

SUBJECT:	FALLOW PERIOD REVIEW
DIRECTORATE:	COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT BY:	CAROLINE BIRD, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform discussion within Commons Advisory Panel (CAP) on the 2018 fallow period.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the terms of the Lincoln City Council Act 1985 the Council may require horses to be removed from common land for a specified period in order to facilitate protection of the sward.

- 2.2 The act states:

*15- (5)d The Council may -
by notice prohibit, for the purpose of protecting the sward, the grazing or pasturing of horses on the commons between 31st March and 14th May in any year.*

- 2.3 Whilst an annual fallow period was maintained until 2008, the decision was taken, following consultation with CAP, not to do so in 2009, and to reconsider the matter annually thereafter. At that time CAP concluded that the limited number of horses on the common meant that there was a limited risk of damage being caused to the surface of the common if the horses were allowed to remain instead of having a fallow period.

- 2.4 This decision was repeated in the follow years until 2018 when it was agreed that a fallow period was necessary.

3. Review of 2018 Fallow Period

- 3.1 A review of the effects of the fallow period is required, taking in to account any positive and negative outcomes relating to common land.

- 3.2 In order to inform CAP discussions, our placement student Beatriz De Arcos Marin has started to gather information on the fallow period including anecdotal feedback. The document is attached at Appendix A.

- 3.3 It is noted that more information is yet to be gathered and that more views/facts will be discussed at the meeting.

4. Matter for Discussion

- 4.1 CAP members are asked for their views on the outcomes of the 2018 fallow period, and any information/evidence as well as anecdotal feedback.

List of Background

Lincoln City Council Act 1985

Papers:

Lead Officer:

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