

Runnymede Borough Council  
ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

26 February 2003 at 7 p.m.

Members of the Committee present : Councillors H.W.V. Meares (Vice-Chairman) J.E. Haas and N. Thewlis

Residents' Representative : Mrs. M.E.J. Bairstow

Members of the Committee absent : Councillors A.G. Collins, Mrs. C.Y. Jones and K.J.T. Walmsley

Residents' Representative: Mr. A.E. Panter

(Councillor H.W.V. Meares in the Chair)

639. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 December 2002 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

640. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A.G. Collins and Mrs. C.Y. Jones, and Mr. A.E. Panter.

641. INCURSION PROTECTION MEASURES

The Committee considered the need for measures to protect the Green from traveller incursions.

Members noted that Englefield Green had been identified as one of a number of the Council's parks and open spaces which were vulnerable to traveller incursions. While such incidents on the Green had been relatively infrequent, there had been a small incursion in 2002 and improved defensive measures elsewhere were liable to make the site more attractive to travellers if efforts were not made to deter unauthorised access. More generally, there was also a growing trend for vehicles to be driven on to the Green, gaining access at the southern end. The problem had been highlighted during the recent snowfalls and frosts when the tracks were clearly visible.

The Committee recognised that it would always be difficult to effectively deny access to the most determined of intruders. There were also a number of constraints on the measures which could be taken in respect of the Green. Most notably, the use of ditches opposite the Barley Mow Public House was restricted by the presence of underground cabling, while significant bunding would be visually intrusive. Nevertheless, it was felt that the following package of measures should be sufficient deterrent in most instances.

- i) clearance of vegetation from the ditch on the west of the Green;
- ii) reforming of the ditch to the east of the Green by removing the vegetation and accumulated soil;
- iii) installation of a row of 1m x 150mm wooden posts at 1.5 metre intervals from the corner of St. Jude's Road to the Barley Mow pub;
- iv) installation of two lockable steel bollards opposite the cricket pavilion to allow for a secondary vehicular and maintenance access;
- v) installation of two wooden bollards at the pedestrian access point near the small mini roundabout on St. Jude's Road to match those at the southern end.

The estimated cost of the works, amounting to £20,000, would be met from a capital provision already approved by the Council. The Crown had given its consent to the proposals.

**RESOLVED that –**

**the defensive works itemised above be undertaken on the Green.**

642. BRIDLEWAY CLEARANCE WORK

The Committee was informed that bramble and bracken obstructing the bridleway on the north side of Bishopsgate Road was to be removed within the next four weeks. The bridleway would henceforth be cleared of vegetation by the Council's contractors two or three times during the growing season. The precise number of visits would depend on the level and extent of regrowth coupled with the amount of use made of the bridleway.

Members were also pleased to note that Surrey County Council was due to undertake previously approved work to extend the Bishopsgate Road footway prior to the end of March. The two metre wide tarmac footway with timber edging would extend from the horse trough at the junction of Bishopsgate Road and St. Judes Road to the existing footway on the north side of Bishopsgate Road.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.32 p.m.)