

Epsom & Walton Downs Consultative Committee Action Tracker 2023-2026

Issue No.	Issue Subject	Follow-up Action	Contact	Deadline	Action Completed	Fed back to Conservators/CC Y/N	Notes
1	Condition of Hack Canter Ride	> added to the Winter Workplan for 23/24	Sam Whitehead	Feb-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES	This area has suffered severe damage from vehicle use. This has worsened following the upgrades to the fibre gallop. Works to restore the surface for hack use have been promised over several winters but it remains hard, very rutted and for all but horse walking ; - Consultative Committee Issue add to winter workplan for 2023/24 and follow up with Conservators when completed. 26/09/24 Nigel Whybrow has mentioned that vehicles have been accused but it's predominantly caused by pedestrians (desire lines). There is a good hack canter down at the bottom, that is working positively. This one is misbranded as a hack canter. The Streetcare Manager is to arrange a meeting with Nigel, Alex, and Caroline wc 30th of September to look at and discuss this item further. 14/10/24 The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place with Alex Steward and Nigel Whybrow to look at the issue and come up with a solution. The solution agreed upon, is to move the Hack Ride over slightly, as the current one is beyond repair.
2	Noticeboards on the Downs	> to put up noticeboard content and protective covering	Sam Whitehead	Feb-24		Verbal update to be provided at the 12.10.26 CC Meeting	25/03/24 The Chair informed the Committee that there has been a slight delay in getting the artwork for the inlay completed and agreed and that is something that has been progressing with the Streetcare Manager. The Chair acknowledge the work is significantly behind, but reassured the Committee that work is being carried out to get this job completed as soon as possible and an update will be provided once the works are complete. 26/09/24 The Chair to bring print outs to the meeting for members and invited representatives to consider. The printers are ready to go. 14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that there are copies of the information to be put on the noticeboards, for Members and Invited representatives to consider and feedback on following the meeting. Invited representatives raised two noticeboards that needed further attention. The Streetcare Manager noted the locations and confirmed they would look into it. 13/10/25 The Chair explained that the draft noticeboard content had been circulated to all attendees for their comments following the meeting. The representative from the Epsom Civic Society asked when the content will be displayed on the boards. The Chair stated that once everyone is in agreement, the next step will be to send the content to the printers and then get it on the noticeboards. The Chair expressed thanks to Councillor Spickett and the Assistant Head of Service – Streetcare for their help in getting to this stage. The representative from the Epsom Civic Society asked for confirmation that there will be content put on the lectern noticeboards, as well as the large noticeboards. The Chair confirmed that there is content prepared to go on the lectern noticeboards too and agreed to share the content with the Committee via email. 16/03/26 The Chair informed the Committee that the content has been finalised and signed off, and the prints are on order. He asked members and invited representatives to assist in putting up the printed content onto the noticeboards, once it arrives.
3	Spoil Heaps	> removal / recycling of spoil heaps on the downs > work to start Oct 23	Nigel Whybrow and Sam Whitehead	Feb-24		Verbal update to be provided at the 12.10.26 CC Meeting	26/09/24 Update from Nigel Whybrow to be provided verbally. 14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that the spoil heaps in the top car park have increased. The Chair explained that this is primarily due to materials arriving from Kempton and Langbourne to help update and refurbish some of the bottom gallop. The bottom gallop is due to be updated through October and some, if not all, of those materials will be used to do that work. The Chair confirmed they would look into the spoil heaps behind the Derby start and report back at the next meeting. 7/03/25 The Streetcare Manager agreed to send cages up on the Downs, wc 10th of March, to removed flytipping content from the Top Car Park. The Chair agreed they would arrange to meet Jim Allen to work out what the spoil heaps are for and how long they will be there. 13/10/25 The Chair agreed to a meeting with the Jockey Club and the Assistant Head of Service – Streetcare, to identify the spoil heaps and explain or justify why they are there and what they will be used for and when, or to identify what needs to be removed from the Downs. 16/03/26 The Chair informed the Committee that he has listened to comments and continues to raise the issue to TGMB and the Conservators and is making proactive steps to address the issue.

4	Oak Trees	> (potential) planting of an Oak Tree > talk to Nigel to determine exact location	Sam Whitehead	Nov-27	ITEM CLOSED	YES	26/09/24 The Streetcare Manager will purchase the oak trees soon. The current intention is to buy 6 x 8ft oak trees to be put in. The Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board (EETAB) and Business Improve District (BID) to be approached to help financially contribute. 14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that the Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board are happy to fund the trees, depending on the size. The Chair set out that the next steps will be to discuss with the Council's Tree Officer, and the Countryside Team, to progress this item along. The Chair raised that there is a suggestion that the trees are a mix of oak trees and disease resistant elms. The Chair committed to speak to the Business Improvement District to provide additional funding for the project. 7/03/25 The Chair provided the update that the Epsom BID and TAB will be splitting the cost of the trees.
5	Ice Cream Van	> risk assessment of current location of ice cream van > start conversation with vendor about potentially moving pitch/location	Sam Whitehead	May-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Report went to Conservators on the 17/06/24 and 23/06/25	The Conservators agreed on the 17/06/24 that Officers would investigate and take legal advice to determine if the Ice Cream Vendor could be relocated to the Downskeepers's Hut Car Park, for safety reasons. 26/09/24 Streetcare Manager to get in touch with the vendor and move this along. 26/09/24 The wider scheme of vending on the downs (discussed at Conservators on the 17/06/24) is in progress - with the six month trial commencing soon. Contracts for the pilot scheme are currently with legal to be looked at before anything is agreed with specific vendors. The Streetcare Manager is currently looking into appropriate pitch sites. 14/10/24 The Streetcare Manager confirmed that the Ice Cream Van will move location, into the Downskeepers Car Park, starting from next season.
6	Sycamore Trees	> discussion regarding management of sycamore trees on the downs > recognition and research into the potential threat they pose to horses	Sam Whitehead (and Tree Officer and Countryside Team)	May-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC on the 14th of October 2024	26/09/24 Streetcare Manager has had discussions with the Countryside Officer. The Sycamore trees have been up there for years and no horses have fallen foul. This item will continue to be monitored and updates fed back if any issues arise. The trees will not be cut down as they are key at the moment to fill gaps from Ashdieback works.
7	Grandstand Road Car Park Volunteer	> discussion with Mayor regarding the inviting of volunteer to have tea in the Mayor's Parlour > organising of tea with the mayor and an award / certificate for volunteers continued hard work	Jackie King	Jan-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC on the 25th of March 2024	19/2/24 Unfortunately both volunteers declined any recognition so not progressed at their request
8	Toilets on the Downs	> To assess the options for the future provision of a toilet facility at the Downs	Mark Shepherd and Sam Whitehead	N/A	No budget provision for either construction or ongoing maintenance	Fed back to CC	25/03/24 The Chair informed the Committee that there is currently no budget provision for this project so it will be worth looking at different forms of additional funding. The Chair confirmed this was a longterm project that will be looked into further. 26/09/24 There is still no budget provision. This item will be kept on the action tracker and will be updated as and when anything changes. 16/03/26 The Chair raised that there is a possibility of putting in a Community Infrastructure Levy application for funding for the project.
9	Fibre Sand Gallop	> an unfriendly horse crossing of fibre sand gallop on Walton Road approaching the woods	Nigel Whybrow and Sam Whitehead	Nov-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC at 13.10.25 Meeting	25/03/24 The Member from the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society asked if the layout could be improved. The Member from the Training Grounds Management agreed to meet with the Member from the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society to gain more information regarding the unfriendly horse crossing and then to feedback at the next Consultative Committee Meeting. 26/09/24 Streetcare Manager to arrange to meet Alex Stewart on site and see if improvements can be made. 14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place with the Streetcare Manager, Nigel Whybrow, and Alex Stewart. The solution agreed is for Nigel Whybrow to amend the gateway that crosses the fibre sand gallop, to make it more open and inviting for hack riders to get across. 13/10/25 The Chair explained that the required work had been completed, and the item could now be closed on the action tracker. This was confirmed by the Member from the Training Grounds Management Board and the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society.
10	Vegetation Dump near Rifle Butts Alley	> Concern as plastic waste has been seen accumulating - need to monitor situation	Sam Whitehead	Nov-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC October 2024	25/03/24 The Chair informed the Committee that the Downskeepers will investigate and take any action necessary, and an update will be provided at the next Committee Meeting. 26/09/24 Rifle Butts Alley is being cleared currently. 14/10/24 The Streetcare Manager informed the Committee that the vegetation dump has been cleared.

11	Resurfacing of Hack Track from Langley Vale behind Downs House	> The resurfacing includes stones and rocks and needs to be looked at	Nigel Whybrow and Sam Whitehead	Nov-24	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC at 13.10.25 Meeting	25/03/24 The Member from the Training Grounds Management informed the Committee that said now the weather is drier, it will be something the team will focus on, and an update will be brought back to next meeting. 14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that they had visited the Hack Canter in question, and observed it was ok. The Chair invited Members and representatives to raise anything if they were still experiencing issues. The Chair agreed to speak to Nigel Whybrow to look at the areas mentioned by invited representatives and focus on getting some improvements. 13/10/25 The Chair explained that the required work had been completed, and the item could now be closed on the action tracker. This was confirmed by the Member from the Training Grounds Management Board and the Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society.
12	Events on the Downs - Webpage	> collate information about events on the downs (how to apply, classification of events, table of events) > update and add info to EEBC Website	Sam Whitehead (and Business Support and Democratic Services)	Apr-25		Fed back to CC	27/01/25 Conservators received a report which stated that the events on the downs would be listed on the EEBC website. 13/10/25 The Chair informed the Committee that this item is still a work in progress and the relevant actions will be progressed to get it into a position to have the relevant information shared with interested stakeholders and visible on the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Website. 16/03/26 The Chair stated that communication for events on the downs is greatly improved.
13	Race Horses using Hack Tracks	> Speak to Nigel Whybrow to look into issues with Race Horses using Hack Tracks	Nigel Whybrow and Steven McCormick	Oct-25	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC at 13.10.25 Meeting	14/10/24 The Chair noted comments made about race horses using hack tracks and confirmed they would speak to Nigel Whybrow and the issue will be addressed. 13/10/25 The Chair confirmed this item has been addressed and can be closed.
14	Additional Lighting	> look into possibility of additional lighting outside the Durdans	Steven McCormick	Oct-25	ITEM CLOSED	YES Fed back to CC at 13.10.25 Meeting	14/10/24 The Chair informed the Committee that they have asked SCC for additional lighting, to improve safety, to be put in place outside the Durdans. The Chair stated that if that can be achieved within their SCC Member allowance, it will be actioned. 7/03/25 The Chair provided the update that these lights have been quoted for and signed off. 13/10/25 The Chair informed the Committee that additional lighting by the Durdans, at the bottom of Chalk Lane, has been installed.
15	School Run Traffic	> look into issues with speeding traffic on Chalk Lane > Check TRO	Steven McCormick	Oct-25		Fed back to CC	14/10/24 An invited representative flagged an issue with speeding traffic on Chalk Lane and queried if the gate at the bottom of Chalk Lane could be locked. The Chair informed the Committee that Surrey Highways have looked into this and determined that the gate can be locked, but the logistics of how it will be managed is an issue that has not been sorted yet. The Chair committed to providing an update when here is more information to share. The Member from the BHS raised that the Traffic Regulation Order should be checked to see if it mentions all vehicular traffic or just motorised traffic. The Chair confirmed that they would check the TRO. 13/10/25 The Chair explained that the gate at the bottom of Chalk Lane does have a Traffic Regulation Order on it, but there is an issue of who would lock and unlock the gate. The Chair informed the Committee that they are following it up with Surrey Highways to look at what options there are with this particular issue. The Member from the British Horse Society encouraged the Chair to check if the TRO reference motorised vehicles or just vehicles.
16	Dog Walking on the Downs	> look into options regarding dog walking on the downs and increasing awareness of restrictions and improving behaviour of dogs and owners	Sam Whitehead	Jan-26		Verbal update to be provided at the 12.10.26 CC Meeting	14/04/24 Discussion at CC Meeting regarding out of control dogs. 04/11/24 Conservators received a report on the Nonsuch Dog Licensing Scheme and debated options for dealing with out of control dogs on the downs. The decision was to plan a targeted communication campaign regarding dog walking behaviour on the Downs. 13/10/25 The Chair acknowledged that there are still issues on the downs with regards to dog walkers and out of control dogs. He mentioned that there are still plans to hold an awareness day for dog walkers on the downs. 16/03/26 The Chair informed the Committee that they are currently in the process of organising a pilot training and awareness scheme for dog walking on the downs, for Langley Vale residents, with a look to offer the scheme to a wider audience following the pilot scheme. Councillor Froud declared that she is a licensed dog walker and home boarded. The Chair noted the comment. The Chair raised that the relevant stakeholders will be consulted whilst the scheme is being planned.

17	Car Park Management Plan	> 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 >once produced will be approved by senior Officers in consultation with the Chair of the Conservators	TJC, Sam Whitehead, and Steven McCormick	Jun-25		Verbal update to be provided at the 12.10.26 CC Meeting	27/01/25 Review of Car Parks report went to January 2025 Conservators - The Chair asked for the management plan to be added to the Action Tracker. 26/01/26 The Conservators received and unanimously agreed the Car Park Management Plan. 16/03/26 The Chair agreed to provide an update following the meeting. He explained that there are various car parks across the downs which are under the control of the Jockey Club and the Downskkeepers, and the item on the action tracker is about managing their usage and time.
18	Local Government Reorganisation	>Local Government Reorganisation across Surrey will affect the make up and work of the Conservators and Consultative Committee	Jackie King	May-27		Verbal update to be provided at the 12.10.26 CC Meeting	1/08/26 Question received from invited CC rep regarding LGR and CGR implications on Conservators and Consultative Committee. 13/10/25 The Chair informed the Committee that the decision on what is happening to Surrey as a result of Local Government Reorganisation has been delayed until the end of October. The Chair explained that it has been added to the action tracker as the reorganisation will affect the 1984 Act which governs the Downs. The Chief Executive clarified that any contracts or agreements that name Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, will be automatically transferred and inherited by the new Unitary Authority. She explained that there will be conversations taking place to understand how the Conservators will operate under the new Unitary Authority. The Chair mentioned that he has raised this item with TGMB and encouraged them to allocate budget for any legal work that would need to be done on the 1984 Act with the upcoming changes. 16/03/26 The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Council's legal team and operational services have been asked to create a briefing note on the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators and Consultative Committee. This note will then be submitted to the relevant workstream. This will fall under land, property, and legal. The Chair raised that currently the Conservators have six Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillors as part of their membership. He highlighted that with the new East Surrey Council; there is no certainty or guarantee that the councillors sitting on the Conservators going forwards will be from the local area.