

REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPERS

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

Report summary

This report presents the Head Downskeeper's update to the Conservators. It includes: recent events on the Downs, staffing, incidents on the Golf Course and habitat projects.

Recommendation (s)

(1) To note the report

1 Recent events on the Downs

1.1 Alzheimer's Memorial Walk took place in September, and was the first time it has been held on the Downs. The event ran smoothly without any issues or any significant damage to the Downs. The representatives were courteous and cooperative with Downskeepers. Heavy downpours may have affected numbers on the day. As a result, if the event is held again there may be higher participation.

2 Staffing

2.1 Recruitment has taken place and two people have been appointed to the post of Downskeeper. These two members of staff have worked for us for a period on the Downs through an agency and are familiar with the operations. Both have had horse handling training at Newmarket.

2.2 At present, all Downskeepers are either attaining a first aid qualification or refreshing their St Johns Ambulance training. This started in October and is continuing until all members have attended.

Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators

28 January 2019

3 Incidents on the golf course

- 3.1 Over two or three evenings there have been reports occurring of cars gaining access to the golf course via Downs Road. This had potential to cause significant damage to the golf course. As a result, the Downskeepers have erected a removable rail to prevent unauthorised access to the golf course. This is removed during training hours. Going forward, other options will be considered.

4 Habitat projects

- 4.1 The Downskeepers have installed several new habitat projects on the Downs to encourage the biodiversity on the Downs. A tawny owl box located near Langley Vale Farm copse, a kestrel box located near the 'triangle' and a bug hotel located at the glades. All were made and installed by the Downskeepers and made from mainly reclaimed substances.

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