

EPSOM DOWNS MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB (EDMAC) MOBILITY IMPAIRED PARKING

Head of Service: Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services
Wards affected: College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and
Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):

Summary

To request permission for accessible parking to be made available to Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club (EDMAC) on a permanent basis.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Grant permission for four accessible parking spaces near to the flying area, made available to members of EDMAC who are in possession of a blue badge.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 During Covid-19, temporary permission was granted to EDMAC to use an area on the Downs near the Model Aircraft Club flying zone for accessible parking for up to four vehicles. During this period there were no operational difficulties, security breaches or damage to the ground. Therefore, officers are comfortable recommending that this arrangement is re-instated for EDMAC members in possession of a blue badge on a permanent basis.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Consultative Committee Meeting on the 14 December 2022 representatives from EDMAC requested that the Conservators considered a request for members of the model aircraft flying club with severe mobility issues and who are in possession of a blue badge to have permission to park on the Downs near to the flying area.
- 2.2 This arrangement was successfully implemented on a temporary basis during Covid-19, when the top car park was closed to the public.

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- 2.3 During Covid-19 the Lead Downskeeper put the following procedures in place to accommodate a request from EDMAC for accessible parking on the Downs:

Procedures

- The Downskippers will place a combination padlock on the Walton Road gate and share the code with EDMAC. This combination lock is for EDMAC members only and will be attached to the standard gate padlock, so that either lock can be used to gain access, negating the need to share the combination lock code with racecourse staff, residents of Downs House, and contractors.
- EDMAC members using this facility are responsible for locking the gate behind them and scrambling the numbers on the combination lock to prevent unauthorised entry.
- Users of the accessible parking spaces may then proceed to drive slowly and carefully up the Walton Road to the area in front of the “Mile Post” gate where up to four vehicles can be parked safely near to the flying area.
- EDMAC members must not park beyond the hack posts to avoid conflict with hack riders.
- EDMAC agree to restrict this parking area to members of the club who are in possession of a blue badge and to maintain a booking system to ensure that no more than four members make use of the facility at any one time. Maintaining a booking system will also ensure that EDMAC can monitor who is using the facility, should an issue arise.

- 2.4 The above system was agreed in consultation with EDMAC and ran smoothly for several months without concerns from either party.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 The introduction of permanent scheme to offer accessible parking to members of EDMAC ensures that all members of the model aircraft club can enjoy the facilities with ease.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 The proposed procedures ensure that the site is secure to unauthorised vehicles therefore minimising the risk of anti-social behaviour.

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3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 none

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 The successful implementation of this scheme is dependent on the procedures being followed and the Downskeepers monitoring the scheme on an ongoing basis.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 none

4 Financial Implications

4.1 None for the purpose of this report

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Safe and well

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

- None

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

- If the procedures are adhered there are no sustainability or community safety implications.

6.5 **Partnerships:**

- This proposal reinforces the partnership between Conservators and members of the Consultative Committee

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7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee Minutes – 14 December 2022](#)

Other papers:

- None