

Notes of question and answer session at Residents Meeting – 12th July 2012

1.

- Dog issues
- Horse riders
- Heavy lorries

Responses included information about the proposed Dog Project which will include training for riders, and the need to report 'traffic' violations to Operation Crackdown.

2.

- Bird species

Dartford Warblers have decreased but will recolonize over the next few years. There are Wood Warblers, Chif Chats and Hobbys.

3.

- Alien species

Not allowed to plant anything on the Forest. People need to be aware that it is harmful to tip garden waste. Devils Claw fungus – believed to be bought on boots of soldiers training on the Forest.

4.

- Shooting
- Deer Culling and RTAs

It is illegal to shoot or hunt animals, however we know anecdotally that poaching takes place.. It is impossible to undertake safely a deer cull on the Forest. However, culling takes place on Pippingford Park. A22 is the worst road in England for deer related accidents – advice given to call the Forest Centre/Ranger or the Police (101) who will in turn call a Deer Warden.

5.

- Fires

We have controlled fires between October and March – difficult to give too much notice as so much depends of conditions on the day - if in doubt call the Forest Centre for information.

6.

- Cyclists

Reports of cyclists riding on the Forest, both individuals and groups of up to 15. Cycling allowed only on Public Bridleways – please report to the office any flouting of our Bylaw. Always difficult to apprehend as it usually happens ‘after hours’.

7.

- Trees and woodland – why don’t we replant, why clearance.

A clear definition was given of the term Forest plus an explanation of the national and international designations we have relating to the Forests rare and unique heathland. The Conservators are duty bound to protect and extend the heathland.