



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(Surrey Heath)

Sunningdale Golf Course Rights of Way Closures

10th July 2008

KEY ISSUE

This Report considers whether a Temporary Traffic Order (TRO) should be made for the temporary closure of Footpaths 75 and 75A (Windlesham), Footpaths 75A, 77, 77C (Chobham), Bridleways 76 and 76A (Chobham) and Footpath 5 (Sunningdale) to facilitate the holding of the 2008 Ricoh Women's British Open.

SUMMARY

IMG UK Ltd have applied for the temporary closure of sections of Footpaths 75 and 75A (Windlesham), Footpaths 75A, 77, 77C (Chobham), Bridleways 76 and 76A (Chobham) and Footpath 5 (Sunningdale) from 28 July to 3 August between 0500hrs and 2100hrs to facilitate the 2008 Ricoh Women's British Open. The County Council has a power to make a TRO under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984) to temporarily restrict or prohibit traffic for the purpose of facilitating the holding of a sporting event, enabling members of the public to watch a sporting event, or reducing the disruption of traffic likely to be caused by a sporting event. The Secretary of State's consent is required before a TRO is made where the TRO is to last for longer than 3 days.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath)

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to authorise officers to apply to the Secretary of State for consent to make a TRO, and if the Secretary of State gives consent, to make an TRO under Section 16A of the RTRA 1984 to temporarily prohibit footpath and bridleway users from the sections of Footpaths 75 and 75A (Windlesham), Footpaths 75A, 77, 77C (Chobham), Bridleways 76 and 76A (Chobham) and Footpath 5 (Sunningdale) shown on drawing 3/1/81/H65

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The 2008 Ricoh Women's British Open will be played at Sunningdale Golf Course from the 31 July to 3 August 2008. The tournament is one of the four majors in women's golf and boasts the most international field of any women's golf event.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2. The tournament's stature has increased significantly since the tournament was first held at Sunningdale in 2004, and as a result the number of expected spectators has significantly increased. The promoters of the event are very conscious of the safety of the public, crowd management control and security during the championship, which is why it is considered that the closures are necessary.
3. The County Council has a power under Section 16A RTRA 1984) to temporarily restrict or prohibit the use of a road, or any part of it, by vehicles, or vehicles of any class, or by pedestrians to such extent and subject to such conditions or exceptions as they may consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of facilitating the holding of a relevant event, enabling members of the public to watch a relevant event, or reducing the disruption of traffic likely to be caused by a relevant event. A relevant event includes a sporting event. Before making a TRO the County Council must be satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable for the event to be held otherwise than on a road. The Secretary of State's consent is required where the TRO is to continue for longer than 3 days.

CONSULTATION

4. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have been consulted and have agreed to the Order's inclusion of Footpath 5 Sunningdale.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The cost of advertising and processing the Order will be approximately £1,800, which will be met by IMG UK Ltd.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no sustainable development implications.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no crime and disorder implications.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7. The Human Rights Act 1998 imposes an obligation on local authorities to act in accordance with the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights ("the Convention Rights"). Infringements of Convention Rights by local authorities are enforceable in the UK courts. Primary legislation, of which the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 is an example, must be given effect in a way which is compatible with the Convention Rights. Where a local authority must act in a particular way to comply with primary or

secondary legislation, it is not required to consider Convention Rights. Where, as in this case, the local authority has discretion to take action under the legislation, consideration must first be given as to whether that action will interfere with any of the Convention Rights. The officer recommendation to Members is not considered to interfere with any Convention Rights.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Officer's consider that the criteria for making a temporary TRO has been met and the Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to agree that a temporary prohibition of traffic order is made, with the Secretary of States consent, for a period of seven days from 28 July to 3 August between 0500 and 2100, prohibiting footpath and bridleway users from Footpaths 75 and 75A (Windlesham), Footpaths 75A, 77, 77C (Chobham), Bridleways 76 and 76A (Chobham) and Footpath 5 (Sunningdale) as shown on drawing No. 3/1/81/H65 (Annex A).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Order should be made for reasons of public safety, crowd management control and security.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10. If it is agreed that the Order should be made, the Secretary of States consent will be sought to make the Order for a period a period of seven days from 28 July to 3 August between 0500hrs and 2100hrs.

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| BACKGROUND PAPERS: | None |

No of annexes:1