

To: The Members of the Downs Committee

Councillors: Lord Mayor A Watson, P Abraham, M Fodor, G Morgan, M Khan, B Payne and C Smith;

Merchant Venturers: C Curling (Master), A Brown, F Greenacre, A Densham, D McArthur, T Ross and Sir J Tidmarsh

Officers: Pete Watts, Event & Festival Officer
Rosa Clark, Festivals, Community Arts and Films Manager
Mike Allen, Finance Business Partner
John Williams, Estates Business Manager
Andrew Gordon, Estate Management Team leader
Becky Belfin, Nature Conservation Officer

Records: Minute Book, DSO and spares.

Downs Committee

**24th November 2014
Public Forum Statements**


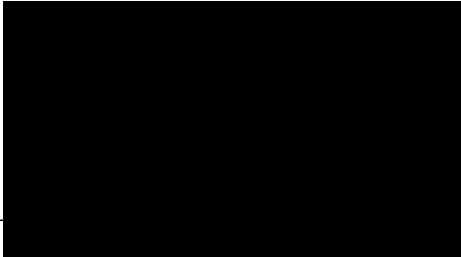
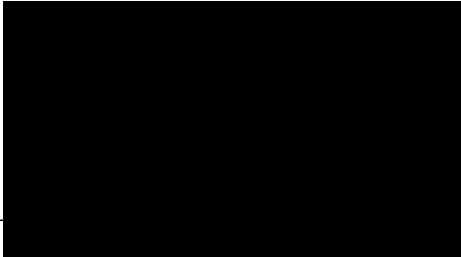
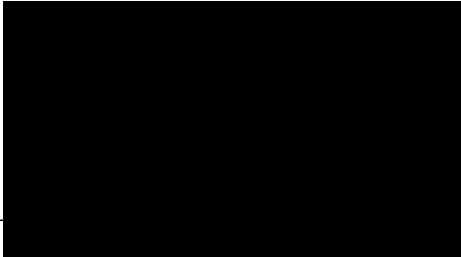
Agenda Item	Issue	Name	Statement No.
N/A	No Parking Restrictions on the Downs - Petition	Edmond Price	1
N/A	Restoration of Victorian Steps on Public Footpath	Robert Westlake, Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge	2
N/A	Circular Road	Ann Brake	3

Appendix A2

Bristol City Council Petitions Submission Form

Please complete the summary details on this form to assist us in directing your petition to the right place and include it with your petition.

Please note contact details for the petition organiser will not be made public other than name and postcode.

Petition subject									
PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THE DOWNS 									
Action requested by the petitioners									
NO PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THE DOWNS ARE IMPOSED									
Number of signatures <i>(please give overall number if combination of paper and e-petition)</i>									
Any eligible petition with 20 signatures or over will be automatically be considered by the Council. However if you prefer the petition can be presented for submission at a relevant public meeting of the council, prior to consideration of the issue raised. Please advise if you wish to submit your petition in this way.									
Yes/No <i>(please circle)</i>									
Name of Councillor submitting petition on behalf of petitioners <i>(if appropriate)</i>									
Contact details of petition organiser	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Name:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">EDMOND PRICE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Address:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Tel:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Email:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">EDMOND.PRICE@SPHEREACTHCARE.COM</td> </tr> </table>	Name:	EDMOND PRICE	Address:		Tel:		Email:	EDMOND.PRICE@SPHEREACTHCARE.COM
Name:	EDMOND PRICE								
Address:									
Tel:									
Email:	EDMOND.PRICE@SPHEREACTHCARE.COM								

Council use only
Date petition received:

**Bristol City Council
Petition Template**

Guidance notes:

Please use this suggested template alongside the petitions submission form (appendix 2 of the petitions scheme) for any paper petitions you wish to submit to the Council. Additional pages should also include the petition subject at the top of the page.

The Petition organiser must live, work/own a business or study in the City.

If you wish to 'sign' this petition, please put down your Bristol address if you live, work (or own a business) or study in the City as this will count towards any threshold for debate at full Council meetings (where all Bristol City Councillors attend).

Other signatories will be taken into consideration in respect of the issue being raised, but will not count towards the numbers required for formal debates under the scheme.

Please also refer to the petitions scheme available on our council website www.bristol.gov.uk for further information about how we deal with petitions at the Council.

Petition subject: PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THE DOWNS		
By adding our contact details below we ask that: NO PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THE DOWNS ARE IMPOSED		
Name	Address (incl. postcode if possible)	Email address (if possible)

Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge

Public Forum Statement

Restoration of Victorian Steps on Public Footpath

The Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FODAG) seek the support of the Downs Committee to complete the restoration of the public footpath that leads from Circular road down through the gully where the goat compound is situated and exiting at the A4 Portway.

Longstanding Committee members may recall that the footpath was severely damaged by heavy rains in 2012. At that time the lower section was reinstated and this work was jointly funded by this Committee and Public Rights of Way (PROW) This sum was approximately £4,000. The estimate for the remainder of the work at that time was a further £18,000

The outstanding reinstatement to the steeper upper half of the footpath is much more complex. This is because to mitigate the steepness of the terrain our Victorian forebears installed a series of stone steps. However, during the course of the last century and the early part of this one the condition of the steps have slowly deteriorated culminating in the storms of 2012 that left the steps unsafe and in urgent need of restoration.

Should the project go ahead and on the recommendation of the PROW officer the steepest sections of the path will be provided with simple rest stops and if feasible a handrail. This will not make the footpath fully DDA compliant but would greatly assist the less nimble.

FODAG believe that the restoration of the steps is a project worthy of this Committees support as they are important historically, architecturally and a direct link with the past.

The steps once restored will: (a) Become a prestigious project and demonstrate this Committees support for Green Capital 2015. (b) Provide improved access down through the goat compound. (c) Provide a secure route between Circular Road and the Portway. (d) Encourage more visitors to use this valued part of the Downs. (e) Give improved

access to visitors to study the many rare plants and interesting geology that this area has to offer. (f) Promote healthy walking to further enjoy this iconic landscape.

FODAG have met with an officer from the Public Rights of Way team to seek advice and support. This has enthusiastically been given and an offer of part funding for the work tendered. The level of funding however may be dependent on the demands on the PROW maintenance budget from elsewhere in the City and the possible devolvement of the budget to Neighbourhood Partnerships. If the project is to progress it will require an early decision of support to access funding whilst it is still available. The sum on offer could be as little as £3,000 and up to £10,000. In addition the Merchant Venture's may be able to assist with a donation of £5,000 from their Charity Fund. A revised estimate for the complete restoration is likely to be in the region of £20,000 so even if all proposed funding streams become available this will leave a shortfall of approximately £5,000.

FODAG request that this Committee give urgent deliberation to:

- (a) Endorsing this noteworthy project.
- (b) Giving consideration to allocating from reserves the sum of £5,000 to make up the shortfall.



Dear Downs Committee Members,

After reading an article in The Post I would like to protest most strongly to the proposal that the Circular Road be closed at any time, even on Sundays so that children can learn to ride their bikes.

There are numerous places where children can learn to ride their bikes; in the parks; on the pavement; on the football pitches on the Downs or even on the nearby Avon Way cycle track along the gorge. Ours did.

The traffic survey made to support the demand was ridiculous in its selectivity [08.00am to 11.00am] and its contradictory conclusions [not major disruption to motorists, who numbered 200 to 300; if it is 'not visited by many motorists' then there is no need to close it]

The road is used to access the magnificent view from Sea Walls of the Suspension Bridge and the Gorge. It is much frequented by people with visitors to Bristol. This unique location also gives a wonderful sense of space and well being, in all weathers, particularly to those who are elderly and less mobile.

A road closure will be the thin edge of the wedge and will be exploited by other vested interests. I wonder how the 3000 people who have signed the petition will arrive; by car and by parking in the streets, perhaps?

The whole idea should be rejected immediately on the grounds that The Downs is not for the exclusive use of any one group.

yours sincerely

Ann Brake
Westbury on Trym