

Englefield Green Committee

Tuesday 20 June 2017 7.30pm

at

Englefield Green Cricket Club

**Please note prior to the meeting the Committee will meet
outside the Cricket Club Pavilion for a site visit
commencing at 6.30pm**

Members of the Committee

Councillors Miss M N Heath, N M King, M T Kusneraitis, N H Prescott, P I Roberts and Miss J K Sohi

Residents' Representatives: Mr A E Panter and Mr N Band

AGENDA

Notes:

- 1) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information (as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972) must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.
- 2) The relevant 'background papers' are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to
**Mrs C Holehouse, Democratic Services, Law and Governance Business Centre,
Runnymede Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone KT15 2AH
(Tel: Direct Line: 01932 425628). (Email: carol.holehouse@runnymede.gov.uk).**

3) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please ring Mr B A Fleckney on 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.

4) **Filming, Audio-Recording, Photography, Tweeting and Blogging of Meetings**

Members of the public are permitted to film, audio record, take photographs or make use of social media (tweet/blog) at Council and Committee meetings provided that this does not disturb the business of the meeting. If you wish to film a particular meeting, please liaise with the Council Officer listed on the front of the Agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that the Chairman is aware and those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

Filming should be limited to the formal meeting area and not extend to those in the public seating area.

The Chairman will make the final decision on all matters of dispute in regard to the use of social media, audio-recording, photography and filming in the Committee meeting.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

Matters in respect of which reports have been made available for public inspection

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PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

a) Exempt Information

9. OPTIONS TO REGULARISE THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURES ON THE GREEN	6
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b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN
3. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 February 2017 (Appendix 'A')

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

If Members have an interest in an item please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Legal Representative or Democratic Services Officer at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available from the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting.

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when attending the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must leave the room if the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or if the interest could reasonably be regarded as so significant as to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

Members are advised to contact the Council's Legal section prior to the meeting if they wish to seek advice on a potential interest.

6. **MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)**

Synopsis of Report:

To update the Committee on management and maintenance issues relating to the Green and to consider future maintenance operations around the Green

Recommendation(s):

The Committee:

- i) **considers the effect of the new grass cutting regime and supports the continuation of this regime until further notice.**

- ii) **reviews the content of the draft woodland management plan and instructs Officers accordingly**
- iii) **reviews the condition of the vehicle barrier and instructs Officers accordingly**
- iv) **reviews the condition of the cricket pavilion and instructs officers accordingly**
- v) **considers the appropriateness of weed control across the Green and instructs Officers accordingly**

i) **Grass Cutting**

At its meeting in November 2016 the Committee received a report regarding a trial adjustment to the grass cutting regime that had been implemented. This involved a more frequent cut of the Green itself and collecting the clippings from the grass verges and outlying areas. The aim being to reduce the amount of clippings that were left and eventually washed into the drains. This trial was implemented late in the 2016 grass cut and again when grass cutting started early in 2017. The effect of the trial is due to be considered by the Committee at this meeting.

ii) **Woodland Management Plan**

A draft Woodland Management Plan was presented to the Committee at its meeting in November. Members agreed to delay any decision on adopting the plan until a site visit had been held prior to this meeting. After that proposed work and costings could be considered in liaison with the Chief Forester at the Crown Estate. The draft plan is attached at Appendix 'B ' for reference.

iii) **Possible future expenditure**

Other items that the Committee has previously agreed to consider at a site visit were:

1. Condition of the vehicle barrier onto the Green
2. Condition of the cricket pavilion

Although not a major problem, there are a number of weeds in the grass across the Green and the site visit prior to this meeting would be an opportunity for Members to consider whether controlling these through the use of herbicides would be appropriate.

iv) **Parking at Southern end of the Green**

Concern has recently been expressed by a number of residents about parking at the Southern end of the Green, close to the Barley Mow pub. Surrey County Council are currently undertaking their Runnymede 2017 parking review and representations have been made regarding parking in this location. A County Council report on the parking review is due to be presented to the Runnymede local committee at its meeting on 3 July 2017. A copy of that report and its recommendations will be available on the Local Committee's webpage closer to the time.

In January, Officers received reports that the double yellow lines at the back of the Green were obscured by leaves and cars being parked there, resulting in passing traffic mounting the opposite verge and causing damage to it. The issue of leaves was reported to the Council's Depot Manager and the Parking team were also informed. The verge damage will be monitored and, if necessary, repaired in the Spring. Pot holes

that have appeared in the road to the rear of the Green have been reported to Surrey County Council.

(To resolve)

Background papers

None

7. EVENTS ON THE GREEN (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

Synopsis of Report:

To inform the Committee of events planned for the Green

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is asked to approve the application from Carters Steam Fair for their annual visit to the Green.

1. Carters Entertainment Ltd have made an application to the Council to use the Green again later this year for their Steam Fair. They hope to arrive and start setting up on Tuesday 26 September and would depart on Tuesday 3 October. The Fair would open on Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October. Officers recommend that their application be approved.

(To resolve)

Background papers

None

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following report under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the report in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(To resolve)

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection

a) Exempt Information

9. OPTIONS TO REGULARISE THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURES ON THE GREEN

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

Englefield Green Committee

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Appendices

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Page no.</u>
A	Minutes - 14 February 2017	1 – 3
B	Draft Woodland Management Plan	4 - 7

Runnymede Borough CouncilENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE14 February 2017 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors Miss M N Heath (Chairman), N M King and N H Prescott

Residents' Representatives: Mr A Panter (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Band

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors M T Kusneraitis, P I Roberts and Miss J K Sohi

505 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 November 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

506 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P I Roberts and Miss J K Sohi

507 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

The Committee was updated on management and maintenance issues relation to the Green.

i) Litter Picks

Members were advised that student volunteers from RHUL undertook another litter pick of the Green and woodland. This had been co-ordinated by the Green Space team who provided litter pickers, gloves and bags.

The Englefield Green Village Residents Association was also planning a litter pick of the village, including the Green, for the 4 March. The Green Space team would again be supporting this by providing equipment.

ii) Parking

In January, Officers had received reports that the double yellow lines at the back of the Green had been obscured by leaves and subsequently cars were being parked there. This had resulted in passing traffic mounting the opposite verge and had caused damage to it. The issue of the leaves was reported to the Council's Depot Manager and the Parking team were also informed. The verge damage would be monitored and, if necessary, repaired in the Spring. Officers were asked by the Committee to look at options to deter parking on this verge to prevent further damage using logs or the stones used previously. It was noted that Surrey County Council would be undertaking a parking review in March.

Officers advised the Committee that the recent damage to the barriers at St. Jude's Road had been reported to Surrey County Council and cabling works at Castle Hill would be commencing at the end of February.

508 EVENTS ON THE GREEN

The Committee was advised that the Englefield Green Village Residents Association had applied to the Council to hold the Village Fair on the Green on Saturday 24 June this year. Officers recommended to the Committee that the application be approved, subject to the normal requirements for public liability, risk assessments and event management plans being met

RESOLVED that -

the application from the Englefield Green Residents Association to hold the Village Fair on the Green on Saturday 24 June 2017 be approved subject to the normal requirements

509 OPTIONS TO REGULARISE THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURES ON THE GREEN

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matter in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

At the last meeting of the Committee in November 2016 the Committee requested that Officers reported back to this meeting on options to regularise the various activities and structures on the Green. The issue of various activities and structures being unlawful became an issue in 2012 when Counsel advised that the Scheme of Management 1955 was invalid.

The Committee discussed various options and agreed that the first course of action in relation to this should be to commence consultation with the Crown Estate and also obtain further information and advice from Counsel. Officers would report back to Members information when received and an update report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee in June.

RESOLVED that -

- i) **Officers obtain further information and advice from Counsel; and**
- ii) **Officers commence consultation with the Crown Estate**

510 CRICKET SQUARE

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matter in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

At its meeting in November 2016 the Committee resolved that the rope and pins arrangement around the cricket square be removed and requested Officers to consider what other lawful and practical measures could be used to protect the cricket square.

The rope and pins were removed at the beginning of November 2016. Officers had met with Officers of the Englefield Green Cricket Club on two occasions to discuss the matter and the options to protect the cricket square. As discussed with the cricket club and as an initial temporary measure a solid white line was marked around the square and laminated signs were placed around the cricket square stating 'Please respect the cricket square'. The signs had since been replaced by the same wording painted in white onto the grass on each of the four sides of the cricket square and some small boundary flags in each corner. It was hoped that this combination would deter anyone crossing the cricket square.

The Cricket Club had grave concerns about the consequences of the rope and pins being removed. Their main concern was damage to the wicket. They believe if the wicket was not safe then cricket could not be played. Surrey Cricket supported this view and had contacted the Council on the position saying they strongly objected to the removal of the rope and pins on technical grounds. Their representative stated: 'The roping off of a cricket square was done to protect what was a highly technical area of a cricket field (and vitally important to ensuring the game was played in an enjoyable and safe fashion). Roping the area off ensured that the table was not damaged by anything such as dog fouling, walking, running, studded boots (e.g. from football) or any other potential hazard to the table.'

There had already been some damage to the cricket square and members of the Cricket Club had observed the white line being used as a goal line for footballers. They did not believe the present arrangement protected the wicket and once we came into the summer months the incidents of damage would increase.

The Committee wished the Cricket Club to keep them informed over the coming months on the outcome of the current arrangement.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.30pm)

ENGLEFIELD GREEN – WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Vision

The vision of this management plan is to encourage use of this woodland as a recreational natural space whilst encouraging and increasing the biodiversity within it.

Management Objectives

1. Undertake survey work to quantify the fauna and flora within the woodland
2. To maintain and create new wildlife habitats from the survey data collected.
3. To control any invasive species identified.
4. To provide and maintain paths to improve access to the natural environment.
5. To protect existing veteran trees and to identify middle-aged trees to be protected to be future veterans.
6. To encourage standing deadwood, where appropriate, and fallen deadwood to provide habitats for invertebrates, fungi, and small mammals.
7. To encourage awareness of and involvement in the natural environment particularly by young people and to hold events such as guided walks.
8. To encourage community involvement in the management of the woodland

Location

Englefield Green Woodland is located to the north of Englefield Green Village and is bounded by Castle Hill Road, Coopers Hill Lane and Bishopsgate Road. It is bisected by St. Jude's Road the A323.

It is located within the Englefield Green Conservation Area.

The woodland covers an area of 8.6 hectares.

The area is well drained with a soil of acid, sandy and loamy soils over Bagshot Sands.

Public Footpaths 19 and 20 cross the woodland and there are several unmade footpaths through it.

There are also two permissive horse routes.

The area is unfenced and has easy pedestrian access from at least 8 points.

Comment [MG1]: Any soil testing to check this? If not maybe we should as it will determine what species will thrive on the site

Comment [MG2]: It would be helpful to mark access paths on map. The areas in which there is low usage maybe important habitat

The area is surrounded by residential homes with the exception of one area to the south that abuts the close cut grass cricket pitch.

History

It is owned by The Crown Estates but is managed by Runnymede Borough Council under the terms of a 99 year lease beginning in 1954. Further research is to be undertaken to include:

Any significant trees

Former use

Crown estate & Great Windsor Park

Former management techniques

Comment [PW3]: Should be a section here outlining the history of the site is. What significant (if any) trees are present that may be linked to the crown estate. Any veteran trees? How has this woodland been managed up to now? What former uses did it have?

Biodiversity

A full survey of the site will be undertaken to identify key species of fauna and flora and habitat. It is proposed that this be undertaken by the Surrey Wildlife Trust. From this a more details of how the woodland will be managed will be added such as management of veteran trees, what types of new habitat should be encouraged etc.

At the moment it is known that that trees and shrubs present include Beech, Oak, Ash, Silver Birch, Sycamore, Common Laurel, Gorse, and Rhododendron ponticum. The larger mature trees are mainly Oaks and Ash.

The invasive species are predominantly Sycamore, Rhododendron ponticum, and Laurel.

Risks

Risks to woodland include pest and diseases, impact of human and mammal and environmental factors to include water and soil. Further survey work will be undertaken to identify the risks for this woodland.

Evaluation

There are several veteran trees on site mainly Oaks.

It is an important resource for local residents, being the only woodland within easy walking distance of a number of properties.

The access through the woodland is reasonable but quite rough in places and this could be improved using materials sympathetic to the woodland.

Management Proposals

The following management proposals are the ideal, but are subject to the necessary funding being available.

Have a survey of the fauna and flora on site carried out.

Release veteran, and middle-aged trees from competition by 'holing'. This involves the removal of other trees, and woody vegetation, beneath the tree's canopy and up to a distance of 15 times the trunk diameter measured from the tree's trunk. Large deadwood should be left within this area and brushwood should be chipped and spread over this area.

Some mature and middle-aged trees should be tip pruned to stimulate dormant buds to flush on lower parts of the crown to provide suitable future veteran trees. Works to gradually reduce the crown size should be carried out over several years to avoid rapid depletion of the trees stored energy reserves.

Maintain 'holing' during these long-term crown reductions.

Remove Common Laurel and Rhododendron ponticum to create 'glade' areas and potential sites for the establishment of long living tree species (e.g. Oak, Beech, and Ash). Retain arisings on site to create habitat piles to encourage invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals, and fungi.

Remove young Sycamores and select mature Sycamores to ring-bark to create standing deadwood, as they are invasive species. Create habitat piles from arisings.

Gradually thin out closely spaced Silver Birch to give space for the better specimens to grow to maturity.

Create habitat piles from arisings.

Encourage Hawthorn and other Rosaceae species by protecting existing examples or by planting, for nectar production to encourage invertebrates.

Plant long-lived "climax" species of trees within cleared areas, or areas with short-lived species, e.g. Oak and Beech within Silver Birch stands. "Climax" species are those that are long lived and large, and would naturally become the dominant species in a mixed woodland.

Treat regrowths of Common Laurel, Rhododendron ponticum and Sycamore with an approved herbicide to prevent re-colonisation.

Control woody weed growths along paths and bridleways.

Install information board/boards to give history of site and details of main tree species, and other interesting flora and fauna.

Improve accessibility by improving rough areas of pathway with materials sympathetic to the woodland

Stakeholder Engagement

- Liaise with crown estate
- Updates to the Englefield Green committee
- Keep residents informed via letter or notices on site
- Englefield Green Village Residents Association?

- Create a volunteer group to undertake "managed" work within woodland
- Encourage usage as a resource for local schools
- Guided walks

Monitoring

Monitoring to be carried out annually subject to adequate finances.

- Response of the woodlands to felling and thinning.
- Changes in woodland structure or species composition.
- Control of woody weeds such as Common Laurel and Rhododendron.
- Success rate of tree planting.
- Amount and type of natural regeneration.
- Resurvey of fauna and flora to determine any changes in species types or numbers.