

## EVENTS ON THE DOWNS 2025

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<b>Wards affected:</b>	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> – Application from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council to hold a Beacon Lighting Event <b>Appendix 2</b> – Events on the Downs – Previous Reports (2009-2014)

### Summary

This report informs Conservators of the current confirmed events on the 2025 Event Calendar for the Downs.

This report also seeks approval in principle to hold the 80th Anniversary of VE Day Beacon Lighting event at the View Point Car Park, Epsom and Walton Downs on 8 May 2025.

### Recommendation (s)

**The Conservators are asked to:**

- (1) Note the forthcoming Events Calendar for 2025.**
- (2) Grant approval to hold the 80<sup>th</sup> VE Day Beacon Lighting event at the View Point Car Park, Epsom and Walton Downs on 8 May 2025 in accordance with the Conservators' legal and policy obligations set out in section 5 of this report.**

### 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To note event applications already received for 2025 in line with the current Events on Downs Strategy.
- 1.2 To uphold the tradition of Beacon Lighting events on the Downs by approving the Beacon Lighting Event to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

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### 2 Events on the Downs

- 2.1 Events on the Downs have been consistent over the past few years with the same groups applying year-on-year.
- 2.2 At the January 2022 meeting, the Conservators agreed to delegate authority for approving small, previously held events on the Downs to the Streetcare Manager to create efficiencies in the event booking process.
- 2.3 The table below outlines the regular hirers of the Downs. All other events will be presented to the Conservators in the usual manner.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Category of Event</b>
Cloud Tramp	EDMAC	A
Trainers Open Day	Nigel Whybrow	B
Terrier Derby	Bob Pain	B
Pioneer Run	Sunbeam Motor Cycle Club	S
Cross Country League	Men's Surrey Cross Country League	B
Cross Country League (4 events each year)	Downs Young Athletes/Jeff Manson	A
Tadworth Ten	Tadworth Athletics Club	C
Easter Church Service	North Cheam Baptist Church	U
Sponsored Walk	Rotary Club of Banstead	A
Night Orienteering	Mole Valley Orienteering	A

### 3 Event Strategy

- 3.1 Events on the Downs are currently approved based on the Event Strategy the Conservators originally agreed in 2009.
- 3.2 The strategy set out a system for categorising events based on their likely impact on the Downs. Please see table below.

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Category	No of participants, organisers, and spectators	Likely impact
A	30 - 100	Low
B	100 - 500	Low/Medium
C	500 - 1000	Medium/High
D	More than 1000	Considerable and may need to be considered as an "event" under the Act.
S	<p>This category refers to events which primarily take place on land which does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Epsom &amp; Walton Downs Conservators but may have an impact on the Downs and Downs users. These include, and are not limited to:</p> <p>Events taking place on public highways which run across and adjacent to the Downs for which organisers may request the use of the Downs car parks to serve as a venue for registration.</p> <p>Events which take place on adjacent land owned by the Racecourse or Epsom &amp; Ewell Borough Council (such as the Warren Recreation Ground) for which organisers may request permission to cross the Downs to gain access.</p> <p>Events taking place in lay-bys (such as the release of pigeons) but may cause disruption or incidents to other Downs users.</p>	
U	<p>This category refers to events which although permission has been sought, involve so few participants or so little disruption that they have been granted without the need for a formal application or the application has been approved as a one-off by the Clerk to the Conservators in consultation with the Chair. Examples of this could be a group of eight walkers with no spectators or a request for filming involving a small crew.</p>	

## 4 Event Calendar 2025

- 4.1 The table below sets out the events applications that have been received so far by the Council as of the 13 December 2024 and approved under delegated authority.
- 4.2 The Council's Business Support Team have agreed to upload this table to the Council's website and keep it up to date, so that forthcoming events on the Downs can be viewed by the public.

Organiser	Description	Date	Day of Week	Times	No of Participants*	Category
Tadworth Athletic Club	Running Event	05/01/2025	Sunday	9:00-14:30	780	C
Mole Valley Orienteering	Night time orienteering	06/02/2025	Thursday	19:30-21:30	30	A
Downs League/ Harriers	Cross Country run	08/02/2025	Saturday	11:00-14:00	250	B
Downs League Juniors	Junior Cross Country race	02/03/2025	Sunday	9:00-12:00	220	B
Rotary Club	Walk	11/05/2025	Sunday	07:15-15:30	100	A

\* The number of participants includes spectators and staff

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### **5 Application to hold a Beacon Lighting Event on the Downs**

- 5.1 It has become a tradition for Epsom and Walton Downs to host Beacon Lighting Ceremonies to commemorate Royal events. Beacons have been lit on the Downs in 2002, 2012, 2016, 2022 to celebrate many milestones of the late Queen Elizabeth II's reign and most recently in 2024 to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.
- 5.2 Following the success of the last Beacon event, Local Councils have once again been approached by the Pageantmaster – Bruno Peek with an invitation to hold a beacon lighting event in celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.
- 5.3 The event will be held on Thursday 8 May 2025 with Beacons lit at 9:30pm.
- 5.4 Due to the huge success of the D-Day 80 Event, which saw over 1000 beacons lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK overseas territories, efforts are now focussed on VE Day, and everyone is encouraged to get involved and be part of the celebrations.
- 5.5 A formal request to hold a beacon lighting ceremony on Epsom and Walton Downs has been received from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. Please see Appendix One.
- 5.6 Whilst Epsom & Ewell Borough Council are the event organisers, the event is sponsored by Go Epsom – the Business Improvement District and supported by the Jockey Club.
- 5.7 As the Mayor will be in attendance in a ceremonial capacity this event is classed as a civic event.
- 5.8 Whilst the finer details of the event are yet to be established the broad proposal is to light the permanent beacon located in the View Point Car Park, Grandstand Road on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, as part of the nationwide VE Day 80 events.
- 5.9 The ceremonial aspect of the Beacon Lighting event is clearly laid out by the Pageantmaster and follows a formal process.
- 5.10 The event organisers will follow the guidelines set out in the Pageantmaster's documentation and will work with Go Epsom, the Jockey Club, the Royal British Legion and other local groups to put together a program of appropriate entertainment, refreshments and ceremonial components to support the Beacon lighting event with the aim of attracting the public to attend and help mark this important occasion.
- 5.11 It is likely the event will run from 7:30pm – 10pm and as in previous years a temporary road closure will be applied for to ensure the safety of visitors attending the event.

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- 5.12 Marshalling and measures will be put in place during the entire event to safeguard the public, whilst ensuring minimal disruption to local traffic and residents.

### 6 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

#### 6.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1.1 The VE Day Beacon is a public event, and all members of the community are warmly invited to attend.

#### 6.2 Crime & Disorder

- 6.2.1 The Beacon Lighting Ceremony will be carefully managed by the event organisers.

#### 6.3 Safeguarding

- 6.3.1 All relevant safeguarding measures will form part of the Event Management Plan and will include a protocol for lost children and event photography.

#### 6.4 Dependencies

- 6.4.1 This event is dependent on the Conservators granting their permission for the event to be held on Epsom and Walton Downs.

### 7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Events on the Downs generate a modest income for the Conservators on an annual basis.

- 7.2 The Beacon Event will be funded by Go Epsom with support from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and the Jockey Club. There is no financial impact on the Conservator's budgets,

- 7.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None in relation to the report.

### 8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Conservators have an Event Management Strategy as set out in section 3 of this report.

- 8.2 As the Beacon Lighting Ceremony is a free to enter, community event, it is difficult to determine how many people may attend. Based on the organisers' previous experience of running similar events it is anticipated that over 1000 people including spectators, participants and staff could attend.

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- 8.3 On this basis, the event would be classed as a Category D event and as such should be considered under S.10 (2) of the Act.
- 8.4 The Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 s.10(2) gives the Conservators the power to grant consent to the proposal to hold the VE Day Beacon event described above.
- 8.5 The Conservators should first decide if the proposals will “involve a significant degree of interference”. Significant is not defined. It is a question of fact whether there is any interference, and it is a question of degree whether such interference is significant. If the Conservator’s opinion is that the event is a significant event, that triggers the limit on the cumulative use of the Downs for such an event. (i.e., under (10(2)(a) the downs shall not be so used for such events for more than five days in any one year).
- 8.6 If the Conservator’s resolve to give consent to hold the VE Day Beacon event, the Conservators will need to give consent under the 1984 Act and Byelaw 2(i)(g) to allow the event organiser to light a fire.
- 8.7 **Legal Officer’s comments:** none save as set up in this report

## 9 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 9.1 **Council’s Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- Opportunity and Prosperity – A successful place with a strong dynamic local economy where people can thrive.
- 9.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 9.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The organisers are mindful that open fires are considered detrimental to the environment and will use fast burning pallet wood to ensure that the Beacon only burns for a short period of time and causes minimal impact.
- 9.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** Community safety implications are covered within the Event Management Plan for the proposed event.
- 9.5 **Partnerships:** This event is supported by Go Epsom and the Jockey Club

## 10 Background papers

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

### Other papers:

- Event Management Strategy – 14 October 2009

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- Review of the Event Management Strategy – 27 June 2011
- Potential for Charging for Events on the Downs – 28 June 2012
- Review of Events on the Downs – 23 January 2014
- [Review of Fees and Charges – 24 January 2022](#)
- [Events on the Downs \(booking efficiencies\)– 24 January 2022](#)