

PROPOSAL TO LAY RUBBER SURFACE TO BRIDGE OVER UNDERPASS

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Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix One – Proposal from The Jockey Club (including location photograph)

Summary

This report presents a proposal from The Jockey Club to replace the existing tarmac surface with a permanent black wet-pour rubber surface on the bridge over the underpass at Epsom Downs Racecourse, near the Rubbing House Public House. The proposal seeks to improve safety for equine and pedestrian users and to provide consistency with existing rubberised surfaces elsewhere on the Racecourse.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Approve the proposal to lay a permanent black wet-pour rubber surface to the bridge over the underpass.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The recommendation is made to enable safety improvements to an existing route used by horses and pedestrians, reduce the risk of slips and falls associated with the current worn tarmac surface, and support the Racecourse's strategic approach to providing equine-friendly surfaces.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Jockey Club proposes to replace the existing tarmac surface across the bridge over the underpass with a 20mm solid black rubber crumb (wet-pour) surface.
- 2.2 The route extends from the horse collecting ring near the Stables to the area near the Rubbing House Public House.

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- 2.3 Sections of rubberised surfacing are already present at either end of the route, and the proposal would extend this surface across the remaining tarmac section, see photographs in appendix one.
- 2.4 The existing grass verges adjacent to the route would remain unchanged.
- 2.5 The proposed surface type is already used elsewhere within the Racecourse, including the Stables and Parade Ring areas.
- 2.6 If approved, the works are anticipated to begin on Monday 2 February 2026 and are expected to take up to five working days to complete.
- 2.7 Access across the underpass may need to be temporarily restricted during the works.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 The proposal is not considered to have a negative impact on any protected groups. The improved surface may provide a safer and more accessible route for users, including those with mobility considerations.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 The proposal is not anticipated to give rise to any crime or disorder implications.

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 None

3.4 Dependencies

- 3.4.1 The proposal is dependent on the Conservators' agreement to the works and the completion of the works in accordance with the details set out in the submitted proposal.

3.5 Other

- 3.5.1 None

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 All costs associated with the proposed works will be met by The Jockey Club. There are no financial implications for the Conservators.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

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5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The proposal has been considered in the context the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984. The works relate to the replacement of surfacing on an existing route and do not involve a change of use, restriction of access, or material alteration to the character of the Downs.
- 5.2 The proposal is considered compatible with the provisions and purposes of the Act, subject to the Conservators' agreement.
- 5.3 **Legal Officer's comments:** None save as outlined above.

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:** The proposal relates to a replacement of an existing surface and is not expected to impact on the climate or the environment.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** The proposal supports community safety by reducing the risk of slips and falls on a well-used route.
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** The proposal reflects the ongoing partnership between the Council, the Conservators and The Jockey Club.
- 6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None

7 Background papers

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

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

- None