

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REVIEW BOARD

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2004

AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ADDLESTONE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

5. CALL-IN - PROPOSED POND AT BOURNE MEADOW (DAL)

In connection with paragraph 3.2 of the report, the draft Minute of the Leisure and Environment Committee's discussion at its meeting on 16 September 2004 on the proposed pond, at Bourne Meadow is attached, (marked as Appendix 'B' "to follow" on the main Agenda).

Mr Walker, the Chairman of the Association for the Improvement of Runnymede (AIR), will be speaking at the meeting. Mr Loveday, the Chairman of the Chertsey Society, has also been invited to speak at the meeting.

Reproduced below is the draft Minute from Leisure and Environment Committee, 16 September 2004, in respect of the proposed pond at Bourne Meadow.

PROPOSED POND AT BOURNE MEADOW

The Committee received a report which outlined a proposal to create a pond at Bourne Meadow.

The purpose of the pond was twofold; namely as an additional natural feature which would visually enhance the area around the River Bourne, and one which would have a limited effect on flooding in the area. Pipes would link the pond to the River Bourne, so that in the event of the field becoming flooded in the Winter months and remaining so for extended periods owing to the topography of the site, flood water would more speedily return to the river through the aforementioned pipes.

When the site was excavated to create the pond, unwanted soil, amounting to approximately 920 cubic metres, could be used to replace contaminated soil which was due to be removed from the Bemonds site in the near future. This proposal would save the cost of purchasing soil to be imported into Bemonds. It would also save the cost of disposal of arisings from the pond at landfill, estimated to be £17,000.

The total cost of the scheme was estimated to be £57,000. Funding for the proposed scheme had, in part, been secured from the Environment Agency and SITA Environmental Trust, through an application made by the Association for the Improvement of Runnymede (AIR) each to a value of £17,500. This left a shortfall of £22,000 to be met by the Council.

The funding situation was however not clear cut. The Environment Agency had originally offered cash funding of £17,500. The Environment Agency had since reduced the cash offer to 'in-kind' funding. This would take the form of the Environment Agency providing the equipment and labour required to manage and execute the scheme in accordance with the Council's drawings and specification, to a value of £17,500.

The grant from SITA had started life elsewhere. Originally, the grant was earmarked for a flood alleviation scheme in Chertsey which consisted of raising the footpaths in Gogmore Farm Park. This project had not been progressed, and funding had then been directed towards a balancing pond at the Barrsbrook Farm site. However, this too had not gone ahead and Officers finally settled upon a proposal to create a pond at Bourne Meadow.

Members noted that if approval was given to the proposal, Ward Members, Chertsey Society and local residents would be consulted. If the parties agreed with the scheme, planning permission would then need to be sought.

The Committee were informed that there was a time limit on funding from SITA Environmental Trust. Given the delay necessitated by consultation and applying for planning permission if the scheme was approved, it was possible that the SITA grant of £17,500 would in any case be lost. It was confirmed that there was no other scheme which could utilise the grant at this time.

Although some Members considered that any scheme which would help to alleviate flooding would be worthwhile, the Committee agreed that the proposal would not sufficiently address the problem of flooding to justify expenditure of £22,000 and on going maintenance costs of approximately £1,750 per annum. In addition, Members concluded that the value of the pond was not outweighed by the potential saving of £17,000, in landfill costs, achieved by re-using the soil from the pond at the Bemonds site.

**RESOLVED that -**

**no further action be taken in respect of the proposal to create a pond at Bourne Meadow.**