

## VERDERERS' COURT

19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

#### EDWARD HERON

We are pleased to announce that Cllr Edward Heron's term of office as the New Forest National Park's Appointed Verderer, has been extended for a further year.

#### APPLES & OTHER WINDFALL FRUITS

The Verderers regularly draw attention to the problems that result from the public feeding ponies on the Forest. At this time of year, there is often a glut of apples. I would like to draw people's attention to the particular dangers associated with dumping apples on the Forest. Apples in quantity, such as a bag of windfalls, can cause colic in horses. A whole apple can cause choking. Leaving apples close to the roadside attracts animals onto the public highway and into danger from passing vehicles.

#### GARDEN WASTE

Dumping garden waste on the Open Forest also presents a hazard to stock as many garden plants are toxic. In addition, it constitutes fly tipping. We ask residents and those undertaking gardening and landscaping to please dispose of their waste responsibly – at the local tip please, not the Forest.

#### VERDERERS' ELECTION

The Election of two Verderers, will be held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, when the terms of office of Dionis Macnair and David Readhead come to an end.

The deadline for registering to vote at our election was Monday, the day before yesterday. However, as we want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to vote, registration forms will continue to be accepted until this Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The Draft Electoral Register has to be finalised in time for it to be sent out to the public offices for public viewing from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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. There are some spare registration forms on the table at the front of the Court.

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 in Romsey.

## CHANGES TO CURRENT VGS RATES 2019

The VGS Committee & the Court of Verderers have agreed to amend the Verderers Grazing Scheme Livestock Unit rates payable in December 2019. As the 2018 application forms have already been returned for payments due this December, these changes cannot be implemented until 2019. Application forms will be sent out next February. The Court felt it is important to let VGS members know of these changes before the coming winter as it may impact on their stocking level decisions.

The change to Livestock Unit (LU) rates allows the VGS to increase the incentive for Registered New Forest Mares and reduce the incentive for large numbers of cattle and non-registered equines. The overall pot of money remains the same and the result will be that more members will gain than lose.

The following changes are to apply;

Registered New Forest Mare or Stallion from 0.8 to 1 LU (livestock unit)

No Marking Fee return for any other female equines (including donkeys). Geldings are already excluded.

Cattle to remain at 1 LU but a payment limit introduced of 40 head of cattle per individual commoner

Copies of the amended VGS terms and conditions are available on the table at the front of the Court.