

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

19 June 2018 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors Miss M N Heath (Chairman), M T Kusneraitis, N H Prescott, Miss J K Sohi and P J Taylor

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

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor N M King

96 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Councillor Miss M N Heath be elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

97 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Mr A Panter be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

98 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 October 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor N M King

100 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) Replacement benches

The Committee was advised that in March the Council was approached by a local resident who had offered to fund the replacement of some of the benches around the Green. The funding was being made available by a developer involved in building the recently completed student accommodation on the A30. The funding was being offered as recompense for the nuisance caused to residents by their contractors working in Middle Hill. The first priority for spending the funds was a number of improvements for Middle Hill, such as new benches and planting, but any balance would be made available

to replace benches around the Green.

In response to this offer all benches around the Green had been re-assessed and prioritised for replacement. The Committee reviewed the benches and seat condition report Officers provided and agreed with the Officers recommendations for bench replacement when funds became available.

RESOLVED that –

if the external funding described in the report became available, it be used to replace the benches around the Green as set out in the report

ii) Maintenance of the grass surface

Members would recall at previous meetings it had been agreed that the Green would be scarified again later this year to remove moss and thatch from the grass sward. It would also be vertidraind, a process which punched holds into the surface to aid drainage. These operations were being scheduled to take place at the end of the cricket session and Officers would report back to the Committee in October regarding the impact.

The issue regarding whether weeds on the Green should be treated had been raised again. This matter had previously been considered by the Committee at both the June and October meetings last year. It had been resolved that no further action should be taken but the Committee was asked if they wished to reconsider.

The Committee was advised that both an agronomist and the Council's Green Space Officer had recently visited the Green who had both indicated the Green had some areas in poor condition. Members of the Committee remained cautious to the use of weed killer due to the adverse effect this could have on animals and children. Officers advised the Committee that a turf selective herbicide could safely be used which the agronomist had concurred with. Given the cost could be covered within existing budgets Officers could arrange for the work to be undertaken. However, should the cost exceed the expected amount Officers would revert back to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to application.

RESOLVED that –

Officers to look at suitable weed killer and arrange for its application should the cost not exceed the amount expected

iii) Woodland Management Plan

At its meeting in October the Committee had resolved that ecological surveys of the woodland should be procured. The findings would inform the woodland management plan which was currently being developed. The Surrey Wildlife Trust was commissioned to undertake the work, this involved a series of site visits by ecologists over a period of time. The purpose was to record trees, shrubs, wildflowers, invertebrates, birds, bats and other mammals and

make recommendations for improving the future management of the woodlands to enhance biodiversity.

The Committee received an update on the result of the surveys undertaken to date. Other surveys were progressing well with reptile mats being placed on site and checked regularly. The bird and vegetation surveys were underway with the bat activity surveys starting soon. Invertebrate surveys would be undertaken in June and August.

Officers advised the Committee that a further update would be provided at the meeting in October when most of the surveys reports and recommendations will have been received.

101

EVENTS ON THE GREEN

Village Fair

The Committee was advised that in April an event application had been received from the Englefield Green Village Residents Association seeking permission to hold the annual fair on the Green on 23 June. Due to the timescales and their being no meeting of the Committee until now, authority to approve their application was given after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Carters Steam Fair

Carters Entertainment Ltd had also submitted an application to hold their Steam Fair on the Green again this year. They intended to arrive on Tuesday 25 September and open the fair on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 September. They would depart on Tuesday 2 October. The Committee was asked to approve this application.

Yoga Classes

Officers advised the Committee that they had received a request for permission to hold yoga classes on the Green during the warmer days of summer. The proposed classes would last about 1 hour to 1 ½ hours and offer the local community a space to do yoga outdoors (weather permitting) and meet with other members of the community. Numbers attending would vary from 4 to 8. Members were advised that Officers had advised the applicant that their application would need to be considered by this Committee and had also made the applicant aware that in the past the Committee had objected to certain organised activities taking place on the Green.

The Committee was supportive of this application. Feedback from Residents was positive and it was felt this was a peaceful activity which should not damage the Green and would not cause any disturbance to residents or other users of the Green. Officers would liaise with the organiser regarding payments, capping of numbers of attendees, schedule and proposed parking arrangements prior to the classes commencing.

An update report on the trial period would be brought back to the Committee in October.

RESOLVED that –

- i) **Carters Steam Fair be granted permission to use the Green on the dates set out in the report; and**
- ii) **Yoga Classes to be authorised to take place on the Green as set out in the report for a trial period of 3 months and subject to appropriate conditions.**

102 URGENT ACTION – STANDING ORDER 42

The following action taken after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee under Standing Order 42 was noted.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Central Index No</u>
Open Space and Allotments Manager	Consent be given for Englefield Green Cricket Club to cut an additional strip on the adjacent cricket square to enable under 8's team to play games whilst the older children were using the main square.	913

Members of the Committee were asked if they were happy to give ongoing permission to Englefield Green Cricket Club to cut an additional strip adjacent to the Cricket Square to enable the under 8's to play games whilst the older children were using the main square.

Members were fully supportive of this approach

RESOLVED that –

The Cricket Club be given ongoing permission to cut an additional strip adjacent to the Cricket Square to enable the under 8's to play games whilst the older children were using the main square.

103 URGENT ACTION – STANDING ORDER 42

The following action taken after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee under Standing Order 42 was noted.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Central Index No</u>
Open Space and Allotments Manager	Interim consent be given to place an additional two boulders to complement those already in place to prevent vehicles parking or	903

	driving upon the grass verges at the Northcroft Road traffic island.	
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104 PARKING ON THE GREEN

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matters under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matters 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.

The Committee was advised that the Council had received a number of complaints concerning parking on the Green. The complaints included inconsiderate or unlawful parking causing damage to the Green; obstruction to other road users; long term or overnight parking; the dumping of a vehicle and the blocking of access roads to properties on the Green.

Members of the Committee reviewed the plan provided showing the adopted highway surrounding the Green. The parking restrictions for such highway was governed by Surrey County Council as the highway authority and enforced by Runnymede Borough Council's parking team. Runnymede Borough Council had no authority to impose any other restrictions on highway land or to enforce no waiting restrictions.

In discussions with Surrey County Council, Officers had been advised that the wider issue of student parking in Englefield Green and Egham was being looked at with a Controlled Parking Zone being considered. Given these circumstances Surrey County Council may hold off from considering any other ad hoc changes until there was a detailed scheme and a comprehensive consultation. Officers were asked to liaise with Surrey County Council regarding timescales on the wider Controlled Parking Zone.

The Committee noted the various actions and measures that had been previously been undertaken to discourage parking on the Green.

As the parking problems had increased Officers had sought advice from Counsel on actions and measures which could be adopted to restrict parking.

Members of the Committee were conscious that a Controlled Parking Zone around the Green needed full consultation to ascertain if all residents were happy with this approach. A traffic analyst would also be required to ensure any restrictions were robust and workable. Traffic displacement would also need to be considered. The Committee would consider looking at this in the future.

The possibility of restricted waiting times being implemented around the Green was also discussed. Officers were asked to liaise with Surrey County Council regarding this.

It was noted that a small area of highway at the St. Jude's junction did not have yellow lines whilst highway adjacent to it had. This caused some problems. The option of yellow lines being painted to this small area would be raised at the Runnymede Joint Committee. The current 'No Parking' signs were discussed. It was considered that the signs needed to be more prominent. Options for improvement of signs and their locations would be forwarded to the Chairman for consideration.

RESOLVED that –

- i) SCC parking be asked to implement restricted parking zones with waiting times around the Green;**
- ii) The possibility of yellow lines being painted to the small area of road at the St. Jude's junction currently without them be raised at the Runnymede Joint Committee;**
- iii) More prominent ' No Parking' signs together with their location be explored; and**
- iv) Officers to liaise with SCC on wider Controlled Parking Zone currently being considered**

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

This item was deferred as Officers had not received Counsels opinion in time for the meeting. A report on options to regularise the various activities and structures on the Green would be brought to the October Committee meeting.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.29pm)