

EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday 17 September 2018 at 6.00 pm

Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Committee Members

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman)
Councillor Jean Steer MBE
Hugh Craddock, British Horse Society
Simon Durrant, Epsom Downs Racecourse
Alex Stewart, Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society
Nigel Whybrow, Training Grounds Management Board

Representatives invited to attend

Caroline Baldock, Epsom Equestrian Conservation Group	David Lambert, Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club
Richard Balsdon, College Ward Residents' Association	Roger Marples, Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club
Andrew Cooper, Epsom Downs Racecourse	Steven McCormick, Woodcote Residents' Association
Bob Eberhard, Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group	Conor Morrow, Lower Mole Countryside Management Service
Nick Harrison, Tattenhams Residents' Association	Stuart Walker, Epsom Golf Club
Margaret Hollins, Epsom Civic Society	

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Conservators

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

Agreed by the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee: **17 March 2014**

Ratified by the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators: **22 April 2014**

Terms of Reference:

To provide a means of regular consultation:-

- (a) on the future management and control of the tracks, rides, paths and areas for hack riding;
- (b) on the rights of horse riders on Epsom and Walton Downs pursuant to Section 15 of the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 and the byelaws made under the Act; and
- (c) on any other matters affecting the use and enjoyment of the Downs by the public.

Membership (voting rights)

The Committee shall comprise:

- (a) two Council members, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators (“the Conservators”);
- (b) a representative of Jockey Club Racecourses Ltd;
- (c) a representative of the trainers nominated by the Epsom and Walton Downs Training Grounds Management Board;
- (d) approved representative (and substitute as appropriate) from :-
 - (1) Epsom Downs Riders' Protection Association (or such other body or bodies for the time being as in the Conservators' view represents the interests of local horse riders);
 - (2) a representative of the British Horse Society;
- (e) such other persons as the Committee may co-opt on an ad-hoc basis for such period as the Committee may determine.

Quorum

A quorum of the Committee shall be three members including one member appointed by the Conservators and one representative of either the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Association (or such substitute body as may be specified under paragraph 3(d) above) or the British Horse Society.

Constitution document

The full Constitution of this Committee (detailing the membership, voting rights, administrative arrangements and other information) is available on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's website at the following address: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=173>

AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 8)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 March 2018 (attached) and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

2. REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive the report of the Head Downskeeper.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY THE HACK RIDERS REPRESENTATIVES

To discuss issues raised by Hack Riders Representatives. At the time of publication, there were no issues for inclusion in the agenda.

4. ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION

To discuss issues raised by representatives to the Committee, including the following:

- Management of deer on the Downs. Requested by Richard Balsdon, College Ward Resident's association representative.

5. ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS

To identify any items which the Committee wishes to be brought to the attention of the Conservators at their next meeting, and nominate a spokesperson to present them if appropriate.

6. DATE OF MEETINGS IN 2019 (Pages 11 - 12)

The Committee is requested to agree the dates of its normal meetings to be held in 2019.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE held on 12 March 2018**

PRESENT -

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman); Hugh Craddock (British Horse Society), Simon Durrant (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Alex Stewart (Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society) and Nigel Whybrow (Training Grounds Management Board).

In Attendance: Caroline Baldock (Epsom Equestrian Conservation Group), Richard Balsdon (College Ward Residents' Association), Angela Clifford (Epsom Civic Society), David Lambert (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club), Roger Marples (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club) and Steven McCormick (Woodcote Residents' Association)

Absent: Councillor Jean Steer, Andrew Cooper (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Bob Eberhard (Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group), Nick Harrison (Tattenhams Residents' Association), Conor Morrow (Lower Mole Countryside Management Service) and Stuart Walker (Epsom Golf Club)

Officers present: Kathryn Beldon (Clerk to the Conservators), Amardip Healy (Chief Legal Officer), Sam Beak (Downs Manager), Bob Harding (Head Downskeeper), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Officer)

10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 18 September 2017 had been omitted from the published agenda pack in error, and were circulated at the meeting. The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Committee received and noted a report providing updates on matters raised previously, and other items of interest. The following matters were considered:

- a) **Public consultation for parking on land in front of the Derby Arms Public House.** The British Horse Society (BHS) representative expressed that the BHS and the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society (EDPRS) had submitted detailed comments in response to the public consultation, and requested that these be presented to the Conservators in full when they considered the matter. The Epsom Civic Society (ECS)

representative made a similar request with regard to the consultation response submitted by the ECS.

- b) **Hack riding map for Downs users.** The Committee was informed that officers were in the process of producing a new hack riding information map for the Downs. It was noted that officers were consulting the Hack Rider representatives with regard to the map, and that following this it would be presented to the Conservators for approval. The Hack Rider representatives expressed their thanks to officers for their work to produce the map.
- c) **Hack sand track, foot of Walton Downs.** The Hack Rider representatives informed the meeting that they had received a response from the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) in relation to correspondence regarding the Hack Sand Track. The HBLB had agreed to meet the Hack Rider representatives to discuss the track's condition. The representatives enquired whether the Chairman, Clerk and Epsom Downs Racecourse representative would like to meet with them to discuss the matter prior to their meeting with the HBLB. The Chairman thanked the representatives for this offer, and it was noted that a response would be provided by officers following the meeting.
- d) **Condition of concrete posts adjacent to the racecourse.** The Committee was informed that Epsom Downs Racecourse was looking into this issue.
- e) **Works to water mains in the area adjacent to the Derby Arms Public House.** The Committee noted that these works were nearing conclusion.

12 REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER

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

13 ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CONSERVATORS

The Committee received and noted a summary of the items of interest considered at meetings of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 4 October 2017 and 22 January 2018, and the Minutes of those meetings.

14 ISSUES RAISED BY THE HACK RIDERS REPRESENTATIVES

The following matters were raised by the Hack Rider representatives:

- a) **Signposting/marker posts.** Officers informed the Committee that signposting and marker posts for hack rides would be reviewed following finalisation of the new hack ride information map (see Minute 11 b) above).
- b) **Scrub clearance.** Officers informed the Committee that it had not been possible to undertake scrub clearance work near the southern end of Rifle

Butts Alley this winter as urgent additional maintenance work had been required elsewhere on the Downs. If it was not possible to complete the work in advance of the bird nesting period, it be included in the schedule for next winter's work programme.

- c) **Use of the Hatched area for hack riding.** The Training Grounds Management Board representative informed the Committee that the hatched area was currently closed for hack riding due to the wet conditions. It would be reopened once conditions had improved.

The representative also informed the meeting that the area had not received a high level of use while it was open. A small number of cases of misuse of the area by hack riders had been witnessed. These had related to horses travelling too fast in the area, or encroaching upon the adjacent gallops.

- d) **Dog control.** The Committee noted that the dog walking information signs and other measures implemented since 2016 had been highly successful in improving dog control on the Downs.

15 ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following matter was raised by a representative to the Committee:

- a) **Byelaw sign for the model aircraft peg board.** The Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club representative enquired whether a byelaw sign could be installed on the rear of the model aircraft frequency peg board on the Downs. It was noted that officers would consider this.

16 ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS

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

The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.25 pm

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIRMAN)

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REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER

Head of Service/Contact: Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer
Annexes/Appendices (attached): None
Other available papers (not attached): None

Report summary

To receive the report of the Head Downskeeper.

Recommendation (s)

(1) To note the report

1 Conservation work on Juniper Hill

- 1.1 The Downskeepers have recently been carrying out conservation work on Juniper Hill in conjunction with the Lower Mole Project, Epsom & Ewell's Countryside Team and volunteers.
- 1.2 This work has included the removal of secondary woodland to expose and restore more of the chalk grassland and general scrub in line with the Habitat Management Plan.
- 1.3 Juniper Hill is one of the country's most significant areas of chalk grassland and is nationally recognised as a UK priority habitat.

2 Race Meetings and Events

- 2.1 There have been several race meetings since the Derby all of which ran smoothly with no issues reported.
- 2.2 The Trainer's Open Day was deemed a success with over 100 visitors in attendance.
- 2.3 The Gallops' Manager conveyed his thanks to the Downskeeper's for their support and assistance on the day.

3 Winter Work Programme

- 3.1 The Downkeepers are now working on drawing up the winter work programme, which will focus on continuing work from last winter to clear the scrub along the hack ride at the top of Rifle Butts Alley.

Ward(s) Affected: College Ward; Woodcote Ward;

DATE OF MEETINGS IN 2019

Head of Service/Contact: Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer
Annexes/Appendices (attached): None
Other available papers (not attached): None

Report summary

The Committee is requested to agree the dates of its normal meetings to be held in 2019.

Recommendation (s)

(1) That the Committee agrees to hold its meetings in 2019 on the following dates:

Monday 18 March 2019

Monday 16 September 2019

1 Background and proposals

1.1 The Committee has previously requested that its future meetings be held in advance of a meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators. It is suggested that the Committee agrees to hold its meetings in 2019 on the following dates:

Monday 18 March 2019 at 18.00 hours

Monday 16 September 2019 at 18.00 hours

1.2 The dates for meetings of the Conservators for 2019 have not yet been set, but it is anticipated that they will be in January, April, June and October.

2 Financial and Manpower Implications

2.1 None for the purposes of this report.

3 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

4 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5 Partnerships

5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

6 Risk Assessment

6.1 It is necessary to set dates for meetings of the Committee for the forthcoming year to enable it to process its business.

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is requested to agree the dates of its normal meetings to be held in 2019.

Ward(s) Affected: College Ward; Woodcote Ward;