

Chorleywood Parish Council



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Press Release

Damage Caused to Rare Orchids on Chorleywood Common

Twelve rare Bee Orchids were killed over the weekend of 27th February. They were trampled by horse riders who failed to use the permissive horse track.

Bee Orchids are one of the Commons' rarest flowers, so much so, that less than thirty plants have flowered on the Common since 2004 when the Parish Council started to keep records.

This substantial loss could threaten this species existence on Chorleywood Common and represents more than 15% of the total number of individual plants.

The byelaws and the Commons Scheme of Regulation make it illegal for horses to travel anywhere on the Common but on the horse track. The Police have been informed, as this act constitutes criminal damage. It is therefore very disappointing that riders who profess to love the Common can cause such wilful damage. If this trend continues it is very likely that more plants will be killed, with the end result that this rare and striking plant could be lost from the Common.

The parish Council welcomes horse riders on our Common but asks to please keep to the horse track.

Pictures below

For further information please contact Yvonne Merritt

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