



Southfields Grid Residents' Association Executive Committee (Exec Comm)

Note of meetings held on Tuesday 24 June & Thursday 3 July 2025

1. **Members Present:** — Charles Runcie (CR) Chair, Margaret Brett (MB), Kyle Forder (KF) Ann Kerr (AK) – 3 July, Rod Lewington (RL) – 3 July, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty (AO-M), Ameet Phadnis (AP), Serena Potter (SP), Ian Shaw (IS), Will Smart (WS), Clive Williams (CW). Sue Wixley (SW) – 24 June.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Ann Kerr, Rod Lewington (24 June) & Sue Wixley (3 July)
3. Will Smart was welcomed to his first meeting on the Executive Committee.

| | 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 | Invite Liam Hutton & Bradley Colman to be guest speakers at AGM | CR | Closed |
| 4 | Agree with Ameet presentation of SGRA finances at AGM | IS | Closed |
| 5 | Include 50 th anniversary events/items in July 2025 edition of Grid News | CR | Ongoing |
| 6 | Book Church for St Barnabas Quiz night (for either 10 or 17 Oct 2025) | IS | Completed |
| 7 | Send updated draft survey to Exec Comm for comment | IS | Ongoing |
| 8 | Send scanned copy of subs envelope re-design to Exec Comm | IS | Ongoing |
| 9 | Chase up on progress re Speed Gun (location and operability) | CW & IS | Ongoing |
| 10 | Update on Jeffrey Barber how SGRA can help STRA6 (cf AOB below) | IS | Ongoing |
| 11 | Invite Gillian Brett (FOCG figurine sculptor) to speak at SGRA meeting | CR | Ongoing |
| 12 | Contact 'Mums at Home' Group re speaking at July SGRA meeting | IS | Ongoing |
| 13 | Chase up Guy Humphries re review of Southfields' parking restrictions | CR | Ongoing |
| 14 | Invite WBC Traffic Manager to speak at future SGRA public meeting | CR | Completed |
| Actions arising from 24 June Exec Comm meeting | | Owner(s) | |
| A | Ensure advice on requesting of fly-tipped materials and also mega- skip days is regularly update on SGRA website and other social media | ALL | |
| B | Offer £2K towards overspend on FoCG Fountain restoration | CR/AM/IS | |
| C | Exec Comm on 28 October to review SGRA budget lines overspend | Exec Comm | |
| D | Those wishing to assist WS re engaging with younger families to let him before end July | Exec Comm | |

4. **Declarations of interest** – Re item 8 Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG) - rededication of fountain, CR, as Chair of FoCG, declared a conflict of interest and IS would chair that agenda item.
5. **Commentary on matters arising from Exec Comm on 29 April & previous Exec Comm meetings**
 - **Action 1:** that this would remain open until new signs were evident.
 - **Action 2:** Sue Wixley has offered to pursue this (see 13 below which has two questions)
 - **Action 3:** Liam Hutton was invited and gave a welcome presentation at the AGM.
 - **Action 5:** See 9 below.
 - **Action 6:** Church booked for evening of Friday 10 October (see 9 below)
 - **Actions 7 & 8:** Exec Comm updated on progress (see 6 below).
 - **Actions 9 & 13:** Guy Humphries to be contacted re update for 22 July Public Meeting.
 - **Action 10:** IS to make contact with Jeffrey Barber before end July.
 - **Actions 11 & 12:** date to be agreed re Gillian Brett; re Mums at Home as this was a national issue (and not a specifically local one) it was agreed not to invite them to speak yet.

Fly tipping on corner of Heythorp and Lavenham (raised at AGM)

- It was agreed to remind residents via social media (include Street WhatsApp groups) and our website that they can request removals of fly-tipped material (as well reporting broken paving slabs, lampposts etc) via 'Fix My Street', also include details of mega-skips and their locations. Messages could also be conveyed in the Grid Newsletters.

E-bikes & E-scooters

- As many concerns of people using and parking E-bikes and E-scooters have been raised, it was agreed to seek views from Grid Residents as part of our survey coming out in September.

6. SGRA priorities 2025/26

- Updating the Constitution – IS said that in light of the AGM, amendments would be made to the Constitution to: (i) reflect the need to align the financial year with the normal fiscal year (i.e. April to March); (ii) remove the word 'audited' in respect of accounts; (iii) enable the SGRA to reach out and help other local organisations in terms of achieving their aims; (iv) ensure that at either Annual General Meetings, if someone from the floor wishes to be elected to the Exec Comm that there is due diligence carried out i.e. they should confirm that they are SGRA Members, paid their subscriptions and that they are proposed and seconded (before or at the AGM) by people who know them.
- Subscription envelopes/membership developments – SP/IS Plans for a new envelope were in abeyance until they had considered the pros and cons of an online membership database. The revised plan was that the currently designed subs envelopes would be delivered in September and would be included in a folded note from SGRA and a paper copy of the SGRA Survey. For the next year, a new envelope would be in preparation.
- Survey – IS was grateful for comments to date and said that another iteration would be sent round asap. SW suggested as that an opening (free-text) question could be along the lines of 'What is it about Southfields you love/Why do you love living in Southfields?'. MB said that she would forward her comments on (which she has). IS confirmed that the results would be publicly available and could be used as a basis for some joint activities with other interested local groups.
- Art Festival – 2026 – IS confirmed that this would be on Saturday 7 March.
- Guest speakers at 22 July and 30 Sept Public Meetings – CR said that Fleur Anderson MP has agreed to be the main speaker at the 22 July Public Meeting and Rachel Roberts has also agreed to do an update on the Southfields Business Forum (SBF). Debbie Jeavons has been invited to be the guest speaker at the 30 September Public Meeting.

7. **Managing SGRA Budget for 2025/26** – Exec Comm discussed a one pager showing potential SGRA budget income and spend for 2025-26). This would be populated with expected spend so that we could have a more accurate figure on overall spend. AP would want to include up to date budget spending in Grid News.

8. **Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG): rededication of fountain** – CR confirmed that on 3 July, there would be a fountain rededication ceremony with 125 people expected to attend (including BBC &, ITV London News & the BBC Radio London Breakfast Show). However, there is an unexpected overspend of around £7K – reasons for the increase in costs include:

- a. bronze cost for the statuette & replacement commemorative plaque and associated transport costs from the foundry to Coronation Gardens.
 - b. late decision to film the statuette manufacturing process, and wider PR.
 - c. loss of expert project manager in mid-May who could have flagged up concerns much earlier.
 - d. VAT not accounted for in one instance.
- Various groups were being asked to contribute funds and FoCG had agreed to contribute £1,500. CR proposed SGRA contribute £3,500 on the grounds there was money in SGRA's account and it

would show support for a unique community initiative. Due to his conflict of interest, CR agreed to leave the room for the Exec Comm to come to a decision.

- Many felt that the amount asked for was too much to give in one go. Although they were keen to support community initiatives, Exec Comm also recognised that they were custodians of membership subscriptions and therefore had to act responsibly to any requests for donations. After a lengthy discussion, Exec Comm agreed an offer of £2K, and to review the situation at the 28 October Exec Comm meeting. By then it was hoped that there would be more information on how other fund-raising schemes e.g. private donations, crowdfunding had helped reduce the overspend.

Thursday 3 July – continuation of Exec Comm from 24 June

Update on Friends of Coronation Gardens Fountain rededication

CR said that the morning's rededication went well with over 130 guests attending. There were leading figures from Wandsworth and the event was trailed by BBC Breakfast and covered in the evening news editions of the BBC and ITV news. This alongside the various press and digital articles all helped celebrate a great achievement for both Coronation Gardens and Southfields.

9. Update on SGRA'S 50th anniversary celebrations

- Front Garden Awards (FGA) – 20 to 29 June: AO-M was pleased to say that the judges had finished and an overall winner and two runners-up had been elected by the judges. All three would be invited to the 22 July Public Meeting to receive their prizes from Fleur Anderson following a presentation from AO-M. In terms of numbers of awards given: 30 were for outstanding and 100 for delightful. AO-M announced that in September she would be stepping down as FGA lead and would be succeeded by IS (who would be handing over the advertising baton to AO-M).
- Reception at House of Commons (Jubilee Room – 14 July – 6.15 to 8pm): CR confirmed that invitations had been sent out from Fleur Anderson's office.
- Special edition of Grid News: CR confirmed that this would be a 20 page edition (bumper issue). Major articles would include the FoCG fountain, update on the Court case questioning the legal basis of Greater London Authority's decision re development and an article on 2025 Front Garden Awards.
- St Barnabas Quiz Night: IS confirmed the Church was booked for the evening of Friday 10 October.

10. Collection of refreshments at future Public Meetings - WS agreed to take over from AOM the responsibility for collecting the refreshments for each public meeting.

11. Update on Southfields Business Forum - AK said that SBF had 35 members. That morning (3 July) AK, AOM, IS and Amy Spratt from AELTC had successfully judged the Wimbledon Tennis window competition had gone well and found three winners and five commendable entries. All seemed pleased with their prizes. IS had provided Rachel Roberts and Maddie Miller with a draft Constitution in time for their AGM (7 July).

- ### **12. Engagement of younger families on the Grid** -WS spoke to his paper (see Annex A). In addition, there would be £500 of SGRA funds earmarked to help ideas get off the ground and which would also include room hire. To encourage families and children to feel as though they are engaging with the community, there would be a suggestions box and also possibly some pages of Grid News written by some of the children. For the older children, there could be organised careers' evenings.
- WS said that ideally he would like to kick-start work on this for October/November. Ideally there would be a small committee to set up and AMO offered to work with WS in taking this forward. Also WS was advised that there would be other experienced people to consult on issues such as legal aspects, insurance and other operational issues.

13. **Ongoing updates:**

Planning & local

- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Alongside the standard applications for rear extensions and loft conversions, the most notable application in June is the HMO application for 10 Elsenham Street (planning case: 2025/1167). The application is for certification of “change of use from single family dwelling (Class C3) to HMO (Class C4) for up to 6 people”. As discussed, by email, with the Exec Comm on 8 June, it was agreed that the SGRA would put in an objection and let residents know about it through various street WhatsApp groups. This has happened and as of 8 July there were 126 objections submitted from residents across the Grid and Wimbledon Park. However, on the same date (8 July), the Planning Committee agreed to approve the application with no conditions.
- Riversdale Primary school: Riversdale have put in an application for the erection of a two-storey building to accommodate 4 classrooms and ancillary spaces, removal of existing single-storey modular classroom building and replacement with artificial grass surface play area (planning case: 2025/2161). There are a few objections – not of substance.
- Miscellaneous:
 - Re the smiley face speed radar on Replingham Road which has been out of action for a few weeks, TfL have replied to say they’re sending out an engineer but “bear with us”.
 - SW wondered whether it is worth her writing to the Council about the plan for a noticeboard to be installed as part of the public realm development? **Answers please to SW asap.**
 - Finally, has anyone else missed the big planters for flowers outside the tube station?

Crime

- Updated figures will be prepared to go out alongside the agenda for 22 July Public Meeting.
- Meetings: CW said he was unsure when the next Cuppa with a Coppa in Café Nero Southfields would be. But there will be two West Hill equivalent meetings in Southfields Library on Wednesday 9 July & Tuesday 29 July at 11-12pm. The next SNT Ward Panel meeting will be in the Parish Room (St Barnabas Church) on Saturday 26 July at 1.30am.
- Rebuttal lines: CR raised a critical issue concerning the lack of speedy rebuttal lines from the Metropolitan Police. These would be useful in instances where people had seen an incident and started to make unfounded accusations on various WhatsApp Groups leading up to unnecessary worries or concerns in the Grid. CR has since emailed Nick Seccombe of the Southfields Ward, Putney Safer Neighbourhood Team.

14. **AOB:**

- On-call First aider: Following an initial search for a qualified first aider to help out at Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe and also the Southfields Art Festival, SP said one had been in contact and would like to complete her training in August. SP wondered if the cost of £114 could be split between SGRA and MFR Cafe. Exec Comm agreed to paying its half of £57.
- Toby Costin Crew Energy talk (Wednesday 2 July): SP said that she went to a very poorly attended event organised and led by Toby Costin at St Barnabas Church. Though there were posters in the Church, SP thought SGRA could help better publicise events like in future (e.g. website/email etc)
- Green the Grid: AOM gave an update on how GTG were doing whilst recognising that it was not clear where they saw themselves going in the next few years. To date there are 50 grid growers, some gardening clubs, herbs being planted in tree bases, microgrants from Wandsworth Borough Council, and the continuation of wreath making at Christmas but at a larger venue.

Forthcoming meetings

- SGRA Public Meeting **22 July 2025**, 7.30-9.15, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church

Forthcoming events

- Parliamentary Reception for SGRA 50 years **14 July** 6.15 to 8pm House of Commons.
- SNT Ward Panel Meeting **26 July**, 10.30am, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church
- West Hill Cuppa with a Copper **29 July**, 11-12pm, Southfields Library, Wimbledon Park Road

Engagement of younger families on Southfields Grid

Proposal

A Junior SGRA established called **GridKids** to run a mini version of the SGRA focusing on events and activities to engage the children (~1500) to continue building and contributing to the community.

Context

From the 2021 census 23% of households and 50% of the population (Parents & Children) are families with children under 17 within Southfields Ward.

Working families are time poor with the demands of children and through providing activities and events around children provides opportunities to increase family's engagement of the local area.

Proposed Plan

Establish a dedicated junior section of the SGRA directly for children on the Grid called **GridKids**. To help compliment the work of the SGRA and increase engagement with the children and young families of the Grid. An outline of **GridKids** is as follows:

- Junior Committee to be run by kids, shadowed by a leadership group.
- Regular monthly meetings to build community, interaction and promote social enterprise through activities to action ideas.
- **GridKids** section of the newsletter to be written, produced by Junior Committee and forwarded to SGRA for review and inclusion within the quarterly newsletter.
- Oversee an event calendar for regular events to promote engagement and fun across the Grid.
- Simplified initiatives plan drawn from suggestion boxes and prioritised by the committee

Objectives

- Increase engagement of families across the grid through **GridKids** meetings designed for children and parents.
- Provide a regular meeting place for children on the grid to interact through games and social enterprise activities.
- Increase involvement of children in the community through newsletter, initiatives and events.
- Create crossover opportunities between JSGRA participants and SGRA initiatives such as Window Wanderland.

Resources

The plan is for the activities to be self-sufficient over time as they are developed and introduced reducing the need for financial resources for entertainment.

The financial resources required:

- Meeting venue hire
- Initial meeting kick-off activities to promote interest

The human resources required:

- Shadow committee
- Activity organisers

Presented by Will Smart – June 2025