



Englefield Green Committee

Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 7.30 pm

Council Chamber - Civic Centre

Members of the Committee

Councillors: N Prescott, A Berardi, T Gates, E Kettle, A King.

Residents' Representatives: N Bromilow and McGregor-Johnson

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

- 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 **Democratic Services, Democratic Services Section, Law and Governance Business Centre, Runnymede Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel: Direct Line: 01932 425622). (Email: democratic.services@runnymede.gov.uk).**
- 3) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please contact Democratic.Services@runnymede.gov.uk or 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.
- 4) In the unlikely event of an alarm sounding, members of the public should leave the building immediately, either using the staircase leading from the public gallery or following other instructions as appropriate.
- 5) 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

Page

Part I

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

1. **Election of Chairman**
To elect a Chairman for the Municipal Year 2023/24
2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**
To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2023/24
3. **Minutes** 4 - 6
To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st February 2023 (Appendix 'A').
4. **Apologies for absence**
5. **Declarations of interest**
Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable and non-registrable interests in items on the agenda.
6. **Update on expenditures and interest paid since the disbursement of the Englefield Green Fund to Runnymede Borough Council - TO FOLLOW**
7. **Replacement Bench** 7 - 8
8. **Grounds Maintenance** 9 - 10
9. **Feedback on the BBC filming** 11 - 12
10. **Events on the Green** 13 - 15
11. **Bin Strategy** 16 - 17
12. **Coir Matting** 18 - 19
13. **Wildflower Planting** 20 - 21
14. **Woodland Management Plan** 22 - 23
15. **Additional Meetings of the Englefield Green Committee** 24 - 25
16. **New Qualifying Property** 26 - 27
17. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Part II

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

18. **Exempt information**

Runnymede Borough CouncilEnglefield Green CommitteeTuesday, 21 February 2023 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors N Prescott (Chairman), N Bromilow (Vice-Chairman), A Berardi, M Heath, A King and N King.

Members of the Committee absent: Mr S Brisby.

518 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

519 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Brisby (Resident's Representative)

520 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

521 Maintenance and Management of the Green

The Committee was updated on progress on management and maintenance of the Green since the Englefield Green meeting in October 2022.

Wildflower planting

Officers reported that the Council's Green Spaces Manager had been liaising with members of the Committee regarding location and choice of wildflowers. Once purchased the flowers would be passed to volunteers for planting. In order to expedite it was agreed that delegated authority be given to agree a wildflower planting regime.

Event applications

The Committee was asked to consider two event applications which had recently been received.

The first application was from James Beach. The application was for a funfair to be held on the Green from 19th to 21st May 2023. Expected attendees were in the region of 500. The Committee considered the application. Members recalled previous damage caused to the Green caused by the funfair. It was noted that no business case had been submitted along with the application to allay the Committee's previous concerns so therefore Members asked Officers to reject the application on this occasion.

The second application was from the Englefield Green Village Residents Association (EGVRA) to hold the Englefield Green Village Fair on the Green on Saturday 24th June 2023. The fair would run between 12 noon and 5pm. Set up would be on Friday 23rd June and the morning of the 24th. The event would be taken down between 5pm and 7pm on the 24th. The Committee was fully supportive of EGVRA holding the village fair on the

Green again this year. The fair was always well supported and enjoyed by local residents.

New Street lamp located on Englefield Green

The Committee was advised that the post thought to be a new streetlamp had now been removed. Officers had liaised with Surrey County Council who had confirmed that the post was intended to support a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and not a streetlight. A future consultation exercise would take place to agree a suitable alternative location.

Additional grounds maintenance charges and arrangements post Idverde contract

Since the mutual termination of the Idverde Grounds Maintenance contract in November 2022 Environmental Services teams were currently being built up. A new in-house team would deliver grounds maintenance across the Borough including Englefield Green.

Any additional work requested by the Committee would incur additional charges as stated in paragraph 2.8 of the report. The Committee was advised that any additional work required 1 months' notice. Whilst Officers would do their best to accommodate additional work requests it would depend on the work demands on Officers at that time.

A member of the Committee reported that the leaf clearance had been unsatisfactory and subsequently the grass had been damaged. The Committee was advised that barring matted parks Englefield Green was the only Green Space to receive leaf clearing. Officers could arrange for a second leaf clearance, but the cost would be £200 as detailed in paragraph 2.8 of the report.

Given the damage to the surface of the Green due to falling leaves the Committee discussed the viability of re-seeding the grass. Officers were asked to obtain costings for this and circulate to all Members of the Committee by email for consideration.

Additional posts

The Committee was advised that Officers had received the map indicating the proposed positioning of additional posts. Officers advised the Committee that the 1955 lease granted by the Crown stated that the Council must not 'break up the surface of the said land without the previous consent in writing from the Lessor'.

Therefore, the installation of any additional posts would require consent from the Crown Estate. An increase in the number of posts could qualify as a breach of the statutory duty to keep the Green open and unenclosed. Officers would review the location map and consider the impact and statutory duties.

Englefield Green Member Working Party

The establishment of an Englefield Green Member Working Party (MWP) was fully supported by the Committee. The MWP would include Members of the Englefield Green Committee along with Councillor M Heath as SCC representative. The MWP would be held in the Englefield Green locality and be open to the public.

522 **Events on the Green**

The Committee received an information report regarding a planned event on the Green to mark the King's Coronation.

An application had been received from the Englefield Green Cricket Club to host a street party on the Green between the hours of 11am – 10pm on Sunday 7 May 2023, which under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act would require the Council to make an

Order for a road closure.

The proposed area for closure is the stretch of road either side of the Cricket Pavilion between private roads, some 110m in length.

Runnymede Officers had been in touch with Officers from Surrey County Council as the highway's authority, who have raised no objections to the closure.

The Committee was supportive of the event and complemented the Cricket Club on the previous street party held in 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

523 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting during the consideration of the remaining matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

524 **Venue for future meetings**

Following recent Officer concerns regarding the suitability of the Englefield Green Cricket Club as a venue for the Englefield Green Committee. Officers emailed all Committee Members on their views on moving future Committee meetings to the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre in Addlestone. All but one Committee member responded. There were 3 Committee Members in support of moving the meetings to the Civic Centre and 3 against.

The layout of the Cricket Club obliges attendees to sit close to each other and unlike the Council Chamber it is not possible to indicate when to speak. The Council Chamber is a more structured/business like venue which was designed to accommodate council meetings.

The Englefield Green Committee was established by the virtue of the lease the Council has of the land described as Englefield Green. That lease does not impose any obligations as to the location at which meetings of the Englefield Green Committee should be held.

Officers had made enquiries at two Englefield Green venues for the extraordinary meeting held in January 2023. St. Jude's School and the Englefield Green Community Hub. St. Jude's School had worked very well for the extraordinary meeting in January. Officers had yet to look at the Englefield Green Community Hub to ascertain its suitability.

The Committee was fully supportive of moving future meetings of the Committee to a more suitable venue. Whilst it was appreciated a move to the Civic Centre required residents to travel it was considered the most suitable venue to ensure a more structured approach to future meetings. It was noted that the proposed new Englefield Green member working party would be held in the Englefield Green locality.

Resolved that:

Future meetings of the Englefield Green Committee be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices in Addlestone

(The meeting ended at 8.44 pm.)

Chairman

Replacement of a Bench on Englefield Green – (Peter Joyce – Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of report:

To advise on the cost of replacing a broken bench on Englefield Green

Recommendation(s):

(i) To agree to the replacement of the broken bench on the Green for a sum of £1,290. The cost to be met from Englefield Green earmarked reserves.

Or

(ii) To reject the recommendation and wait until a request is received for a memory bench to be sited on Englefield Green.

1. Background

1.1 The report is to advise the Committee on the cost of replacing the broken bench on Englefield Green, and to seek approval for replacement.

2. Report

2.1 A heavily damaged bench has been removed from the Green. It was too badly damaged to repair. It can be replaced using the Council's selected Cavendish teak bench at a unit cost of £900. This is shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Photograph of Cavendish Bench

2.2

Installation would need to include the fitting of metal brackets concreted into the ground to discourage theft. The cost of fitting matrix paver over an area of 4m² would be £290, plus a delivery and installation fee of £100.

2.3 There are currently no applications to erect a memory bench on Englefield Green. Memory benches have space for an inscribed plaque. If the Cavendish bench recommendation is approved by the committee the bench cannot be used as a memory bench.

2.4 Members are asked whether they wish to purchase a new Cavendish bench for an inclusive charge of £1,290. This will be financed from earmarked reserves.

Alternatively, members may wish to reject this recommendation and wait until an application for a memory bench at this location on Englefield Green has been received.

- 2.5 If the bench is replaced in the usual manner, purchase, delivery and installation could be achieved by September of this year. It is unclear how long it would take to provide a memory bench as an application would need to be received and a suitable bench which could accommodate a plaque purchased and installed. There are no applications for a memory bench at Englefield Green at present.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Borough's Corporate Business Plan.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 The total cost of replacing the broken bench on Englefield Green would be £1,290.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 The Corporate Head of Environmental Services recommends that all maintenance should be in accordance with the Runnymede Borough Council sustainability policies.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Committee are requested to advise on whether they wish to purchase a new bench for the inclusive cost of £1,290.

(To resolve)

Background papers

None

Development of the Grounds Maintenance Service, (Peter Joyce- Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of Report:

To advise on progress made with the implementation of new grounds maintenance procedures in 2023 on Englefield Green.

For information only

To note progress in relation to the maintenance of Englefield Green

1. Background

- 1.1 The report is to advise the Committee on progress with grounds maintenance in Englefield Green following the termination of the old contract arrangement.

2. Report

- 2.1 There was some disruption to the cutting of grass on the Green and the cricket outfield earlier this season. The Green was cut on Tuesday 25th April, but owing to the rapid rate of growth at that time, the grass looked neglected by the following week. The intention had been to cut on the following Thursday 4th May. However, the tractor used to cut the Green and outfield suffered two mechanical breakdowns, and work had to be suspended until the weekend whilst a mobile mechanic carried out repair works. Regular discussions were held with the cricket club to ensure that everything possible was done to cut the outfield for the scheduled match on Sunday 7th May. Co-operation between the Council, the Cricket Club, and the Football Club resulted in the outfield being cut in time for the Sunday match. In addition, the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor cut the Green to allow the planned Englefield Green picnic to go ahead in the afternoon.
- 2.2 Unfortunately both March and April were exceptionally wet with over 190 mm of rain falling across the two months. This combined with high spring growth rates resulted in exceptionally high and uneven grass. However, it was agreed with the Cricket Club that the outfield grass would be cut every Thursday, and it has been possible to maintain this schedule. As a result of this situation, a communication path has been opened between the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and the Cricket Club, which should lead to a far better understanding of both future requirements and maintenance standards. This is, of course, dependent upon ground and weather conditions. In addition, the grass on the Green has been cut regularly.
- 2.3 Considerable strides have since been made with the operation of the grounds maintenance service. A new tractor will shortly be delivered and will be fitted with wide rotary and cylinder cutting decks. In addition, a new wide angled mower has been delivered, and has already been used on the Green to give a better finish as well as providing flexibility in the eventuality of the tractor suffering mechanical breakdown. In addition, three additional staff are being licensed to use this larger machinery, and additional gardeners have been hired.

These changes should result in a much-enhanced service, particularly in the 2024 season, when it is intended to commence cutting in late winter with a full complement of staff and machinery.

- 2.4 The cutting of the cricket outfield will continue to be effected once per week throughout the playing season dependent upon ground conditions. This will normally occur on Thursday. Cutting of other lawn areas will be carried out once per fortnight throughout the growing season. It is intended to commence cutting very early in the year in 2024 given the rate of growth in the March to May period this year, and in recent years. Cutting of the ditch will be carried out twice per annum. New equipment has been ordered for grass cutting, including a tractor with trailed gang units. A wide-angle mower is also now in operation, giving a degree of operational flexibility in the eventuality of breakdown. Additional staff are being externally trained to operate this machinery to increase resourcing in future.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Boroughs Corporate Business Plan.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 Machinery purchased will ensure that a better lawn finish and increased frequency of cutting can be achieved in future.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 A more attractive environment can be maintained for local residents and users of the Green using improved working methods and machinery.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Committee are requested to note new arrangements for the grounds maintenance of Englefield Green.

Filming of “Silent Witness” on Englefield Green (Peter Joyce – Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of report:

To advise on filming carried out in April 2023 on Englefield Green

For information.

To note filming carried out by the BBC in the vicinity of the cricket pavilion, and income of £2,500 in total, including a donation of £500 to the cricket club.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 4th April 2023 the BBC conducted a filming session for the series “Silent Witness” around the cricket club pavilion. The session was carried out in accordance with the Council’s procedures for the holding of an event on public land. The activity was well organised and included limited traffic control measures at the time of filming. There was very limited disruption to vehicles, or to visitors using the Green on foot. The Committee were informed in advance that the filming would take place.

2. Report

- 2.1 A fee of £2,000 was charged for the granting of filming rights, and as the BBC are unable to make donations, Runnymede Borough Council charged an additional fee of £500 which was forwarded as a donation to the Englefield Green Cricket Club. This will be used to purchase equipment for the Colts section of the Club, and facilities improvements including the updating of toilets and shower facilities.

3 Policy framework implications

- 3.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Boroughs Corporate Business Plan.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 Booking income of £2,000 was received for filming rights from the BBC, who also made a contribution of £500 to the cricket club.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 None.

8. Conclusions

8.1 The Committee are requested to note filming undertaken near the cricket pavilion.

(For information)

Background Papers

None stated

Events on the Green – (Peter Joyce -Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of Report:

This report updates the Committee on an application to host an event on the Green.

Recommendation:

Members approve the use of the Green by Guyatt's Funfair.

- 1.1 An application has been received from Guyatt's Funfair for a one-day event on Englefield Green on the evening of Thursday 21 September 2023. The funfair will be fairly limited in size, and will consist of a slide, an inflatable football game, a train ride, juvenile jets and a fun castle. Traditional candy floss and a hot dog stall will be in attendance. Setup is proposed to commence at 8am on Tuesday 19 September 2023. A copy of the application is shown as Appendix A.
- 1.2 It is anticipated that 200 people will attend. Toilet facilities will be provided in the form of three mobile units.
- 1.3 Declarations of Operational Compliance have been received for all rides, and a Certificate of Employer's Liability Insurance received.

Background Papers

None

(To resolve)

Appendix A
Guyatt's Fair Application

Page: Introduction

- I have read the privacy policy: Yes

Page: Contact details

- Name of event organiser: David Guyatt
- Name of organisation: Guyatt's Funfair
- Address: [REDACTED]
- Email address: [REDACTED]
- Contact number (for application queries): [REDACTED]
- Contact number (on the day of event): [REDACTED]
- Contact name and number to be given to the public
 - Name: David Guyatt
 - Contact number: 07885 274601

Page: About the event

- Event name: Guyatt's Funfair
- Proposed venue: Englefield Green - on the green
- Event date: Thu 21st Sep 2023
- Event time: 16.00
- Set up time: 8.00 2 days before
- Take down time: 18.00
- How many people are you expecting to attend?: approx. 200

Page: Event details

- Please give details of each stall such as type and size
 - - Name of stall: Traditional candy floss & hot dog stalls
- Please give details of all the activities and equipment you intend to use
 - - Name of activity: Various children's rides & inflatables
- Please list any rides and upload the ADIPS certificate for each ride
 - - Name of ride: Bumpy slide
 - ADIPS certificate: Bumpy_slide_19.10.23.pdf
 - - Name of ride: Go-gator
 - ADIPS certificate: Go_Gator_17.10.23.pdf
 - Name of ride: Inflatable football game
 - ADIPS certificate: Inflatable_football_game_19.10.23.pdf
 - - Name of ride: Train ride

- **ADIPS certificate: Train_ride_19.10.23.pdf**
 - **Name of ride: Juvenile jets**
 - **ADIPS certificate: Juvenile_Jets_23.2.24.jpeg**
 -
 - **Name of ride: Fun castle**
 - **ADIPS certificate: Fun_Castle_29.3.24.pdf**
-
- **Please provide details of the type of music (live/recorded), how the music will be transmitted and the times the music will be played: Background music in accordance with regulations from the Showmen's Guild**
 - **Please give details of how many vehicles will need access to the land, and the size of each vehicle: approx. 5 large vehicles and 4 smaller vans + cars**
 - **If you will be using generators, please state how many and the type: not sure yet how many**
 - **If you will be using toilets, please state how many and the type of toilets you will be having: 3 portable toilets**
 - **If you will be using inflatables, please give details. You will need to check their PIPA registration: see above**
 - **Please attach a copy of your public liability insurance.: Employers_Liability_insurance.pdf**

Please keep this email as confirmation and a record of your form.

Development of the Bin Strategy for Green Spaces - (Peter Joyce – Green Spaces Manager)

Synopsis of report:

To advise on progress made with consultation in relation to the bin strategy.

For information only

- (i) To note progress in relation to consultation on the bin strategy in accordance with a request under Standing Order 27.4 (d); and
- (ii) To note that following a consultation a bin strategy report will be brought to Environmental and Sustainability Committee for approval in September 2023; and
- (iii) To note that the approved strategy will be brought to the next Englefield Green committee in September. Any implications for Englefield Green will be included in that report including fox proofing.

1. Background

- 1.1. The report is to advise the Committee on progress with the implementation of the bin strategy and arrangements for public consultation.

2. Report

- 2.1 It has been requested under Standing Order 27.4 (d) that a report be tabled to this committee outlining measures taken to consult on the bin strategy for the Borough's green spaces. At its last meeting the Environment and Sustainability Committee was advised by officers that there were currently no litter recycling bins. Officers proposed to pilot the installation of dual waste and recycling bins with clear recycling messaging at Runnymede Pleasure Grounds and Chertsey Recreation Grounds. The pilot would run for one year and if the new waste/recycling bins, along with clear messaging was successful, similar dual bins would be rolled out to other locations in the Borough. Members were supportive of this pilot approach.
- 2.2 In addition, Officers were proposing to introduce a new litter bin strategy including a long term programmed removal of separate dog waste bins across the Borough as dog waste could be safely disposed of in a standard waste bin since 2015. The proposed new litter bin strategy is detailed in appendix A
- 2.3 Members resolved to:
 - a. Approve a pilot scheme introducing recycled waste bins at Runnymede Pleasure Grounds and Chertsey Recreation Ground; and
 - b. Approve a public consultation in accordance with Annex 4 of the Consultation for the proposed new litter bin strategy.

2.4 The consultation period ran for four weeks and closed on Tuesday 6 June. In the region of 70 responses were received. Comments will be reviewed by the Corporate Head of Environmental Services, the Direct Services Organisation Manager, the Communications and Engagement Manager, and the Street Scene Supervisor.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Boroughs Corporate Business Plan.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1 Better utilisation of dual bins will result in greater cost effectiveness in future if the recommendations are approved. Promoting the availability of litter bins to also be used for the disposal of dog waste will increase the availability and capacity of bins for dog walkers.

5. Legal implications

5.1 None.

6. Equality implications

6.1. None.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1 A more attractive environment can be maintained for local residents and users of the Green.

8. Timetable for implementation

8.1 The results of the consultation will be taken back to the Environment and Sustainability Committee with Officer recommendations on 13th September 2023. The Englefield Green Committee will be updated following consideration by the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 17th October 2023.

9. Conclusions

9.1 The Committee are requested to note progress on bin strategy consultation.

Use of Matrix Paving as a Sustainable Alternative to Coir Matting Under Benches on Englefield Green - (Peter Joyce –Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of Report:

To report on the use of matrix paving as a suitable material for use under benches.

Recommendation(s):

- (i) To note that coir matting would not be a sustainable material for use under benches on Englefield Green.**
- (ii) To propose the alternative of matrix paving and a cost of £290 for materials and installation per bench.**

1. Background

- 1.1 The report is to advise the Committee on the use of matrix paving for use as a surfacing material under benches on Englefield Green.

2. Report

- 2.1 Green Space Officers met to discuss the potential use of coir matting under seating in June 2022. Coir matting was not thought to be suitable for protecting grass under benches as the material rots and starts to disintegrate relatively quickly. Therefore, the idea will not be progressed.
- 2.2 A better alternative would be matrix paving. This is a strong interlocking cellular and porous plastic paving system for grass reinforcement and ground stabilisation for regular trafficked pedestrian and vehicle areas. It is open in texture, allowing grass to grow through, but providing a very strong and even surface. It has a high load bearing capacity and is British manufactured. It is SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) compliant, and allows for a naturally pleasing, environmentally friendly and free draining surface. Paving can be offset by one-cell increments to fit around obstacles. The paving would be fitted to the ground on a suitable subbase in front of the bench, which would be secured to using metal brackets to avoid theft.
- 2.3 The cost of purchase would be £90 for 4m² of paving material. The cost of installation would be £200. Therefore, total installation costs for two benches would be £580 per bench. The cost should be met from earmarked ringfenced Englefield Green reserves.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 Maintaining Englefield Green in accordance with the Council's sustainability policies.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1 Total costs per bench to purchase and install matrix paver would be £580 for two benches.

5. Legal implications

5.1 None.

6. Equality implications

6.1 None.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1 The Corporate Head of Environmental Services recommends that all maintenance should be in accordance with the Runnymede Borough Council sustainability policies.

8. Conclusions

8.1 To approve recommendations as per the report introduction.

(To resolve)

Background papers

None.

Wildflower Planting in Spring 2023, (Peter Joyce –Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of report:

To advise on the successful completion of wildflower plug planting on Englefield Green.

For information only

To note progress in relation to wildflower planting adjacent to St Jude's Road.

1. Report

- 1.1 At the February Committee, officers reported that the Council's Green Spaces Manager had been liaising with members of the Committee regarding location and choice of wildflowers. It was agreed that delegated authority be given to agree a wildflower planting regime.
- 1.2 Accordingly, the Green Spaces Manager liaised with Councillor Berardi and local volunteers to define a suitable choice of species. These were chosen because they usually grow well in an open and sunny location, enjoy a well-draining fertile soil, and a grassy verge. A specialist supplier of wildflower plug plants was selected to deliver 1,350 plants of the following species:
 - White campion
 - Devil's bit scabious
 - Lesser knapweed
 - Meadow buttercup
 - Sorrel
 - Nettle leaved bell flower.
- 1.3 An initial planting was carried out in early May along the raised grass bank adjacent to St Jude's Road. With the help of 10 volunteers, most of the plugs were planted. The rest were repotted into much larger pots for later planting when greater rooting had taken place. This also allowed for the identification of gaps where planted plugs had not taken well.
- 1.4 Over twenty students helped to carry out a second planting, on this occasion using a tool that carved out 25cm holes and mixed up the soil, so the wildflowers had more space to grow. Some of the children were tasked with digging up the nettle that is gradually taking over the ditch. No strimming of the bank will be carried out this season to ensure better establishment.
- 1.5 Members are requested to note progress on the wildflower planting project to the bank adjacent to St. Jude's Road.

2. Policy framework implications

- 2.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Boroughs Corporate Business Plan.

3. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 3.1 Preparation and sourcing of wildflower plug plants has been completed for the sum of £1,322, compared with an estimated cost as reported at the last Committee of £1,980.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Equality implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 6.1 A more attractive environment can be maintained for local residents and users of the Green in accordance with the Council's sustainability policies.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The Committee are requested to note progress on the planting of wildflowers.

(For information)

Background papers

None

Development of the Woodland Management Plan for Englefield Green, (Peter Joyce – Head of Green Spaces)

Synopsis of report:

To report on works to be completed in accordance with the Woodland Management Plan

For information only

1. Report

- 1.1 At the June 2019 Committee, Members were advised that ecological surveys of the woodland were completed in 2018 and the findings reported to Officers towards the end of the year. Data from the surveys and recommendations for enhanced management of the woodland had been incorporated into a draft woodland plan. Officers also met with the Crown Estate's Chief Forester and walked the woodland with him to discuss the contents of the draft plan and the management techniques proposed, which he supported.
- 1.2 Further works were completed as part of the approved woodland plan in February 2021. These involved removing holly and laurel 2-3 metres each side of the public footpath 19 which had opened up the area and allowed more light onto the woodland floor. A glade was also opened up to the north of the footpath by removing holly and laurel here too. The cost of the work was £3,950. This was the first tranche of work prescribed in the Woodland Management Plan.
- 1.3 It is intended to continue with this work this winter. Works will be completed for a similar sum and will include clearance of predominantly holly and Rhododendron ponticum in the West Woodlands. This will allow more light to penetrate the area in and around the central glade, and will encourage greater biodiversity, and the growth of understorey species.
- 1.4 Members are asked to note the works to be completed as part of the woodland management plan this winter.

2. Policy framework implications

- 2.1 Maintaining Englefield Green and offering a clean and welcoming open space is in accordance with the Boroughs Corporate Business Plan.

3. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 3.1 Total costs will be £3,950 in accordance with previously reported costs for woodland management works.

4. Legal implications

4.1 None.

5. Equality implications

5.1 None.

6. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

6.1 The Corporate Head of Environmental Services recommends that all maintenance should be in accordance with the Runnymede Borough Council sustainability policies.

7. Conclusions

7.1 To note works to be completed over the autumn/winter 2023/24 period.

(For information).

Background papers

None.

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS – (LAW AND GOVERNANCE – Carol Holehouse)

Synopsis of report:

To ask Members if they wish to increase the number of Englefield Green Committee meetings from the current 3 meetings per year to 4 per year.

Recommendations:

- i) The Committee considers increasing the number of meetings to 4 per year and advise Officers accordingly.
- ii) The Committee considers whether to instruct officers to attempt to facilitate an informal meeting between Committee members and Surrey County Council highways officers.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 At the last meeting of the Committee in February it was suggested it would be beneficial for the Englefield Green Committee to meet 4 times a year.
- 1.2 The Committee felt that the current time lapse between meetings of the Committee made it difficult for maintenance issues to be agreed in a timely manner.

2. Report

- 2.1 The Englefield Green Committee have historically met 3 times a year in February, June and either late October or early November.
- 2.2 If the frequency of meetings were to increase, Officers would therefore propose to reschedule all meetings to evenly distribute them throughout the municipal year, and would aim to follow the pattern of June – October – January – April. Committee members would be consulted on proposed dates.
- 2.3 The Committee has also expressed an interest in meeting informally with Surrey County officers to discuss highways matters, and are now asked whether they would like RBC officers to attempt to facilitate this.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. Resource implications/Value for money

- 4.1 There would be a small resource implication due to Officers attendance at the additional meeting and Members travel costs.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1** Any changes to the calendar of meetings would require approval from the Corporate Head of Law & Governance, who has indicated his informal approval. Final approval would be sought subject to Committee approval.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 None

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 None

8. Timetable for implementation

- 8.1 This Municipal Year

(To resolve)

Background papers

None stated

ADDITION TO QUALIFYING PROPERTIES LIST – (LAW AND GOVERNANCE – Carol Holehouse)

Synopsis of report:

To advise Members of addition to the qualifying properties list

Recommendation:

None – for information only

- 1. Context and background of report**
 - 1.1 To advise the Committee of an addition to the qualifying properties list following this year's annual canvass.

- 2. Report**
 - 2.1 In February 2023, Officers sent out the annual canvass letter to all qualifying properties in Englefield Green asking for nominations for resident's representatives to sit on the Englefield Green Committee for the next municipal year.
 - 2.2 Officers were contacted by the owner of The Coach House, Coopers Hill Lane asking if they were eligible to apply. Officers advised the owner that The Coach House was not currently on the qualifying properties list as it was not considered to fit the criteria.
 - 2.3 Officers had previously considered including The Coach House on the qualifying properties list but considered the view from The Coach House was obstructed by the neighbouring property, Coopers Hill Lodge (which was a qualifying property).
 - 2.4 The owner of The Coach House advised Officers that the property had previously been separated out of the land of Coopers Hill Lodge so he therefore felt his property should be included. Officers therefore wrote to the Crown Estate to ask them to consider the addition of The Coach House to the list.
 - 2.5 The Crown advised Officers by email on 24th March that following an assessment of the location of The Coach House, whilst the view of the Green was limited, it was adjoining the eastern most point. The Crown would therefore approve adding the property to the list. The Crown, however, noted that this property appeared to be the most easterly property in the vicinity that would be considered a qualifying property, certainly at this time.
 - 2.6 Subsequent to receiving confirmation from the Crown Estate, Officers notified the owner of the Coach House that their property had been approved by the Crown for inclusion on the qualifying properties list. The owner of the Coach House was pleased to be added to the list but confirmed by email that he did not wish to stand as resident's representative at this time.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 Not applicable

4. Resource implications/Value for money

4.1 None

5. Legal implications

5.1 None

6. Equality implications

6.1 None

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1 None

8. Timetable for implementation

8.1 With immediate effect

(For information)

Background papers

Englefield Green Qualifying Properties list