

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL**

<b>Meeting</b>	Community Services Committee
<b>Date</b>	13 January 2020
<b>Report by</b>	Julie Rees – Commons and Greens Officer
<b>Report title</b>	Horseride Improvements
<b>Business Plan Theme</b>	Outstanding Commons and Green Spaces

**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 This report considers further improvements to the permissive horseride around Harpenden Common.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:

2.1.1. Approve the next phase of pathway improvements around the Common as set out in Appendix B.

2.1.2. Release earmarked reserves to the value of £14,000 to carry out the works in the next 12 months.

2.1.3. Approve the proposed tree works outlined in Appendix C.

**3. Background information**

- 3.1 In August 2019, the Town Council undertook works to surface several sections of the permissive horseride that runs around Harpenden Common. See Appendix A.

- 3.2 The areas had become impassable in places leading to users picking their way past the worst patches, widening the path, laying logs/branches over the mud and/or venturing onto the golf course.

- 3.3 The new surfacing has received positive comments and has improved the overall user experience.

3.4 It was recognised at the time that further sections would require attention going forwards. The route was inspected again by officers in November 2019 with comments recorded in Appendices B and C.

3.5 The works will benefit the whole community who enjoy the Common for air and exercise. Access and journey times will be improved, and the works will contribute to the Town's Green Flag Award status.

#### 4. Resource implications

4.1 The cost per metre of the surfacing required is £34. To surface 400m as proposed in Appendix B would cost £13,600 + VAT. The cost of the minor tree works is £675 + VAT.

4.2 The surfacing item would be funded from earmarked reserves with the tree works item funded from existing budgets.

#### 5. Other implications

Other Implications	Comment
Legal	A section 38 application to the Planning Inspectorate will be required A tree works application will be made to St Albans District Council.
Environment and biodiversity	Surfacing will look at odds with natural environment initially but will fade over time to blend in. No major excavation works are required.
Crime and Disorder	None
Risk/Health & Safety	Uneven, wet, boggy ground can cause injury to horses, riders and other users. The contractors will be ISO 14001 accredited.

#### 6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix A – photos of sections surfaced in August 2019.

6.2 Appendix B – details the sections where surfacing works are proposed.

6.3 Appendix C - details the sections where minor tree works are proposed.