

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