enclose their frontage was refused (2023/1119).
- In response to a question about the state of Sikelia (3 Replingham Road), it was confirmed that this is privately owned.
- Public Realm: We have reminded the Council officer about the installation of the seating at the station and also the return of the water fountain. We are told that there will be a resin surface outside the new Loney Millar office at 2 Replingham Road.
- Local issues: There are now Ecargo bikes operating from Southside acting from a hub to deliver parcels locally. This is part of the Council's new Air Quality Action Plan. There is also new 32 acre

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park being opened in Tooting - Springfield Park. The Council is taking action against the problem of poor parking of electric bikes and is to consult on providing locations in 'town centres' where they must be parked. They are also hoping to join the e-scooter trial scheme and there are to be designated parking bays for these.

- **Crime** – *Clive Williams* Please see Annex B for crime figures for July 2023.
- **Finance** – As of 5 Sept, funds = £5,4294. Incoming from advertising £1,790. Serena confirmed that Ameet Phadnis was to succeed Chris Puleston as SGRA Treasurer at the end of October.
- **Communications** – Next Grid Newsletter due out in mid-November with a deadline for articles and items for inclusion to be with Charles Runcie by Friday 20 October.

7. Green Spaces Updates:

Friends of Wimbledon Park (FoWP): Nick Steiner – please see slides Annex C (separate document):

- Their Wimbledon Fortnight Report (slide 2) submitted to both AELTC and the London Borough of Merton (LBM) where FOWP made a request for car parks to cease in the public park from 2024 onwards and also to see an explanation as to why camping should continue during the Wimbledon Fortnight.
- Work would soon start on Revelstoke Road Car Park where LBM have agreed to provide £5K to match FOWP's £5k (slide 9).
- In terms of the Public Lakeside Walk, (slide 11) FOWP had written to LBM urging them to engage with AELTC to challenge their intention to delay dedicating this area to the public until 2041. LBM replies said that they were not in a position to dedicate a publicly accessible pathway immediately, (it is believed that the current golfing lease is still extant) but LBM do intend to obtain stronger public access around the lake if the opportunity arises.

Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG): Charles Runcie

- At the recent 'London in Bloom' awards the FoCG was awarded Gold in the Neighbourhood category, for its work in Coronation Gardens, with a score of "5 – Outstanding". This adds to the award of a Green Flag earlier this year.
- FOCG have been locking the CG gates at 9pm on Fridays to Sundays all summer, reopening at 6am, but this ends this weekend.
- The final design for the new £143,000 play area is being signed off at present. FoCG think, as it's late in the year, that work will be postponed until the spring.

Green the Grid (GtG): Nina Kowalska

- GtG had been in existence on the Grid for 5 years and gratitude was expressed for the support from Leonie Cooper, Guy Humphries and Kim Caddy. It is an excellent Community event similar to those in Merton and Balham. GtG was involved in the Repair Cafe held at St Barnabas Church Hall on 23 September, and hoped that that would continue (they sold/were preparing to sell 2,000 bulbs). Guy Humphries suggested that in the Grid Newsletter there could be a GtG 'hot tips' box for residents which was considered a good idea.

8. AOB

- 5th Southfields Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe was held on 23 September. Over the year, 193 items have been brought in to these cafes and 46% (89) have been fixed.
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Future events

- Southfields Harvest: **30 September** 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church
- Southfields Ward Panel: **7 October** 10.30 Parish Room, St Barnabas Church Hall
- Southfields Artists Open Weekend event: **7/8 and 14/15 October**.
- Southfields Christmas Lights Switch-On: **6 December**, timing tbc, Replingham Road

Dates of next meetings

- Public Meeting: **28 November**, 7.45-9pm, St Barnabas Church, hybrid

Attendance List

SGRA – Executive Members	Role
Serena Potter	SGRA Exec. Comm – Chair on behalf of Charles Runcie
Ian Shaw	SGRA Exec. Comm – Joint Secretary/ Brookwood Rd Rep
Margaret Brett	SGRA Exec. Comm/Lavenham Road Rep (zoom)
Kyle Forder	SGRA Exec. Comm
Ann Kerr	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Clonmore Street Rep
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Trentham Street Rep
Clive Williams	SGRA Exec. Comm (zoom)
Speakers/Main contributors	Role
Don Lopes	Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team
Slavica Struthers-Kennedy	Southfields Artists
Simon Wright	Resident – Elsenham Street
Nick Steiner	Friends of Wimbledon Park/Joint Clonmore Street Rep
Guy Humphries	Wandsworth Borough Councillor
SGRA Road/Street	Attendees
Astonville Street	Lesley McCaul (Street rep)
Brookwood Road	Jelka Mitic
Elborough Street	Peter Jackson
Elsenham Street	Muzaffar Ahmed; Penny Terndrup, Mark Lubienski; Sue Wixley; Wendy Rose
Engadine Street	Sally Morgan
Heythorp Street	Kyra von Schottenstein (Street Rep); Ann Redman; Peter Watts; Tristram Frost
Replingham Road	Liz Becker; T Johnston
Trentham Street	Trevor Howes; Di Brennan;
Cambourne Road	Sardar Ahmad
Zoom:	Lucy Griffin Beale; Frances & Vincent; Richard; Rosemary; Hilary.
Leonie Cooper	Assembly Member
	Total: 36

Annex A

AELTC'S DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS: STATEMENT FROM SGRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 26 SEPT 2023

Before I ask Simon to report back on the future of Wimbledon Park meeting he organised on 12 September, I would like to make a statement on behalf of the SGRA Executive Committee on where we stand on the issue of AELTC's development proposals.

Our role is that of an 'honest broker'. To put this into context, the issue of AELTC's development proposals is one of many issues which the Association deals with – the majority being concerns raised by SGRA residents e.g. speeding, thefts etc.

In doing so, our strength has been to ensure that all residents have access to **all** the information possible and provide fora for discussions so that they can make up their own minds as to whether they support or oppose the proposals.

We circulated a leaflet to every household in 2021, and our regular Grid newsletters have included updates on the proposals including articles written by Simon. Also, the topic of the AELTC's development proposals has been a consistent agenda item for our Public Meetings for the last two years.

Whilst the Executive Committee still thinks that its view of its role is the right one, it is also aware that AELTC's proposals have stirred considerable debate and very strong feelings. We think it is prudent to get a representative view of our Grid residents in order to assess the way forward.

With timings to be confirmed, we will be conducting a survey in October for about two weeks targeting those on the SGRA database. In realising the complexity of the proposals and process involved, we will be directing questions in a way to allow respondents to choose an answer that reflects their concerns as closely as possible – in doing this, we are thinking of those who may not have a downright objection to the proposals but have concerns on specific aspects e.g. number of tennis courts or stadia to be built.

Before the results are posted on the website, the Executive Committee will meet further to discuss the results and potential implications of them before deciding next steps.

If any of you have any views as to what could be included in our survey please let us know.

Crime Figures for Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road - July 2023

Annex B

July 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						1			1		3
Brookwood Road										1	1	2
Lavenham Road										2		2
Revelstoke Road												0
Elsenham Street												0
Heythorp Street		1								1		2
Clonmore Street												0
Engadine Street		1										1
Elborough Street												0
Trentham Street												0
Astonville Street	2	1	1		1							5
Hanford Close	2		2		2						3	9
Pirbright Road						1						1
Merton Road							1					1
Total	5	3	3	0	3	1	2	0	0	5	4	26



All Crimes reported in Southfields Ward in July 2023: 64 [including SGRA: 26]

Other Crime: Other Theft (1) - Pirbright Bicycle Theft (1)

+Off-Grid: Southfields LU Station (British Transport Police) (3)

Heritage Wimbledon Park: (0) (LB of W) West Hill (0): (LB of M) Village (0): Wimbledon Park (0).

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