

## ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Jackie King, Chief Executive
<b>Report Author</b>	Phoebe Batchelor
<b>Wards affected:</b>	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> - Epsom Civic Society – Item 1 – Dumping of Material on the Downs – additional photos

### Summary

To discuss issues raised by representatives invited to attend the meeting of the Committee.

### Recommendation (s)

**The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Consider the matters raised by invited representatives as set out in this report.**

## 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Section 4 of the Constitution of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee sets out that a number of representatives will be invited to attend meetings of the Committee and may participate in the discussions (but not vote) on items. The Chair has agreed to permit invited representatives to raise matters within the terms of reference of the Committee and to be included on the agenda subject to the item being delivered to the Clerk at least 10 days before the next meeting of the Committee.
- 1.2 Accordingly, this report informs the Committee of matters raised for consideration by invited representatives for this meeting by Members of the Committee.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The following issues have been requested:

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**Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team, Caroline Baldock**

### **1: Signs on the Downs**

Cyclists are going wherever they want to and over the gallops. We need signs it has been 5 years now since the signs were taken down.

### **2: Litter bins**

Many are a poor condition.

### **3: Events on the Downs**

We need a list of events sent to all equestrian establishments and put on the website for the Downs.

**College Ward Residents Association, Richard Balsdon**

### **1: Surface of Car Parks**

The surfaces of all five car parks on Grandstand Road are continuing to deteriorate to the extent that considerable damage could be caused to a car whose driver for one reason or another was unable to avoid the deep potholes. To whom should any requests for compensation be addressed?

(I know that in the past "scrapings" have been obtained and judging by the orange marks on that road some repairs are due shortly on the main carriageway. Any chance of being able to obtain in fills from this work?)

### **2: Vehicles Parked outside Derby Arms**

I have noticed that recently there have been a number of vehicles parked every day in the north-east corner of the triangle outside the Derby Arms. It is my understanding that this is a designated hack-riding area, but the Jockey Club has the right to use for parking on a limited number of occasions through the year. Have the Conservators extended this permission to other parties (the three businesses being conducted on the opposite side of Derby Arms Road?) and if so, on what basis?

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**Epsom Civic Society, Nick Lock**

### **1: Dumping of Material on the Downs**

There has been a tendency over the past few years for the by-products of renewing and enhancing the racing gallops to be dumped on the Downs and then just left to become weed-infested eyesores. The Civic Society does not believe this is compatible with the duty of the Downs Conservators “preserve the Downs so far as possible in their natural state of beauty” (Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984, section 10).

Some of these spoil dumps have been left for a number of years, despite the issue being raised many times in previous consultative committees where undertakings have been given that the material will be removed. The most recent dump, at the junction of the path towards Ebbisham Lane and the lower gallop track, was the result of a project to build a new ‘slipway for horses’ to join the gallop. We were assured that it would be removed on completion of the slipway, but it is still there one year later – now with the added ‘decoration’ of some discarded plastic rails.



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Over the years, most of the spoil has been deposited in the top (7th Furlong car park) along with various other unsightly objects such as water containers and old tractor equipment.



At the other end of the car park, there has been a pile of unused gallop material sitting on a frayed tarpaulin for nearly 4 years now:



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And behind the Derby Start of the main racecourse is a linear pile of spoil from re-surfacing the fibre sand gallop (a number of years ago now!):



Epsom Civic Society was pleased that the very large pile of material from resurfacing the bottom nine-furlong gallop was removed shortly after we mentioned it the last Consultative Committee meeting, and that the churned-up ground caused by that work has been levelled. We noted also that most of the fly-tipped material we reported on last time has been removed, although a small pile of dumped rubble is still there and may prove to be a magnet for future fly-tippers. The Society remains of the view that unused material resulting from works on the gallops should be removed from wherever it has been left – if it can be recycled on the Downs it should be kept in the works enclosure at the Warren and if not, it should be transported off site. If there is a need for an extra works area in the top car park, it should be low level and fenced off to avoid unsightliness and discourage illegal dumping.

## 2: Noticeboards

We have raised these repeatedly over a number of years but note that they still have no content despite numerous assurances that work on this is progressing. The most recent promise (at the last meeting) was that we would see draft content by end-March (2025) but it still has not materialised. We understand that the plan is to bring drafts to the October meeting so we assume this will already be on the agenda.

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**Tattenham and Preston Residents Association, Nick Harrison**

### **1: Local Government Reorganisation**

What will be the impact of Local Government Reorganisation and Epsom & Ewell's Community Governance Review on the position of the Conservators and on the Consultative Committee itself?

#### **Response provided prior to the Committee Meeting -**

*There is no definitive answer at this point. The expectation is that all such arrangements and obligations will transfer over to the new Unitary authority in May 2027, but this will not be clear until we receive the Structural Change Order from Government in early 2026 which will set out the process, timeline and responsibilities for all new Unitary partners.*

*We have this on our high priority list for resolution and will update both the Conservators and the Consultative committee as soon as we are able to.*

*The Chair noted that the issue you raised has been added to the action tracker of the Conservators and also the Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB). He stated that budget will be allocated to deal with any LGR legal work from Conservators and TGMB will to do a similar thing in their own budget.*

### **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.

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### 4 Financial Implications

4.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

### 5 Legal Implications

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

### 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** Not applicable.

6.2 **Service Plans:** Not applicable.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None.

6.5 **Partnerships:** None.

### 7 Background papers

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

**Previous reports:**

- None.

**Other papers:**

- [Constitution of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee](#)