

ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES

Head of Service:	Jackie King, Chief Executive
Report Author	Phoebe Batchelor
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Spoil Heaps (photos provided by Nick Lock, Epsom Civic Society)

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 raised for consideration:

Epsom Equestrian Conservation Team, Caroline Baldock

1: Litter

There is always a problem with litter.

2: Signs

When are the signs going to be put up?

College Ward Residents Association, Richard Balsdon

1: Derby impact on neighbouring residents

Recent press coverage indicates that the Jockey Club “makes family pitch to help Derby crowd.” What impact is this expected to have on neighbouring residents?

2: Maintenance of the Bunds

What is the Conservators’/Downskeepers’ policy for the maintenance of the Bunds, both recently introduced and longer established?

Epsom Civic Society, Nick Lock

1: Spoil Heaps

ECS has raised this issue many times previously, and we are disappointed with the lack of progress that has been made with promised improvements. Our view remains that the Conservators are failing to meet their duty, under the Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984, to “preserve the Downs so far as possible in their natural state of beauty” and should be taking stronger steps to ensure that the owners take responsibility for removing unnatural material that despoils the environment. We were told at the last meeting that there would be review of all the heaps to establish what they consist of, and to understand what is intended to be done with them, but we have yet to see this. We have seen a public media claim following the last Consultative Committee meeting that “all” the spoil heaps are intended for use in individual projects, even though some of them contain dumped

gallop track material mixed with stones that would not seem to be of practical use anywhere. In some cases (e.g. the dumped material behind the Derby start that originated from the most recent fibre sand track refurbishment) the heaps have been there for a number of years. If these were really intended for a project, we would have expected that project to have been completed long ago. Please could we have a detailed schedule listing all the spoil heaps (about 10 separate piles in the 7th furlong car park and 4 in the wider Downs area), detailing the project to which they relate, and the timeline for completion of that project.

We note that work has now started on the 6th furlong chute, to realign the track that used to pass over the racecourse; this has resulted in yet another spoil heap near to Epsom Road North. Please can we have an assurance this new heap will only be there temporarily?

As well as spoil, other rubbish and equipment has accumulated in the 7th Furlong Car Park, including some rubble from fly-tipping, a large pile of rolls of astroturf, and four large water containers. We understand that there are plans for use of the astroturf and would like clarification on timing of these as the pile is very unsightly. It seems to ECS that the water containers should be stored in one of the racecourse compounds (e.g. behind the Derby Arms) rather than disfiguring the public car park. We are pleased to note however that the old agricultural machinery we mentioned at the last meeting has now been removed. Overall, however, the end of the car park still looks very untidy, which potentially makes it a magnet for litterers and fly tippers - as well as spoiling the view for visitors.

2: Noticeboards

At the last meeting, members of the Consultative Committee were shown drafts of the proposed material to go on the empty noticeboards (another very long-running concern of ours). Please could we have an update on whether the content has now been agreed, and if so, when it will be installed on the noticeboards.

3: Litter Bins

We note that in the budget agreed for 2026 there is a provision for new litter bins. We welcome this, as removal of the old litter bin near the junction of the Langley Vale track with Six-Mile Hill resulted in an accumulation of dog poo bags where the bin had once been (happily this has recently been cleared and the bin reinstated). It would be helpful to have more bins on the junctions of the track next to the bottom gallop, where paths cross the gallop, as that would encourage public visitors to the Woodland Trust Langley Vale Wood to dispose of their litter properly rather than leaving it on the Downs.

Epsom Downs Modal Aircraft Club (EDMAC), James Vincenti

1: Runway Damage

Horses continue to run across our runway leaving damage to the surface. We have been told that organised runs are also being led across our runway. Both of these leave marks in the surface that could pose a risk to models landing and taking off.

2: Family Day

Our next family day is scheduled for bank holiday 4th May 2026. This is building on our first attempt last year with many lessons learned.

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 **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:

- [Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee, 13 October 2025](#)

Other papers:

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