



**ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE  
3 NOVEMBER 2009**

**APPENDICES**

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ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

23 June 2009 at 7.00pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors P I Roberts (Chairman), P Taylor (Vice-Chairman), H W V Meares, Miss M N Heath and M T Kusneraitis

Residents' Representatives: Mrs L Lawson and Mr A E Panter

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor D R Hamilton

119. STATEMENT FROM OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

Firstly, Councillor Meares wished to congratulate the Englefield Green Village Residents Association on a very successful Village Fair last Saturday. The event saw a 30% increase in stalls and sponsorship and attendance was approximately 3000. Particular thanks were given to Martin Smith, Melanie Frobisher, Bob Green, Debbie Norwood, Ros Robinson, John Scott, Nick Stopps and Christine Welch.

Secondly, Councillor Meares stated that Councillor Kusneraitis would have been nominated as Chairman, but owing to work commitments Councillor Kusneraitis indicated he did not wish his name to go forward on this occasion.

120. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED that -**

**Councillor Roberts be elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2009/10.**

121. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED that -**

**Councillor Taylor be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2009/10.**

122. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 February 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor D Hamilton.

124. PLAY AREA EXTENSION

The Committee considered whether to discuss this report in public or private, in view of the legal and financial considerations disclosed in the report. The Chairman informed the Committee of the advice given by the Director of Administration and Leisure. The Committee in noting the advice considered that the report should be discussed in public particularly in view of the level of public interest and as there was no need to refer directly to the detailed legal and financial issues in order to come to a decision as to whether to proceed with the Public Inquiry into the extension of the play area.

The Committee was informed that the Planning Inspectorate would hold a public inquiry into this proposal due to the number of representations they had received and the complexity of the issues raised. The inquiry was scheduled to start on the 3 November and was expected to last 3 days.

The Council had been told that this was the earliest date that the inspector would be available for such an inquiry and had written to the Planning Inspectorate accepting this date.

In accordance with the wishes expressed by the Members previously the Council had contacted a number of potential local venues to hold the inquiry including Holloway College, The Jurgen Centre and local hotels and the only suitable venue available was the Savill Court Hotel.

The estimated cost of the public inquiry was reported and this excluded the substantial amount of Officer time that would be involved. This cost included the hire of the venue, engaging Counsel to present the Council's case and the provision of facilities and office equipment. It was expected that 2 leisure staff and 1 member of the legal team would also be required to attend the inquiry.

The Committee was informed of the number of representations received by the Planning Inspectorate on the proposal. There had been 34 letters against the proposal which included 22 letters from Englefield Green residents. 4 letters of objection had also been received from residents living outside the Runnymede Borough. The other letters were from other residents in the local area, from the Open Space Society, Sport England and from the Campaign for Protection of Rural England. There had been 250 letters for the proposal. 134 of these came from Englefield Green residents. The remainder of the letters came from residents in the local area. The Englefield Green Residents Association which currently had 600 members also supported the proposal.

The Committee considered that as it had consistently supported this proposal over the last 4 years and taking into account the large volume of public support for the application it was appropriate to proceed with the Public Inquiry. As there was no provision for expenditure of this type or magnitude in the Committee's budget, the Corporate Management Committee would be asked to approve a supplementary estimate at its meeting on 25 June. The Committee, however, did ask Officers to look at ways to reduce the costs of the public inquiry.

**RESOLVED that -**

**the public inquiry scheduled for 3 November be proceeded with and the Corporate Management Committee be requested to approve a supplementary estimate in the sum reported to fund the cost associated with the Inquiry.**

125. ENGLEFIELD GREEN – LEASE AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION

The Committee was advised in summary, of various matters relating to the Committee and the Green, namely, the Committee's Terms of Reference, provisions in the Crown Lease, provisions in the Scheme of Management, effect of Village Green Status and the provisions under the Commons Act 2006. The combination of these controls ensured the maintenance and preservation of the Green as a Green and the control of the activities that might take place on the Green.

The Committee requested a report be submitted to the next meeting on details of the Inclosure Act. A Member referred to a letter from the Open Space Society regarding fencing around the Cricket Green and it was confirmed that Officers would respond to the letter and copy the reply to Members of the Committee.

126. ENGLEFIELD GREEN CRICKET CLUB - LICENCE

The Committee was updated on the current position regarding the grant of the Licence to the Englefield Green Cricket Club.

The licence documentation had now been amended and sent to the Cricket Club's legal adviser whose view was awaited.

The Club had increased its membership and recently achieved promotion. The Committee hoped that the completion of the licence could now move to a timely conclusion.

A member of the Committee asked if the Club would be interested in becoming involved in future inter-cricket pub competitions.

127. PREMISES LICENCE

The Committee was informed that the Council had applied for licences under the Licensing Act 2003 for those open spaces where annual community events such as fetes and fairs were held, including Englefield Green. These licences would allow certain types of entertainment and would remove the need for organisers of events to obtain individual licences each year and would simplify the planning of their events. Further discussions with Planning Officers were currently being undertaken to address certain issues and an updated report would be submitted to the next meeting. There were no plans to increase the number of events at any of the licensed sites

Officers confirmed that at Englefield Green permission for individual events would still be subject to views of this Committee and in the absence of a scheduled meeting, the view of the Chairman would be sought. Other Members would be informed to enable the Chairman to give a consensus view on any application.

128. HONORARY WARDENS REPORT

The Committee was advised that the Honorary Wardens had expressed concern about the reinstatement of grass along the edge of the Green opposite the children's playground. This area had been reinstated after the County Council repaired the edge of the road surface but, because people continued to park cars on it, the grass had not grown and there was now a narrow strip of bare earth. Officers would investigate options for preventing recurrent damage including the possibility of installing wooden posts. Responsibility for maintenance of the verge would also be established by Officers.

A member of the Committee asked if the cost of the damage recently caused to the verge by a large vehicle had been recovered and Officers would look into this.

With regard to the improved litter collection, it was reported that the Council's Direct Services Organisation had been more proactive in their litter collection regime and Officers were monitoring the situation more closely.

129. CHURCH EVENT

St Jude's Church in Englefield Green, was celebrating its Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) anniversary this year. As part of the celebrations, they had planned a number of events for the whole community, including a programme of monthly concerts and a historical exhibition. During the next few months, they were planning a summer fair, an exhibition of children's artwork from St Jude's school, a flower festival, the Runnymede Art Society annual exhibition, a scavenger/treasure hunt and a hog roast.

The Church had approached the Council seeking permission to hold the hog roast on the Green. Members felt the church to be the core of the village and fully supported their celebrations including the hog roast.

**RESOLVED that -**

**the principle of St Jude's Church having a hog roast on Englefield Green as part of its Sesquicentennial celebrations be approved and Officers be authorised to approve the event application when received.**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.02pm)



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17 July 2009

Mr R Comber  
Whistlestop  
Trumps Green Close  
Virginia Water  
GU25 4DY

Dear Mr Comber

**Events on Englefield Green**

I am writing about the Jamaica Stylee cricket match and fun day held on Englefield Green on 12 July.

We have received several complaints about the volume of the music being played during this event. Local Councillors also received complaints and both they and the Honorary Wardens confirm the unacceptable level from their own observations. The noise was heard several streets away and this despite the assurance in your event application that 'the sound level will be considerably lower than at annual events such as the funfairs held on the green'. We had one complaint from a resident who claimed it could be clearly heard near St Jude's Close, more than 300 metres away. It was reportedly still audible at St Jude's Church.

At one point one of the Honorary Wardens for the Green approached the pavilion and complained to the two men operating the music controls and to a member of the Club. He explained who he was and told them that the music could be clearly heard three streets away and that it was excessive. The member of the cricket club is reported to have been very uncooperative and just said that they had the councils permission. Although the volume was reduced for a time it subsequently reverted back to its original volume with a thumping bass added.

The Englefield Green Committee Members, who authorise events on the Green, not only wish the cricket club to be advised of the disruption and public nuisance they caused, but have asked that any further music approvals be rescinded until a satisfactory system for controlling noise at events can be established with the club. Accordingly music will not be allowed to be broadcast outside of the pavilion at the sports fun day on 2nd August or the annual Club Day on 30th August unless we have such a system in place. Initial thoughts are that local Councillors, Council staff and the Honorary Wardens have a contact number of someone at the club who will be attending future events and would be a point of contact responsible for ensuring there is adequate control, and for ensuring that any directions given by the Council were followed. The Committee will no doubt want to be satisfied that the system works before considering future requests to use the Green.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon and hope we can agree an acceptable solution before your next event.

Yours sincerely

**PETER WINFIELD**  
Parks and Amenities Manager  
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Richard Comber (Fixtures Secretary, Englefield Green Cricket Club)  
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29<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Mr Peter Winfield  
Parks and Amenities Manager  
Runnymede Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Station Road  
Addlestone  
Surrey KT15 2AH

Dear Mr Winfield

**RE: Englefield Green Cricket Club T.E.N. on Sunday 12 July 2009**

Thank you for your letter of 17 July in which you outline complaints received by the council relating to noise and subsequent withdrawal of permissions granted for fixtures dated 2 August and 30 August.

Further to my letter of 13 July to your colleague Mr Peter Burke, I reiterate that the format of the day was exactly as outlined in my application for permission:

"The event is a format cricket match. During the game, recorded music is played from the clubhouse. We expect a crowd of fewer than 150 spectators within the area described in section 4. The sound system used is a p.a.500W as used at open air events and based in the same area and taking power from The Pavilion. Music will end when the match ends. Timed 14:30 to 21:00"

And in the application to the Green Committee:

"The Club will be holding a 'Jamaica Stylee' cricket match against a West Indian Team. It is intended to provide some musical entertainment whilst playing this match, which is becoming an annual event, having been played for the last three years on the Green. Whilst audible at the pavilion and directed towards the pitch, the sound level will be considerably lower than at annual events such as the Funfairs held on The Green. The number of people expected to spectate will not be more than 150."

The music being played was as loud as predicted. The type of music I would describe as 'happy summer pop', typical of any open air event and in no way offensive. Whilst there will inevitably be those that dislike any type of noise or disturbance wherever it may be, by applying up front for permission and this being granted, we believed that at least we had properly complied with the requirements of the Englefield Green Committee.

By following correct procedure, we have a defence against any generally dogmatic complaints. It was no louder than any of the previous 2 years. As for how far away it is claimed it could be heard, possibly because there was no wind, the sound may have carried more than usual. The fairground noise is less directional but easily as loud. I stress again that once the official on duty telephoned me, I took action immediately.

Richard Comber (Fixtures Secretary, Englefield Green Cricket Club)  
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It is worth pointing out at this stage that on previous occasions, we have had people stop by and complain to us about all the black people on the Green at this event – highly inappropriate I am sure you will agree. We have taken deep offence at this and therefore, when the warden came over and talked to someone about it being 'offensive', it was taken with a pinch of salt.

As I explained to your colleague Mr Burke, at the club, we support diversity and we strive not to discriminate. This day has been set aside for our ex-players and their families for the past three years to enjoy a summer cricket match with us to music and celebrate their Caribbean culture, in what was a fun day out for everyone involved, complete with Caribbean Barbeque.

Upon receipt of a call from the EHO team, I took immediate action, timed at 7.30pm and the music was moved inside the club house by 7.45pm. This action was fair and reasonable in line with the cricket having finished and my commitment that it would cease when the match ended in the TEN application.

No doubt the cricket club will be looking to stage this fixture in the future years. This means that a suitable and mutually agreed noise level and system of monitoring and control should be put in place before next July. Perhaps you could tell us how agreements are reached and events monitored for other organisations. Members of the club are particularly interested to hear how events at Holloway that go on into the small hours and the China White event at the Cartier Polo are monitored – all of which can be clearly heard by residents in Englefield Green. I point out again that my contact numbers were on the application forms, I was present at the event yet I was not contacted officially until 7.30pm, at which point I took immediate action. Before this point, my personal opinion is that the music was certainly loud, but also happy, appropriate and fun.

So far as the TENS for the 2 August and 30 August, these we can manage without music outside and this will be actioned on your behalf. The events will still go ahead in their normal formats as described. This should remove these pressure points for you.

We know we will never be able to please everyone; yet we believe we have as much right to exist as a cricket club as our local residents do, in choosing where they live; and both sets of rights are surely not mutually exclusive. Cricket is a leisure and social pursuit, played for over 100 years on the Green and is open to all.

This event has happened 3 times: one day a year for the past three years in exactly the same format. It is a daytime event, not an evening one and is inclusive, diverse and fun. We apologise to any resident that felt the need to complain about noise, as this was not our intention.

I trust this answers your specific questions and addresses the complaints from the club's perspective.

Kind regards  
Yours sincerely

Richard Comber  
Fixtures Secretary and T.E.N Applicant.

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25 August 2009

Mr R Comber  
Fixtures Secretary EGCC  
Whistlestop  
Trumps Green Close  
Virginia Water  
GU25 4DY

Dear Mr Comber

### **Jamaica Stylee cricket match**

Thank you for your reply to my letter about the Jamaica Stylee cricket match held on Englefield Green in July. On receipt of your reply I circulated copies to members of the Englefield Green Committee and other colleagues for comment.

Some members of the Committee, who live in Englefield Green and heard the music themselves, believe that it was louder than in previous years. Some also report receiving more complaints than in previous years indicating that several residents felt this was the case too. All the complaints received relate to noise levels and nothing else.

The club seems to be confusing the various permissions and controls that are relevant in this case and an explanation may be helpful. All events on Englefield Green require the approval of the Englefield Green Committee before they go ahead. As a completely separate issue, the Council is responsible for granting licences, certificates and notices (in this case a Temporary Event Notice (TEN)) for certain licensable activities right across the borough (activities which may form part of a larger event). So in this case the Englefield Green Committee approved the whole event and the TEN licensed some of the activities. The Council's Environmental Protection Division investigates noise complaints, however they occur, and take action to resolve them, but this is unrelated to the issuing of a TEN or the approval of the Committee.

The key point here is that the club requires the approval of the Englefield Green Committee for events on the green and it is Committee members who are concerned about the noise levels at this event.

Your letter enquires about the monitoring of noise from other events around Englefield Green. The event at the Guards Polo Club was licensed by a neighbouring Borough as it straddles the county boundary. Our own licensing authority made an application for the premises licence to be reviewed, and appropriate control measures were put in place, but this is somewhat irrelevant as this and the other events you mention do not require the approval of the Englefield Green Committee.

For similar events in the future, Committee members are still looking for measures to be in place to control noise levels and would like the agreement of the club that the contact name and phone number of a club member, who would be responsible for the event, and who would act on any complaints, be circulated to Committee members, Council staff and the Honorary Wardens prior to the event.

An alternative could be to deal with it through the licensing process. Control measures cannot be added to a TEN, either by the applicant, responsible authority or licensing authority. However, such measures may be added to a Club Premises Certificate (CPC). If the club were to apply to vary their CPC to include this annual event then there would be no further need for a TEN (providing the variation application was

to be granted). Suitable control measures regarding public nuisance, in line with the Councils Licensing Policy could be added.

The Committee will no doubt want measures to be in place to control noise levels before approving similar requests to use the Green and I look forward to hearing how the club intends to achieve this.

Yours sincerely



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