

**Management and Maintenance of the Green – (Community Development – Chris Dulley)**

**Synopsis of report:**

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

**Recommendations:**

- i) Members approve the installation of up to ten additional posts placed at strategic locations around the Green to strengthen site security**
- ii) Members approve the installation of signs**

**Lawn treatment**

At the previous Englefield Green Committee Meeting, on 29th November 2021, it was resolved that lawn treatment works should continue as in previous years. Officers have obtained quotations from the specialist contractor, *Complete Weed Control*, who previously undertook lawn maintenance work in 2020/21 (application of fertilizers and selective herbicide). Costs were circulated to Committee Members, and an order has been placed for the work to be undertaken in March/April 2022. The costs and approximate timings of application are detailed below and will be funded by ring-fenced money. Officers will advise members of exact timings/date of application when confirmed, via email.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
March 2022	Spring fertiliser & Iron treatment	£717.00
June 2022	Summer fertiliser treatment & selective herbicide application	£830.00
August 2022	Late Summer fertiliser treatment	£690.00
October/November2022	Autumn fertiliser treatment	£717.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2954.00</b>

**(For information)**

**Background papers**

None stated

## Wildflower planting

It was resolved at the previous meeting, on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021, that wildflower planting/sowing would take place on the grassed area at the junction of Castle Hill Road/Priest Hill and in the surrounding woodland area(s). Bulb planting, specifically that of native Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) should be carried out in autumn, when bulbs are dormant and readily available. Officers have obtained quotations for the preparation and sowing of wildflower seeds and an order for the works and seeds has been placed. Costs for the above works is detailed below and would be funded by ring-fenced money.

Description	Cost
Preparation of grassed areas around the bus shelter (scarification and removal of arisings)	£2,000
Purchase of wildflower mixed seeds for sandy soils 1.5kg	£251.50
Purchase of wildflower mixed seeds for woodland/shaded areas	£297.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2,549.00</b>

## (For information)

### Background papers

None stated

### Site security

It has been noted that several unauthorised vehicle incursions have taken place on the Green since the last meeting. Additional posts could be placed in strategic locations to help deter future incidents. Those posts should be of a style to match those previously installed. Ten additional posts are available in store, earmarked as future replacements for those already in situ but could be used to improve security. As these posts are already available there would be no purchasing costs for them, the only cost would be for the installation work which based on the previous work would cost in the region of £120.00 per post. This would be funded from ring-fenced money. It should be noted that whilst posts would deter cars or other larger vehicles from entering the Green, they would not be effective against motorcycles. Residents overlooking the Green who have witnessed incursions have offered their assistance with identifying locations for posts and Officers will meet with them to discuss prior to placement. If it has been possible to meet with residents in advance of this meeting a plan of proposed locations will be circulated at the meeting for members to view.

Description	Cost
Installation of post (per post)	£120
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>Up to £1,200.00</b>

**(To resolve)**

**Background papers**

None stated

**Signage**

It was resolved at the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 that Officers would liaise with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman regarding additional signage. Feedback has been received by Officers and work has begun on design. It is proposed that the placement of signs utilises existing signposts to prevent a need for installation of new posts and to minimise clutter. A sign of each style would be placed back-to-back on the posts identified. It is hoped that a final plan of locations and drawings will be ready in time to be circulated at the meeting. Approximate costs were provided at the previous meeting; however, these are noted below for clarification and would be funded from ring-fenced money.

<b>Sign description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Highlighted restrictions	4	£330.20
RBC Byelaws signs	4	£330.20

**(To resolve)**

**Background papers**

None stated

**CCTV and report of criminality and ASB**

The subject of installation of CCTV cameras to provide surveillance of the Green has been investigated by this Committee on previous occasions. A site visit was held in 2019 where members of the Committee were advised on the matter by the Safer Runnymede Manager.

At this meeting members of the Committee were advised that for any public space CCTV installation to be approved, a test set by the Information Commissioners Office must be met. One of the key tests is that the Authority must provide evidence of a pressing need. Whilst there have been instances of anti-social behaviour and vehicle incursions on the Green which have been recorded, Officers are of the opinion that these would not meet the threshold of the test and the installation of CCTV could therefore not be justified at the current time.

The Committee are advised that there is a suite of options for reporting incidents, records of which could then support any future consideration of CCTV installation. The Committee are advised to encourage residents to utilise the appropriate reporting systems in order for data to be compiled to enable comprehensive analysis of incidents in the area. A report was recently given to the Community Services Committee on this subject and a document detailing the processes for reporting is included at **Appendix 'B'** for information.

**(For information)**

**Background papers**

None stated

## Appendix 'B'

1. It is vital that Members are aware of the importance of reporting incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour as this builds a picture of the behaviour which is occurring and provides an evidence base which will be required to support intervention opportunities, such as (but not limited to) the installation of CCTV units.
2. The correct route to report antisocial behaviour and crime can often be confusing due to the multiple options available and understanding that the correct channel is based on the situation presented at the time. This means that two incidents of a similar nature may not have the same reporting options as the best route.
3. To demonstrate this, I will provide an example scenario of two separate groups causing a nuisance at different open space parks. Group 1 are sat in a group in the middle of the park, away from other users, but playing loud music. Group 2 are also playing loud music, but additionally are consuming alcohol and smashing glass over the children's play equipment and are becoming increasingly aggressive towards other park users. In these scenarios, Group 1 are unlikely to require a report made to Police, instead this is likely to be progressed by the Council. A report about Group B however should be reported to the Police, at the time of occurring.
4. Each agency who has a responsibility to address antisocial behaviour and crime have reporting options available and I will specifically mention Police and the Council.
5. Reports to Surrey Police can be made via:
  - Phone (999 and 101),
  - Online (report form and live chat),
  - Direct messaging via social media platforms.
6. Reports to the Council can be made via:
  - Phone (main switchboard),
  - Online (various options available based on the nature of the ASB),
  - Email to departmental mailboxes.
7. Additionally, reports can be made anonymously via CrimeStoppers who can receive reports via phone and online submissions.
8. It is recognised that in some cases, members of the public may not utilise the above options and instead relay information to their ward Councillor. Reports made directly to ward Councillors are not readily available to the agencies unless this is further reported using one of the above options. Therefore, Councillors are encouraged to report matters through the official means to allow the report to be recorded and considered by partner agencies if the member of the public is unable or unwilling to do this themselves.