

VERDERERS COURT

21st April 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS

CYCLING

At our February court we received a presentment from the New Forest Equestrian Association expressing concern about the increasing number of reports of incidents between horse riders and cyclists on the Forest where cyclists are off the permitted waymarked cycling routes.

The presentment rightly acknowledges that it would not be right to tar all cyclists with the same brush.

The Court has long expressed concern to Forestry England about unlawful cycling in the Forest and this presentment illustrates that that concern is widely shared. We ask all cyclists to stick to the permitted waymarked routes.

STALLIONS 2021

After careful consideration, and taking into account the restrictions imposed by Government to control Covid-19, it has been decided that 20 stallions will be turned out onto the Forest this year.

The stallions will be turned out this year from Monday 10th May for a period of 9 to 10 weeks. They will start to be taken home from Monday 5th July and must be removed from the Forest no later than Monday 12th July.

The breeding herd of pure-bred New Forest Ponies is reducing year on year and the breed is on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Watch List, as a breed considered to be at risk.

The areas in which the stallions run, are carefully decided in order to avoid inbreeding. The list will be made available on our website shortly.

Members of the public are reminded that they should always keep away from the ponies, but that this is particularly important during the stallion season.

It is also worth mentioning that stallions do not always remain in the areas in which they are first turned out and so it is wise to be particularly aware of the behaviour of the ponies at this time of year.