

Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee (Exec Comm)

Note of meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025

Members Present: — Charles Runcie (CR) Chair, Margaret Brett (MB), Kyle Forder (KF) Ann Kerr (AK), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO-M), Serena Potter (SP) Ian Shaw (IS), Clive Williams (CW).

	Update on actions from previous Exec Comm meetings	Owner(s)	Status
1	Focus on ensuring increased dog mess signs in the grid	SP	Open
2	Contact Juanita Stannel-Taitte at WBC re notice board for publicising SGRA news and events	CR	Ongoing
3	Redraft for subscription envelope to be ready for Exec Comm	SP/IS	Completed
4	Schemata of residents' census/survey to be ready for Exec Comm	IS	Completed
5	Submit further reply to Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association (WNWA)	CR	Ongoing
6	Invite Acting Inspector Steve Burke to be guest speaker on 28 Jan	IS	Completed
7	To represent SGRA at SBF feedback meeting on Christmas light event	AK/AOM	Completed
8	Suggestions of attendees at Parliamentary reception to SP by 21 Jan	All	Completed
9	Update Jennie Allen on timing for St Barnabas quiz	IS	Completed
10	Amend the SGRA logo to include '1975 to 2025'	IS	Completed
11	Contact Kate Shattock to get Instagram login details for Exec Comm	IS	Completed
12	Arrange publicity for Winter Wanderland equivalent	SW/AOM	Completed
	Actions arising from 25 February Exec Comm meeting	Owner(s)	
A	Public Meeting agenda to state new end-time of 9.15pm and Chair to ask at beginning if attendees have any AOB they wished to raise	CR/IS	
B	Attend on behalf of SGRA local meeting of WNWA on 27/3 (Tooting)	IS	
C	Draft reply to Heythorp Residents seeking change in parking permit times	CR	
D	Comments on draft survey to IS by 17/3	Exec Comm	
E	Comments on redraft subs envelope to IS by 17/3	Exec Comm	
F	Circulate information on SGRA/SBF meeting with Fleur when ready	CR	

1. **Apologies for absence** – Ameet Phadnis, Rod Lewington, Sue Wixley.

2. **Declarations of interest** - None were declared.

3. **Matters arising from Exec Comm on 7 January & previous meetings**

- **Action 1:** SP said as nothing has happened for a long time, she would pursue this with a relevant person in Wandsworth Borough Council.
- **Actions 3 & 4:** Drafts tabled for Exec Comm (see 7 & 8 below).
- **Action 5:** CW to act as main contact point with Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association (WNWA) and attend local meetings – IS to attend meeting in Tooting on 27 March.
- **Action 11:** Kate has passed over a password to IS but no action taken as the email address to the account was not known. During the meeting KF used the info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk email address with the password and was able to access the account.

4. **Guest speakers at 25 March & 20 May AGM/Public Meetings**

- It was agreed that for future public meetings one guest speaker should be invited.
- Potential speakers lined up for Public meetings are: Michael Singham, Reverend Vanessa Elston, Nina from GtG, Someone from Recycle More Southfields, Suzy Levy (litter picking). AELTC had suggested that Debbie Jeavons speak at a public meeting.

- It was also agreed to clearly state the end time of public meetings to be 9.15pm. This would require some changes to the standard agendas. Also the Chair would check at the beginning if anyone present (physically or online) had any other business they would want to raise which would need to be accommodated timing wise.

5. Update on SGRA'S 50th anniversary celebrations

- Art Festival (8 March 2025): 21 artists have signed up to exhibit their works. We were looking for a first aider (one of the artists has agreed to do so). CR mentioned that a friend of his (Harriet) would be able to help out with the refreshments. There would be a fresh trawl of volunteers (Exec Comm and Street Reps) to help with setting up and clearing up.
- Reception at House of Commons (Jubilee Room – 30 April – 6 to 8pm): List of invitees was being finalised to be sent to Matthew Whitty (Fleur's Chief of Staff). As to refreshments, CR and SW would work together to work out a suitable budget which SGRA would be paying for. CR would also invite Isabelle Lemettre to take photos for Grid News.
- Special edition of Grid News: Charles is looking to produce a special 50th anniversary of Grid News – work on this before the AGM in May. This special edition would not include adverts. It would include a historic timeline of the Grid (from 1975?) and also extracts from old Grid newsletters.
- Front Garden Awards: AO-M said that pending a meeting with Green the Grid the following week there was not much to say. As this was to be linked to SGRA 50th celebrations, it was proposed that the top prizes would be £50 and £30 for the second prizes.
- St Barnabas Quiz Night: IS confirmed that following a meeting with Jennie Allen, SGRA would organise the St Barnabas Quiz Night for a Friday night in October 2025. The Exec Comm would start to focus on this after the 8 March Art Festival.

6. Parking issues on Heythorp Street

- Discussion was focused on a request from some residents in Heythorp Street who were seeking SGRA support for amending the CPZ S2 parking signage on Heythorp Road (between Replingham and Brookwood Rd) from Monday to Friday 1.30pm -2.30pm to Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm. These residents were having difficulties parking their cars due to others, who live outside the locality, taking advantage of 'free parking'.
- Although Exec Comm members empathised with these residents of Heythorp Street, it was felt that any such change would be counterproductive. It would either shift the problem elsewhere in the Grid, but more importantly may negatively impact of Southfields Grid shops, who could lose out by those shoppers not being able to park nearby (the shops). Therefore the response would be that SGRA could not support the proposal. CR agreed to draft a reply to and consult Exec Comm members as appropriate.

7. Update on residents survey (tabled by IS earlier on 25 February)

- IS tabled a draft version of the survey earlier that day. Realising that Exec Comm members would not have enough time to look at it and comment, it was agreed that they would be invited to offer any general comments on types of questions to be asked and offer suggestions of what may be missing to IS by Monday 17 March.

8. Update of subscriptions envelope redraft (tabled by IS earlier on 25 February)

- SP and IS have been working on a suggested redraft of the subscriptions envelope in time to be printed for the special edition of Grid News to mark our 50th anniversary. Although the envelope would remain the same size as the current one, certain details had been removed (e.g. bank account details) or moved (e.g. Street reps detailed to the reverse of the envelope). A QR code would be added if anyone wanted pay online. Again Exec Comm members would be invited to send any general comments to IS by Monday 17 March.

9. Update from Friends of Coronation Gardens

- CR said that restoration work on the fountain would start on 12 May 2025 and last around 6 weeks. There would be an official rededication of the fountain on Saturday 19 July. As part of the celebrations there would be a Community Open Day in Coronation Gardens. More details to follow.

10. Ongoing updates:

Communication

- CR was working hard to get the first Grid News of 2025 issued mid-March.

Planning

- The application for 319 Merton Road (2024/3515) to convert a small dwelling house into a 7 bedroom house of multiple occupation has been withdrawn.

AELTC

- The Save Wimbledon Park group's challenge to the GLA decision has been accepted by the court as having an arguable case and is to proceed to judicial review. The GLA and AELTC are the respondents. Neither Merton nor Wandsworth will be involved in the case. This may take 18 months to resolve but has been considered quickly at this stage.

Local

- The Council is now offering us two free bulky waste collections a year. Each free collection can be for up to four items e.g. mattresses, furniture, washing machines, fridges and freezers.
- The Council has made an undertaking that if you report graffiti, a broken street sign, or a dangerous pothole it will be fixed within 7 days. The main contact telephone number is now being answered by staff rather than a machine.

Crime

- Updated figures will be prepared to go out alongside the agenda for each Public Meeting in future. Exec Comm members were reminded that there were two 'Cuppas with a Copper' in March (see below). If by any chance they were cancelled due to sickness, it may be possible to attend the one in Southfields Library.

Finance

- Funds = around £6.9k. Exec Comm received a breakdown from AP for 2024 finances. In response to 3 questions, Exec Comm: accepted the £1.2k net contribution per year; agreed that the income from advertising should cover the costs of printing Grid News and that with access to Bank account IS could ensure that those in 2025 who have not paid, will do so (or risk not advertising in future GNs); acknowledged that the reporting of annual carry forwards was a necessary act of disclosure in annual finance reports.

11. AOB:

- 2nd Street Reps meeting: it was agreed to organise another Street Reps meeting (similar to the one held in Dec 2024) but in the evening.
 - Meeting with Fleur Anderson, SGRA and SBF: CR mentioned that Fleur was keen to have a breakfast meeting with SGRA and SBF (to assist SBF preparations with their forthcoming meeting with ALTEC). More details would follow separately.
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Forthcoming meetings

- SGRA Public Meeting, **25 March 2025**, 7.45-9.15pm, St Barnabas Church

Forthcoming events

- Southfields Art Festival, **8 March 2025**, 12.30 to 5pm, St Barnabas Church
- 'Cuppa with a Copper' **11 March 2025**, 2-3pm, Caffé Nero, 247-249 Wimbledon Park Road
- 'Cuppa with a Copper' **26 March 2025**, 2-3pm, Caffé Nero, 247-249 Wimbledon Park Road
- Mend, Fix and Repair Café, **26 April 2025**, 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church