



Note of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 30 January 2024

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Simon Wright & Jil Hall. Local Crime issues were not covered due to absence of Acting Inspector Steve Burke, Wandsworth Neighbourhoods Inspector.

Matters arising from 26 September Public & 31 October Executive Meetings (accessed via [SGRA website](#)).

- 2023 Christmas 'Socks for HMP Wandsworth' Appeal: 450 pairs of socks were collected.
- Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG): A competition for the design of a figurine to feature on the 120 year old drinking fountain will take place this Spring. Click [link](#) for further details.
- Seniors Tea Party: this will be held on 11 May 2024 – details to follow.
- SGRA Hon. Treasurer post: CR confirmed that David Boyle (Street Rep for Langton Place) would succeed Chris Puleston as Treasurer with immediate effect.

Southfields Business Forum

- Charles Runcie introduced Rachel Roberts (Wishlist) to talk about re-energising the Southfields Business Forum. Currently there are five members (Rachel (Wishlist), Sunny Patel, Spencer Childs (from Footcare) who would act as Treasurer, the owner of the Olive Garden, Michael (who runs the Fish bar). Overall, the aim is to attract more businesses into Southfields to complement and meet the needs of the variety of demographic groups in the area. It was also to acknowledge that times were changing e.g. emergence of 'pop-up' shops compared to long-standing independent shops, as well as challenges retailers are experiencing e.g. those facing post-Covid rent increases.
- More will be done to communicate the good the Business Forum can do, not only to the residents but also to the businesses in the Grid.
- Currently plans for the SBF are directed toward organising the 2024 Southfields Christmas event to encourage businesses to feel pride in showcasing what they are providing the community as well as the highlighting various talents.

Wimbledon/AELTC development proposals – GLA Consideration

- Ian Shaw read out a statement on behalf of Simon Wright (see Annex A). In summary, Jules Pipe, GLA Deputy Mayor, announced on 22 January that the GLA would become the planning authority for the application. There will be a City Hall process to review the existing AELTC plans – timing yet to be confirmed.
- To complement Simon's statement, Leonie Cooper added a few details: she will be able to speak at the public hearing; the GLA could have directed Merton to refuse the application; timing of the hearing could be difficult to predict – other planning applications may be in the pipeline for consideration and with purdah for the Mayoral & GLA Elections would be between 19 March and 2 May, could mean that AELTC plans would not be up for consideration until after these elections; the GLA consideration of the development proposals would be on the same planning principles as used by planning officials in Merton & Wandsworth Borough Councils; if AELTC felt that either the process so far was unfair or that the application was of greater national/international significance, they could then request the Secretary of State for Levelling Up to act as the planning authority.
- Johnny Perkins from AELTC did add that on the GLA [website](#), people could support the proposals if they wished. He also reminded the meeting of two forthcoming walks on the parkland which are taking part on Fridays and Saturday 23 & 24 February and 26 & 27 April. To take part please click on the following [link](#) which takes you to the Wimbledon website - then scroll down to 'Guided Tours of the Proposed AELTC Public Parkland'.

Front Garden Awards 2024

- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, in a brief update said that she is currently agreeing who the judges will be and that judging period for the Awards will be between 21 to 30 June.

Election(s) 2024

- Charles Runcie said that in light of the known GLA elections on 2 May 2024, SGRA would be hosting a public meeting/husting in mid-April (tba) so that candidates can give a brief presentation on what they will focus on if elected followed by Q&A from the floor. When the date of the General Election is known, a similar process will be organised. Both are to be held in St Barnabas' Church.

Shops/Christmas lights switch-on review

- Some felt that there should be more colourful lights (current set were underwhelming) also the Christmas tree was too monochrome in effect. Also, it appeared that the event was very 'children-focused' – what more could be done to make it worth those coming home from work to take part? This could be covered in future meetings of the Southfields Business Forum.

Heritage Transport sign update

- Both Charles Runcie and Clive Williams were pleased to announce that with the money raised, the restoration of the historic transport sign behind the Shell garage on Merton Road should go ahead in the Spring.

State of pavements/Street Audits in Southfields Grid

- With many concerns expressed about the decrepit state of some of the pavements across the Grid, it was agreed that SGRA Street Reps should conduct an audit over a period of two months of the state of the pavements on their streets. The results of the audit will be fed into Wandsworth Borough Council and copied to both Cllrs Guy Humphries and Kim Caddy.

SGRA Executive Updates

- **Planning** - Most applications seem to be for the usual loft and ground floor extensions. There are concerns about the proposed development at 75, 77 and 79 Replingham (2023/4861 and 2023/4823). The Zenith site (bottom of Replingham Road) is being converted to 2 ground floor flats. There is an application for a recessed shopfront for the boarded up site next to Gail's (2024/0262). Wimbledon Park Rifle Club is buying its freehold and so securing its future.
- **Public Realm** - The block seating at the station still needs to be finished off but we finally have the water fountain. Good to see some of the empty units coming back into use. Details of the GLA Stage 2 report on AELTC can be found on the following [website](#) (scroll down to 'Related Documents'). AELTC is now at Stage 3 and is being considered by the Deputy Mayor. Christmas trees will still be collected on Thursday (1 Feb).
- **Crime** – Please see Annex B for crime figures for December 2023.
- **Finance** – As of 29 January funds approx. £5,400 with income to come in from adverts.
- **Communications** – Spring Grid newsletter is due out mid-March. Also, Kate Shattock has recently been working on SGRA Instagram page making it more vibrant and eye-catching.

AOB

- Serena Potter reported on a very successful Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe on 27 January 2024 where 78% of a wide range of items brought in were mended (55%) or repairable with additional advice (23%). The next Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe is on 20 April 2024.
- Dr Sardar H Ahmad wanted to bring to peoples' attention a Peace Symposium (*The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community National Peace Symposium – 9 March 2024 to be held at the Baitul Fatuh Mosque, 181 London Road, Morden, SM4 5PT*). For further information please click the [link](#) to access the webpage.

Forthcoming Meetings

- Public Meeting: **26 March 2024**, 7.45-9pm, St Barnabas Church, hybrid

Forthcoming events

- Winter Wonderland, **24 – 25 February**

Attendance List

SGRA – Executive Members	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Exec. Comm – Chair
Serena Potter	SGRA Exec. Comm – Joint Secretary
Ian Shaw	SGRA Exec. Comm – Joint Secretary/ Brookwood Rd Rep
David Boyle	SGRA Exec. Comm – Hon. Treasurer/Langton Place Rep
Margaret Brett	SGRA Exec. Comm/Lavenham Road Rep
Ameet Phadnis	SGRA Exec. Comm/Replingham Road Rep
Ann Kerr	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Clonmore Street Rep
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Trentham Street Rep
Clive Williams (zoom)	SGRA Exec. Comm
Kyle Forder	SGRA Exec. Comm
Rod Lewington (zoom)	SGRA Exec. Comm
Speakers/Main contributors	Role
Rachel Roberts	Southfields Business Forum
Leonie Cooper	Assembly Member
SGRA Road/Street	Attendees
Astonville Street	Lesley McCaul (Street rep)
Brookwood Road	Jelka Mitic
Clonmore Street	Nick Steiner/Joint Clonmore Street Rep; Rachel Roberts
Elborough Street	Peter Jackson
Engadine Street	Sally Morgan, Diane Nielson-Smith
Hanford Close	Giuseppe & Sarika Cacciatore?
Heythorp Street	Ann Redman;
Langton Place	Paul Rogers
Lavenham Road	Nerea Zorrilla
Replingham Road	Tommy, Liz Becker
Trentham Street	Di Brennan; Francoise Duzal, Janice & Andy Adamson;
Zoom:	Kim Caddy (WBC Cllr); Duncan Lyons; Kate; Douglas Downie; Rosie; John Bardier; Lucy Griffin Beale; Richard; Hilary; Katrina Ure; Colby iPhone; Dachiell; Mehrun@Shiraz Dattoo (13)
Johnny Perkins	AELTC
Lee Roberts	1 Summerstown
John Cockram	Pulborough Road
Dr Sardar H Ahmad	Camborne Street
	Total: 47

Statement by Simon Wright: Update on the AELTC plans to develop Wimbledon Park

Read out, on his behalf, at the SGRA Public Meeting – Tuesday 30 January 2024

Following the split decision – Merton approving AELTC plans, Wandsworth rejecting them – the AELTC application was passed to the Greater London Authority (GLA) for them to consider.

The GLA had two options - rejection of the plans outright or deciding to become the planning authority for the scheme.

With Mayor Sadiq Khan having recused himself through an expression of support in 2021 the decision was passed to his deputy Jules Pipe.

On 22 January 22 Mr. Pipe announced that the GLA would become the planning authority for the scheme.

At some point in the future there will be a process run by City Hall to review the existing AELTC plans: we await details of when this will be – the forthcoming Mayoral elections on May 2nd may be a complicating factor here. We also await details of how local residents can provide further input into the GLA planning process. More information when we have it.

Please note that the SGRA has already provided a well-argued submission to the GLA which reflects its position of objecting to the AELTC plans.

If you want to receive updates on the AELTC plans and you are not already on Simon's mailing list, please drop him a note at simon@ofplus.com

Crime Figures for Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road

Dec 2023

Dec 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
Brookwood Road						1						1
Lavenham Road												0
Revelstoke Road											1	1
Elsenham Street										1		1
Heythorp Street												0
Clonmore Street												0
Engadine Street												0
Elborough Street												0
Trentham Street		1										1
Astonville Street						3	2				2	7
Hanford Close										1	1	2
Pirbright Road												0
Merton Road						1	1					2
Total	0	1	0	0	0	5	3	1	0	2	4	16



All Crimes reported in Southfields Ward in Dec 2023: 62 [SGRA: 16 & Rest of Ward: 46]

Other Crime: Other Theft (0)

+Off-Grid: Southfields LU Station (British Transport Police) (7) ASB (1), Burglary (1), Other Crime (3), Violence and Sexual (2)

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]