



SGRA Public Meeting: Tuesday 22 July 2025 – 7.30pm
Parish Room, St Barnabas Church

Note

Apologies for absence – see attendance sheet on page 4 below.

Introduction: Charles introduced Michele Clark, new Street Representative for Hanford Close, to the meeting.

Matters arising since 20 May (AGM/Public Meeting) & 24 June Executive Meeting

- **Trees on the Grid:** Liam Hutton who spoke at the AGM will be conducting another tree walk in selected roads/streets across the Grid in the Autumn.
- **Fly-tipping:** this was mentioned at the AGM (in relation to corner of Lavenham Road and Heythorp Street). General view was that items were being cleared away quickly by the Council though more could be done to prevent fly-tipping taking place in the first place – more warning notices of guilty people facing fines, for example.
- **Notice-Board** – still ongoing. Exec Comm will push again for this with the Council.
- **Speed Gun** – Guy Humphries confirmed that he would be pick up the recalibrated speed gun sometime this week. Next steps would be discussed at the 30 September Public Meeting.
- **Parking restrictions survey** – due to take place in October. No action will be taken before a consultation has taken place with residents in the Grid.
- **Friends of Coronation Gardens:** rededication of the fountain - a short video was shown giving highlights of the making of the statue of Fanny Wilkinson and some excerpts from the rededication ceremony (with apologies due to the size of the file we cannot upload it onto our website). FOCG has also won its third Green Flag Award.
- **Parliamentary Reception (14 July)** - a very short video, provided by Fleur Anderson's team, was shown. For those who missed it – you can access it [here](#)).
- **Summer Grid News** – Charles confirmed that the bumper, 20 page edition of Grid News would be delivered shortly.

Abundance Southfields

- Fran Stewart recounted why Abundance Southfields came to a stop last year. The founder Richard Konig was well known for making cider from surplus/unwanted apples. He stopped though because he had no access to premises to store bottles and jars (containing cider).
- The revived Abundance Southfields will still organise the collection of unwanted or surplus fruit for passing onto to those people who are homeless or who experiencing cost of living crises. But there will be no more cider. If people have any surplus fruit which they would like collected – they should email 'abundancesouthfields@hotmail.com'.
- Jil Hall reminded all of Abundance Wimbledon. They will be holding a family friendly Fruit Day on Saturday 13 September (11am to 2.30pm) at St Michael's Church Hall, Wimbledon.

Front Garden Awards 2025

- Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty gave a presentation on the 2025 Front Gardens Awards. A copy can be accessed [here](#). Overall fewer 'delightful' awards were handed out but there were 5 more for outstanding. The runners-up were Rob & Jane at 61 Astonville Street and David and Sonia at 190 Heythorp Street, with the overall winner being Jon & Nicola at 154 Clonmore Street.
- Amelia then announced that she was stepping down as organiser of the FGA and that Ian Shaw would be her successor.
- Wendy Rose mentioned a Plant Swap WhatsApp Group – where people can exchange seedlings.

Wimbledon – update on Court case (judicial review on GLA’s legal basis) – 8 & 9 July

- Simon Wright said that their request to seek a judicial review on GLA’s legal basis was on three grounds (deliverability, heritage assets and sports & recreation). The proceedings lasted two days and the judgement was handed down for circulation on Monday 21 July – all three grounds were dismissed.
- SWP have been advised to make an application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal. The application could be made to the judge, but the Court of Appeal may also grant permission. The SWP will consider whether or not to appeal very carefully.
- Simon reminded everyone that there was a separate Court Case in January 2026 concerning the statutory public recreation trust over the former golf course land. This land is subject to restrictive covenants in place which require it to be kept open and free of built development, the question remains whether Merton Borough Council (MBC) intend to enforce the covenants or not. When AELTC bought the land from MBC, they made a promise not to build on it.

Wimbledon – feedback on local experience of Championships 30 June to 13 July

- Before seeking feedback, Charles said that AELTC could not field anyone to come to the meeting. However, SGRA was aware of AELTC answering individual enquiries from residents and those attending the Championships. SGRA would, however, send feedback from the meeting to AELTC.
- Cllr Tony Reiss (MBC) said that he had submitted 3 pages of complaints to AELTC including the troubling issue of lack of toilets (which seemed to be going on for years during the Championships). He suggested there should be greater scope for greater collaboration between MBC and Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC) and AELTC.
- Wendy Rose said that other Residents’ Associations had meetings with AELTC ahead and after the Championships. She also suggested that a group of those who walked their dogs in Wimbledon Park and also parents taking their kids to the park, should be involved in meetings led by SGRA and AELTC.
- It appeared that the lack of effective governance by MBC, WBC, AELTC and AELTC’s security contractors, could have had a dangerous impact in terms of health and safety. More effective signage and patrolling security may have prevented people defecating in the woods.
- Linked to this is the lack of ‘By Laws’ notices in the Park which would have made it difficult for them to be enforced.
- There was a new trend appearing in the queuing in Wimbledon Park, where some people in the queue were not intending to go to the Championships but just enjoy being in the queue. Some of these people may have taken the opportunity to get drunk and act in anti-social manner.
- Someone who had experience of taking her children down to the Championships on the middle-Saturdays in the past, took her grandchildren this year. Sadly the experience for her was not the same or as exciting as previous years.
- It had been established that the money raised at the left-luggage (@£20K) was handed over to Merton primarily for Wimbledon Park. In previous years, there was no evidence of this money being used in the Park. Nick Steiner said that he would be having his usual wash-up meeting with AELTC on Thursday (31 July) and would find out more.
- There should be a hotline number for people to ring to make complaints to make sure that issues are resolved quickly.
- Someone said that those applying under the community ballot for two tickets had been refused because their address had already been used by other people under the same ballot.
- Limes bikes in Wimbledon Park, and for use of exiting the park were being ridden irresponsibly – i.e. straight at people including mums with buggies to make them move out of the way.
- Jil Hall (Cllr MBC) was due to meet AELTC’s Community team at 7.15am on the first Wednesday of the Championships – no-one from AELTC turned up. Jil was told later that the meeting had been cancelled.

- The stewards appeared badly briefed and could not answer questions satisfactorily and for those living/working nearby Wimbledon Park in the first week, there was no 5G signal.
- In light of the above, Simon Wright suggested that SGRA make a formal representation to AELTC on the above. Charles Runcie said that he would consider that with the Executive Committee.

SGRA Priorities – 2025-26

- **Amendments to the Constitution** - Following the AGM, it was agreed to make changes to the Constitution primarily to align the SGRA financial year with the normal fiscal year and also to remove the word 'audited' when referring the annual accounts. There would also be changes to: allow SGRA to work closely with other bodies in Southfields (Southfields Business Forum, other residents' associations); formalise the way donations can be approved; ensure a due-diligence process is in place for people to be elected to the Executive Committee from the floor of the AGM; commit the Executive Committee at its first meeting after the AGM to agree priorities and leads for those priorities. These amendments would be put to a vote at a Special General Meeting on 30 September which would be followed by the normal public meeting.
- **Subscriptions envelopes** – these would be sent out in mid-September.
- **Residents' Survey** - this would also be delivered in September (though people could have the option of doing it online). We would be seeking peoples' view on what it is about living in Southfields they like/love and what would keep them here for another 10 years. Results would be made public and also shared with other local organisations.
- **Quiz night** – this will be held on Friday 10 October and will follow the same format as the previous St Barnabas' quizzes. As SGRA are celebrating 50 years, there will be a round of questions on the 1970s and people were encouraged to wear 1970s style clothing. More details to follow.
- **Engaging with young families in the Grid** – Will Smith (newly elected to Executive Committee) briefly outlined his initiative 'GridKids'. To involve young families and children across the Grid, he would set up a Junior SGRA Committee to work alongside the SGRA, and take forward some community initiatives – for example, making and walking with lanterns in the Autumn and then Winter Wonderland in Jan/Feb time.

SGRA Executive Updates

- **Planning - Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)**: Alongside the standard applications for rear extensions and loft conversions, the most notable application in June was the HMO application for 10 Elsenham Street (planning case: 2025/1167). The application was for certification of "change of use from single family dwelling (Class C3) to HMO (Class C4) for up to 6 people". Exec Comm agreed on 8 June for SGRA to put in an objection and let residents know about it through various street WhatsApp groups. This happened and 126 objections had been submitted but also on that day the Council agreed to approve the application with no conditions (and who were not obliged to take into account objections). The next step would be for the applicants to apply for an HMO licence. Overall, in respect of HMOs and our objections not being taken into account, this would mean SGRA exploring other options to preserve the look and feel of Southfields Grid.
- **Crime** – Figures for May 2025 are at Annex A and a sharp rise was noted in vehicle crime (mainly down to theft or removal of sensors). In fact, some insurance companies were warning their clients in Southfields that their cars may not be insurable because of the increase in sensor theft.
- The next Southfields Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Ward Panel meeting would be on Saturday 26 July. Residents could hear from the Met Police as to what is going on and give SNT feedback.

Guest speaker – Leonie Cooper (Assembly Member)

- Leonie suggested that in respect of the £20K income from the left luggage area in Wimbledon Park, that Cllr Tony Reiss submit an FOI to Merton asking them to clarify the situation.
- Also in respect of the judicial review and also the Court's examination of the statutory public recreation trust in January 2026, that alongside the Shropshire vs May Case, another useful reference case was that of Muir vs Wandsworth Borough Council (2018) where it was found that

Wandsworth Borough Council did not have the vires to lease part of (open) common land to a pre-school nursery

- More worryingly was the fact that the Met police were planning to reduce the number of stations across London. So for Putney & Wandsworth – the nearest station to go to would be in Kingston. Leonie would forward details of whom we could write to -and Jil Hall said that there were several petitions ready for signatures.

AOB – none was raised.

Dates of next meetings & events

Forthcoming meetings

- SGRA Public Meeting **30 September 2025**, 7.30-9.15, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church

Forthcoming events

- 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
 - 'Yard Sale Trail' **6/7 September** 11am – 5pm, houses around the Grid
 - Southfields Harvest and Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe, **27 September**, 12-3pm, St Barnabas Church
 - Wandsworth Artists' Open House, **4/5 and 11/12 October**, venues tbc.
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Attendance List

Apologies: Fleur Anderson MP, Ayesha Hasan, Ameet Phadnis, Rod Lewington,
Jackie Pearce, Sue Gunn

SGRA – Executive Members (9)	Role
Charles Runcie	SGRA Exec. Comm – Chair/Pirbright Rd Rep
Ian Shaw	SGRA Exec. Comm – Secretary/ Brookwood Rd Rep
Serena Potter	SGRA Exec. Comm – Membership Secretary
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Trentham Street Rep
Ann Kerr	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Clonmore Street Rep
Clive Williams	SGRA Exec. Comm
Kyle Forder	SGRA Exec. Comm/Joint Astonville Street Rep
Sue Wixley	SGRA Exec. Comm
Will Smart	SGRA Exec. Comm
Speakers/Main contributors (3)	Role
Fran Stewart	Abundance Southfields
Simon Wright	Save Wimbledon Park Ltd
Leonie Cooper	London Assembly
SGRA Road/Street + zoom (38)	Attendees
Astonville Street	Lesley McCaul/Joint Astonville Street Rep, Rob and Jane Andrews
Brookwood Road	-
Clonmore Street	Dr Nick Steiner/Joint Street Rep, Jon Evans, Nicola Devine
Elborough Street	Ray and Jane Rivers, Diane Nielson-Smith
Elsenham Street	Mark Lubienski, Penny Terndrup, Wendy Rose
Engadine Street	Beth McKillop, Aidan Magill, Sally Morgan
Hanford Close	Michele Clarke
Heythorp Street	Kyra Von Schottenstein/Street Rep, David and Sonia Cockram
Langton Place	-
Lavenham Road	Maureen Mills/Joint Street Rep, Alice Philcox, Revd Vanessa Elston
Merton Road	-
Pirbright Road	Nick Coombe
Replingham Road	Roz Wolfe/Joint Street Rep, Elizabeth Becker, Tommy Johnston
Revelstoke Road	-
Trentham Street	Trevor Howes/Joint Street Rep, Di Brennan, Andy and Janice Adamson, Chaitanya Agrawal, Bridget La Marca
Zoom:	Sucheta Samant; Hilary, Rosie, Lucy Griffin-Beale, Margaret Brett, Orcha (6)
(4)	
Cllr Guy Humphries	Wandsworth Borough Council
Cllr Emmeline Owens	Wandsworth Borough Council
Cllr Jil Hall	Merton Borough Council
Cllr Tony Reiss	Merton Borough Council
	Total: 54

Crime Figures for Southfields Grid & Pirbright Road**May 2025**

May 2025	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	3	5
Lavenham Road												0
Revelstoke Road												0
Elsenham Street						1				3		4
Heythorp Street												0
Clonmore Street										1		2
Engadine Street												0
Elborough Street												0
Trentham Street										4		4
Astonville Street										3		3
Hanford Close	1				2	2						5
Pirbright Road										1		1
Merton Road						1						1
Total	1	0	0		3	4	0	0	0	1 4	3	2 6



All Crimes reported in Southfields Ward in May 2025: 56 [SGRA: 26 & Rest of Ward: 30]

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]