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Simon Young, Solicitor
Head of Legal and Democratic Services



To: All Members of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators

Dear Councillor

EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSERVATORS - WEDNESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2017

Please find attached the following reports for the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators to be held on Wednesday, 4th October, 2017. These were not included in the original Agenda pack published previously.

2. **ITEMS OF INTEREST DISCUSSED BY THE TRAINING GROUNDS MANAGEMENT BOARD (TGMB)** (Pages 3 - 4)

To consider any items of interest to the Conservators discussed at recent meetings of the Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB).

7. **MINUTES OF THE EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** (Pages 5 - 10)

To consider any issues arising from the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 18 September 2017.

For further information, please contact Tim Richardson, 01372 732122 or trichardson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Young'.

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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**ITEMS OF INTEREST DISCUSSED BY THE TRAINING GROUNDS
MANAGEMENT BOARD (TGMB)**

Report of the: Chairman of the Conservators
Contact: Tim Richardson
Annexes/Appendices (attached): None
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Conservators with an update on items considered by the Epsom and Walton Downs Training Grounds Management Board.

1 Items considered by the Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB)

1.1 The TGMB last met on 15 September 2017. The Chairman of the Conservators and Training Grounds Manager (Mr Nigel Whybrow) have provided the following report on items considered by the Board, for the Conservators' information.

2 Trainers' Open Day

2.1 The Trainers' Open Day was well attended and feedback received was very positive.

3 The improvements to the Queens stand crossing

3.1 Nick Patton is following up this matter with Surrey County Council Highways Service, and the TGMB is offering to contribute to the costs of the work.

4 Downskeepers

4.1 The TGMB were disappointed to hear that staffing levels are still an issue for the Downskeepers.

5 Cedar point

5.1 The Jockey Club's appointed solicitors lodged a objection to the recent planning application.

6 Winners

6.1 Epsom trained horses continue to perform well with 7 more winners than at the same time last year.

7 Horse numbers

7.1 Racehorses using the training grounds are up 8% from last year.

8 Hatched area

8.1 The hatched area was opened up for hack riders to use and has worked well, but a clearer boundary is needed which will be worked on.

EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the: Clerk to the Conservators
Contact: Tim Richardson
Annexes/Appendices (attached): **Annexe 1** - Minutes of the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 18 September 2017.
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

To consider any issues arising from the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 18 September 2017.

1 Items for the attention of the Conservators

1.1 The Minutes from the meeting of Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 18 September 2017 are attached as the **Annexe** to this report. The following issues discussed by the Consultative Committee are highlighted for the attention of the Conservators:

- **Minute No. 6 c,d,e,g,h) – Works to hack rides and vegetation on the Downs.** The works listed were considered by the Committee. A responses to each item is detailed in the Minutes.
- **Minute No.6 f) – Notice to hack riders of the poor state of the hack sand track.** The Chairman informed the Committee that she would suggest to the Conservators that they write to local stables to inform hack riders of the poor state of the track.
- **Minute No.7 – Condition of concrete posts adjacent to the racecourse track.** It was noted that the Streetcare Manager would look into this matter and identify who was responsible for their maintenance.
- **Minute No. 8 – Dates of meetings in 2018.** The Committee will meet on 12 March and 17 September 2018.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held on 18 September 2017

PRESENT -

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman); Hugh Craddock (British Horse Society) (Items 4 - 9 only), Simon Durrant (Epsom Downs Racecourse) and Nigel Whybrow (Training Grounds Management Board).

In Attendance: Caroline Baldock (Epsom Equestrian Conservation Group), Angela Clifford (Epsom Civic Society), Bob Eberhard (Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group), Nick Harrison (Tattenhams Residents' Association) (Items 2 -9 only), David Lambert (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club), Roger Marples (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club), Steven McCormick (Woodcote Residents' Association) and Conor Morrow (Lower Mole Countryside Management Service) (Items 2 - 9 only)

Absent: Councillor Jean Steer and Alex Stewart (Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society); Richard Balsdon (College Ward Residents' Association)

Officers present: Simon Young (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Sam Beak (Downs Manager), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) (Items 2 - 9 only) and Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Officer)

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 13 March 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Committee received and noted a report providing updates on matters raised previously.

3 REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head Downskeeper.

4 ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CONSERVATORS

The Committee received and considered a report providing a summary of items of interest considered at meetings of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 19 April and 17 July 2017.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DERBY RACE MEETING

The Committee provided verbal comments on matters arising from the 2017 Derby race meeting. The following matters were considered:

- a) **Racecourse view of the 2017 Derby.** The Epsom Downs Racecourse representative informed the Committee that the Derby festival had been highly successful and thanked the Downskeeper team for their assistance over the period.
- b) **Post-Derby clearance.** It was noted that the post-Derby litter clearance and tidy-up of the Downs had been very good.
- c) **Traffic cones on Beech Grove.** The Tattenhams Residents' Association representative expressed thanks that the upper section of Beech Grove had been coned this year, and requested that similar arrangements be included in the traffic management plan for future years. The Racecourse representative responded that this would be done.

6 ISSUES RAISED BY THE HACK RIDERS REPRESENTATIVES

The following matters were raised by the Hack Rider Representatives:

- a) **Parking on the grassland enclosed by Tattenham Corner Road, Langley Vale Road (north of the underpass) and the racecourse railings.** The Hack Rider representative informed the Committee that this area had in the past been closed to vehicles outside racing periods through the use of barriers, but that these were no longer in place. The representative expressed concern that if the barriers were no longer in place, the use of this area for parking could become habitual. The Chairman informed the meeting that the use of barriers to control access to this area would be included in the consultation to be undertaken on the grassland adjacent to the Derby Arms public house (see b) below).
- b) **Use of the Derby Arms grassland for parking pending consultation.** The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Committee that officers had undertaken research into the use of this area for car parking and would report this to the next meeting of the Conservators.
- c) **Scrub clearance along the hack ride at the top of Rifle Butts Alley.** The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that this work was ongoing and would continue. The Hack Rider representative informed the Committee that the top braided section of the ride became very muddy during wet weather, and that further clearance would assist in it drying out.
- d) **Vegetation clearance along the hack ride between Burgh Heath Road and Longdown Lane South.** The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that this would be added to the Downskeepers' winter work programme.

- e) **Marking of the hatched area ride.** It was noted that the Streetcare Manager and TGMB representative would review the marking of the area, as it was currently not clear to hack riders where its boundary was.
- f) **Notice to hack riders of the poor state of the sand track.** The Chairman informed the Committee that she would suggest to the Conservators that they write to local stables to inform them that the condition of the track was poor. However, it was noted that some riders travelled to the Downs from further away.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Committee that neither the Conservators or Racecourse were responsible for the maintenance of the track, as that responsibility lay with the Horse Race Betting Levy Board. As no reply had been received from the Board in response to letters sent to it by the Conservators (with regard to the maintenance of the track), officers were considering what further action could be taken.

- g) **Reinstatement of the afternoon ride at the top of Six Mile Hill (below where the polytrack used to start), and marking of the limits to the ride.** The Streetcare manager informed the meeting that in the view of the Downskeepers, the condition of this area would continue to improve over time, and that no further works were required in this regard. It was noted that the TGMB representative would arrange for some railings to be placed at the location to guide hack riders away from areas that they were not permitted to access.
- h) **Cutting of grass on The Hill (the limits of the hatched area had previously been marked by distinctive cuts to the grass).** It was noted that the Streetcare Manager would look into whether it would be possible to let the grass at the boundary of the area grow long, in order to more easily identify the area available for hack riding use.

7 ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following issues were raised by representatives to the Committee:

- a) **Condition of concrete posts adjacent to the race course.** The Epsom Civic Society representative provided the Committee with images of several concrete posts adjacent to the race course track which were damaged and at risk of collapse. It was noted that the Streetcare Manager would look into the matter.

8 DATE OF MEETINGS IN 2018

The Committee noted that officers would set the dates of meetings in 2018 and circulate them to all members and representatives.

Note: following the meeting it was confirmed that meetings of the Committee would be held on:

- **Monday 12 March 2018 at 6pm**
- **Monday 17 September 2018 at 6pm**

9 ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS

The Committee felt that no items from the meeting would require verbal representation to the Conservators.

The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.37 pm

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIRMAN)