

May 2021

Statement of incident to the Verderers' Office

Today my husband went into Bartley Post Office and was alerted to a man purchasing a large box of carrots. He had entered the shop without a mask and the shop staff appeared wary of his mannerisms.

We were concerned of his motives with the carrots and popped down to Bartley Cricket ground to check. Some of our ponies were there earlier. We then drove along Brockishill Road and saw his vehicle parked at the entrance of Brockishill inclosure. He had a number of children and a woman with him and many ponies were gathered around him and remained in the road. As I was parking up, he lifted the box head height so I was unable to see the box contents. Four of my ponies were in the group at this location within a large herd of around 15 to 20 ponies.

I got out of my car and he decided to place the box back in his car, a few carrots were visible. A whole full box of carrots had already been eaten by the ponies. I approached him and asked him to stop feeding the ponies. His first response was "Where are the signs?" I explained there are no signs at this spot but told him I was a pony owner and we don't want our ponies fed on the Forest so please stop feeding them. I then gave him a firmer response and his reply was "I don't care what you say as I will always carry on feeding the animals." I left the scene and informed local commoners to keep an eye on their animals.

We do not do facebook but I was alerted to a concerning post that also later on today at Bartley Cricket Ground there was a family who had witnessed "...a pony with just back feet on ground, apparently being fed in the car. Another pony was also involved. This person has recorded the number plate and I have a friend who has just sent through its details. This is the same vehicle!

Last week there were welfare concerns at nearby Minstead football green when a family was seen feeding and teasing most of the ponies there for a long period , including one with mild colic that was taken off. The ponies were being teased with food. Three of ours were there that day. Again, a lady raised her concerns on facebook and I am keen to find out if she has any vehicle details.

■ how can this be responded to regarding breach of byelaws/animal welfare. This family will carry on with this appalling behaviour.