

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER**

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

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION (S)**

*Notes*

**(1) That the Conservators note the report of the Head Downskeeper.**

## **1 Staffing**

1.1 We currently have one Downskeeper on long term sick and one member of staff has left the team. An agency member of staff who has worked on the Downs previously is covering one of these posts and the recruitment process to fill the vacant position has begun with interviews scheduled to take place imminently. 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 that their skills are up to date.

2.2 The Parks Patrol Rangers who are assisting the Downskeepers attended The British Racing School in Newmarket on Monday 27 March 2017 to undertake a horse-handling course, which will assist them with dealing with horses on the Downs and in the wider borough. Once this training has been completed they will also attend further training with a local trainer to familiarise themselves with the Training community in Epsom.

### **3 Afternoon Patrols**

- 3.1 After discussions with the Trainers' representative we have agreed to carry out additional afternoon patrols to primarily monitor and control the use of the Gallops by Hack Riders. Downskeepers will conduct these patrols with the assistance of the Parks patrol team if required.

### **4 Hack Riding Maps**

- 4.1 The Downskeepers have carried out an audit of hack posts and are currently devising a replacement programme. We are also in the process of upgrading the current Hack Riding Map, which is available for the public. Once the map is complete, the Downskeepers will publish it on the website, have printed copies available at the Downskeepers' hut and circulate copies to local livery stables.
- 4.2 This item was discussed at the last meeting of the Consultative Committee and the Head Downskeeper was delighted to be offered help and assistance with this project from the Hack Rider's Representatives, Hugh Craddock and Alex Stewart.

### **5 Events**

- 5.1 The annual Pioneer Run took place on 19 March 2017 and the Downskeepers are pleased to report that the event was well-organised and passed without incident.

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: College Ward; Woodcote Ward;**