

**SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION - SGCARA**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING AND AGM held on 22 APRIL 2024  
at 1830h**

**At St Cecilia's School, Sutherland Grove SW18**

**1) Present**

**Committee:** Julia Raeburn, Liz Falcone, John Hudspith, Paul Willatts, Catherine Mulcahy

**Members:** minimum 32, including Committee

**Apologies from:** 4 members

**Guests:** Cllr Angela Ireland, Cllr. Daniel Ghossain, Cllr Malcolm Grimston  
Ken Henry, Age UK Wandsworth

PCSO Marina Minopoli, PC Robbie Quijano-Amigo, Safer Neighbourhoods Team

**2) Table Surgeries 6.45 – 7.15pm**

Before the start of business, residents were able to talk to Age UK and our three local Councillors on any individual matters.

**3) Chair's welcome to the Annual Members' Meeting  
(incorporating the AGM) 7.15pm**

The Chair welcomed members and guests, noting the apology from Fleur Anderson MP because of urgent parliamentary business and the apologies from 4 residents. Cllr Grimston also apologised for having to leave early.

**3a) Councillors' Panel**

Each of the Councillors set out the main issues that they were asked about in their work in West Hill ward.

**Cllr Ireland** said that top of her list of issues brought to her is housing – overcrowding, damp and mould - sometimes linked to high heating costs.

**Cllr Ghossain** said that anti-social behaviour, housing and traffic rat running were the issues brought to him most frequently.

**Cllr Grimston** said that traffic rat running was the issue most frequently brought to him by residents but also mentioned the Wimbledon Tennis club expansion proposals that are now with Greater London Authority for determination.

### **3b) Local Traffic Issues Panel**

The three local Councillors were joined on the panel by two police officers from our local safer neighbourhoods team.

#### **Local resident's traffic survey w/e 21 April 2024**

A resident had undertaken a survey to gauge the number of vehicles using our roads. In the week 15 to 21 April, he undertook 10 one-hour traffic surveys at different times and places. He presented his key observations:

**Highest** count entering or leaving Granville Road at the junction with Sutherland Grove = 1005 vehicles 1710h to 1810h on Monday 15 April 2024 (16 vehicles a minute).

*During a school day on Thursday 18 April 2024, 541 vehicles passed along Granville Road between 1019h and 1119h.*

**Highest** count entering or leaving the top of Girdwood Road at the junction with Skeena Hill, 640 vehicles 1722h to 1822h on Thursday 18 April 2024 (10 vehicles a minute).

**Highest** weekend count entering or leaving Granville Road at the junction with Sutherland Grove, 852 vehicles 1136h to 1236h on Saturday 20 April 2024.

**Lowest** weekend count entering or leaving Girdwood Road at the junction with Skeena Hill, 163 vehicles 1808h to 1908h on Sunday 21 April 2024.

***"We now bear the brunt of an A3 bypass in our local streets with all the noise, pollution and issues of safety that this creates. Once motorists discover a different way they rarely return to their original route."***

#### **Panel Reaction and discussion**

**Cllr Ireland** agreed to take the survey's findings to the appropriate Cabinet Member. She noted that the normal threshold for Council intervention on traffic matters is 300 vehicles per hour. Also that the survey figures are far higher than previous Council traffic counts in our area.

**Cllr Grimston** noted that it would be easier to tackle traffic flows in the morning compared to the evening as the morning flow comes from one main source – the A3 at Tibbetts Corner. He suggested that a morning blocking off of Skeena Hill at junction with Beamont Road – say between 0700h and 1000h with exemption for residents - could be effective. He

also noted that Council Officers probably believe that we have had “our turn” for their attention with the right-hand restriction turn at Withycombe Road.

There followed a series of questions and points from residents with responses from the panel. Issues covered included:

- The sheer speed of some motorists with many near misses
- The dangers for residents trying to pull off their drives, particularly in Girdwood Road
- The refusal by TfL to countenance a ban on right hand turns from West Hill into Sutherland Grove
- The possibility of police speed checks in our area – the police have a speed gun that they are currently using in Wimbledon Park Road, sending letters to offenders
- The difficulty of finding measures that actually work – speed cameras, low speed zones, speed checks?

### **Next steps**

***Cllr Ireland agreed to lead on this issue, taking it back to the Council with a view to holding a meeting involving Senior Transport Managers, the three local Councillors, the police and SGCARA representatives. The purpose would be to analyse the problems, particularly looking at the evidence from the resident’s traffic survey, and consider the range of possible solutions, building on the existing West Hill Traffic Management Plan.***

### **4) SGCARA Annual General Meeting 8.15pm**

#### **Minutes of the previous AGM held on 9 February 2023**

The Chair asked for any questions on the minutes of the 2023 AGM. There were none.

There was **unanimous approval** that the minutes should be adopted as a true record

#### **Committee Report January to December 2023**

The Chair announced that the full report would be available on the SGCARA website.

The Chair, in summary, reported on:

- The successful continuation of the online membership form and dispatch of regular emails

- Sending out 3 issues of “Reaching out to Residents” newsletter, with thanks to residents for preparing and delivering them
- The Council’s unexpected consultation on a draft updated Sutherland Grove Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy in **February 2023**
- SGCARA consultation on this draft with residents, leading to a SGCARA response that emphasized the need for more clarity -eg on which original house features ‘must’ be retained/replaced like for like and which features it would be ‘ideal’ to retain but not compulsory
- The Council approving the new Strategy in **July 2023**, which disappointingly remains vague in many areas leading to some puzzling anomalies in approach by Planning Officers
- In the light of motorists finding loopholes around the right hand turn ban at Withycombe Road, SGCARA launched its own informal Traffic Questionnaire in **June 2023**
- In **April 2023**, many residents signed a petition to save the Granville Road allotments and the Wimbledon Park Rifle Club. SGCARA submitted a strong objection to the landlord’s application to create a children’s nursery on the site. The Council unanimously refused the application and the landlord agreed to sell the site to the Rifle Club.
- In **September 2023** SGCARA held a popular ‘Family Meet-Up’ at the enclosed outdoor space at St Cecillas, in recognition of the number of young families moving in to the area.
- A repeat of the popular Quiz Night at the Park Tavern has been held back by a change of management at the pub. This is being held under review as the space available is particularly suitable
- The All England Lawn Tennis Club’s development plans for Wimbledon Park continued to cast a shadow during 2023. Merton Council approved the plans (by 6 to 4) in **October 2023** and Wandsworth Council refused it unanimously in **November 2023**.
- The Greater London Authority (GLA) is now considering it. SGCARA Objection submissions are on the SGCARA website.

Looking forward, the Chair talked about:

- The possibility of a type of WhatsApp group, in addition to emails, to improve communication with residents
- The possibility of a repeat in 2025 of an Open Gardens event (A show of hands at the meeting showed some (but limited) support for this proposal – please contact the Chair through [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk) if interested)

The Chair thanked:

- St Cecilia's School – particularly Dave Cobb and Andy Barrett for their ongoing support to the Association
- Members of the Committee for their support and hard work
- The many residents who help out on various projects and tasks

### **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts**

The Chair proposed that William Courage, a retired Chartered Accountant who lives locally, should be re-appointed as Examiner. This was put to a vote and there was **unanimous agreement**.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Paul Willatts, Treasurer reported that:

- From the twelve months ending 31 December 2022, SGCARA carried forward a balance of £3826.66. This gave our finances a healthier picture than deserved
- Unfortunately, we also carried forward over accumulated expenses from the period 2019-2021 of £701.70. This problem has now been resolved and the longstanding debt was cleared at the start of 2023
- 2023 has therefore been a year of adjustment and from the twelve months ending 31 December 2023, we have carried forward a total of £2769.42, after income and expenses
- With our income primarily from Subscriptions, it is obvious that we need to increase this income to flourish. I would suggest that our minimum membership subscription of £2 needs to increase.

The Chair thanked Paul Willatts for his hard work in getting the Association's finances back on to a stable basis. This was endorsed by a member in the audience. The Chair said that the new Committee was supportive of a change to the minimum membership fee. The Treasurer's report was put to the vote and **unanimously agreed**.

### **Election of the Committee**

The Chair reported that Paul Willatts was standing down from the Committee but that the other 4 current Committee members were standing again for election. Two new nominations had been received – Susie Dye from Sutherland Grove and Martin Howe from Girdwood Rd.

The Committee will continue to ask for help from other residents for specific tasks and pieces of work.

The members present were asked to agree the proposed membership of the Committee and this was **agreed unanimously**.

The Chair then declared that the AGM was now **closed** and invited members to stay to hear from local resident Steve Derry about Bee-keeping in Southfields.

5) **Steve Derry – local bee-keeper of 20 years experience**  
**8.45pm**

The majority of attendees stayed for Steve's very informative and illustrated talk about bee-keeping. This included the emerging threats to honey-bees and other pollinators, and what we can all do to support them. The range and number of questions from residents – and enthusiastic applause – after the talk reflected how interesting the talk was.

**End of SGCARA Members' Meeting 9.20pm**