

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Head Downskeeper
<u>Contact:</u>	Robert Harding
<u>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</u>	None
<u>Other available papers (not attached):</u>	N/A

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

**To receive the report of the Head Downskeeper.**

#### **1 Staffing**

- 1.1 We currently have one Downskeeper currently on long term sick and this post is being covered by an agency member of staff who has worked on the Downs previously. In addition, one member of staff has left the team and the recruitment process to fill this position has now begun. In the interim, the Parks Patrol team will be assisting with any staffing needs.

#### **2 Training**

- 2.1 First aid refresher training is being organised for all Downskeepers, to ensure their skills are kept up to date.
- 2.2 The Parks Patrol Rangers who are assisting the Downskeepers will be attending a local trainer's yard to gain knowledge and skills on how to deal with racehorses and riders. This will be followed with training booked in at Newmarket to help them with dealing with horses on the Downs and in the wider borough.

#### **3 Afternoon Patrols**

- 3.1 Additional patrols conducted by the Parks patrol team at weekends and evenings will occur. This is to reduce the incidents of hacks out of bounds. The Downs keepers will continue to monitor and work with the Parks Patrol Team.

#### **4 Hack Riding Maps**

- 4.1 There has been a recent increase in the number of hack riders who are using the gallops particularly in the afternoon. The Downskeepers will challenge anybody who is out of bounds, but we have also discussed with the Training Representative and Head of Gallops that a polite communication will be sent out to all livery stables in the surrounding area which will remind them of the byelaws and enclose a copy of the hack riding map and information leaflet.