

# Englefield Green Committee

**Tuesday 31 October 2017 7.30pm**

**at  
at the Jurgen Centre  
Harvest Road  
Englefield Green**

## **Members of the Committee**

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

Residents' Representatives: Mr A E Panter (Vice-Chairman) 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](mailto: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](http://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

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 June 2017 (Appendix 'A')

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. 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 meetings.

Members are reminded that a non pecuniary interest includes their appointment by the Council as the Council's representative to an outside body and that this should be declared as should their membership of an outside body in their private capacity as a director, trustee, committee member or in another position of influence thereon.

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 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 to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

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

**Synopsis of Report:**

**To update the Committee on management and maintenance issues relating to the Green**

**Recommendations:**

- i) the surface of the Green be scarified again in 2018 and 2019**
- ii) the Committee decide whether the Green should be Vertidraind again in 2018**
- iii) Officers report back to the Committee on the impact of the additional maintenance operations in November 2018**
- iv) Officers be authorised to procure ecological surveys of the woodland from the Surrey Wildlife Trust**
- v) The Committee decide whether the weeds on the Green need to be treated with herbicide**

Works to the surface of the green

At the November meeting last year the Committee approved certain maintenance operations being carried out on the Green which, it was hoped, would improve the condition of the grass. These included a trial of Vertidraind, a process that punches small holes into the surface of the ground to improve drainage. This would reduce the

amount of moisture held in the surface which in turn should reduce the presence of moss. Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange this trial until very recently, but it is expected to be carried out shortly. Officers have been liaising with the Cricket Club regarding timings for the operation and intend to provide a verbal update at the meeting.

The second operation approved was to scarify the Green. This uses a motorised rake to remove large amounts of dead grass and moss which build up over time. This will also help to improve the surface drainage and thereby the general condition of the grass. The Green was scarified once in April this year and a huge amount of material was removed, however it needs to be repeated several times before any real impact will be seen. Officers are therefore recommending that this process be repeated in 2018 and 2019 and that an update on both operations be reported to the Committee at its November meetings.

The issue of weeds growing in the grass sward across the Green has been raised again since it was discussed at the last meeting and Members are asked to consider again whether they wish the weeds to be treated with a suitable herbicide.

**(To resolve)**

**Background papers**

None

Traveller incursion

On Saturday 22 July a number of travellers moved their caravans and associated vehicles onto Englefield Green by bridging the ditch opposite the bus stop on St Jude's Road. On Monday 24 July Officers attended site to discover that there were a number of distinct groups of travellers. A group that had previously occupied other open spaces in the Borough had been joined by four other groups. Because of the previous incursions the Council was already pursuing an Injunction through the High Court which would prevent any further incursions on specific open spaces and car parks owned by the Council, including Englefield Green. This Injunction was granted by the High Court on Thursday 27 July and the travellers started moving off. On Saturday 29 July the courts' Process Server served a copy of the Injunction on site and the last of the caravans left on 30 July.

**(For information)**

**Background papers**

None

Woodland Management Plan

At the meeting in June, Officers described to Members the positive impact that a Woodland Management Plan could have in improving the condition of the woodland over a period of time. It was agreed that prices for the initial ecological survey work, which would inform the Plan, be sought from Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) and reported to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. This was done in September.

The overall cost of the survey work would be £8,411, this includes for 12 visits to site by various ecologists who will be looking for different flora and fauna within their specialism (flowers, shrubs and trees, small mammals, invertebrates, bats, birds etc.) at appropriate times of year. In addition, the quote includes for ten days of desk work needed to compile all the survey data and writing up the reports. Copies of the quotation will be available at the meeting. Officers consider this quotation to offer value for money and recommend that it be accepted and the surveys be commissioned from SWT and take place at the appropriate times of year over the next twelve months or so. However, should the Committee so wish, Officers could obtain comparative quotes from other ecological consultants.

**(To resolve)**

**Background papers**

None

Litter Pick on 4 March 2017

For information and clarification it has been drawn to the Council's attention that the litter pick on 4 March 2017 reported at the Englefield Green Committee on 14 February 2017 was organised by three local residents Pete Deane, Wendy Locker and Joan Cauldwell. It was not planned by the Englefield Green Village Residents Association (EGVRA), although funding was obtained for the after litter pick refreshments from EGVRA. It was an Englefield Green wide event and included student volunteers from RHUL.

**(For information)**

**Background papers**

None

**5 EVENTS ON THE GREEN (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)**

**Synopsis of Report:**

**To report to the Committee on events that have taken place on the Green, or are proposed**

Village Fair

The Englefield Green Village Residents Association held their annual Village Fair on the Green again in June. There was no damage to the Green and their ground deposit was refunded in July.

Carters Steam Fair

Carters Steam Fair operated from the Green over the weekend of the 30 September and 1 October. There was some wet weather during their stay and some damage to the surface of the Green resulted. This impacted on the cricket outfield so Officers have been liaising with the Cricket Club and organising the necessary repairs which will be funded from Carters' ground deposit.

**(For information)**

**Background papers**

None

**6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

If Members are minded to consider any of the foregoing reports in private it is the

**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 appropriate paragraphs 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

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

# Englefield Green Committee

**Tuesday 31 October 2017**

## Appendices

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A	Minutes - 20 June 2017	1 – 4



Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

20 June 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

72 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED that -**

**Councillor Miss M N Heath be elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.**

73 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED that -**

**Mr A Panter be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.**

74 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 February 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

76 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

The Committee was updated on management and maintenance issues relating to the Green and asked to consider future maintenance operations around the Green.

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 more frequent cuts of the Green itself and collection of the clippings from the grass verges and outlying areas. The aim was to reduce the amount of clippings that were left and eventually washed into the drains.

The Committee noted the improvement to the Green since the trial had commenced and requested Officers continue with the more frequent cutting of the Green and collection of clippings from grass verges and outlying areas.

**RESOLVED that –**

**the more frequent cutting of the Green and collection of clippings from grass verges and outlying areas be continued.**

ii) Woodland Management Plan

At its meeting in November a draft woodland management plan had been presented to the Committee. Members had agreed to delay any decision regarding adopting the plan until a site visit. The Committee had now undertaken a site visit where Officers had explained the vision of the management plan, which was to manage the woodland in line with best practice to increase biodiversity and enable local residents to continue to use and enjoy the woodland.

Initially Officers would contact the Surrey Wildlife Trust and establish the cost of undertaking an ecological survey of the woodland area of the Green.

The Committee was supportive of this approach and asked Officers to bring back a report on the progress of the draft plan to the next Committee meeting in October.

**RESOLVED that –**

- i) Officers contact Surrey Wildlife Trust and establish the cost of undertaking an ecological survey of the woodland area of the Green and notify Chairman and Vice-Chairman of costs;**
- ii) Officers liaise and consult with the Chief Forester at the Crown Estate with proposed work and costings; and**
- iii) Officers report back to the next Committee meeting with progress made on the woodland management plan**

iii) Possible future expenditure

At its meeting in November possible future expenditure had also been discussed. Members had agreed to delay any decision regarding this until a site visit had been undertaken. The two items of possible future expenditure were:

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

The Committee had inspected the vehicle barrier during their site visit. The barrier needed to be painted and Officers would arrange for this work to be undertaken.

The Committee was updated on various improvements which had been carried out in the cricket pavilion. The Cricket Club had further plans for improvement of the Cricket Pavilion in the future.

Members were also advised that there were a number of weeds in the grass across the Green and the Committee was asked to consider if the use of herbicides would be appropriate in controlling these. The Committee agreed that Officers did not need to arrange for the Green to be treated with herbicides at this time

**RESOLVED that –**

- i) Officers to arrange for the vehicle barrier onto the Green to be painted; and**
- ii) Officers did not need to arrange for the Green to be treated with herbicides at this time**

iv) Parking at Southern end of the Green

The Committee was advised that concern had 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 was currently undertaking their Runnymede 2017 parking review and representations had been made regarding parking in this location. A County Council report on the parking review was due to be presented to the Runnymede Local Committee at its meeting on 3 July 2017. A copy of that report was available on the Local Committee's webpage.

In January, Officers had received reports that the double yellow lines at the back of the Green were obscured by leaves and cars were 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 would be monitored and if necessary repaired in the Spring. Pot holes that had appeared in the road to the rear of the Green had been reported to Surrey County Council.

77 EVENTS ON THE GREEN

The Committee was informed that Officers had received an application from Carters Steam Fair for their annual visit to the Green. Carters Steam Fair hoped to arrive and start setting up on Tuesday 26 September and would depart on Tuesday 3 October. The Fair would be open on Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October. The Committee was supportive of this event, however, concerns were raised regarding the parking when the fair was on, particularly at the top of Middle Hill. Officers advised the Committee that any traffic control measures would need to be arranged by Carters Steam Fair in consultation with the Police.

**RESOLVED that –**

**Carters Steam Fair be granted permission to use the Green subject to the usual conditions and Carters Steam Fair be requested to consult with the Police regarding temporary traffic control measures.**

78 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 its meeting in February 2017 the Committee requested that Officers obtained further information and advice from Counsel and to commence consultation with the Crown Estate.

The Committee was advised on the latest advice from Counsel regarding options to regularise the various activities and structures on the Green.

The Committee discussed various options in relation to enhancing the use of the Green for everyone but were mindful of the need to maintain the condition of the Cricket square. In order to facilitate this it was agreed that Officers draw up a code of management for the Green and a scheme for further improvements for consideration at the next Committee meeting in October.

**RESOLVED that –**

**Officers draw up a code of management for the Green and a scheme for further improvements**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.00pm)