

1. **Members Present:** – Ann Kerr (AK), Charles Runcie (CR) – Chair, Clive Williams (CW), Ian Shaw (IS), Kyle Forder (KF) Margaret Brett (MB), Rod Lewington (RL), Serena Potter (SP), Will Smart (WS).

Apologies for absence – Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

	Update on actions from previous Exec Comm meetings	Owner(s)	Status
1	Focus on ensuring increased dog mess signs in the grid – get street reps involved	SP	Ongoing
2	Remind subscribers via Spring Grid news to tick GDPR box	CR	Closed
3	Produce final version of Survey for Exec Comm sign off	IS	Ongoing
4	Consider pros and cons of Article 4 Direction for Grid	SW	Ongoing
5	Find out how other Councils monitor HMO licensing etc	SW	Ongoing
6	S2 Parking survey: Reminder of closing date 1 March	All	Closed
7	Website: contact Ben Morrell re missing file directories	IS	Closed
8	Group from Exec Comm to visit Intergenerational event	AOM/AK/IS	Closed
9	SGRA Quiz: To check if Church & Halls free for 9/10	IS	Closed
	Actions from 28 April Exec Comm meeting (bold numbers indicate paras below)	Owner(s)	
A	Nominations for SGRA Officers & Exec Comm by 14 May (5)	All	
B	Draft speaking note/article re increase in subscription (7)	AP/CR/WS	
C	WhatsApp Street Reps re organising 2026 Seniors Party (8)	CR	
D	Discuss with Green the Grid feasibility of alternative to spraying glyphosate on pavements (10)	SP/AOM	

2. **Declarations of interest** – None.

3. **Commentary on major matters from 28 April & previous Exec Comms (not covered below)**

- **Action 1:** To complement the few which Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC) have put up in Elsenham, Lavenham and Revelstoke (Wimbledon Park end), it was agreed to engage with Street reps to encourage street (adults and children) residents to design their own signage for tree bases.
- **Action 2:** reminder to be included in the Summer Grid News also.
- **Action 3:** Should be completed by 30 June Executive Committee
- **Actions 4 & 5:** in abeyance since SW stood down from Exec Comm for Borough Elections

4. **Reflections on 21 April Husting**

- All thought the hustings went well and was well reported in the Putney News. What was welcome was the strong local issues element t the hustings and the candidates thought it went well and was well organised.

5. **Preparing for 19 May AGM**

- IS gave a brief read out of the timetable for the AGM. The notice was uploaded onto the SGRA website. Deadline for motions and Executive and Officer nominations would be a week before the AGM. A draft agenda would be circulated to Exec Comm around 7 May and finalised agendas and papers would be ready for circulation on 18 May.

6. **Confirmation of guest speakers for 19 May Public Meeting (after AGM)**

- Both Fleur Anderson (MP) and Inspector Paul James had been invited to be guest speakers. It may be an idea to invite the newly elected (or re-elected) Councillors to speak as well.

7. Update on 2025/26 SGRA Budget and 19 May AGM preparation

- AP confirmed that our income for 2025/2026 was approx. £10,900 (including the profits from the SGRA quiz), £13,400 expenses leaving an overspend of approx. of £2,500. When asked about the generic long term balance – he said that it was around £3,000.
- For 2026/27, AP was anticipating an income of £8,700 or which £4,000 would come from advertising. For the AGM he would prepare budget lines which he cleared with Exec Comm. Also he and SP would work together to produce a street-by-street comparison of income from street subscriptions.
- CR asked when the annual subscription minimum could be raised from £5 to £6 (this was agreed). Further incremental changes in future years would be considered by the Exec Comm. CR and AP would draft a speaking note for the AGM on 19 May (where an increase would have to be approved by those members present). There would also be a short article in the Summer Grid News.

8. SGRA priorities 2025/26 & 2026/27

- Survey – IS outlined a change of plan in that the Survey would come out in the Summer to be accompanied by a short special newsletter.
- Front Garden Awards 2026 – IS on behalf of AO-M said although two judges had dropped out this year but they have been replaced by a former FGA judge and a new member.
- SGRA/St Barnabas Quiz – this would be held on Friday 9 October and a team of Amelia, Ann, Ian & Serena would work closely with St Barnabas.
- Seniors' Tea Party (late autumn) – Following agreement at Exec Comm on 24 February, AO-M, AK & IS attended an intergenerational event (IE) in Earlsfield organised by Emma Chisholm on 11 March to test its applicability for a SGRA seniors' tea party. Conclusion was that the (IE) being constant events involving senior citizens building up relationships with school children, this would not work for an annual seniors' tea party.
- Discussion then focussed on organising a STP in the late autumn. MB agreed to make a provisional booking of the Church Hall for use on Saturday 5 December. CR agreed to invite Street Reps to take the lead in organising it i.e. coordination, organising food & drink, entertainment, set up and clear up, plus raffle etc. It could involve Grid Kids, and other singing groups e.g. Sing Swell.

9. **Update on Southfields Business Forum** – Not much to say except that there were now 54 members.

10. Grid Pavements: alternative to glyphosate¹ spraying

- SP explained that triggered by recently stopping a subcontractor spraying tree bases with glyphosate spray erroneously on the Grid for the third year, she had an email conversation with Cllr Paul White (Council Member for the Environment) & Michael Singham, (Waste Strategy and Projects Manager at the council) regarding the Grid possibly participating in a proposed new voluntary council scheme (see Annex A). Michael Singham has suggested it might be possible that a block of streets could carry this out, i.e. the SGRA area.
- The council is aware and ran trials of alternative ways of keeping street weeds down in 2024. It was important to note that the current practice is that tree bases should not be sprayed at all - this has been a borough wide directive for Wandsworth & Richmond several years.
- SP confirmed that this should not be a SGRA lead task, but rather this was more in the Green the Grid territory but we could work closely with them. On discussing the proposal as outlined in Annex A, the Exec Comm agreed with the idea in principle, and SP said that she would investigate further with Nina (Green the Grid) before Street Reps were engaged.

¹ Glyphosate is a herbicide which causes concern due to being harmful to wildlife. It's a complex area as there are pros and cons, including concerns for wildlife and potential health risks

11. Ongoing updates:

Planning & local

- Very little to report this month apart from the usual loft extensions and back and side return extensions.
- The application to extend the HMO at 10 Elsenham Street by 2 further rooms is still at the appeal stage.
- The Biryani Centre is expanding into the adjacent space at the bottom of Replingham.
- Arepo Bolivian food opened In Wimbledon Park Road.
- M&S is closing for refurbishment on 9 May -supposed to be for a month.
- The BT phone structure outside Boots remains out of use and the new railings outside the old Barclays building have not been made safe for small children. Chanteroy is still to move into one of the new spaces on the Barclays site.
- The water fountain is out of use again.
- We are being alerted to a scam about Council tax that is asking for bank details to allow a refund.

Crime

- CW mentioned that police were being alerted to irresponsible cycling and also checking the bikes to see if they had been stolen
- Meetings: The next West Hill Cuppa with a Copper will be held on 5 May at Southfields Library. The next SNT Ward Panel Meeting would be on 11 July, 10.30am at St Barnabas Church.

AOB:

- AK mentioned that grassroots padel was now available in Wimbledon Park Sports Hub (stadium area) which is run by Hercules Wimbledon Athletics Club. The sports hub/stadium in Wimbledon Park will have a new running track and new showers & toilets – timing to be confirmed.
- RL was standing down from the Exec Comm and CR thanked him for his contributions. CR also said that this was IS's last Exec Comm as SGRA Secretary and he was thanked for his work.

SGRA meetings/events

- 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.
- SGRA Public Meeting **Tuesday 21 July**, 7.30-9.15pm, Parish Room, St Barnabas Church

Community meetings/events

- 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.
- SNT Ward Panel Meeting, **Saturday 11 July**, 10.30am, St Barnabas Church

Alternative to glyphosate spraying, Michael Singham, Waste Strategy and Projects Manager at Wandsworth Borough Council (WBC)

Details of the proposed scheme:

- A new scheme is being proposed where residents can opt their street **out** of the council's glyphosate spraying programme.
- Residents must support the decision, and be willing to help remove problematic weeds by hand.
- Mechanical sweeping of the gutters and channels will continue as part of the scheduled street cleaning programme. Operatives will continue to remove weeds over 10cm tall from pavements.
- Support from neighbours can be gained from street WhatsApp groups etc. A request can be made via email & the council will then provide letters to all residents in that street. If there is general support, the street can be opted out. Further details can be found [here](#):

Additional Commentary from Michael Singham:

- This isn't yet a hard proposal, but if it is something SGRA decides to support, Michael will see whether it can be turned into one.
- No one can be sure whether the election outcome on 7th May might change the Council's policy position in this area.
- If SGRA does wish to support this idea, it would be good to have the support of local ward councillors too.
- Going herbicide-free for controlling street weeds can be popular initially and some local councils have done this successfully borough-wide, a number have also decided to return to using glyphosate after a period of non-use. This is mainly because glyphosate is one of the few weed control methods that is effective at killing the deeper roots of perennials and saplings, so when not used these can build up over a period of years. For this reason, Michael thinks that where streets or blocks of streets do opt-out from spraying, the headline should approximate to *"We've stopped the thrice annual scheduled spraying of glyphosate/weedkiller for controlling street weeds. In future, it will only be used if & where manual/mechanical approaches prove insufficient to prevent problematic plant growth on streets"*.

More trials in selected areas

- Aside from the opt-out scheme, WBC also intend to run a couple more trials in selected areas this year. One of these would replace glyphosate spraying with solely manual/mechanical removal methods and the other would focus on different approaches to spraying that could significantly reduce usage (by up to 70% according to the supplier).
- **No decision has yet been taken on the location or size of these trial areas, the options for SGRA are:**
 - **Would they like the whole Grid to opt out of thrice annual glyphosate spraying?**
 - **If not, would they like the Grid (or part of it) to form one of the trial areas?**
 - **If so, which trial would be their preference?**
- WBC can't guarantee that they could run with the preference, but they would certainly take any expressed views into account.
- Regarding the Grid potentially opting out as a whole, Michael thinks this would be best seen as a cessation of automatically spraying glyphosate thrice annually on streets forming the Grid rather than a cessation of glyphosate per se. **In his view, the best approach for whole Grid opt-out would involve SGRA regularly considering whether the level of on-street weed growth is acceptable in their opinion and if not, whether they think an ad-hoc spray is needed to return to acceptable standards.** This approach should identify the extent to which spraying can be reduced without weed growth levels getting out of hand. SGRA could also encourage residents to help support the reduction or elimination of herbicide to control plant growth on streets by manually pulling any weeds they consider to be problematic to help maximise the chances of success.