

REVIEW OF USE OF THE OWNERS AND TRAINERS AND DERBY ARMS CAR PARK BY THE RACECOURSE

Head of Service:	Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services
Report Author	Phoebe Batchelor, Samantha Whitehead
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

To update the Conservators on the use of the Owners and Trainers and Derby Arms Car Parks by the Racecourse during 2024 and to formally request permission for ad-hoc use in 2025.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Note the level of use by the Jockey Club of Car Parks 3 and 8 during 2024**
- (2) To approve an application by the Jockey Club to use these car parks during 2025 for ad-hoc events.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Due to minimal use of Car Park 3 (Owners and Trainers) and Car Park 8 (Derby Arms) for ad-hoc hospitality events during 2024 and a proposal for a similar number of uses in 2025, it is recommended that permission is granted to continue this arrangement.

2 Background

- 2.1 Following a comprehensive report to the Conservators in June 2018 outlining an application from the Jockey Club to use Car Park 3 (Owners and Trainers) and Car Park 8 (Derby Arms) for ad-hoc hospitality events, approval was granted with conditions set by the Conservators for the use of these areas for up to 40 days per year.
- 2.2 In line with the conditions attached to the approval, a review of the previous year's usage has been conducted and Officers can report that Car Parks 3 and 8 were only used on eight days during 2024, which is well below the limit set by the Conservators.

Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators

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- 2.3 The Jockey Club have formally approached the Conservators to request that similar permission is granted for the ad-hoc use of Car Parks 3 and 8 for 2025 and predict that the areas will only be required for a maximum of ten days during the year.
- 2.4 No concerns were raised by the Downskeepers, public or racing community during 2024 and therefore the recommendation is to support this request for next year.
- 2.5 The original agreement by the Conservators required the Jockey Club to produce a Management Plan to assess how the land would be used and how it would be managed to ensure there was no detrimental effect on the habitat. However, due to changes in management at the Jockey Club over the past few years, the production of the plan has been delayed. This will be revisited and once produced will be approved by senior Officers in consultation with the Chair of the Conservators.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 Parking can currently take place in the identified areas at specific times, as provided in the Act and under the consent granted by the Conservators on 23 January 2014 for events approved by the Conservators.

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5.2 This consent was as follows: “Applications for event parking for approved events on areas designated as ‘1,2,5,6 and 15’ on the map attached as Annex 1 to the report will be considered as falling on racecourse land and within the Racecourse’s ability to approve if it wishes. The Racecourse will be solely responsible for the reinstatement of any of these areas for which it has granted access, in the event of any damage as a result of their use for such parking”; pursuant to the consent granted in principle on 18 January 2017.

5.3 **Legal Officer’s comments:** None arising from the content of the report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

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

- Opportunity and Prosperity – supporting local businesses

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

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** N/A

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** N/A

6.5 **Partnerships:** The proposal supports partnership working with the Jockey Club to help ensure economic viability of the Racecourse outside of racing periods.

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- [18 January 2017 – Parking on Land in front of Derby Arms](#)
- [18 June 2018 – Update Parking on Land in front of Derby Arms](#)

Other papers:

- None.