



Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee (Exec Comm)

Note of meeting held on Tuesday 29 April 2025

1. **Members Present:** — Charles Runcie (CR) Chair, Margaret Brett (MB), Kyle Forder (KF) Ann Kerr (AK), Rod Lewington (RL), Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO-M), Serena Potter (SP), Ian Shaw (IS), Clive Williams (CW). Sue Wixley (SW).
2. **Apologies for absence** – Kyle Forder, Ameet Phadnis

	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	Submit further reply to Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association (WNWA)	CR	Closed
4	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	IS	Completed
5	Attend on behalf of SGRA local meeting of WNWA on 27/3 (Tooting)	IS	Closed
6	Reply to Heythorp Residents seeking change in parking permit times	CR	Closed
7	Comments on draft survey to IS by 17/3	IS	Ongoing
8	Comments on redraft subs envelope to IS by 17/3	IS	Ongoing
9	Circulate information on SGRA/SBF meeting with Fleur when ready		Closed
Actions arising from 29 April Exec Comm meeting		Owner(s)	
A	Invite Liam Hutton & Bradley Colman to be guest speakers at AGM	CR	
B	Agree with Ameet presentation of SGRA finances at AGM	IS	
C	Include 50 th anniversary events/items in July 2025 edition of Grid News	CR	
D	Book Church for St Barnabas Quiz night (for either 10 or 17 Oct 2025)	IS	
E	Send updated draft survey to Exec Comm for comment	IS	
F	Send scanned copy of subs envelope re-design to Exec Comm	IS	
G	Chase up on progress re Speed Gun (location and operability)	CW & IS	
H	Update on Jeffrey Barber how SGRA can help STRA6 (cf AOB below)	IS	
I	Invite Gillian Brett (FOCG figurine sculptor) to speak at SGRA meeting	CR	
J	Contact 'Mums at Home' Group re speaking at July SGRA meeting	IS	
K	Chase up Guy Humphries re review of Southfields' parking restrictions	CR	
L	Invite WBC Traffic Manager to speak at future SGRA public meeting	CR	

3. **Declarations of interest** - None were declared.
4. **Matters arising from Exec Comm on 25 February & previous meetings**
 - **Action 1:** SP said that this would remain open until new signs were evident.
 - **Action 3:** CR for now to be main contact with Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association.
 - **Actions 7 & 8 and E & F:** Exec Comm updated on progress (see 7 & 8 below).

5. Guest speakers at 20 May AGM & Public Meeting and 22 July Public Meeting

- Following a successful Grid Street Tree Walk on 22 April, it was agreed that Liam Hutton and Bradley Coleman of Wandsworth Borough Council's Aboricultural Office be invited to be guest speakers following the formal AGM business. The Revd Vanessa Elston will also speak for a few minute.
- Potential speakers lined up for July Public meeting include someone from 'Mums at Home' Group.

6. Update on SGRA'S 50th anniversary celebrations

- Special edition of Grid News: There is not enough material to produce a special 50th anniversary of Grid News in May. Any relevant articles (including personal memories from Sarah Williams, 1977 Silver Jubilee Street Parties and also one on McCluskey's Food & Wine Shop also celebrating 50 years) will now be included in an enhanced July Grid newsletter (to come out in early July with new subscriptions envelope). CR would be focussing on inviting people who had been involved with SGRA during its 50 years e.g. Christina 'Tina' Thompson, Nick Steiner, Fleur Anderson, Justine Greening, Tony Coleman, current Councillors, Terry Walsh & Chris Puleston.
- Front Garden Awards (FGA) – 20 to 29 June: AO-M was pleased to say that she had a complete set of judges for this year's FGA. Criteria would be issued soon and there would be one or two moderation 'walk through' exercises before judging period. Gerard Sebastian would be asked to design a poster.
- Reception at House of Commons (Jubilee Room – 14 July – 6 to 8pm): List of invitees was being finalised to be sent to Matthew Whitty (Fleur's Chief of Staff) or successor. As to refreshments, CR and SW would work together to work out a suitable budget which SGRA would be paying for.
- 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 preparation for this after the AGM – IS would book the Church for either 10 or 17 October.
- Who lived where in the Grid: IS said that both Sarah and Clive Williams had been compiling, from Census reports, a list of people (including ages and occupations) who lived on the Grid from 1900 to around 1950. This would eventually be uploaded onto our website.
- Consideration of use of library space to display articles for SGRA 50th anniversary: The kind offer from Sucheta was discussed. Possibly it could contain some of Chris Puleston's photos or even information on SGRA Exec Comm following 20 May 2025 AGM.

7. Update on residents survey

- IS said that after he received comments on the first draft, he had decided to change the focus of the questionnaire to include sections where residents could (i) confirm their current worries and more importantly to (ii) tick ideas or initiatives that would encourage them to live longer in Southfields Grid. When a draft would be circulated, Exec Comm would be asked for examples to include in (ii).

8. Update of subscriptions envelope redraft

- IS showed a cut & paste version of the redesigned subs envelope which he would scan with the draft note of the meeting. Exec Comm would be given a week to comment before Yellow Print were commissioned to produce a draft before printing.

9. Update from Friends of Coronation Gardens (CG)

- CR said that restoration work on the fountain would start on 12 May 2025. There would be an official rededication of the fountain on Thursday 3 July. More details to follow as will a request for funding assistance.
- On 15 June (3pm) Shakespeare in the Squares will perform 'The Taming of the Shrew' at CG..

10. Ongoing updates:

Communication

- Latest Facebook and Instagram followers are 2,057 & 1,291 respectively..

Planning & local

- MB sent in a comment to Wandsworth Borough Council on behalf of SGRA opposing the proposal (Determination as to whether prior approval is required for change of use from retail (Class E formerly class A1) to a one-bedroom residential flat (Class 3)) for the FARA kids site to convert from retail to residential (2025/ 1122). As of 5 May 2025, 152 objection comments have been submitted, plus 1 general and 1 support comment (both of which do not want the FARA shop to close). SW had also been in touch with Fara head office and was reassured to learn they have a lease until 2027.
- There are the usual loft and side extensions. The coffee shop at the bottom of Replingham Road (formerly El Cafetal) is now Il Caffettino, and is also an Italian deli. The fresh fish shop (West Coast Fish) in Wimbledon Park Road has closed down.
- There was a proposal for a huge tower at Battersea Bridge which has been refused by the Planning Committee on officers' advice. Of interest is the statement 'The council has a robust approach to planning which seeks to ensure that land in the borough is used for the benefit of local people. The Planning Applications Committee is an independent committee and plays an important role in translating local views into decision-making.'
- Tooting Bec Lilo re-opened on 17 April

Crime

- Updated figures will be prepared to go out alongside the agenda for each Public Meeting in future.
- Re location and operability questions on Southfields Speed Gun, CW has since established that the SGRA/Southfields Speed Gun is with its manufacturer Truvelo for servicing and re-calibration. CW also said that at 30 April's 'Cuppa with a Copper' PCSO Don Lopes & PC Nick Secombe confirmed that for legal and safety reasons, speed guns can only be operated by police officers.
- In response to why there had not been many Instagram pages from Met Police – Don Lopes said that he did not have time to focus on this 100% of his time, so would be getting help from colleagues.

Finance

- Funds = around £6.0k. IS agreed to contact AP to discuss the Finance report for the 20 May AGM.

11. AOB:

- Southfields Triangle Residents' Association 6 (STRA6): Jeffrey Barber (former Communications Manager of STRA6) said that their RA had not been operative for 2-3 years. He wondered if they could come under SGRA coverage or if SGRA could reach out to them to help them every so often. Having read their constitution (broadly similar to SGRA's) IS concluded that as they have not held any AGMs there are no current officials of STRA6. Exec Comm agreed that SGRA could not agree to take over STRA6 – on grounds of inconsistent operations/practice as well as the responsibility for an unwieldy geographical area. IS will revert to Jeffrey with our decision and work out a plan on how we can reach out to STRA6 and bring the plan in time for the next Exec Comm meeting in June.
 - Better protection against weeds on Grid Street: To counteract possible chemical spraying across the Grid, SP suggested that SGRA could encourage, via street reps and/or street WhatsApp groups, people to keep their pavement/kerb area free from weeds, and reduce the need for chemical spraying.
 - Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs): CR had an email from James Ward (adfreecities.org.uk) who is leading a campaign against greater use of SUVs and as ALTEC has a fleet of Range Rovers SUVs acting as official vehicles wondered whether SGRA like to join the campaign. CR felt that James was confusing us with 'Save Wimbledon Park'. Anyway, CR will reply to him and politely refuse.
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Forthcoming meetings

- SGRA AGM/Public Meeting **20 May 2025**, 7.45-9.15pm, St Barnabas Church
- SGRA Exec Comm meeting **24 June 2025**, 7.30-9.15pm, Upper Room, St Barnabas Church
- SGRA Public Meeting **22 July 2025**, 7.30-9.15, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church

Forthcoming events

- Shakespeare in the Square presenting 'The Taming of the Shrew' **15 June**, 3pm Coronation Gardens
- Front Garden Award judging week **20 to 29 June**, across Southfields Grid
- Rededication of Coronation Gardens Fountain (with installed figurine) **3 July**, Coronation Gardens