

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee (Ex Comm)

Note of meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2024

Members Present: Charles Runcie (CR), Margaret Brett (MB), Ann Kerr (AK), Rod Lewington (RL), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO-M), Ameet Phadnis (AP), Serena Potter (SP), Ian Shaw (IS), Clive Williams (CW).

Apologies from: Kyle Forder (KF), David Boyle (DB).

	Update on actions from previous Ex Comm meetings	Owner(s)	Status
1	Engage more with Street Reps to: (i) discuss possible audits of Grid streets' health and other matters e.g. state of pavements in the Grid; (ii) agree a street rep remit to upload on website	CR & Ex Comm	Open
2	Focus on ensuring increased dog mess signs in the grid	SP	Open
3	Plan and prepare for 2025 calendar to celebrate 50 years of SGRA's existence	All	Open
4	Quality check the new SGRA website	CR	Open
5	2024 Seniors' Tea Party to be on 11 May	AO-M	Open
6	Draft of revised Constitution to be discussed at Ex Comm 27 Feb	IS/MB/AO-M	Open
	Actions arising from 27 February Ex Comm meeting	Owner(s)	
A	Invite Acting Inspector Steve Burke, Diana Chitty & Suzy Levy as guest speakers for 26 March SGRA Public Meeting	CR	
B	Reply to Simon Wright re his request for funding for production of 20,000 leaflets.	CR	
C	Ex Comm to feed in comments on Constitution redraft by 15/3	ALL	
D	Budget for Seniors' Tea Party (11 May) to be agreed	AO-M & DB	
E	Pavement Audit form to be drafted and cc'd to Street Reps	IS	

1. Matters affecting the Ex Comm

- David Boyle has agreed to act as SGRA Hon. Treasurer. Handover meeting took place 24 Jan.
- AO-M agreed to chair next Ex Comm on 30 April.
- Ex Comm scheduled for 25 June, now moved to 18 June.

2. Minutes & Matters arising from 9 January & previous Ex Comm meetings (see above)

- Action 1: See agenda item 8 below
- Action 3: work to start after May 2024 AGM after new Ex Comm members been elected.
- Action 4: to be part of planning of SGRA's 50th anniversary celebrations
- Actions 6 & C: see agenda item 10 below
- An objection to 2021/3609 was submitted to GLA on 17 January.

3. Subjects and speakers for 26 March 2024 SGRA Public Meeting

Acting Inspector Steve Burke will be able to attend as a guest speaker and beforehand he will be made aware of concerns raised by residents. Diana Chitty (Foodbank) will also be invited to give an update (she was due to attend meeting in January but had to cancel due to illness). CR had also been in contact with Suzy Levy re the amount of litter which seemed to be in the Grid.

4. Planning for 2024 Hustings

The Hustings will be held on 16 April at 7.45pm in St Barnabas' Church. It was agreed to run the format as per the 2019 Hustings but to include a reminder for those voting in person to take a form of ID to the Polling station.

5. AELTC developments proposals (2021/3609): (a) update on GLA review; and (b) request from Save Wimbledon Park for £550 to produce 20,000 leaflets.

- (a) AELTC is now at Stage 3 and is being considered by the Deputy Mayor (Jules Pipe). It is awaiting a public hearing but this will have to wait until after the GLA elections.
- (b) Exec Comm considered a request from Simon Wright for £550 to pay for the production of 20,000 leaflets. Following discussion, 8 members of the Committee who were present, agreed and then voted unanimously to refuse the request for the following reasons:
- Funds raised by subscriptions and advertising revenue in the Grid is used to pay for local/community activities e.g. Winter Wanderland, the Annual Seniors' Tea Party.
 - Some questioned the value for money for paying £550 for 20,000 leaflets – of which many may be thrown away without being read - an unnecessary waste of residents' money.
 - SGRA would continue to use our sources of information (Grid News mainly, website plus social media and regular meetings), as the main focus to get messages across.

CR agreed to reply to Simon Wright along those lines.

6. Front Garden Awards 2024

AO-M reported that she had lined up a few judges and was looking for two more.

7. Southfields Business Forum (SBF)

AO-M and AK (SGRA reps on SBF) reported on their introductory meeting with Rachel Roberts who is leading the work to revive the SBF. There was quite a bit of discussion on how local shops could benefit more from that the next Christmas lights switch-on event. AO M and AK acknowledged that even though their involvement with the SBF was underpinned by SGRA's Constitution (i.e. limited to raising awareness of, and supporting, businesses in Southfields) relations with the Forum needed to be handled with care. SBF's next meeting will be on 11 March.

CR mentioned that on 20 February, Wandsworth Borough Council launched a new free support programme to help individuals and businesses start and grow called 'Ignite'. Further details can be accessed clicking on this [link](#).

8. Street Reps meeting

CR said that he is organising a meeting before Easter possibly on a Friday morning (9.30-11am), details to follow.

9. Improving Streets on the Grid: pavement survey

CR began by thanking RL for his ideas on what to cover in a survey of the pavements on the Grid. IS agreed to redraft a tick-box form which allow house/flat numbers to be included to indicate to Wandsworth Borough Council where the damaged pavement slabs were/are. The deadline for returns from Street Reps would be two weeks after the survey has been sent out.

10. Update on revised Constitution

IS began by thanking MB and AO-M for their support and valuable input in redrafting the Constitution. Major changes to the current Constitution would reflect the way SGRA acts as an organisation i.e. made up of unpaid volunteers and reliant on funds from subscriptions and advertising revenue. It also made clear the:

- geographical area which SGRA covered;
- Honorary officer roles (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer);
- Importance of the Executive Committee in determining the priorities for each SGRA year (June to following May) and establishing Ex Comms leads for those workstreams.

IS would welcome comments on the draft by **15 March**.

11. Ongoing updates:

Communication – Charles Runcie

- Next Grid newsletter being prepared for issue from 18 March. Also, the plan is to have the adverts in a pull-out section. Rachel Roberts from Wishlist would be contributing an article as would Simon Wright in terms of an update re AELTC.

Planning – Margaret Brett

- SGRA objected to the proposed development at 75, 77,79 Replingham (2023/4861 and 2023/4823) as they wanted to make a very dominant building. This has now been withdrawn.
- There is an application for the boarded up site next to Gail's (2024/0262). The Feel Good Coffee House is to be run by Regenerate a local charity for disadvantaged & vulnerable youth.
- There is a renewed application for the structure at 96C Pirbright (2023/0553) but the details are not available yet.
- Wylie's coffee shop has applied for an alcohol licence and it is to be open 7am to 11.00pm.
- Carter Jonas is to open on 1 March.
- Planned expansion works have taken place on the old Loney Miller site in Brookwood Road.

Public Realm – Margaret Brett

- The block seating at the station still needs to be finished off and the water fountain has been disabled because it was leaking.
- The Council have announced a programme for improving the roads and pavements and Lavenham Road has just been resurfaced. There are pavement works in Heythorp Street.
- There is to be stronger enforcement against dog mess offenders and mess can be reported to the Council via the Fly tipping notification page.
- The Council have updated their Climate Change Action plan to introduce a Microgrants scheme to provide funding for small community groups to develop projects to help deliver the scheme.

Crime – Clive Williams:

- Figures for Jan 2024 would be ready mid-March, and should be in Spring Grid News.

Finance – Charles Runcie:

- Funds = £5,874. Street income (£3.7k) is +8% on last year. Mailchimp on monthly PayPal payments. A budget will be needed for the Annual Seniors' Tea Party.

12. AOB

- The importance of having a notice board at the top of Replingham Road was becoming more urgent - especially since some local retailers had recently turned down requests to include posters for local activities e.g. Winter Wonderland in their windows. CR agreed to approach the Council again.
- AO-M raised the issue of Trentham Street being used a rat-run for cars trying to avoid congestion on Merton Road due to the bus lane being operational from 7am to 7pm. Residents are looking to organise a petition. CR advised that AO-M raise the issue with Leonie Cooper.
- CR hopes that he will secure one or two Street Reps for Hanford Close soon.

Dates of next meetings & events

Forthcoming Meetings

- Public Meeting: **26 March**, 7.45-9.30pm, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church, hybrid
- GLA Election Hustings: **16 April**, 7.45pm, St Barnabas Church
- Executive Committee: **30 April**, 7.45-9.30pm, Upper Room, St Barnabas Church
- SGRA AGM/Public Meeting **21 May**, 7.45-9.30pm, Patio Room, St Barnabas Church

Forthcoming events

- Restarters Southfields: Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe: **20 April**, St Barnabas Church
- Southfields SNT Ward Panel Meeting: **27 April**, 10.30am, St Barnabas Church