

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

Wednesday 25 June 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

at the Jurgen Centre, Harvest Road, Englefield Green



Members of the Committee

Councillors A.G. Collins, J.E. Haas, Mrs. C.Y. Jones, H.W.V. Meares, N. Thewlis and K.J.T. Walmsley.

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

and all other Members for information

AGENDA

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, Department of Administration and Leisure, Civic Offices, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel. 01932 425625)**
- iii) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please telephone Mr. B.A. Fleckney on 01932 425620.

COMMITTEE SECTION



LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

Matters in respect of which reports have been made available for public inspection

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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 2003/2004.

(TO RESOLVE)

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2003/2004.

(TO RESOLVE)

3. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 26 February 2003 (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. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN (DAL)

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee February 2003, page 1085, para 641)

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. Incursion Protection Measures

2.1 At its last meeting the Committee considered the need for measures to protect the Green from traveller incursions and resolved that certain defensive works be undertaken. These have been included in a list of projects being processed by the Parks and Amenities section and are expected to be progressed later this financial year.

3. Horse Ride Clearance Works

3.1 Bramble and other vegetation has been cleared from the northern end of the woodland horse ride, where it joins Castle Hill Road. The route is in use, but will require to be cut back occasionally in order to keep it open.

4. Football Goalposts and Goalmouths

4.1 The goalpost at the northern end of the Green has been relocated, slightly further away from the tree line, making it easier to use. Following an enquiry from one of the Committee's Residents Representatives, the goalpost at the southern end has been reduced in size slightly. This goal will also need to be relocated later in the year so that the area of worn grass can be reinstated.

5. Drinking on the Green

5.1 Since the last meeting, a local resident has expressed concern about Barley Mow patrons who buy drinks in the pub and then consume them on the Green. The Barley Mow has a justice's "on-licence" without conditions. Liquor sold on the premises can be taken and

consumed elsewhere. There is no prohibition under the Council's byelaws on the consumption of alcohol on Englefield Green. If this is an issue of concern then representations may be made to the licensing justices with a view to having a condition imposed, on renewal, restricting consumption to the licensed premises only.

6. Tree Works

- 6.1 The basal growths and lower branches have been removed from two small trees close to the cricket pavilion. This followed a request from a mother who takes her children to the play area on the Green and expressed concern about the possibility of persons hiding amongst the vegetation.

7. Grass Cutting on Highway Verges

- 7.1 Members will have noticed recently the length of the grass on Highway verges. The maintenance of these areas has been managed by Surrey County Council, through its Local Transportation Service, since April 2002. The triangle of grass at the top of Middle Hill has always been cut as part of the highway, but is actually part of the Green and therefore under the auspices of this Committee. Earlier this year Surrey County Council changed its contracting arrangements and put all of its highway works (road maintenance, signage, tree maintenance, grass cutting etc) under two contracts, one for the East of the County and one for the West. The current problems with the grass not being cut are seen as 'teething problems' with this new arrangement. Officers at the County Council are confident that these have been resolved and efforts are now being made to catch up. It is hoped to have the grass cutting back on schedule fairly soon.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None Stated.

7. FOOTWAYS (DAL)

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, December 2002, page 857, para 477)

1. Works to provide a new footway along Bishopsgate Road are nearing completion, with the footway itself having been constructed. There is, however, some tidying of the adjacent area still to do and Officers are liaising with colleagues at Surrey County Council to ensure that this is satisfactorily completed.
2. The County Council has also put forward a further proposal to install another new footway, along the north-west side of the part of Coopers Hill Lane which runs from St Jude's Road to the triangle of grass at the front of Brunel University. The proposal is again for a 2 metre wide tarmac footway and the location is shown on the plan at Appendix 'B'. The Crown Estate has previously highlighted this area as a priority when considering new footways in the vicinity. However, it will be necessary to obtain formal approval.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

subject to the approval of the Crown Estate, Surrey County Council be authorised to install a footway to the north-west side of Coopers Hill Lane as set out above

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None.

8. CAR PARKING

1. A local resident has raised the issue of parking on the roads around the Green. This is seen as particularly problematic at the southern end, and on the Green itself. The concerns raised are that parking in some areas, particularly close to junctions, is dangerous, in other areas

causes obstruction of the road, and where vehicles are partially, or completely, parked on the grass it causes damage to the fabric of the Green.

2. Discussions have taken place with Surrey County Council regarding the possibility of introducing additional parking restrictions in certain areas and Members are asked to consider these. In addition it is suggested that the existing granite kerb, which can be seen along the southern end of the Green, be extended along the back of the Green to link up with the similar kerb at the northern end. Further details of the various proposals will be provided at the meeting, together with estimated costs, and Members are asked to consider the merits of each.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO –

comment on the proposals and instruct Officers as to how they wish to proceed.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None.

9. HONORARY WARDENS (DAL)

1. Members have previously considered the possibility of appointing Honorary Wardens for Englefield Green and asked that a report be brought before the Committee describing how this works elsewhere in the Borough.
2. The Council has Honorary Wardens at six of its parks and open spaces. They are normally local residents who use a particular park on a regular basis and take a keen interest in its upkeep. They are 'appointed' by the Parks and Amenities Manager as an additional source of information regarding the park. There is no requirement for a particular level of input from them and this is left to the individual. The amount of time and effort put in by different Wardens varies considerably. Some undertake works such as grass cutting, strimming, litter picking etc, and even lead walks of the site, whilst others simply keep an eye on the area when they visit. All provide an important source of information, reporting to the Parks and Amenities section any concerns they have regarding maintenance, vandalism, or misuse of the site. They are entirely voluntary and receive no payment, but are fully supported by Officers and, where appropriate, provided with basic equipment, as approved by the Parks and Amenities Manager. All are issued with cards, which identify them as Honorary Wardens operating on behalf of the Council. More recently, Honorary Wardens have been consulted regarding the contents of management plans which are being drawn up for a number of sites.
3. Honorary Wardens are not invested with any powers and are always advised not to become directly involved with any incident, or to confront park users over any matters. They are encouraged to report incidents instead, either to the Police, Safer Runnymede or to Parks staff.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None

10. BULB PLANTING (DAL)

The Englefield Green Village Residents Association has approached Officers with the suggestion that the edge of the Green, along St Jude's Road, would, in its opinion, look very attractive planted with bulbs. In the past the Association has planted some at the northern end and on the grass triangles opposite the Green at that end, and feel it would be nice to add to that display at the southern end. Taking into account the fact that daffodils have to be left uncut for 6 – 8 weeks after flowering to ensure a good display the following year, Members are asked to consider this suggestion. Officers are of the opinion that if bulbs are to be planted on the Green they should be in

large drifts rather than small groups, thereby having greater impact when in flower and a more natural appearance. The planting of any bulbs in the southern part of the Green should be deferred until the traveller protection works in the same location have been completed.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO –

Comment on the proposals and instruct Officers as to how it wishes to proceed

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None.

11. URGENT ACTION – STANDING ORDER 42 (DAL)

The following action has been taken after consultation with the Leader of the Council, in the absence of a Chairman of this Committee, under Standing Order 42.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Central Index No.</u>
Director of Administration and Leisure	Authorisation for the Englefield Green Village Residents Association to use the Green for its annual fair on 21 June 2003.	531

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

Proforma number 531 on Head of Corporate Administration's file.

12. 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

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

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