

VERDERERS' COURT - 15th September 2021

Announcements & Decisions

NEW DEPUTY SURVEYOR

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Craig Harrison, the recently appointed Deputy Surveyor, to his first meeting of the Verderers court.

Craig follows in the footsteps of many illustrious predecessors but I am sure that will not daunt him.

The Forest faces many challenges some old, some new and the role of the Deputy Surveyor in tackling those challenges is crucial. On behalf of the Verderers I look forward to working with the Deputy Surveyor for the good of the Forest.

PIG KILLED BY DOG

Kathleen Brady, from Southampton, pleaded guilty in the Magistrates Court, to being the owner of a dog that worried livestock, in this case a pig, on the Forest at Ashurst, on 5th November 2020.

She has been ordered to pay the owner £200 compensation, was fined £300 and told to pay £115 Court costs.

We are grateful to the Police for pursuing this case to Court and we hope it will serve as a lesson to dog owners that they must keep their dogs under control.

FEEDING OF FOREST ANIMALS

There is a glut of apples and other fruits this year.

Depositing fruit or anything else on the Forest, especially near or on the roadside, that may be eaten by Forest animals, is extremely dangerous and inconsiderate. It encourages animals to the roadside and puts them at greater risk of being involved in road traffic accidents. Even if it is not by the road, depositing anything anywhere for the Forest animals to eat creates a potential risk. Consuming too many apples may give a pony or donkey fatal colic. It also leads to aggression and injury as animals compete for the food.

Another problem we regularly see at this time of year is hay being dumped on the Forest, sometimes in large quantities. It is usually old hay that horse-owners feel is no longer suitable for their riding horses and they think that dumping it on the Forest is a good way of getting rid of it. Again, it can cause problems for the animals if it is mouldy or dusty and if animals compete for it. If it isn't good enough for your horse, it isn't good enough for the Forest ponies.

Depositing anything on the Forest constitutes fly tipping and if the culprit is identified, he or she may be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.

VERDERERS' ELECTION

The Election of three Verderers, will be held on Friday, 26th November, when the terms of office of Anthony Pasmore, Richard Deakin and Jim Greenwood come to an end.

The deadline for registering to vote at our election is this coming Friday, 17th September. The Draft Electoral Register has then to be finalised, in time for it to be sent out to the public offices for public viewing from Monday 1st October. The fact that you may have been registered for previous elections does not count, and therefore, to be able to vote this year, you must register now. If you need a form, please telephone or email our office.

I hope we will see a strong turnout at the election and I ask all those present to help spread the word so that as many people as possible are able to vote. I very much hope the press will also help by giving publicity to this important event.

For anyone wishing to stand for election, the deadline for the delivery of nomination papers is Noon on Tuesday 2nd November and I will issue a reminder at the October Court. Anyone requiring further information, should contact the Verderers' Office, or the Office of the Returning Officer, Mrs Rachel Brooks, at the Under Sheriff's Office, Foot Anstey LLP, The White Building, 1-4 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2NP. Tel: 02380 172210