

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

21 November 2007 at 7.00 pm

Members of the Committee present      Councillors P.I. Roberts (Chairman) D.R. Hamilton, Miss M.N. Heath, and J.W.C. Perschke,  
  
Residents' Representatives: Mrs M.E.J. Bairstow and Mr A.E. Panter

Members of the Committee absent:      Councillors M.T. Kusneraitis (Vice-Chairman), and H.W.V. Meares

377. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED that -**

**Councillor P.I. Roberts be Chairman for the Municipal Year 2007/08.**

378. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillor M.T. Kusneraitis be Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2007/08.**

379. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 April 2007 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

380. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Councillor Meares and Councillor Kusneraitis.

381. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Perschke declared a personal interest under the Runnymede Code of Conduct for Members on the Agenda item on 'Events on The Green - Funfairs' as he was a member of Englefield Green Cricket Club.

382. EVENTS ON THE GREEN - FUNFAIRS

The Committee reviewed the impact of the trial location of Beach's funfair and Carters Steam Fair on the southern part of the Green, considered representations received and determined the future location of the funfairs.

Following a postponement owing to unsatisfactory ground conditions, Beach's Fair had arrived at the Green on the 12 June to set up. Access was gained onto the Green by blocking up the ditch with railway sleepers and boards. The fair was operational from Thursday 14 until Sunday 17 June. During the stay, Officers and Members had visited a number of times to ensure the operators were complying with the terms of their agreement. Their departure was extended slightly because wet ground conditions required them to take extra care in moving the heavier vehicles off. Following departure the Parks and Amenities Manager inspected the Green and no significant damage was found.

Similar site meetings and assessments were employed for Carter's Steam Fair, who were operational over the weekend of 21 to 23 September. This was a very well attended event and there were a large number of cars parked in the vicinity. Following this event there was some damage to

the Green and the ditch. The cost of making repairs was being assessed by Officers and would be deducted from their deposit which the Council held.

Letters of complaint had been received from local residents regarding the location of the fairs at the southern end of the Green. Complaints mainly related to noise disturbance, traffic and parking congestion, visual detriment to the open aspect of the Green, parking on the Green and compaction of soil which could exacerbate drainage/flooding problems at this end of the Green. All the complainants considered that the fairs should be moved back to their former location at the northern end of the Green.

The Committee was mindful of the concerns of local residents and the Cricket Club on the location of the fairs and the need to protect the condition of the Green. In coming to a decision on the future location of the fairs, the Committee balanced the interests of residents, the Cricket Club and the benefits the fairs brought to the wider Englefield Green community.

With this in mind it was agreed that for Spring 2008 Beach's funfair be located on the southern end of the Green and for late Summer/Autumn, Carters Steam Fair be located on the northern end of the Green. The Director of Administration and Leisure was again authorised to cancel the events or reschedule them if in his opinion the weather or ground conditions were likely to risk damage to the Green.

The Committee was also keen that the concerns over parking and traffic congestion were addressed and it was agreed that the organisers of the fairs be requested to submit and implement a traffic and parking management plan.

The operation of the fairs in 2008 would be reviewed and a report made to a future meeting.

On a separate issue, one of the letters of representation had made passing reference to the cricket wicket being cordoned off. For clarification, the Chairman read out a statement from the Head of Law that the cordoning off of the wicket was not a matter which required any formal consent. It was an integral part of allowing cricket to be played on the Green and nor did it, in any real sense, enclose or preclude access to that part of the Green. It was no more than a polite way of suggesting that people should not use that part of the Green for exercise. Actual access for animals and humans was not precluded.

Finally, the Committee noted details of various events that had been held on the Green since the last meeting. No problems had been reported with these events.

**RESOLVED that -**

- i) Beach's Funfair be located on the southern end of the Green in Spring 2008;**
- ii) Carter's Steam Fair be located on the northern end of the Green in late Summer/Autumn 2008;**
- iii) the Director of Administration and Leisure be authorised to cancel or reschedule the events if, in his opinion, the weather and ground conditions are likely to be such that there is a risk of damage to the Green;**
- iv) the organisers of the fairs be requested to submit and implement a traffic and parking management plan; and**
- v) the operation of the fairs in 2008 be reviewed and a report thereon made to a future meeting.**

383. PLAY AREA

The Committee was updated on the current position regarding the over 5's Play Area scheme.

The design of the Play Area was now complete. Officers had been working on proposals for the CCTV and motion - activated lighting. Safer Runnymede had provided information about light levels required for different cameras to operate and the Street Lighting Supervisor had identified suitable power supplies locally. However, a CCTV camera could not be linked to Safer Runnymede until after the move to the new Civic Offices owing to the existing control room being at full capacity.

Officers were looking at replacement of a lamp column on the Green with a CCTV pole which could accommodate two fixed cameras, with recording equipment installed at the base of the column. Whilst not connected to the Safer Runnymede Control Room, the images taken by the cameras could be downloaded and would be of sufficient quality for evidential purposes. The cameras would cover the play area and there was potentially capacity to accommodate an additional camera on the column to cover the cricket pavilion and shed in the future. Officers were also looking at provision of two Victorian style lamp columns near the play area, the lighting from which could be motion activated.

The Committee was supportive of the proposals and were keen for a third camera to be placed on the column, if possible. Members asked Officers to ensure that the proposed lighting was not detrimental to residential amenities of occupiers around the Green, by being too intrusive.

The cost of the play area, CCTV and lighting was approximately £54,000. AIR had indicated that a maximum grant of £47,500 might be available for the scheme with the shortfall being made up from the Parks Budgets in 2008/09. An application for grant funding would be made to AIR.

The Committee was also informed that it had also emerged recently that, under the Commons Act 2006, the consent of the Secretary of State would be required before the extension to the play area could be constructed. The application for consent would be made shortly and AIR would be informed of this requirement when the application for funding was made.

#### 384. ENGLEFIELD GREEN CRICKET CLUB - UPDATE

The Committee was updated on the current position regarding the grant of the 3 year Licence to the Englefield Green Cricket Club for the use of the Pavilion and cricket pitch.

The discussions relating to the terms of the licence and the option of a 28 year lease had been proceeding normally with no delays on the part of the Cricket Club. Two particular matters had been of concern to the Cricket Club namely the continued vandalism to the Pavilion and the need for CCTV, and siting of the fairs on the Green.

#### 385. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

##### a) Maintenance of the Green

It was reported that there had been some minor damage to the side of the ditch, opposite the play area. This was partly related to the fair's access point but also to the parking of contractor's heavy vehicles and plant on the verge during the recent road works in St. Jude's Road. Officers had asked Surrey County Council to carry out the repairs.

##### b) Report of Honorary Wardens

A record of incidents, observations and comments from the Honorary Wardens for the period May to October 2007 was reported. The Parks and Amenities Manager confirmed that all the litter bins were functional and would be replaced, as and when required and as funds allowed. Monitoring of the dog waste bins would also take place. The Honorary Wardens were thanked for their work.

The Chairman asked Officers to investigate the possibility of painting the bus shelter adjacent to the Green with a more appropriate colour.

#### 386. NORTHCROFT ROAD FOOTWAY – HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee was informed that the Northcroft Road footway improvement scheme had been cancelled by Surrey County Council as the costs of the scheme had proved much higher than

originally proposed. The increased costs arose from the legal processes involved with the scheme, land acquisition / construction costs and associated legal costs.

Members were disappointed at the cancellation of the worthwhile scheme and Councillor Miss Heath, in her capacity as a County Councillor would take this matter up with Surrey County Council Highways Department.

387. STANDING ORDER 42 – URGENT ACTION

The Committee noted that the following action had been taken after consultation with the Chairman of this Committee under Standing Order 42.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Control Index No.</u>
Director of Administration and Leisure	Postponement of Beach's Fair.	638

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.12pm)