

Englefield Green Committee

Tuesday 30 October 2018 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, Miss J K Sohi and P J Taylor

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

In accordance with Standing Order 29.1, any Member of the Council may attend the meeting of this Committee, but may speak only with the permission of the Chairman of the Committee, if they are not a member of this Committee.

AGENDA

**Appendices are now included in the Agenda
not attached as a separate document**

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**

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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

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a) Exempt Information

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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 19 June 2018 (**Appendix 'A'**)

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 vertidrain, a process which punched holes into the surface to aid drainage. These operations were being scheduled to take place at the end of the cricket season 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 driving upon the grass verges at the Northcroft Road traffic island.	903

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)

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:

The Committee consider additional security measures that might be appropriate for the Green and instruct Officers accordingly

Replacement benches

At its last meeting the Committee was informed of funding made available by the developer Danehurst to replace some of the benches on the Green. Since then the developer has confirmed that there are sufficient funds to purchase two new benches. These have been ordered and when delivered will be used to replace the two log seats on the Green, which need replacing.

Maintenance of the grass surface

As agreed at the last meeting, the whole green (except the cricket square) was treated with a selective herbicide in late September. Vertidrainng, a process which punches holes into the surface to aid drainage, has been postponed this year due to the ground being too hard. This will be done as soon as ground conditions are suitable. Scarifying, the mechanical removal of moss and dead grass, has been scheduled for October.

Woodland Management Plan

Ecological surveys of the woodland, which will inform the new woodland management plan, are being progressed by Surrey Wildlife Trust. Surveys have been conducted on site to gather data about the use of the woodland by mammals, birds, bats, invertebrates and reptiles. At the time of preparing the agenda the reports were being finalised and it is anticipated that Officers will be able to present the results at the meeting.

Unauthorised Encampments

Runnymede has seen an unprecedented number of unauthorised encampments on its parks and open spaces, including Englefield Green, this year and this has been replicated across the County with many other boroughs experiencing the same issue. Whilst the Boroughs and Districts consider longer term measures to address the problem, the Green Space team is looking at more immediate measures that could be implemented to enhance the security of Runnymede's parks and open spaces. With more than 90 sites to consider this is a substantial piece of work but it is in progress and once complete a report with costed recommendations will be taken initially to the Community Services Committee. At Englefield Green it is likely that a secure vehicle barrier would be the only Officer recommendation, however the Committee is asked to consider whether any other measures should be included.

(To resolve)

Background papers

None

5. EVENTS ON THE GREEN (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

Synopsis of report:

To update the Committee on events on the Green

Recommendations:

That the trial period for yoga classes be deferred into 2019.

Village Fair

EGVRA report another successful village fair this year. It took place on 23 June and was opened by the Mayor. The weather was fine, but not too hot, and visitor numbers were good. Arena events included birds of prey and dog displays, and local groups singing, dancing and displaying football skills.

Carters Steam Fair

Carters operated on the Green over the weekend of 29 and 30 September. Council Officers and the Cricket Club were satisfied that no damage that would not recover of its own accord was caused by the presence of the fair. The ground deposit has been refunded in full.

Yoga Classes

At the last meeting the Committee approved an application for yoga classes to be held on the Green during the summer months. Unfortunately these did not take place due to a combination of circumstances. The applicant is therefore seeking permission to re-schedule the trial period to Spring or early Summer next year, depending on the weather. The Committee is therefore asked to support this proposal.

Parking on the Green

Action points assigned to Officers have not been completed. Officer time has been diverted to other tasks over the course of the Summer, mainly dealing with the immediate implications of the unauthorised encampments mentioned earlier in the agenda.

(To resolve)

Background papers

None

6. 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

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

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)