

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

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING AND AGM held on 31 March 2025
at 1830h**

At St Cecilia's School, Sutherland Grove SW18

Present

Committee: Julia Raeburn, Liz Falcone, John Hudspith, Susie Dye, Martin Howe Apology from Catherine Mulcahy

Members: 28 including Committee

Apologies from: 5 members

Guests:

Councillors Angela Ireland, Daniel Ghossain and Malcolm Grimston,
Harry Picken, member of **Fleur Anderson MP's office**

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

Sylvie Chrzanowska from **Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch**

Guy Hewitt and Ben Keret from **Treadlighter**, a local solar energy firm

Market Place

Before the start of business, residents were able to talk to our guests.

Their feedback after talking to residents included:

- **Traffic concerns remain the top issues** raised tonight (and through casework). Worries about car crime and rubbish collection also feature.
- The **local police have a Whats App group** which allows them to feedback current issues to residents. In the last quarter of 2024, the West Hill team received 110 crime notifications. 62% related to violence against the person including domestic violence, 15% related to burglaries, 12% to drug offences, 7% motor thefts and 4% related to robberies.
- **Only Combemartin Road has a registered Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.** Individuals can join or residents in a street /road can apply but need to have a Coordinator and Deputy. Contact wandsworthNWassociation@gmail.com for either.

Chair's welcome to the Annual Members' Meeting (incorporating the AGM)

The Chair welcomed members and guests, noting the apology from Fleur Anderson MP because of urgent parliamentary business and the apologies from 5 residents.

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 22 April 2024

The Chair asked for any questions on the minutes of the 2024 AGM. There were none.

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

Committee Report January to December 2024

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

The Chair, in summary, reported on:

- A repeat today of the **Market-Place format** before the AGM that worked well last year
- New **Committee responsibilities** for **Finance** (Martin Howe), **Data protection** (Susie Dye). Warm thanks were expressed to non-committee member Freda Sedgwick who has taken on the task of **Membership Co Ordination**
- **Successful addition of advertising** in the Reaching Out to Residents newsletter forging positive links with local businesses and raising revenue to offset printing costs
- **Appreciation of residents in distribution of newsletter** particularly Di Allison who counts folds and bags them
- Repeat encouragement in **January** for residents to take part in **RSPB's Big Garden Watch**
- Flagging up in information emails of **various local opportunities, including concerts and arts events, charity events at local churches etc.**
- Particular focus at Christmas on **Fayres and Lights switch on**
- Reporting in **Mid-December** on **staged 'Crash for Cash' attempted accidents at the Girdwood/Granville/Sutherland Grove roundabout** with advice on how to respond if targeted, endorsed by local police
- **Big Traffic Count** on **25 – 27 June**, strongly supported by local residents. Results showed average count at the

Girdwood/Granville/Sutherland roundabout of **over 1000 vehicles per hour**

- Results led to a **meeting with Council engineers in January 2025** facilitated by Fleur Anderson MP, leading to the Council installing Automatic Traffic Counters on our streets for one week from **17 March 2025**
- In **September**, offered a **How to Avoid Scams** meeting, aimed at older residents, facilitated by Debbie Foster, Age UK Wandsworth which was well received by residents
- Also in **September**, offered residents the chance to take part in **street tree-pit planting** as part of Council's Sustainable September initiative for which we received a micro-grant. Lessons learnt such as need for more plants and bulbs so we will be applying again
- And again, in **September**, responding to the Council's consultation on **Quiet Cycle Routes**
- The **Greater London Authority** held a public hearing on **27th September** into the **All-England Lawn Tennis Club** application to develop Wimbledon Park land following its **approval by Merton Council** but **rejection unanimously by Wandsworth Council's Planning Committee**. The GLA went on to approve the application.
- **Save Wimbledon Park's** request for a **judicial review of this decision has been granted**, likely to take place in July 2025. See Save Wimbledon Park website
- **SGCARA** continues to monitor **new planning applications** in our area but does not comment on all of them. In 2024, we submitted 2 Supports, 8 General Observations and 6 Objections.

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

There were no questions on the report which was **approved unanimously**.

Treasurer's Report – Income and Expenditure Account- 12 months to 31 December 2024

It was proposed that **William Courage** continue as the **independent Examiner** for the Association's accounts and this was **approved unanimously**.

Martin Howe, as Treasurer, highlighted key elements of income and expenditure during 2024:

- Income from **subscriptions and donations** totalled **£704.76**
- **Other income**, including from advertising and the Council mini grant brought the total income to **£1248.36**
- The Association paid out **£1338.07 in expenses** leaving a small annual deficit of **£89.71**, less than the deficit the previous year
- As costs continue to increase, the Committee has agreed to put up the **annual subscription to £5 a year**.

The full details of the accounts were included with the agenda papers and are available on the SGCARA website.

The Treasurer's report, including the subscription increase, was put to the vote and **unanimously agreed**.

Proposed small change to the SGCARA Constitution

The Chair explained the proposed change to **Section 7.2** of the constitution – to change the time for receipt of nominations for the Committee to be received **14 days before the AGM rather than the current 7 days**. This would give more opportunity for candidates to have a conversation with a current Committee member about what they can bring to the organisation.

This proposal was put to the vote and **unanimously agreed**.

Section 7.2 of the Constitution will therefore be re-written as follows:

7.2 All candidates for election as Members of the Committee shall be paid-up Voting Members of the Association and shall be nominated either by the Committee or by any two paid-up Voting Members of the Association. Every nomination shall be in writing signed on behalf of the Committee or by the nominating Members; shall be accompanied by a written consent to serve, if elected, signed by the Member nominated; and shall be received by the Association **not later than fourteen full days** before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.

Election of the Committee

Members standing for re-election are:

Susie Dye, Elizabeth Falcone, Martin Howe, John Hudspith, Catherine Mulcahy (previously Salisbury), Julia Raeburn

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

A **vote of thanks was proposed for Julia Raeburn**, who puts so much work into making the Association function so well. This was **warmly endorsed** by the members present.

The Chair then declared that the AGM was now **closed** and invited members to stay to hear two guest speakers.

Guest speaker – David Dye

David lives at 1A Sutherland Grove, a 1960's bungalow. His ambition was to achieve a Passivhaus rating- a German standard to make properties self-sufficient energy wise. He explained the steps he took including fitting roof and external insulation, a heat pump and solar panels with technical detail of the contribution of each measure. Key lessons learnt were:

- Solar power has become very cheap and the payback period much shorter than it used to be
- It remains true that the electricity generated by solar panels can be several times higher in summer when less needed compared with the winter when it is most needed
- The more that a house is insulated – with triple glazed windows, insulation in the roof and added to floors and external walls -the more the need for ventilation to extract moist air generated by humans and their activities

David was thanked for his thought-provoking presentation.

Guest speaker – Dave Cobb, Business and Development Manager at St Cecilia's School

Dave spoke about the school's steps to reduce its carbon footprint and help the school's bio diversity on the site. He went through the carbon audit that has been conducted covering everything from the manufacture of school uniforms to where the ingredients of school meals have been sourced. He spoke about various challenges such as the pupils' resistance to meat-free meals and the tendency of the parents of younger pupils to drop them off by car outside the school. There is now an action plan to address all the issues raised in the audit.

Dave spoke about being good neighbours – turning off heat pumps at night to avoid any noise nuisance and persuading parents not to drop off pupils by car.

Dave also told us that local primary schools are finding it hard to get pupils, a combination of lower birth rates and the price of London housing for young families. But St Cecilia's remains popular with long waiting lists compared with other local secondary schools. The cost of London housing is however making it difficult to retain younger teachers.

End of SGCARA Members' Meeting 9.35pm