

SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.sgcar.org.uk

SGCARA

admin@sgcar.org.uk

Reaching out to Residents

September 2026



Reaching out to Residents can also be read online at www.sgcar.org.uk to access the links more easily

Such a lot to pack into this Reaching out to Residents. Please forgive small font in places

SGCARA has been pleased to welcome a number of new members during 2026. New members are added to the News Update email-circulation list as they join (*unless they request not to receive emails*). If you are a new member but *haven't* been receiving the expected News Updates (approx. every 2-3 weeks), please let us know. (Check your SPAM folder & add admin@sgcar.org.uk to your contacts-list)

Residents tell us that they find the News Updates very useful – lots of info about events in our area!

Residents who knew him will be very sad to hear that Ken Hosking has died, aged 92. A SGCARA main-stay from times gone by, Ken's own account of his life was featured in *Reaching out to Residents* March 2026. We are so glad that this item showed Ken just how much affection there was for him.

Quiz Night 2026 – Thursday 19th November 7.30pm at The Park Tavern

SGCARA Quiz Night 2025 was enjoyed by all, including teams from the 'Grid' & the 'Triangle' for a bit of healthy rivalry. Our new Quiz Host – charismatic local actress Kitty Martin – gave Quiz Night 2025 a real rocket-boost!

Kitty will be Hosting again on the 19th Nov. Why not give it a go?

Pubs are increasingly aware that more people are choosing alternatives to alcohol.

The Park tavern is no exception & stocks Heineken 0, Corona 0, Guinness 0, Tanqueray Gin 0% & no-alcohol red wine as well as traditional alcohol-free drinks

The Park Tavern is offering 10% discount on food for quizzers on 19th Nov.

Sign-up form on Pg 4

'Looking forward to another friendly fun quiz Quiz Night at the Park Tavern with our neighbours, where we will do our best once again to avoid the wooden spoon!' (a SGCA team-member)

'The SGCARA Quiz Night in 2025 was one of the best Quiz Nights I have ever attended. It was warm, friendly, very well organised with very interesting topics & questions & more importantly a great opportunity to meet other people who love living in Southfields' (a Grid team-member)



Ken Hosking & Liz Falcone
Quiz Night 2014

SGCARA is volunteer-run, with membership fees & donations funding newsletters (delivered to all 1000 SGCA households), events, meetings, the website, information on local services & regular emailed news-updates. We champion local concerns, (eg SGCARA is very engaged with local 'rat-run' problems, is represented on the W'don Championships Community Panel etc & was at the forefront of the successful opposition to the proposed local Sutherland Grove 'School Street')

Just £5 minimum per year (extra donations always welcome)

Membership runs from Jan-Dec

SGCARA needs to attract more residents to put themselves forward for election as **COMMITTEE MEMBERS** or just to help out with specific issues, without being a committee member. **COULD THIS BE YOU?**

Nomination Form on the website. (Email admin@sgcar.org.uk & a committee member will make contact to tell you more & answer your questions). Limited time? You could just give whatever time you choose for a single area of interest.

help with the **SGCARA WEBSITE?**

help organise **SOCIAL EVENTS?**

Work on **'RAT RUN' TRAFFIC ISSUES?**

CONTENT/EDITING of 'Reaching out to Residents'?

We need a **SECRETARY** (could be a job-share)

!SAVE THE DATE!

BLUE JANUARY FAMILY BOARD GAMES

!SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 30th JANUARY

St CECILIA'S SCHOOL (classroom)

Details to follow

SGCARA NEWS ROUND-UP

**** 'Rat-run' traffic issues** The situation remains intolerable for Girdwood Rd residents especially. There appears to be major resistance by the council to ACT. So much to update. Please read **'Rat-run' traffic issues** - SGCARA website

**** Artists' 'Open House' on the 3rd/4th and 10th/11th October**

Artists featured from our locality: Tony Gant 14 Combemartin Rd, Elzbieta Smolenska 1 Arcadian Place, & a collective of 4 artists exhibiting at 164a Sutherland Grove. <https://www.artistsopenhouse.co.uk/>

**** 'Have Your Say' on Wandsworth Council spending priorities.** There is much concern over proposed Council Tax rises. Chance to input *your* priorities. (Access the link below & scroll down to 'Your priorities for Wandsworth') <https://yourprioritiesforwandsworth.commonplace.is/>

**** Sadly no opportunities for street tree-pit planting in September 2026.** The new council is carrying out a Spending Review, so no micro-grants are on offer at present. Work is ongoing to improve the Sutherland Grove pavements & also the edging round our iconic London Plane trees. Residents might like to do their own 'Guerilla Gardening' round some street tree-pits! There is a current Wandsworth 'Street Trees' Consultation, closing 31st December 2026: <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/tree-24/>

**** Sutherland Grove School Streets Consultation interim results** We know that this proposed School Street will NOT be going ahead. SGCARA understands that discussions began with Saint Cecilia's School in September to see how pupil & pedestrian safety can be improved. A pedestrian crossing-point would seem to be an obvious element of any solution? Some residents may be unaware that we have 2 School Streets in our locality. The restricted zones are marked by red-blue-green 'school pencil' style posts. The nearest is St Michaels School, with Viewfield Rd closed to non-exempt vehicles 8.00-9.00am & 2.30-3.30pm. Albemarle School's 'School Street' was extended Sept 2025 to include Albert Drive between Princes Way & Ambleside residential block (closer to Augustus Rd.) Closed to non-exempt vehicles 8.30-9.30am & 2.45-3.45pm. Easy to get caught out.



**** Update on AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Club) plans & response to the AELTC Community Newsletter**

Residents will have received the Autumn 2026 AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Club) Community Newsletter. AELTC can afford top-notch PR. PR 'spin' includes 'demonising' the responsible **'Save Wimbledon Park' (SWP)** organisation by dismissing them as the *'objector group'*. **We & SWP love tennis & the current 2-week Championships, with the Qualifiers at Roehampton!** We believe that many SGCA residents support the aims of SWP. AELTC's newsletter states they would *'open up'* the former W'don Pk Golf Club (WPGC) land. In reality 38 grass courts & an 8000-seater stadium would occupy the vast majority of that area. The proposed *'parkland'* would mostly occupy the southern end - too hilly to flatten for tennis courts. The *'parkland'* would house the huge maintenance building needed for the whole-site upkeep & require extensive tarmac roadways for vehicles. It would be closed to the public throughout tennis events & is *'permissive'* through a S106 agreement – in reality open at the discretion of AELTC. When AELTC purchased the WPGC land in 1993, they signed Covenants promising not to develop the land. What AELTC 'Promises' can we believe?

<https://www.savewimbledonpark.org/> <https://share.google/nU4xfLAooMNHU2k5Z>

Read SGCARA's **'Potted Guide to the AELTC's proposals – to summer 2026'** at www.sgcar.org.uk

**** 'Recycling Week' was 14th-19th September.** Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA) offered daily webinars with Recycling updates. (These were publicised in the SGCARA members News Update email of 5th August.) Those who signed up found them very practical. We discovered that **empty aerosols & toothpaste tubes** can now be put into the orange recycling sacks, also clean aluminium foil & food trays – balled up to tennis-ball size to be recognised by the sorting machines. **Plastic & aluminium coffee pods** can be recycled in 2 separate 'Podback' containers (WRWA-Bay A) <https://wrwa.gov.uk/news-hot-topics/> Major stores of Boots the Chemist (eg Southside but not Southfields) now have bins to recycle **tablet blister-packs**. (At the Southside branch, this is next to the prescription counter). You can also earn points for your Boots loyalty card when you deposit empty blister packs.



**** What is SGCARA for?**

We love to 'do our bit' to contribute to great community relations within SGCA with occasional social events for a variety of ages, regular emailed local News Updates & **Reaching out to Residents**. The mandate (in the Constitution) to comment on planning applications where felt necessary/useful arose when SGCA became a Conservation Area (1992) in response to concerns that the character of the area was being eroded. We have built up a body of understanding of the processes & norms which we endeavour to use sensitively. There used to be - *long gone* – council grants available to restore original features. Commendably, some residents *do* restore features which maintain the charm & harmony of the streets. There are also good examples where extra off-street parking has been created whilst retaining/creating front-hedging & flower beds. Vital for air-quality & everyone's well-being! (Planning Approval is needed for front-boundary changes & additional- permeable - hard-standing) If planning changes to your property, do read our **Planning Guidelines**, including a recommendation to get pre-application advice which can often avert problems down the line.

This document & the **SGCA Management Strategy** are on the SGCARA website.



If YOU or a business contact would like to advertise in 'Reaching out to Residents' please get in touch: admin@sgcara.org.uk
 1/6th page Advert - £40,
 Single-line 'Enhanced Listing', with logo, simple description & contact details - £18.00

Message from Fleur Anderson
 MP for Putney, Roehampton,
 Southfields & Wandsworth
 Town



'One of the best parts of being your local MP is seeing Southfields continue to thrive. There is so much that makes this area special, from our independent shops & cafés to the green spaces that make it such a wonderful place to live. That's why I'm always working to support local businesses, protect our environment & improve the transport links that so many residents rely on every day.'

**** The Park Tavern campaign**

I've been working alongside residents & local Cllr. Jasmin Glynne to help save a much-loved local institution: The Park Tavern. It's a historic pub which has been around since at least 1902. Since reopening 18 months ago, it's become a hub for the community again, hosting charity gatherings & popular quiz nights. When its future was put at risk, I joined local campaigners in calling for a fair outcome that protects this valued community asset. The petition, started by Cllr Glynne, has more than 1,400 signatures. We have a promise from the landlord, Star Pubs, to keep the pub open. A huge thank you to everyone who has signed. I'll hold Star Pubs to account & keep the community updated.

**** Wimbledon Park**

Protecting Wimbledon Park remains one of my highest priorities. I've consistently opposed the AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Club) plans to expand into Wimbledon Park because I believe the proposed development is simply too large & out of keeping with this treasured local landscape. I have urged ministers to recognise the importance of Wimbledon Park. Meanwhile, I am supporting the Save Wimbledon Park campaign's legal Appeal. We had some excellent news at the end of July, when the Court of Appeal decided that our challenge has a chance of success, & can thus move to a full Appeal at the beginning of 2027. While Wimbledon is an internationally recognised tournament that we are all proud to host, that success should not come at the expense of one of our most important public green spaces. I've also worked hard to improve the way the Wimbledon Queue operates each summer. Thousands of visitors are welcome, but local residents should not have to bear unnecessary disruption in Wimbledon Park as a result. I set up a Community Panel to raise issues from residents to the councils & AELTC. (SGCARE is represented at these meetings). As a result, the toilets are far better with a proper plumbed-in sewage system. Additional protections have been introduced for the woodland areas to help minimise damage to wildlife & habitats. Community Panel Meetings are ongoing for 2027.

**** District Line**

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about the dreadful District line delays. I've held a series of meetings to demand action & £500,000 has now been invested in improving signalling & renewing sections of track on the District line. Some stretches of railway here are now well over 100 years old, so the flooding prevention & signal box upgrades should lead to fewer problems & much faster repairs if there are issues. While there is still more to do, this investment will help improve reliability & reduce faults that have caused frustration for commuters for far too long.

**** Heathrow Consultation**

The Government has been consulting on plans for the future of Heathrow Airport. The Consultation closed 1st Sept & I know that SGCARA publicised the Consultation link in the regular News Update emails which SGCARA members receive, urging them to respond. I remain firmly opposed to a third runway because of the impact it would have on noise, air quality & our efforts to tackle climate change

**** High Streets**

It's important for our high streets that we get planning rules which actually make sense for local communities. The government have announced changes which will make it easier to refuse planning applications from vape & gambling shops. At the moment, the law necessitates a 'right to permit' which means councils have very little power to refuse vape & gambling shops, especially when similar shops are already in place on a high street'

As always, if there's an issue affecting you or your neighbours, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My team and I are always here to help. My email is fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

Answers to photo quiz Pg 1: Photos 1,3 & 6 – Jersey Tiger Moth Photo 2 – white Plume Moth (wings furled while resting on a Southfields shop window!) Photo 5 – white Plume Moth, wings outstretched Photo 4 – Red Admiral resting on buddleia

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SGCARA Quiz Night Thursday 19th November (arrive in time for a prompt 7.30pm start)
Park Tavern Merton Road SW18 5SW

- **Get a team of 4-6 people together?**
can include friends from outside our locality (at non-member price)
- **Anyone over 16 from a SGCARA member-household can be signed up at member-cost.** Teams with parents & adult kids can cover all the bases!
- **Prefer to sign-up individually to join a table on the night?**
meet new neighbours & make new friends
- **Prizes for the winning team & most ingenious team-name**
- **SGCARA Member-households: £4 per person Non-members: £7 per person**
Covers expenses including the fee for our Quiz Host Kitty Martin – a great success at Quiz Night Nov 2025!

If you are not currently a SGCARA member & would like to join – you can pay member quiz-price!
either:

download & print a membership form at: www.sgcar.org.uk & return it along with your Quiz reply-slip
or:

join via the online form: <https://forms.gle/q83Nvf6zzUhwcrTt8>

As the end of 2026 isn't too far off, new-joiners also get 2027 Membership.

✂**Please detach this slip & return asap to join the Quiz Night**✂

SGCARA Quiz Night

Thursday 19th November 7.30pm

Please return this slip together with your payment, to any of these 3 addresses, **BY SUNDAY 8th NOV**

14 Girdwood Rd, 8 Skeena Hill, M3 Gilbert Scott Building

*Contact Name(s) _____

*Contact Address _____

*Phone(s) _____ *Email. _____

* By sharing my contact-details, I agree they can be used for communicating about Quiz Night *

I would like to reserve places for Quiz Night 2026

EITHER

to enter a complete team six / five / four places *(please circle the appropriate number)*

Our team name will be _____

OR

to join a team on the night: _____ places

I am paying by: 1) cash 2) cheque (to SGCARA)

3) bank transfer (SGCARA 20 90 69 9086 1456) *(please circle your chosen payment method)*

Payment Ref for bank transfer: the NUMBER of your street/block + the first 6 LETTERS of your street/block + as much of your surname as character-limit allows.

£4 per person (SGCARA member-household. Existing members or joining now)

Number of places ____ £_____

£7 per person (non-members)

Number of places ____ £_____

Total for Quiz: £_____

If joining SGCARA, (minimum £5 – extra donation always welcome) £_____

I include a printed membership form OR I completed: <https://forms.gle/q83Nvf6zzUhwcrTt8>
(please circle your choice)

Grand Total £_____