

EVENTS ON THE DOWNS 2026

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Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Event Application for Andy Macfarlane Charity Walk Appendix 2 – Event Application for The Oddballs – 2000 Perch Event

Summary

This report informs Conservators of the current confirmed events on the 2025/26 Events Calendar for the Downs and seeks approval for two new events proposed to take place in 2026.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Note the Events Calendar for 2025/26.**
- (2) Approve the event request for the Andy Macfarlane Charity Walk as set out in Appendix 1.**
- (3) Approve the event request for The Oddballs – 2000 Perch event as set out in Appendix 2.**
- (4) Note the increase to fees and charges for Events on the Downs as set out in section 8 of this report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To note event applications already received for 2025/26 in line with the current Events on the Downs Strategy.

2 Events on the Downs

- 2.1 Events on the Downs have been consistent over the past few years with many of the same organisations applying year-on-year.

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- 2.2 At the January 2022 meeting, the Conservators agreed to delegate authority for approving small, previously held events on the Downs to the Interim Assistant Head of Service - Streetcare 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.

Organiser	Description	Category
Mole Valley Orienteering	Orienteering Event	A
Holland Sports Athletic Club	Downs League Cross Country Run	B
Sunbeam Motor Cycle Club	Annual Pioneer Run - use of the Tea Hut Car Park	B
Royal Automobile Club	Use of Down Keepers' Hut Car Park	S
Royal British Legion	Running Event	B
Rotary Club	Charity Walk	B
North Cheam Baptist Church	Easter Service	S
Tadworth 10 Athletic	Cross Country Run	C

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.

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 & 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 & Ewell Borough Council (such as the Warren Recreation Ground) for which organisers may request permission to cross the Downs to gain access. Events taking place in lay-bys (such as the release of pigeons) but may cause disruption or incidents to other Downs users.</p>	

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U	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.
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4 Event Calendar 2025

- 4.1 The table on the next page sets out the events applications that have been received as of January 2025 and approved under delegated authority or require permission from the Conservators (shown with green highlight) as set out in section 5 of this report.
- 4.2 For completeness, Epsom Downs Racecourse Events are included (shown with blue highlight).

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4.3 Calendar of Events 25-26

Epsom Downs Racecourse events are highlighted in blue, new events are highlighted in green, and past events are highlighted in grey in the table below:

Organiser	Description	Date	Day of Week	Times	Participants*	Category	Charge per head
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Season Finale	27/09/2026	Sunday				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Glass Times Afternoon Racing	10/09/2026	Thursday				n/a
Andy Macfarlane	Charity Walk	06/09/2026	Sunday	10:00-16:00	170	B	£1.60
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Bank Holiday Family Raceday	31/08/2026	Monday				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Summer Afternoon Music	14/08/2026	Friday				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Summer Music Night	30/07/2026	Thursday				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Summer Music Night	16/07/2026	Thursday				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Summer Music Night	09/07/2026	Thursday				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	Summer Evening Racing	01/07/2026	Wednesday				n/a
Mole Valley Orienteering	Orienteering Event	28/06/2026	Sunday	08:00-17:00	85	A	£1.60
Epsom Oddballs Running Club	Charity Run – 200 Perch	26/06/2026	Friday	14:30-21:00	700	C	£1.60
Epsom Downs Racecourse	The Betfred Derby Festival	5-6/06/2026	Fri-Sat				n/a
Epsom Downs Racecourse	The Spring Meeting	21/04/2026	Tuesday				n/a
Sunbeam Motor Cycle Club	Annual Pioneer Run	22/03/2026**	Sunday	06:00-09:30	350	B	£1.50
Holland Sports Athletic Club	Downs League Cross Country Run	01/03/2026	Sunday	09:00	220	B	£1.50

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Holland Sports Athletic Club	Downs League Cross Country Run	01/02/2026	Sunday	09:00	220	B	£1.50
Tadworth 10 Athletic	Cross Country Run	04/01/2026	Sunday	09:00=14:00	780	C	£1.50
Holland Sports Athletic Club	Downs League Cross Country Run	30/11/2025	Sunday	09:00	220	B	£1.50
Holland Sports Athletic Club	Downs League Cross Country Run	02/11/2025	Sunday	09:00	220	B	£1.50
Sunbeam Motor Cycle Club	Use of Down Keeper Hut Car Park	05/10/2025	Sunday	06:00-09:30	350	B	£1.50
Royal Automobile Club	Use of Down Keeper Hut Car Park	08/07/2025	Tuesday	n/a	n/a	S	n/a
Royal British Legion	Running Event	11/05/2025	Sunday	07:00-15:30	130	B	£1.50
Rotary Club	Charity Walk	18/05/2025	Sunday	12:00-17:00	200	B	£1.50
EEBC	VE Day Beacon	08/05/2025	Thursday	12:00-23:00	1000	D	n/a
North Cheam Baptist Church	Easter Service	20/04/2025	Sunday	06:45-07:45	40	A	£1.50
Tadworth 10 Athletic	Cross Country Run	05/01/2025	Sunday	09:00=14:00	780	C	£1.50

**The number of participants includes spectators and staff*

5 New Events

5.1 Officers have received event applications for two new events on Epsom and Walton Downs which require Conservators' permission.

Andy Macfarlane – Charity Walk

The first event request is a Charity Walk to be held on Sunday 6 September 2026. The walk will start and finish at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) and take the route set out in the event application form shown in Appendix 1.

This is a category B event of approximately 170 participants and is low impact. Officers are satisfied that, subject to the conditions set out in the event application, the event can be accommodated and in line with similar events held on the Downs.

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The Epsom Oddballs Running Club – 2000 Perch Event

The second event request is for the 2000 Perch Running Event which was previously held on Epsom Downs between 2000 and 2010, before transferring to Nonsuch Park. Although this event ran for several years at Nonsuch Park it did not match the original Epsom Downs event.

The organisers are now keen to resurrect the Event on Epsom and Walton Downs and seek approval of the Conservators to support the application as set out in Appendix 2

This is a Category C event of up to 700 participants and is deemed to be medium/high impact. However, the event is held in the evening starting at 7pm and is not expected to interfere with horses in training.

Officers are satisfied that, subject to the conditions set out in the event application, this can be accommodated without undue impact.

6 Advertising Events on Epsom & Walton Downs

- 6.1 A monthly Borough wide Events Report which includes Events on the Downs is produced by the Council's Business Support Team and it has been agreed that this will be circulated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conservators for onward circulation to other interested parties.
- 6.2 All event applicants are encouraged to add their events to the What's on in Epsom & Ewell page of the Council's website <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/visitors/whats-on/all>

7 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

7.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1.1 Event applications are welcomed from all organisations and groups.

7.2 Crime & Disorder

- 7.2.1 No significant crime or disorder issues are anticipated. Organisers are responsible for stewarding and crowd management where appropriate.

7.3 Safeguarding

- 7.3.1 Event organisers are responsible for ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place. No safeguarding concerns have been identified.

7.4 Dependencies

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7.4.1 Delivery of the events programme is dependent on timely submission of applications and completion of required documentation.

7.5 Other

7.5.1 No additional risks have been identified at this stage.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Fees and charges for events held on Epsom and Walton Downs are applied in accordance with the charging framework agreed by the Conservators in June 2012. Charges have been reviewed periodically since their introduction to reflect operational costs.
- 8.2 Current charges stand at £3.00 per participant for commercial events, with a 50% discount for charitable and community events.
- 8.3 From April 2026, charges will increase to £3.20 per participant for commercial events and £1.60 per participant for charitable and community events. This represents an increase of approximately 6.7%, reflecting a rounded uplift to simplify administration.
- 8.4 Income derived from events helps to support the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of Epsom and Walton Downs.
- 8.5 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 provides the Conservators with the power and duties in relation to the management and regulation of activities on the Downs, including the consideration and approval of events.
- 9.2 Events are assessed in accordance with the Conservators agreed Events on the Downs Strategy and associated procedures to ensure that activities do not adversely affect the Downs, their users, or the Conservators' statutory responsibilities.
- 9.3 The Conservators have previously agreed delegated authority for the approval of small, previously held events, as referenced within this report. Events falling outside that delegation require formal approval by the Conservators.
- 9.4 Event organisers remain responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation, including health and safety, licencing (where applicable) and public liability requirements. Permission to hold an event does not remove or diminish those responsibilities.
- 9.5 No additional legal implications have been identified at this stage.

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9.6 **Legal Officer's comments:** None other than as outlined in this report

10 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

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

- Safe and Well

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

10.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The events outlined in this report are short-term and temporary in nature. Environmental considerations, including ground conditions, waste management and protection of habitats, are assessed as part of the event application process.

10.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** The events outlined in this report are temporary and are managed through established application and approval processes designed to minimise impact on the Downs and surrounding communities.

10.5 **Partnerships:** The events outlined in this report are delivered by independent organisers in liaison with Officers. Where appropriate, Officers work with internal and external partners, to support the safe and effective delivery of events on the Downs.

10.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None identified.

11 Background papers

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

Other papers:

- Event Management Strategy – 14 October 2009
- 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](#)