



1. **Apologies for absence** – see attendance sheet on page 5 below.
2. **Matters arising since 27 January Public Meeting & 24 February Executive Meeting**
 - S2 subzone parking consultation – survey ends today (31 March 2026).
 - Poppy Appeal 2026 – Dr Ahmad confirmed that they were still looking to organise the Poppy Appeal for this November.
 - Proposed Southfields Festival – due to ENABLE's inability to attend, this will not go ahead as planned on 20 June, and will not happen this year – so watch this space.
3. **SGRA 2025-2026 Priorities – Ian Shaw, Charles Runcie & Amelia Obertelli-Moriarity**
 - 2nd Art Festival – 25 artists (last year we had 21). Feedback from them shows interest in another festival next year. A total of £918 was raised for local (mainly art-based causes), including £198 from refreshments.
 - Wandsworth election hustings – this will be held on 21 April at 7.30pm in St Barnabas Church.
 - Front Garden Awards (19 to 28 June) – Amelia would be lining-up judges and producing the criteria in readiness for the start of the judging period.
4. **SGRA Executive Updates – Charles Runcie, Margaret Brett, Ian Shaw & Clive Williams**
 - **Finance:** At the end of the financial year (5 April), SGRA should have a healthy balance. Further details will be provided at the AGM.
 - **Planning report**
 - There are the usual crop of loft extensions and back and side return extensions.
 - The application to extend the HMO at 10 Elsenham Street by 2 further rooms was refused by Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC) and the applicant has now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. The SGRA has sent in further comments asking that the appeal be refused.
 - There is an application for a change of use at 169 Replingham Road (2026/0662) from a shop to residential. The application is also for an extension. They want a small studio at the front and for a 2-bedroom flat at the back. Both dwellings raise concerns about amenity space.
 - New national recycling rules come in from today (31 March 2026). WBC has not asked us to have further bins as some councils have and the main effect is that they will now take clean aluminium foil and food trays as well as empty squeezey metal/plastic tubes and aerosol cans.
 - WBC have announced a new borough-wide programme to ensure traffic signs are clear and consistent. They have been removing unnecessary and repetitive signage, while upgrading and replacing faded or outdated signs. There is now provision on the WBC website for people to notify redundant signs.
 - Many of the shops at the bottom of Replingham Road appear to be empty.
 - The BT phone structure outside Boots seems to be out of use. Cllr Humphries said WBC are aware.
 - The new railings outside the old Barclays building look unsafe for small children - Cllr Humphries will take this forward.
 - **Crime – update from Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Ward Panel meeting (28 March)**
 - Five from SNT turned up including newest PC (Simon Castle Jones)
 - Crime figures circulated at the SNT Ward Panel will be uploaded onto SGRA's website soon.
 - At future SNT Ward Panel meetings, statistics will be generalised e.g. vehicle offences.

- There was a good discussion on shoplifting where crime liaison for the Southfields Business Forum representing small and independent businesses asked searching question – mainly focussing on how to prevent repeat shoplifters entering shops. PCSO Don Lopes has had meetings with stores such as M&S and Boots.
- The Speed Gun has been used on Wimbledon Park Road and Heythorp Street – drivers seeing the speed gun tend to slow down.

5. AELTC – legal updates & a ‘plan B’ - Simon Wright, Save Wimbledon Park (SWP)

Legal updates

- Simon updated all on the recent court case (where AELTC asked SWP to act as defendant), to determine whether the land in the former Wimbledon Golf Club was subject to a statutory trust basis which Mr Justice Thompsell decided that it was not. SWP have since applied for permission to appeal this decision to the Court of Appeal. The judge closing the hearing assumed that the decision would probably proceed eventually to the Supreme Court.
- SWP have already been given leave to appeal the judicial review of the planning decision by the Greater London Authority (GLA). In granting leave to appeal, the Court of Appeal noted that SWP have a “real prospect of success”. SWP expect the appeal to be heard later this year.
- Simon reminded all of two attempts to change the law using the House of Lords in an attempt to negate both these appeals:
 - In November 2025 an amendment was tabled for discussion of the English Devolution Bill by a group of peers (including Lord Gus O’Donnell (a Director of AELTC)), which if passed would have fundamentally changed the rights of the public on the sale of land by Local Authorities. This amendment did not pass.
 - Earlier this year a similar Lords amendment was tabled for discussion of the English Devolution Bill, and which will be debated on 13 April. If the amendment is passed it will allow the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to decide if the land should be preserved for Public Recreation which, Simon noted, would be an ironic twist for a devolution bill.

SWP along with a number of national bodies including Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Open Spaces Society continue to lobby the Government and a number of members of the House of Lords.

- Even if these obstacles are overcome, Simon highlighted another further legal hurdle in AELTC’s path as the restrictive covenants on the land are still to be addressed. When they bought the land from Merton Borough Council (MBC) in 1993, AELTC formally promised that they would not carry out any development, including the type now proposed. The current ruling Labour majority on MBC has always refused to enforce these covenants. However, with local elections in May, any change in the balance of power could result in a different approach. WBC’s Council leader Simon Hogg has recently released a statement that is highly critical of AELTC’s plans and urging them to engage with the community.

Alternative proposals for the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course land – Plan B

- Simon said that since AELTC first published their development plans five years ago, they had also been consistent in their unwillingness to change anything or to consider any alternative approaches. SWP’s view has always been that there must be a better way of using the former Golf course, and that AELTC should think again. Now a local architect Ken McFarlane and an International tennis “master planner” Richard Rees have come together to suggest alternative proposals for the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course land. They suggest their plans offer a better solution to AELTC’s problems on their existing site and their claimed expansion requirements while causing less environmental harm and allowing greater and enduring public access.

- SWP are organising a public meeting at St Barnabas on Thursday 16 April at 7pm. Simon also took the opportunity to invite the AELTC to come along and hear about the plans that Ken and Richard have developed. Simon emphasised that these plans are not SWP plans but they (SWP) are delighted to provide a platform for the local community to explore and engage with these proposals. For those who can't make the meeting on 16 April, there will be a second meeting the following week, 22 April at St Marks Church in Wimbledon.

6 Community Panel on Wimbledon Championships Residents' feedback – Ian Shaw

- Ian said that Fleur Anderson has chaired 2 meetings so far (24 September, 28 January) and will chair the next between end April and Mid-May.
- Each Panel meeting has had representatives from AELTC, MBC & WBC, Southfields Business Forum, Friends of Wimbledon Park, representatives from local residents associations (across Southfields), and of users of Wimbledon Park.
- Since the first Panel, focus has been on securing correct number of toilets in relation of numbers in the crowd (Debbie Jevans confirmed later that there would be 150 extra toilets, but they were still awaiting planning permission from WBC); queue and behaviour management and as a tangent – to have stronger enforcement and better stewarding; and ensuring that local businesses can benefit more from the two week championship period.
- Rachel Roberts also raised a concern (shared by AELTC) about MBC allowing a licence to the cafe to sell alcohol for the fortnight (up to 11pm each night).

7. Guest Speaker: Debbie Jevans, Chair of AELTC

- Debbie began by saying how pleased she was to be at this public meeting and realised to date that she/AELTC had not engaged enough with the local community. She confirmed that she is a resident on the Grid and was attracted by its: community spirit, closeness to Wimbledon tennis and also Wimbledon Park.
- She was there to outline how AELTC gives back to the local community, talk about 2026 Championships and listen to peoples' concerns about the development proposals.
- The Wimbledon Foundation donated £1.8m to 23 local projects. They were attracting many in the local community to work at AELTC via the Work at Wimbledon Scheme, during the Championships which offers good work experience enabling people to be more confident in applying for future jobs. In terms of City Harvest, the Wimbledon Foundation were donating £3m worth of food meals to local charities.
- In terms of the 2026 Championships, 15,000 tickets will go live (for local residents) week beginning 13 April. As part of the issues identified by the Wimbledon Community Panel, Debbie was keen to not replicate the same errors which happened during the 2025 Championships – which had seen the largest number of spectators during the fortnight. For example, there will be extra toilets, better signage, night managers. Horse Close Woods will be closed for the duration of the Championships. She also acknowledged the close work with the Southfields Business Forum, to ensure that local businesses and residents do not feel forgotten during the Championships. Two examples: (i) there will be pop-up coffee kiosk from a local business; (ii) local people employed to act as Marshall/Guest Host to inform visitors of what there is in Southfields in terms of businesses/restaurants etc. There will be a big screen in the Park containing helpful messages to those in the queue as to amenities/convenience and reminding them of the need to behave well and respect others in the queue.
- As to the development proposals, Debbie said that there was a lot of emotive mis-information – there would be no concreting over of surfaces, no helicopter and no hotel. As to the private golf course, once it had been worked on/improved, AELTC would be allowing the public to access a 27 acre of additional space which would be in perpetuity (that is 'for ever'). It would be run by MBC and have the same opening hours as Wimbledon Park. In terms of the lake at Wimbledon Park, it would need desilting, and improved drainage, there would be a board walk and improved children's facilities (as per Section 106 requirements).

- As to the biodiversity issues, those trees planted in Capability Brown's time would be left standing, 300 poor quality trees would be removed. To offset those being removed, many more new trees (parkland and specimen & woodland and wet woodland) would be planted.
- Former golf course land - Public lakeside walk – Debbie was asked a question in respect of the 1993 covenant, between AELTC and MBC, where it was agreed that once golf has ceased to be played, there would be a promise to implement a dedicated public walkway around the lake. As golf has ceased to be played since January 2023, why had AELTC allowed the lease to subsist i.e. continue in existence (until its expiry in 2041). Due to legal complexities Debbie wanted to take this away and reply in due course.
- Increase to the number of courts for use in the qualifying rounds: Debbie was asked why there was a need to increase the number of courts at Wimbledon when there were courts in Roehampton & Raynes Park. In case of the former (Roehampton), the lease, owned by the Bank of England, was coming to an end soon. In respect of Raynes Park, there were not enough grass courts to hold qualifying events. It was also important to rotate the courts and also give qualifiers the right to practise on grass courts as opposed to hard/clay courts.
- London Transport infrastructure (Southfields Tube station): When asked about how improvements could be made to the travel arrangements by tube – Debbie said that she was keen to work closely with Transport for London but could not get far. Fleur Anderson confirmed that she was on the case by meeting the new Chief Executive for South Western Trains (who is responsible for track near East Putney which was the source of all the signal and points failures on the first day of the 2025 Championships).
- Development proposals: Debbie acknowledged that if the development was allowed to go ahead, there would be disruption affecting residents and also visitors to Wimbledon Park. Although this could not be avoided, she would seek to ensure that disruption was kept to a minimum.
- Finally: Debbie finally said that she appreciated the opportunity to speak to SGRA residents, and acknowledged there had been little engagement from AELTC to date. She would welcome the opportunity to engage further with residents and speak at future meetings.

8. Any other business

- Ian said that in the next two weeks, the 1921 census returns for the roads/street on the Grid would be uploaded onto the SGRA website.

SGRA meetings/events

- Wandsworth local elections hustings, **Tuesday 21 April**, 7.30pm, St Barnabas Church
- SGRA AGM/Public Meeting **Tuesday 19 May**, 7.30-9.15pm, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church
- Front Garden Awards Judging period, **19 to 28 June**, across the Grid.

Community meetings/events

- Save Wimbledon Park Public Meeting, **Thursday 16 April**, 7pm, St Barnabas Church
- Save Wimbledon Park Public Meeting, **Thursday 22 April**, 7pm, St Marks Church, St Marks Place, Wimbledon SW19 7ND
- 'Jo in the Water' film screening, **Wednesday 22 April**, 7.30 to 9.30pm, St Barnabas Church
- Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe, **Saturday 25 April**, 12 to 3pm, St Barnabas Church
- Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM, **Wednesday 6 May**, 7.30pm, Scouts Hall, 93 Pirbright Road, SW18 5ND
- Local Borough Elections, **Thursday 7 May**, 7am to 10pm, access the website [here](#) to find your local polling station.

SGRA PUBLIC MEETING: 31 MARCH 2026

Apologies: Kyle Forder, Cllr Kim Caddy, Ameet Phadnis, Will Smart

SGRA – Executive Members (8)	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
Rod Lewington	SGRA Exec. Comm
Margaret Brett	SGRA Exec. Comm – Ex Officio
Speakers/Main contributors (3)	Role
Simon Wright	Save Wimbledon Park – Elsenham Street
Debbie Jevans	AELTC
Rachel Roberts	Southfields Business Forum – Clonmore Street
SGRA Road/Street + zoom (30)	Attendees
Astonville Street	Jenny Underwood,
Brookwood Road	-
Clonmore Street	Dr Nick Steiner/Joint Street Rep
Elborough Street	Ray Rivers
Elsenham Street	Wendy Rose, Martin & Diana Chitty, Penny Terndrup, Elizabeth Lloyd Owen, Richard Silverstein, Spencer Childs, Juris Vitous, Sarah Donlan
Engadine Street	Beth McKillop, Sally Morgan
Hanford Close	Michele Clarke
Heythorp Street	Kyra Von Schottenstein/Street Rep, Peter Watts, Ann Redman
Langton Place	-
Lavenham Road	Ayesha Hasan/Joint Street Rep, Georg Mueller-Koegler, Maureen Mills/Joint Street Rep, Robert Mathison
Merton Road	Catherine Sutton
Pirbright Road	-
Replingham Road	Loraine Watson
Revelstoke Road	-
Trentham Street	Trevor Howes/Joint Street Rep, Di Brennan, Bridget La Marca, Claire Gaffey
Zoom:	Hilary, Rosie, (2)
Outside (6)	
Fleur Anderson	Member of Parliament
Guy Humphries	Cllr, Wandsworth Borough Council
Jil Hall	Cllr, Merton Borough Council
Tony Reiss	Cllr, Merton Borough Council
Dr Sardar Ahmed	Cambourne Road
Jeffrey Barber	Pulborough Road
	Total: 47