

**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)