

News Update

April 2017

Seeing the first spring flowers, fresh garden-growth, including the magnolias that flourish so well in this area never loses its delight each year does it? Many SGCARA householders are lucky enough to have amongst the largest gardens in suburban London – although this can mean a lot of work, including for the resourceful householders who have also planted bulbs and flowers around some of our street-trees – thank you!

Following the huge success of **Open Gardens 2016**, the next **Open Gardens** will be in 2018, giving everyone plenty of time to consider offering to include their garden!

SGCARA Annual Members' Meeting 2017 Thursday 15th June

Food and drinks from 7.00pm First speaker from 7.45pm

The Refectory St Cecilia's School Sutherland Grove (entrance through main door)

All paid-up new and continuing SGCARA Members are warmly invited to attend.

Presentations will include:

'A Wander round the West Hill Ward of Yesteryear' **Malcolm Grimston** has a great interest in our local history and will give a talk, with illustrations, on the fascinating history of this area before the 1930s developments which form the bedrock of the SGCARA area.

Neighbourhood Watch Representatives from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team for West Hill Ward will give us valuable updates about Neighbourhood Watch and community safety for our area – may include personnel from Wandsworth Council and/or local police force – tbc.

As usual we have invited our three Ward Councillors and **Rt Hon Justine Greening PC**, currently MP for Putney, Roehampton & Southfields and Secretary of State for Education, and Minister for Women and Equalities.

The formal SGCARA AGM will be part of this meeting, including reports and election of the SGCARA Committee for the coming year.

The Committee is very grateful for the offers of help with various aspects of SGCARA's work already received.

If you have not already been in touch with us, please consider how you might get more involved, including perhaps standing for the Committee. Many hands make light work.....

Subscriptions to SGCARA for 2017 are due, if you have not paid already! Please see information including payment arrangements on the form at back of this Newsletter. *Please complete and return to the forms straightaway, or if possible no later than Sunday 4 June, indicating subscription details as appropriate, whether you will be attending the AGM, and any help with SGCARA's activities that you could offer.*

Planning Matters

Rear-garden land site – West of 17/19 Sutherland Grove/adjoining 2 Combemartin Rd

The developer's Planning Application (PA 2016/1516) for TWO (semi-detached) single-storey dwellings with basements was refused by Wandsworth Council, and their appeal against this decision was turned down by the Planning Inspectorate. There is still Planning Permission (2015/6836) for ONE dwelling (with basement) on that site. There is currently a 'Sold with Planning Permission' sign on the plot, so the future remains uncertain. Work came to a complete halt some time ago on building work for a house, adjacent to 2 Sutherland Grove, again with basement, (2015/6064) suggesting that basement-development is far from straightforward in this area.

Wimbledon Park Road Shopping Parade

Although the original planning applications for change of use/merger of the small shop units in Wimbledon Park Rd were either refused or withdrawn, there is talk that the owner/developer may still seek to merge some units, and create a passageway to land behind the shops on which new flats could be built. We need to remain alert to possible future threats to the existence of the small independent shops that give 'Southfields Village' its charm.

The developer withdrew their Planning Application (PA 2016/6111) for a scheme, including 29 dwellings, up to 7 storeys, proposed for the site. It was clear that the PA was likely to be refused for various valid concerns – including over-development of the site, issues over car-ownership/parking, and lack of clarity about how social housing would be incorporated. The previous permission for a more modest development has now expired. A new PA (2017/2058) has been submitted. The closing date for comments is 25th May on the Council website, (although 18th May on letters distributed.). This new PA reduces the maximum height of the proposed development from 7 storeys to 5, but the number of dwellings would only reduce from 29 to 28, and there is no provision for social/affordable housing, so all the concerns from PA 2016/6111 remain. Poor maintenance of the site was raised with the developer and the demolition of the remaining buildings is finally complete.

Consultations on Heathrow Airport expansion,

All SGCARA homes should have received information about various important public consultations.

The consultation on Night Flights closed on the 28th February.

There are two current consultations 1) on possible Heathrow expansion 2) on 'UK Airspace Policy' including flight-path changes, both of which will affect us greatly. **BOTH CONSULTATIONS CLOSE ON THE 25TH MAY 2017.**

Please take time to consider all the available information about these issues and respond to these consultations.

The present Government appears very much in favour of Heathrow expansion.

The government's consultation document on Heathrow expansion can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/heathrow-expansion-draft-airports-national-policy-statement>

The government's consultation document on Airspace/flight-path changes can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-policy-on-the-design-and-use-of-uk-airspace>

Wandsworth Council, (along with Hillingdon Council, Richmond, Windsor and Maidenhead Boroughs, and our current MP Justine Greening) are passionately opposed to the government's plans for Heathrow expansion etc.

Department for Transport officials have confirmed to Justine Greening that our current night-time 8-hour flight-respite could be reduced to 4-5 hours if we fail to make our voices heard about this.

Their perspective can be read at:

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/aviation/>

Those without internet access can of course read these documents online at Southfields Library, who also have Wandsworth Council's pamphlets and feed-back postcards about these matters.

The document for the previous major consultation on Heathrow Airport expansion was available in hard copy to read at Putney Library. This does not seem to be the case with the current consultations, which is disappointing.

The danger is that Heathrow Airport-expansion etc will take a back seat in people's minds in the run up to the 8th June general election. Make sure that your voice is heard!

Other Local News....

Wimbledon Park Masterplan. You may have contributed to Merton Council's consultation in Summer 2016 about their radical plans for Wimbledon Park. About 61% of respondents objected to the Athletics Stadium being moved, and the council have respected this, choosing 'Option 1', ie very much the status quo, but including no change to the siting of the café and Bowling Pavilion. It may include the most popular possibilities from Options 2 & 3, eg the de-silting of the lake, the creation of wetland areas around the lake-shores and a path around it.

In December 2016, Merton Council suggested February 2017 for their revised plans in response to the Consultation, but seemingly nothing so far.... Keep an eye on the following link for the promised update.

<http://wimbledonparkconsultation.com>

St Cecilia's School**Summer Fete****Saturday 1st July 2017**

The Friends of Saint Cecilia's School will once again be organising the school summer fete. This takes place on Saturday 1st July 2017 12.00 – 3.00pm and is open to everyone.

School facilities available for hire

Saint Cecilia's School facilities, including the sports hall, drama studio, dance studio and large hall are available for public hire at evenings, weekends and during school holidays. For more information, visit the school website

<http://www.saintcecilias.london/information/venue-hire> or contact the Lettings Manager, Karol Stańczak (Stan)

email: karol.stanczak@schoolsplus.co.uk phone: 07889 352 973.

SGCARA general information and social event information through email

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If you are not presently on the email circulation lists for SGCARA information, (eg for District Line issues, local road-works information, local events etc), and would like to be, please email the SGCARA Committee at: admin@sgcara.org.uk and ask to be added. Do let us know if you have recently moved into the area.

If you would like emails about our social events, then email the SGCARA Social Committee at: sutherlandgrovearea.social@gmail.com and ask to be added to THAT list!

Please also tick the lists you would like to be added to, on the form at the back of this newsletter.

Please let us know if your email address changes, or if you no longer wish to be on the circulation list(s).

You can also sign up for Cllr Malcolm Grimston's helpful email circulars to keep track of a range of local issues at: mgrimston@wandsworth.gov.uk

SGCARA Newsletter – Editor(s) needed!

We have some offers of administrative help already from the last newsletter, and are gradually calling upon these – thank you! We now also need Editors for the newsletter, (printed twice a year – Spring and Autumn.)

This task could be shared by two people, or done on a rotational-basis by several people. If you are attracted by the idea, but unsure of the commitment, you could volunteer to try it once in the first instance!

Sorry George Osborne, we think you have enough on your plate already....

If you enjoy writing and would like to help develop the Newsletter into an informative journal for the community, then please complete the relevant form at the back of the newsletter to volunteer.

Meetings on Local Area Issues

The SGCARA Committee is considering organizing meetings, open to all residents, dedicated to priority local issues. For example one meeting could have an environmental focus, covering a range of aspects including aircraft noise and associated pollution, water/flood-risk policies, protection of green spaces, and how we might help biodiversity in our area. When appropriate, we could also link up with the neighbouring Associations.

The aim of such an issue-focused meeting would be to provide information for residents and for the Committee, and stimulate discussion. Guest speakers with particular knowledge about the relevant issues would be invited.

If you would like to get involved with this initiative then please *complete and return the accompanying 'Help Offered' form, ticking "Helping with SGCARA Meetings"*.

Neighbourhood Watch

The good news is that a substantial part of our area is now covered by Neighbourhood Watches. Each Watch Co-ordinator/Contact notifies those residents on their emailing list with information concerning crimes or attempted crimes on their patch or nearby, and also police initiatives to improve security. (This may include bike marking, security devices available at a discount and so on.) Neighbourhood Watch is separate from SGCARA, although there is some overlap in personnel.

If you aren't already on your Watch mailing list and want to be kept 'in the know', and made aware of any current problems, you can find details of all the Watches and their Co-ordinators or Contacts on our website:

www.sgcara.org.uk click on 'USEFUL INFO' then 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH'.

For those without ready internet access, your current Neighbourhood Watch coordinators are as follows:.

Combemartin Road (all)	Mrs Caroline Pyper	21 Combemartin Rd	CarolinePyper@gmail.com
Girdwood Road (all)	Mr Jude Conroy	(Email only)	nhgirdwood@gmail.com
Skeena Hill 1-30	Mr Stuart Raeburn	8 Skeena Hill	RaeburnSi@aol.com
Skeena Hill 23-89 & 32-80	Mr Ken Hosking	50 Skeena Hill	NWSkeenaU@outlook.com
Sutherland Grove 1-16	Mrs Marcel Bancroft	15 Sutherland Grove	Marcel.Bancroft@gmail.com
Sutherland Grove 17-40	Mr Gerard Briffa	28 Sutherland Grove	GerardBriffa@yahoo.co.uk
Sutherland Grove 41-130	Mrs Ann Jackson	76 SutherlandGrove	Jackson_Ann@hotmail.com
Sutherland Grove 132-176	Captain Anthony Oglesby	136 Sutherland Grove	Ogtayl@onetel.com
Whitelands Estate	Connor Guntrip	48 Whitelands Crescent	ccgunny@yahoo.co.uk

There are currently no Watches in place in Arcadian Place, Artemis Place, Whitefield Close, or in the short section of Augustus Road (together with Chalfont Mews and 1-7 Albert Drive) that falls within SGCARA area.

We do hope that someone will come forward to take on at least one of these areas.

If you would like to consider the possibility of doing so, contact Ken Hosking on NWSkeenaU@outlook.com.

Being on your Neighbourhood Watch's mailing list will help you to be aware of any current problems.

Here are some notes from the West Hill Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 15th March 2017. There will be more helpful information at the Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch talk at the Members Meeting 15th June.

- **West Hill Ward** has the second lowest number of reported crimes in the Borough of Wandsworth – *but even one crime is one too many if it happens to you!* In our area there have recently been a number of attempted break-ins, some successful, including cars, sheds, garages, and actual dwellings.
- **722 Pedal Cycles** were stolen in Wandsworth in the year to February 2017. **Many cycle locks are not good enough** – It is recommended that the lock-price should represent about **10%** of the value of the bike.
- **Sheds** should also be secured by an effective lock, and the contents kept securely within them – especially if they are bicycles (which should be locked to something ‘immovable’).
- **“Smartwater”** is a state of the art product which can be applied to property. Once marked with this solution, regularly-targeted valuables, such as tablets, laptops jewellery, and bikes, can be irrefutably linked back to the owner in the event of a theft and subsequent recovery by the police. It is understood that “Smart Water” has been provided to householders in “The Grid” – with the result that the criminals are turning their attention elsewhere – possibly to those of us in West Hill Ward – beware!!
- **If you have a break-in whilst you are at home** Phone 999 and if you are unable to speak, wait for the operator and **then dial 55. Don’t confront the intruders.**
- **The majority of burglaries are carried out during the day-time** when the occupants are out at work etc, allowing the burglars to work un-interrupted.
- **Front doors** should be made throughout of sound materials which cannot easily be smashed. **Keys** should be kept securely and out of sight.
- **High Hedges - Higher Risk** ...as they allow the burglar to get on with his ‘burgling’ unobserved.....

Are you without internet access?

It would be useful to know how many SGCARA residents have no ready internet access, and therefore rely on paper copies of newsletters and information. If you are one of those people, ***please complete the form at the foot of this page and post into your nearest committee member’s letterbox to let us know.*** These replies will be put together to help us to assess how many residents rely on paper copies of SGCARA information.

Committee Members as follows:

Simon Crawley-Boevey	61 Skeena Hill	(Chairman)
Julia Raeburn	8 Skeena Hill	
Kathy Howat	38 Skeena Hill	(Minute Secretary)
Ken Hosking	50 Skeena Hill	
Caroline Roberts	38 Combemartin Rd	(Coordinator of responses to planning matters)
Elizabeth Collingridge	56 Combemartin Rd	(Treasurer)
Fazlul Islam	38 Sutherland Grove	(email circulation etc)
Dawn Fahy	130 Sutherland Grove	
Elizabeth Falcone	14 Girdwood Rd	(SGCARA website -management)
John Hudspith	59 Girdwood Rd	

Please complete this form only if you have no internet access at home.

Post it through the letterbox of the Committee member who lives closest to you, (list above).

I have no internet access at home, so cannot access the SGCARA website or receive SGCARA information by email. I rely on paper copies of all SGCARA information.

NAME:

ADDRESS:.....