



## AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

### Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN) Exchange of Common Land, report for the Downs Committee on consultation (for information)

#### Introduction

As part of the GBBN proposals for the A4018 (Whiteladies Road–Westbury Road) corridor, changes to Westbury Road and the Blackboy Hill gyratory system are proposed. These have a small impact on common land managed by the Downs Committee (established by the Downs Act of 1861), as discussed with the Committee in 2008 and September this year. Without repeating the previously published information in full, **the exchange of common land proposed is 620m<sup>2</sup> in favour of the Downs Committee.**

#### Consultation on the exchange

In order to seek approval for the land exchange proposed, a prescribed consultation process is required, with specific people/organisations to contact, followed by an application for ministerial consent. This process was commenced in October, with the following people/organisations contacted (those before the break as registered commoners, those after as relevant organisations):

- Clifton Theological College
- Hornby's Dairies Limited
- Bristol University
- F.O. Wills Esq
- Personal Representatives of Harold Gotch Robinson Esq Deceased
- Trustees of St Monica's Homes
- Personal Representatives of Hardwick Lloyd Hardwick Esq
- Badminton School Limited
- Bristol Corporation
- M.A. Wilson Esq
- George James Esq
- Hugh Threapleton Esq
- "Holmwood"
- R.S. Redwood Esq



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Exchange of Common Land, Downs Committee (for information)

- Natural England
- English Heritage
- Open Spaces Society
- Bristol Natural History Consortium
- Avon Wildlife Trust
- Avon Gorge and Downs Project
- Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge

These groups have been given until 3 December to respond. Of the one that has replied to date, the Open Spaces Society sees the proposal as beneficial.

We are also required to consult the general public/local residents, which has been achieved through the non-statutory consultation recently completed. Although there were many aspects of the Whiteladies–Westbury Road corridor consulted upon, the improvement proposed on the Downs were viewed very favourably by the vast majority of people who commented on it. The main reasons for supporting the proposals were the gained amenity space of the Downs by closing the unnamed road, while retaining pedestrian and cycling access. The few dissenting voices thought the small amount of bus priority offered by this road was being removed, but the signalisation of the Blackboy Hill gyratory will ensure that buses on Stoke Road are not disadvantaged.

While the non-statutory consultation closed on 12 November, the views of a small number of additional bodies such as Neighbourhood Partnerships are still to be included. And this report has had to be written in advance of this date, so not all views have been able to be included. The specific consultation on the exchange of common land will close shortly.

### Next Steps

In 2008, the Downs Committee gave the GBBN project permission to commence this process. Once all views have been analysed, we will be in a position to judge how supportive the consultees have been. If this continues to be as positive as it has to date, I expect to be in a position to apply for ministerial consent in January 2011.

I will bring a further report in January if the Committee wish to discuss the completed consultation responses before the ministerial application is made.

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