

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

Wednesday 29 June 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

at the Jurgen Centre, Harvest Road, Englefield Green



Members of the Committee

Councillors J.E. Haas, Miss M.N. Heath, Mrs C.Y. Jones, H.W.V. Meares, N. Thewlis and K.J.T. Walmsley.

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

A G E N D A

Notes:

- i) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information (as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972) must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.
- ii) The relevant 'background papers' are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to **Mr. G. Marson, Committee Section, Administration and Leisure Department, Civic Offices, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel. 01932 425625). (Email: gary.marson@runnymede.gov.uk).**
- iii) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please telephone Mr. B.A. Fleckney on 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

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PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

- a) Exempt Information
(No reports to be considered under this heading)
- b) Confidential Information
(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the Municipal Year 2005/2006.

(TO RESOLVE)

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2005/06.

(TO RESOLVE)

3. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23 February 2005 (attached at Appendix 'A').

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

If Members have an interest in an item please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Legal Representative or Committee Administrator at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available from the Committee Administrator at meetings.

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when attending the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must leave the room if the interest is personal and prejudicial.

6. BYELAWS (DAL)

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, February 2005, page 750, para. 541)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed new byelaws for Englefield Green.**

2. Background Information

2.1 At the last meeting of the Committee, in February 2005, Members considered the adoption of the new model byelaws produced by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The Committee proposed a series of modifications applicable to the Green and requested that Officers produce a draft set of Byelaws based on these suggestions for approval by Members.

3. Report

3.1 Appendix 'B' sets out the proposed byelaws for Englefield Green incorporating the Committee's recommendations.

3.2 The proposed amendments will need to be submitted to the Crown Estate for approval under the terms of the Council's lease. The Crown's comments will be reported back to this Committee, following which the draft byelaws can be recommended to Council for approval and then sent to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that -

the draft byelaws for Englefield Green set out at Appendix 'B' be submitted to the Crown Estate for approval.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

DAL's file: 48.12

7. FOOTBALL GOALPOST (DAL)

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, December 2004, page 464, para. 372)

1. At its meeting in December 2004 the Committee agreed to review whether the junior sized goalpost should be re-erected on the Green during this year's school summer holiday period.
2. The issues surrounding the location of a goalpost on the Green have been well rehearsed previously. Members will be aware that there are divergent and strongly held views amongst the local community. Representations received against the goalpost have suggested that it alters the character of the Green, detracting from its open aspect, and encourages people to loiter in the vicinity with the attendant risk of anti-social behaviour. (The most recent letter of objection is attached at Appendix 'C'). Residents in favour of the goalpost suggest that it provides a positive recreational outlet for children's energies in a safe and secure environment.
3. The goalpost was last erected between 3 July and 8 September 2004. The grass in the goalmouth during this period was found to be lightly worn, indicating only a relatively modest usage. Members are asked to determine whether the goalpost should be erected for this and future school summer holidays. The Council is not planning to undertake any sports development related activities on the Green in the coming months.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO -

consider whether a junior sized goalpost should continue to be erected on the Green during the school summer holidays.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None

8. DRAINAGE TRIAL PITS (DAL)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to inform Members of a proposal to dig trial pits in two locations on Englefield Green in order to assist with investigations into drainage difficulties.**

2. Background Information

2.1 There is a history of localised flooding in Englefield Green, along Bond Street, Vegal Crescent, Blays Lane, Barley Mow Road, The Green and St Jude's Road. The Council is currently undertaking a study to identify the source of the flooding and to propose upgrading works to alleviate the problem. The trial pit tests would be part of this study and would enable assessment of the soil, its permeability and ground water levels in the area. Testing within the road would be problematic owing to the presence of utility services and other health and safety issues and the inevitable disruption to traffic.

3. Report

3.1 Attached at Appendix 'D' is a drawing showing the approximate locations of the trial pits. The pits will be 1m x 1m and up to 2m deep. The tests themselves will be carried out over a 2 day period. All materials excavated will be used to backfill the pits after the test and the areas will be reinstated to the satisfaction of the Parks and Amenities Manager.

3.2 The Crown Estate has been approached regarding this request and their response will be reported verbally at the meeting.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that -

subject to the approval of the Crown Estate, permission be granted for trial pits to be dug in the two locations on the Green identified at Appendix 'D' in order to assist with investigations into drainage difficulties.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None

9. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN (DAL)
(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, February 2004, page 1324, para 723 and February 2005, page 751, para. 543)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members with regard to matters of current interest concerning the management and maintenance of the Green.**

2. Northcroft Road Footway Extension

- 2.1 At its meeting in July 2004 the Committee received details of a proposal by Surrey County Council to link the footway between Barley Mow Road and the Coach House in the interests of road safety. The scheme entails the construction of a 1.8m wide footway on the southern section of Northcroft Road, widening the carriageway slightly onto the traffic island which forms part of the Crown land. Approval was given in principle to the loss of the small strip of grass verge on the traffic island to facilitate the scheme.

- 2.2 At its last meeting the Committee agreed that the County Council be asked to progress this scheme as speedily as possible and also be complimented on the effectiveness of their traffic calming measures at the Tite Hill/Middle Hill Junction. These sentiments were communicated to the Local Transportation Director in a letter from the Parks and Amenities Manager in March. In response the County Council has confirmed that having prioritised this project against similar ones the Northcroft Road scheme has not been allocated funding this year and is unlikely to be progressed until 2006/07 at the earliest.

3. Interpretation Board

- 3.1 At its meeting in February 2004 the Committee inspected a draft of the new Englefield Green interpretation board and resolved that it be erected at the southern end of the Green, near the Barley Mow public house. This has had to be postponed, however, whilst the Committee debates the possibility of changing the byelaws, which are included in the design. Members may also recall that the original design included descriptions of some of the properties around the Green. Officers have recently approached the owners of these properties to check that they were happy with this and most have said they are not. The content of the board has therefore been redesigned to include historical information about the Green, the Barley Mow pub, the last duel, the horse trough and the Englefield Green Cricket Club. A copy (in reduced size) has been circulated with this agenda (to Members of the Committee only) and Members are asked to comment on the content and design so that it can be made ready for the byelaws to be incorporated, before it is manufactured and installed in due course. A full size version will be on display at the meeting.

4. Condition of the Grass

- 4.1 Members will recall that concern has been expressed about the condition of the grass in some parts of the Green and the presence of moss and that the Council's grounds maintenance contractor has been asked to carry out work to remedy this. Following a number of unsuccessful attempts to slit the ground a 'ground breaker' was used in the spring and this has had a beneficial effect. This will need to be monitored, however, as the operation may need to be repeated, or other maintenance introduced, to fully achieve the desired improvements.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that -

the proposed design of the interpretation board be approved.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None stated

10. HONORARY WARDENS' REPORT

The Honorary Wardens, Mr. P. Winkworth and Mr. A. Power, have reported a number of issues and observations in respect of the maintenance and usage of the Green. Details of those which have not already been addressed are set out below, together with Officers' comments thereon.

i) Grass Cutting

The Wardens have expressed concern at the standard of grass cutting on the Green and adjacent areas.

Officers' Comments

The Council has been experiencing problems with the new grounds maintenance contractor during recent weeks. Officers have been working with the contractor's management to ensure standards of maintenance are brought up to, and maintained at, the required level. Additional contractor resources have been deployed and the situation is rapidly improving.

ii) Litter Bins

The Wardens have also drawn attention to the condition of the litter bins on the Green.

Officers' Comments

Five new litter bins are on order and will be installed to replace those in the poorest condition. The remainder will be replaced as needed and as budgets allow.

iii) Horse Route Signage

Mr. Winkworth and Mr. Power have highlighted the absence of signage for horse riders in the woodland area.

Officers' Comments

Signage will be installed by the time of the meeting.

iv) Cricket Pavilion

The Wardens have expressed concern at the condition of the Cricket Pavilion and questioned the playing of cricket on the Green away from the pitch area.

Officers' Comments

The condition of the Pavilion has been referred to the Borough Valuer who will consider the matter in relation to the grant of the new lease to the Cricket Club, all of the Trustees having now agreed to the surrender of the existing lease. Once the lease is in place and the Club has security of tenure it will be easier for it to access grant funds for the improvement of the premises. The Council, for its part, has already agreed a grant of £10,000 to assist with improvement works subject to agreement on the lease. There is no impediment to the playing of cricket on the Green away from the cricket pitch.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

Undated letter from Honorary Wardens

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If the Committee is minded to consider any of the foregoing reports in private session, it is the

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that -

where appropriate the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of reports under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the reports in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in the appropriate paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(TO RESOLVE)

PART II

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