

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
DOWNS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 4.30 p.m.**

P The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor (Councillor Peter Main)

A Councillor Davies)

P Councillor Goulandris)

A Councillor Hugill)

P Councillor Janke) 6 city councillors

A Councillor Khan)

P Councillor Morgan)

P David Marsh (Master)

P Chris Booy)

P Anthony Brown)

P Francis Greenacre)

P Tom Hood) 6 Merchant Venturers

P Peter Rilett)

P Sir James Tidmarsh)

DWN

47.9/12

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Davies, Councillor Hugill and Councillor Khan.

Attendees introduced themselves.

DWN

48.9/12

MINUTES - DOWNS COMMITTEE - 2 JULY 2012

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Downs Committee held on 2 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to noting the following:

- page 3, paragraph 3, sentence 2 (re: play area) should refer to the fact that once funding had been secured, the

revised design would be subject to consultation.

**DWN
49.9/12**

PUBLIC FORUM

The following item of public forum business was received:

- Statement from: Mr D Catterall
- Subject: Anti-social behaviour on the Downs

It was agreed that the statement should be referred to the anti-social behaviour working group for consideration and response.

**DWN
50.9/12**

A TREE PLANTING PLAN FOR CLIFTON AND DURDHAM DOWNS

The committee considered a report (agenda item no. 4) on a proposal to develop and produce a tree planting plan for Clifton and Durdham Downs.

In discussion, there was general support for work taking place to produce a tree planting plan. It was agreed, however, that this should be seen as, and developed as a tree management and planting plan, and submitted to the next meeting for the committee's consideration / discussion. Whilst, in general there was no objection to replacing trees which had been lost, very careful consideration would need to be given to new planting proposals (such as the suggestion that 60 trees might be planted as part of the commemoration of the Queen's diamond jubilee).

It was noted that discussion with the Henleaze, Westbury-on Trym and Stoke Bishop neighbourhood partnership would be included as part of the further consultation.

Subject to the above comments, it was

RESOLVED - (1) that a tree management / planting plan for Clifton and Durdham Downs be produced; and

(2) that, subject to the further discussion, a community tree

planting event between November 2012 and March 2013 be organised.

**DWN
51.9/12**

REPORT OF THE DOWNS RANGER

The committee considered a report of the Service Director, Environment and Leisure (agenda item no. 5) updating on works and developments carried out since the last meeting.

Key points raised / noted included:

- a. A Green Flag award had been received. The Downs had also featured in both the South West in Bloom and Entente Florale judging events.
- b. The Sport England table tennis initiative had been successful.
- c. Committee members indicated their general support for the proposal to hold a family-orientated event in August 2013. It was suggested that the event could be timed so that it dovetailed in appropriately with a children's activity event that was also being suggested for August 2013.
- d. Bristol Water update: regular discussions were taking place with Bristol Water in relation to the required excavation works. A good working relationship was being maintained, and both Bristol Water and their contractors were adopting a co-operative approach to help minimise the impact of the works on users of the Downs.
- e. Traffic management: the working group had met twice to review traffic issues and would now continue to meet on a monthly basis. An action plan / timetable had also been agreed. In taking forward its work, the working group was mindful of the need to liaise appropriately with relevant neighbourhood partnerships to avoid any duplication of action, but also to take advantage of economies of scale, e.g. in applying for traffic regulation orders. Regular updates would be reported back to the committee.
- f. The anti-social behaviour sub-group would meet shortly, and would report back to the committee on suggested actions.
- g. Barbecue area: the committee indicated general support for the proposal that the trial period for the designated barbecue area should be extended into 2013, given the generally poor weather over this year's summer period. It was noted that in terms of enforcing action around barbecue activity, officers

had found it useful to be able to advise people of the availability of a designated barbecue area.

In light of / subject to the above comments, it was

- RESOLVED -**
- (1) that support be given to a family-orientated event being held in August 2013.**
 - (2) that the 12 month trial period for the designated barbecue area be extended into 2013 (due to the fact that because of the poor summer conditions in 2012, it has not been possible to fully evaluate the success of the trial).**

CS

52.9/12

DELEGATED AND UPCOMING EVENTS PROPOSED ON THE DOWNS

The committee considered an update report of the Service Director, Communications and Marketing (agenda item no. 6).

- RESOLVED -**
- (1) that the events and filming that have taken place between committee meetings under delegated powers be noted; and**
 - (2) that the proposed future events between committee meetings be noted.**

DWN

53.9/12

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL EVENTS TEAM ATTENDANCE AT MAJOR DOWNS EVENTS

The committee considered a report regarding Bristol City Council events team attendance at major Downs events (agenda item no. 7).

Key points raised / noted included:

- a. It was noted that the report had been prepared in light of the discussion at the previous meeting around the limits on

officers' ability to be present to witness incidents and report on activity at events (with particular reference to the Race for Life event).

- b. The resource constraints / team structure as outlined in the report were noted.
- c. It was noted that to help ensure that issues were addressed and to inform the planning of future events, a post event feedback form had been introduced, with the aim of seeking direct feedback from event champions immediately following events.
- d. It was noted that due to limited capacity, the event site licensing officer would prioritise site visits to new events, as there was greater confidence around the arrangements made by the organisers of long established events.
- e. In addition to the licensing process, it was proposed that all major events and new events requiring a report to the committee would be asked to attend a separate multi-agency meeting, led by events and parks officers, to discuss specific details (including, for example, any parking issues). This was intended to form a "pre-emptive" layer of support / early guidance in advance of events.
- f. It was noted that the committee's concerns around compliance regarding this year's Race for Life event had been fed back to the organisers.

RESOLVED - that the report and the above information be noted.

**DWN
54.9/12**

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2011/12

The committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services (agenda item no. 8) setting out details of the accounts for 2011/12 (subject to audit).

In considering the report, it was noted that a contribution of £4,052 had been required from the Downs reserves to ensure that net expenditure was within the Council's budgeted precept to the committee. As at 31 March 2012, the overall reserves stood at £152,856.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

DWN
55.9/12 FINANCE REPORT 2012/13

The committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services (agenda item no. 9) noting the estimated outturn for 2012/13.

In considering the report, it was noted that there was a current projected underspend at year end of £19,424, attributable largely to the unbudgeted income received from Bristol Water in connection with works associated with the installation of a new water main across the Downs.

RESOLVED - that the report and the estimated outturn for 2012/13 be noted.

DWN
56.9/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED - that the next meeting of the Downs Committee be held on 19 November 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at the Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR.

(The meeting ended at 5.35 p.m.)

CHAIR