

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

28 November 2001 at 7 p.m.

Members of the Committee present : Councillors A.G. Collins (Chairman), H.W.V. Meares (Vice-Chairman) J.E. Haas, Mrs C.Y. Jones, Mrs V.R.T. Lenton-Smith and K.J.T. Walmsley

Residents' Representatives : Mrs. M.E.J. Bairstow and Mr. A.E. Panter

Members of the Committee absent : None

402. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 June 2001 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

403. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr A. E. Panter declared an interest under the National Code of Local Government Conduct in respect of the proposals for a new planting scheme contained in the report on Management of the Green - Cricket. As Mr Panter did not consider the interest to be clear and substantial he remained in attendance and participated in the debate thereon.

404. MANAGEMENT OF THE GREEN - CRICKET

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, February 2001, page 1267, para 617)

The Committee received details of progress with the relocation of the cricket square on Englefield Green and gave consideration to the form of an associated planting scheme.

Members noted that the new square had now been completed to a high standard. Maintenance during the winter and into the early summer of 2002 would encourage the grass to establish itself and develop in to a good playing surface. The existing water point was to be moved to a position closer to the new square in order to facilitate irrigation and new signs were to be installed opposite the layby at the back of the Green warning motorists that they were parking close to a cricket pitch. The total cost of the works, including maintenance, was estimated at £32,000.

The new square was now some 70 metres from St Judes Road compared with 40m previously. However, this was still 20m short of the distance recommended on safety grounds by the England and Wales Cricket Board. In order to ensure that pedestrians and road users were adequately protected from stray cricket balls it would therefore be necessary to introduce planting on the Green, adjacent to the St Judes Road roundabout. Mindful of the need to preserve the open character of the Green, Members considered that this should consist of low level shrubbery and long grass rather than trees with shrubbery infill. As the planting would need to be undertaken prior to the next meeting of the Committee in order to be established for the new cricket season, Officers were authorised to devise an appropriate scheme in consultation with the Chairman.

Finally, the Committee noted that it had not yet been possible to reach agreement with Englefield Green Cricket Club on the terms of a licence for the exclusive use of the new square. As agreed previously, the Club would therefore be obliged to book the use of the Green on a match by match basis at the beginning of each season for the standard municipal hire charge (currently £52 per game). Although the Club was likely to continue to play the majority of its matches on the Green it would not necessarily have exclusive use of the square. The Council had also reassumed maintenance responsibility for the wicket from the club.

RESOLVED that -

- i) the Borough Secretary and Leisure Services Officer be authorised to prepare a low level planting scheme consisting of shrubbery and long grass between the cricket pitch and the St Judes Road roundabout in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee; and**
- ii) details of the planting scheme be reported to Members of the Committee for information.**

405. EVENTS ON THE GREEN 2002

The Committee gave consideration to a number of requests to stage events on the Green during the course of 2002.

Members noted that J. Beach and Sons and Carters Steam Fair wished to hold their usual fun fairs on the Green in May and September respectively. The three year licences previously granted to both operators had now expired and it would be necessary to negotiate new agreements for a similar period. In view of the noise nuisance and general disruption to residents associated with Beach's Fair it was felt that the operator should be restricted to a maximum of seven days on the Green (including the time required to set up and subsequently dismantle the attractions) rather than the ten days requested. Given the relocation of the cricket square both fairs would be situated nearer to some of the residential properties adjacent to the Green than had previously been the case. The new square itself would be protected by fencing during the fairs.

The Committee also agreed to the use of the Green for the Englefield Green Village Residents Association's annual fete and a musical picnic, with orchestra, organised by the Englefield Green Community Website in honour of the Queens Golden Jubilee.

RESOLVED that -

- i) permission be granted for the use of the Green for the annual village fete on 22 June 2002 and the Englefield Green Community Website's musical picnic on 29 June 2002 on such terms and conditions as may be set by the Borough Secretary and Leisure Services Officer;**
- ii) the Valuer to the Council be instructed to negotiate terms for a further three year period for the annual use of the Green for funfairs by J. Beach and Sons and Carters Steam Fair; and**
- iii) J. Beach and Sons be permitted to occupy the Green for no more than seven days per annum.**

406. PUBLIC ART ON ENGLEFIELD GREEN

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee June 2001 page 43, para 57)

The Committee noted that proposals for the erection on the Green of a sculpture based on the unicorn tapestries in New York and Paris had now been withdrawn. In a letter circulated to Members, the Chairman of the steering group responsible for the project indicated that the group felt they could not proceed given the determined opposition of a small number of local residents and the lack of positive support from the wider community. The Committee recognised that the objections had largely been concerned with the proposed design rather than the principle of a work of public art.

407. ENGLEFIELD GREEN PAVILION

At the request of Mr A. E. Panter the Committee received details of the terms of the Englefield Green Pavilion lease.

Members noted that the former Egham Urban District Council had granted a lease to a body of trustees drawn originally from the Englefield Green football and cricket clubs for a term of 60 years from 1 January 1957. The lease provided that the Pavilion was to be used for either or both of the football and cricket clubs or certain other sporting purposes as might be approved by the Council. The Trustees exercised responsibility for the control and maintenance of the building in return for a rent of £1 per annum. There were currently four trustees, namely Mr J.V. Lewis, Mr D.G. Humphries, Mr J.A. Read and Mr. N.H. Rundell. Since this was the minimum number provided for by the lease Members instructed Officers to establish whether the individual Trustees were still prepared to actively fulfil their duties. It was also agreed that the Trustees should be invited to the next meeting of the Committee in order to present a report on their activities and outline their future plans for the Pavilion.

RESOLVED that -

- i) the Borough Secretary and Leisure Services Officer be requested to seek confirmation as to whether the individual Englefield Green Pavilion Trustees are prepared to continue to discharge their duties; and**
- ii) the Pavilion Trustees be invited to present a report of their activities to the next meeting of the Committee.**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.46 pm)