

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

**DOWNS COMMITTEE
29th January 2015**

Report of: Service Director, Environment and Leisure

Title: Downs Management Report

Ward: N/A

**Officer Presenting Report: Andrew Gordon,
Heritage Planning and Partnership Officer**

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 9639194

RECOMMENDATION:

Members:

To note the points and recommendations made in the report.

Summary

This report reflects the objectives of the Downs Management Plan and to inform members of progress since the last meeting.

The significant issues in the report are:

- Enjoyment
- Access
- Working Groups
- Landscape
- Wildlife
- Management and Resources.

1. Policy

Not Applicable

2. Consultation

a) Internal

John Williams, Area Manager North.

Andrew Gordon, Heritage Planning and Partnership Officer

Mike Allen, Business Manager
Becky Belfin, Nature Conservation Officer
Richard Ennion, Environmental Improvement Manager

b) External

Mandy Leivers, Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer
Jack Penrose, FOD + AG
Chris Westcott, Natural England

3. Context

Enjoyment:

Following member's agreement, at the last meeting, to accept Natural England's decision, not to grant further consent to continue to use current designated BBQ and the need to consider alternatives, a subgroup meeting was held on 18th December to look at the options set out in the table and map in attachment 1. The group identified the following preferred options for alternative BBQ areas:

1. In amongst the scattered scrub/grassland mosaic along Ladies Mile (illustrated by a series of red dots on the map) on the grounds this area is away from residential areas, has low nature conservation interest, is an area already used by people to have BBQs, forms a discrete area well screened by scrub, is set back from the road (any road health & safety caused by smoke problems could be reduced by having the BBQs spread over the area). The group felt that picnic benches should be provided to enhance people's enjoyment and this would also help people understand that this is dedicated BBQ area and therefore avoid the need for signage.
2. The former Bristol Water Company pipeline works compound. This is away from residential areas, has low nature conservation interest, Parry's Lane which is adjacent to this area forms a natural and relatively safe parking area, it also provides an open area which some people may prefer to the screened area at Ladies Mile.

The group considered that the stone slabs in the current BBQ area should be transferred to the above suggested areas.

Recommendation: Members accept the proposed alternative locations of the Downs BBQ area, translocation of stone slabs from existing BBQ area and installation of picnic benches.

Access:

Following members agreement for officers to continue to collect data on anti-social behaviour, a summary of the number incidents from 1 November until 31 December 2014 are set out in attachment 2. This shows there were 20

incidents involving unauthorised parking on the grass, one at Stoke Road and Ladies Mile and a gathering of people involving about 18 cars parking on the grass by Circular Road.

Working Groups

Traffic group

The traffic group met on 9th December to discuss both cycling on and around the Downs and Parking on the Downs. The key points and actions are given in attachment 3. In summary the group considered:

1. That a cycling strategy for the Downs should be commissioned to clearly set out the Committees position on cycling on and around the Downs. Highways officers agreed to look at the possible ways of funding this work and to this end have asked that Officers from either BCC Strategic City Transport or Sustainable Transport teams make contact with the subgroup to discuss this matter as well as assistance in drafting a brief for this work. Subsequent discussion with Highways and FODAG suggest it may be sensible to develop a wider strategy which addresses access for all users i.e. pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and car owners. Officers advise the action plan from the Traffic subgroup is effectively the start of a wider strategy, and the proposal has been seen and noted by the Neighbourhood Partnership, so has some support. However, they point out there are no dedicated resources currently available in order to be able to develop a wider strategy at the moment.
2. That Sustran's proposal presented at the July meeting, to create cycle route along Westbury Road, should be taken forward and funding sort to implement the Project. Highways officers agreed to look at options for funding. They have raised this with the relevant people and the response was that this will need to be determined alongside other priorities and that that the appropriate officers will contact members of the subgroup to discuss the matter. The Group recommended that officers should work with Sustrans to produce a specification for the project in the New Year.
3. The issues with respect to numbers of commuter/commercial parking on the roads and unauthorised parking on the grass as result of introduction of Resident Park Zones for Redland and Clifton. Highways Officers considered the introduction of time limited parking should prevent commuter and other parking during weekdays.
With respect to unauthorised parking on the grass, legal action under the Downs Byelaws, should be considered for repeated offenders. Highways officers are investigating other possible options to deter offenders including the use of fixed penalties.
4. That the local residents proposed family cycling event involving closure of circular Road should be allowed to go ahead as pilot event.

Recommendation: Members agree to the commissioning of the production of a Downs cycling strategy and project specification for cycle route along Westbury Road, to the pilot family cycling event and note that the introduction of time limited parking on the Downs should control the impact of the introduction Resident Parking Zones.

Rock Fall Group:

Sea Walls

All the rock face stabilisation works were completed satisfactorily in the second week of January. Members should note that there were additional costs amounting to just over £7,000 as result of the need for additional rock bolts.

A topographic survey has been carried out on the neighbouring landowner's land, below Seawalls, to identify the area of land that will be needed to reduce the risk of future rockfalls reaching the Portway. Officers will use this information to then instruct BCC property services to undertake a valuation of the land, which will form the basis of any negotiation to purchase the land.

Bridge Road:

Parson's Brinkerhoff have completed the detailed tactile rock face inspection and are now in the process of undertaking the design and preparation of the specification document. They advise the design and tender should be ready for issue in early in the New Year.

Risk Management of Rock faces.

BCC Highways have informed officers they now intend to carry out rock face inspections in the Avon Gorge using drones and ground inspections starting in late January 2015.

Landscape:

A specification has been produced for restoration of the Victorian steps in the Gully and has been used to consult Natural England and BCC Rights of Way and quotations are being obtained.

e) Wildlife:

No problems were reported by FODAG and Downs staff with goats grazing the Gully.

Avon Wildlife Trust have completed the 5 year (2014-2019) scrub management plan they were commissioned to produce. The Downs team will start to implement the programme in January 2015 in liaison with BCC conservation and Heritage and Planning officers.

The report of achievements of the Avon Gorge Wildlife project is dealt with in separate item No. 8

f) Management and Resources:

On-going general maintenance includes planting winter bedding on the Blackboy roundabout, managing the goats, clearing litter and emptying litter and dog bins, grass cutting, cleaning signs and shelters, graffiti removal, shrub bed maintenance and maintaining herbaceous beds.

Removal of scrub and small trees on the Zoo banks area carried as part of a continuation of a programme of works set out by Bristol City Council, Natural England and Avon Gorge and Down's Wildlife Project. The intention is to increase areas of limestone grassland and to continue providing space for outdoor education activities run by the Zoo Education Officers.

A report on delivering the 5 year Downs Management Plan is set out in attachment 4. In summary the report shows:

1. The majority of objectives/actions are/ will be achieved or are progressing towards being achieved.
2. That there were a number of objectives which have not been progressed including:
 - Seek the agreement of Secretary of State to build a secondary visitor point at Seawalls
 - Investigate the technical and financial options to provide secondary visitor point at Seawalls with café and toilet facilities
 - Establish full costs of providing a secondary visitor centre at Seawalls
 - Undertake grazing feasibility study of The Downs
 - Monitor users enjoyment of the Downs through regular surveys.

The visitor point at Seawalls has not been progressed due to budget constraints and financial pressures. No funding is currently available to progress this project.

The grazing study and visitor surveys have not been taken forward due to lack of resources.

Recommendation: That members note the management undertaken in the report on delivery of the Downs Management Plan and if they still wish take forward the above mentioned objectives.

Finance

Quotes are being obtained for installing the infrastructure to allow a refreshment unit concession to operate at Seawalls totalling over £18,000. If approved the work would be carried before the Spring to enable this and Parry's Lane concession to be tendered as a package.

Recommendation: members are asked to consider whether or not they still wish to approve the infrastructure works taking into account the cost, combined visual impact of the concession unit and tow vehicle and current ice cream van and income generated.

Risk Assessment:

No Risk Assessment has been carried out

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

6. Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 provides that the Downs should remain as a place for the resort and recreation of the citizens of Bristol, and that a committee should be appointed to manage them. The

recommendations of this report are within the powers conferred by this statute.

Financial

(a) Revenue:

(b) Capital

None

Financial advice provided by Mike Allen. Business Partner.

7. Land

The land is under the control of the Downs Committee.

8. Personnel

Not applicable


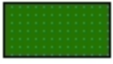
Appendices: 1 & 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985


Background Papers: None



Legend

-  SSSI
-  Senior Football Pitch

Wildflora Meadows


-  Summer Flws. Meadows (ND)

Bristol City Council
Clifton & Durdham Downs
BBQ Constraints Map
 WIGS sites - compartments 3, 7, 11, and 12

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ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Scale : @A3 1:4,800
 Date: 17/12/2014


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Bristol City Council
Clifton & Durdham Downs
BBQ Constraints Map

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Anti-social behaviour records on The Downs Incident type	Period from 1 Nov to 31 December 2014
Unauthorised parking	1 (Ladies Mile) ,1(Saville Road)
Public complaints	None recorded
Cycling	0
BBQ's	0
Litter	0
Placement Erection of structures e.g tents	0
Kite surfing	0

Downs Committee Traffic Sub Group

9th December 2014

Notes of Meeting

Present – Councillor Alastair Watson (Lord Mayor) (AW), Councillor Martin Fodor (MF), Chris Curling (Master Merchant Venturers) (CC), Anthony Brown (Merchant Venturers) (AB), Andrew Gordon (Estates Management) (AG), Mark Sperduty (Highways) (MS), Robert Grieve (Highways) (RG), Adam Smith (Security Services) (AS), Jon Usher (Sustrans) (JU), Robert Westlake (FODAG) (RW).

Cycling on and Around the Downs

JU provided an update on the situation. Strategy being developed by Bristol Cycling Campaign and BCC – report to Downs Committee 7th July 2014.

AW – Need to develop routes across the Downs for commuting and leisure purposes.

JU - £11m funding over 3 years for Strategic Cycling Network. Westbury Road route not identified as a priority route.

AB – A series of routes could be identified.

JU – Report needs to be updated.

AG – JU to prepare a strategy for Cycling on the Downs. Specification to be drawn up. A policy document is needed.

CC – Short term issue of Resident Groups wanting road closures on the Downs.

AG – Need to know what is required to progress the Westbury Road route.

Actions

Specification to be drafted

Westbury Road route to be progressed

Road closures

MS to try obtain funding

Legal issues concerning appropriation of Downs land to be ascertained

Parking on the Downs

AG – On going problem that is getting worse – Redland RPZ and then Clifton RPZ.

MS – Update on situation. Consultation has taken place on the proposals.

AS – Reliant on good will to be compliant – no penalty for parking on the grass.

AB – Legal options? Prosecute persistent offenders?

AS – Data can be generated, but need to ensure consistent approach. Data can be provided.

AS – Placing physical barriers – logs? Areas to be identified.

MS – Would need to be set back from the highway.

AG – Will find out the legal position/options available.

Attachment 3

The Downs Annual Work Plan 2014-2015

Key themes.

7.1 Enjoyment

7.2 Access

7.3 Landscape

7.4 Wildlife

7.5 Antisocial behaviour

7.6 Management and Resources

Key

Green = objectives/actions being met or target to met

Yellow= progress being made to meet objectives/actions

Red= objectives/actions not being met or likely to be met

The work programme will be subject to change from outside influences including pressure from site users, from the results of surveys or monitoring the availability of finance and operational changes as result of organisational restructuring.

The management plan is to be reviewed every 5 years, this will be carried out in 2019

NO	Objective	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Comment
7.1	Enjoyment				
7.1.1	Produce an events policy in line with city wide approach to events				Events subgroup set up with delegate powers to decide on events in liaison with BCC Events Team which is in accordance with BCC Events policy

7.1.2	<p>Investigate how to improve the changing facility for sport with provision for all genders.</p> <p>Increase diversity by encouraging participants from all backgrounds, levels of ability and from across the City.</p> <p>Increase the diversity of events at the Downs.</p>				<p>Community PayBack has completed the redecoration of The Downs changing rooms. There has been an increase in informal sports activity with local university teams.</p> <p>A Downs Committee working group to look at all aspects of improving diversity has been set up and have had considerable success in its first year. One example, regular Downs teams agreeing to provide volunteer coaching for disadvantaged groups</p> <p>The Your Downs initiative (set up as a partnership between the Avon Gorge & Downs Biodiversity Education Officer, FODAG and the Downs Ranger in 2013), continued to plan and run a series of events to widen the range of people who visit and enjoy the site. Your Downs activities in 2014 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Star parties attended by 154 people, over half of which hadn't participated in our events before; • the Festival of Nature Downs Discovery Day, attended by 82 people including the Family Centre (for deaf children), and LinkAge; • 3 guided walks for the Walking for Health mass walk, • 3 seasonal walks for the 'Walking the five ways to well-being group' (which is co-ordinated by the Inner City Health Improvement Team) and includes people from
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					<p>Easton, St Pauls, Montpelier, Barton Hill and St George.</p> <p>We also had displays at the Bristol Walking Festival, the Avon Gorge Climbing Festival and at the Bristol Wool Fair. We ran guided walks for the walking festival and the wool fair.</p> <p>Events new to the Downs will be Increase the range of Events to encourage visitor diversity and increase income.</p> <p>Wool Fair, Tour of Britain organised and successfully held. Planned events include Foody Fair, and international Kite fair</p>
7.1.3 & 7.1.3a	Continue to support and develop the existing Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project Education Programme				<p>During 2014, over 6,656 people took part in one of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project education programme walks, talks, courses , children's or family events, or came to the Downs for education sessions. For the seventh year running, we employed a seasonal education officer with funding from Downs Committee (30 hours a week, from 4th March – 31st October).</p> <p>We taught 1,809 school children (compared with 1,495 children in 2013) and a similar number of play scheme children to 2013. We saw increased bookings for evening sessions from Brownie, Beaver and Rainbow groups.</p> <p>In addition to the Your Downs events in 7.1.2, the education officer gave a talk or guided walk to 597 people from 15 community groups, ranging from the Avon Sports & Leisure Club</p>

					<p>for the Visually Impaired to the Avon Federation of WIs.</p> <p>We joined forces with the Bristol City Council Tree Pips team, Bristol Ornithological Club and local peregrine expert Ed Drewitt to run the 'Wild Bristol' tent at the Bristol Festival of Nature. Our side of the tent was peregrine themed and decorated with peregrine sculptures, created with Hotwells school following an education session on the Downs. 2,463 people took part in our activities. over the festival weekend. Four seasonal Family Nature Trail leaflets for the Downs were launched and proved to be very popular.</p>
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7.1.4	Review of provision of existing information materials and develop new high quality interpretation material as appropriate				No new signage installed. All visitor interpretation boards maintained and up to date no replacement required this year. Propose subgroup is set up to review existing information materials.
7.1.5	Investigate options for developing a history education programme for the Downs.				The history education programme is being delivered by displaying a series of boards providing information on the history of the Downs on the railing in front of the water tower and also by the Avon Gorge and Downs Project

					biodiversity education officers by including the Downs history schools and visitors in their teaching activities.
7.1.6	Produce an all-encompassing interpretation and promotion plan (covering access recreation, history and wildlife etc) to ensure the Downs are Widely promoted				An all-encompassing interpretation and promotion plan has not been produced due to lack of resources and members are asked whether they wish to still wish to commission the production of this plan Avon Gorge and Gorge Wildlife Project contributes to this action by producing events programmes and guided walks leaflets, various interpretation boards explaining wildlife geology and landscape history.
7.1.7	Design and cost and provision of new Downs pavilion to include changing facilities café and visitor information centre on the site of existing changes rooms and cafe				Requires external funding including FA grants and Heritage Lottery Fund for community local football to be explored in 2015/16.
7.1.8	Seek the agreement of Secretary of State to build a secondary visitor point at Seawalls				Not progressed due to current budget constraints and financial pressures no funding is available to progress this project

7.1.9	Investigate the technical and financial options to provide secondary visitor point at Seawalls with café and toilet facilities				Not progressed due to current budget constraints and financial pressures no funding is available to progress this project
7.1.10	Establish full costs of providing a secondary visitor centre at Seawalls				Not progressed due to current budget constraints and financial pressures no funding is available to progress this project
7.1.11	Design and cost new play area				New playground designed and installed in Spring 2014. Issues with ground restoration but these will be addressed in Spring 2015
7.2	Access				
7.2.1	Investigate the options of how to provide electric mobility scooters for disabled people.				The now retired Downs Ranger had previously investigated this objective and found that suitable vehicles are available but the implementation of such a scheme will need to be linked with any future development of a visitor facility.
7.2.2	Investigate the alternative options and implications of extending the cycling routes on existing roads and paths and the provision of cycle parking facilities at visitor attractions.				Sustrans has submitted proposals for improving cycling routes across the Downs to DC in July 2014. Traffic sub-committee met in on 9th December and proposed the need for production of cycling strategy. Development of project brief for a cycle route along Westbury Road in liaison with Sustrans and allowing a

					pilot road closure to allow family cycling event
7.2.3	Act on recommendations of the first access audit of the site to identify where improvements (if any) can be made.				Victorian steps to be restored in 2015 in the Gully to enhance access to this area.
7.2.4	Carry out a condition survey of all paths				No formal assessment of paths carried out this year but the new Downs supervisor will arrange for this to be carried out annually. Zig Zag footpath has been resurfaced.
7.2.5	Upgrade the footpath into the Gully where the quality is poor				Victorian steps to be restored in 2015 in the gully to enhance access to this area
7.2.6	Liaise with Highways Department to provide disabled parking bays at Stoke Road cafe, Seawalls and other areas.				Highways Parking restrictions proposal will include disabled parking bays at Seawalls and the Downs Café
7.2.7	Investigate the possibility of erecting brown informative directional signs in the city to guide visitors to all destination parks including the Downs.				Not progressed this year due to reorganisation changes. Officers will contact Destination Bristol to establish if Downs meet criteria as BCC destination location.
7.2.8	Prepare a site use and access guide for event organisers				Site permissions have formulated an event application for use by event organisers.
7.3	Landscape				
7.3.1	Prepare a plan for the future management of scrub areas to balance conflicting pressures of ecology, landscape, access and archaeology				A 5 years Scrub management plan (2014 -2019) has been produced. This will be linked to restoration of species rich grassland within the SSSI and wider Downs.

					Natural England are proposing to extend the Avon Gorge Higher Level Stewardship agreement to fund this this work
7.3.2	Implement a programme of scrub management subject to 7.3.1				Downs Team are implementing the new 5 year scrub management plan in the new year.
7.3.3	Remove all scrub growing within the boundary of the scheduled ancient Monument known as Clifton Down Camp, an Iron Age hill fort.				2 further identified compartments on the Iron Age Fort earth banks have been completed with the assistance of Community Payback . Banks opposite the Zoo have cleared restore species rich grassland.
7.3.4	Check the condition of all trees growing on the iron Age Fort annually and maintain them to reduce the risk of them ever being blown over in strong winds.				This is linked to above and in future years will form part of the zonation system of tree inspection set out 7.3.8.
7.3.5	Review the provision and design of all 'park furniture' e.g. seats, litter bins, signage, obstacle fences etc. and produce a design guide.				All new seats installed follow a style previously used on the Downs. 2 memorial benches and one replacement. Some redundant seats removed. All benches are being replaced, using memorial benches, on the basis they replace benches which are deemed to be beyond economic repair
7.3.6	Create and implement a replacement programme of existing park furniture and the provision of additional items – following 7.3.5.				Downs Team carry out annual bench condition reports and using this information carry out repairs and refurbishment and remove if considered redundant
7.3.7	Identify and open lost views across The Downs and Avon Gorge.				View opened up along the Promenade by Community PayBack A rolling programme to recover the Iron Age fort will be continued in

					January 2015
7.3.8	Continued inspection and proactive management of the Downs Tree Stock in line with the risk management strategy.				Trees are inspected by BCC tree officers using zonation system based on frequency of use i.e. the more frequently the use the greater frequency of inspection. There are estimated be up to be more than 2000 trees and inspections are likely to result in significant remedial works and costs.
7.3.9	Prepare a tree planting plan for the Downs to include options for replanting with existing or new species to fill gaps within existing avenue planting and / or phased felling and replanting of horse-chestnut avenues.				Officers intend to complete the preparation of the tree planting plan in 2015
7.3.10	Maintain an elm tree felling and removal programme where elm disease is identified in an effort to remove the residual disease base with a view to possibly reintroducing elm trees through a planting scheme later.				Elm Felling programme has resulted in numbers of Huntington Elms being reduced to tow trees which are currently considered to be healthy
7.4.0	Wildlife				
7.4.1	Maintain the existing wildflower meadows				Hay cut carried out after July 15 by Downs Team. Hay given to 4 city farms and remainder sold. Contractor to be used to carry out hay cut for 2015
7.4.2	Investigate the potential for creating new areas if wildflower meadow in carefully selected				In summer 2014 FODAG volunteers, collected wildflower seeds from areas of species rich grassland adjacent to Circular Road and spread them on the small grassland area at the top of the Gully view point to enhance the botanical interest. Potential additional areas been identified and to be included in hay cut in 2016

7.4.3	Develop and implement survey and monitoring programmes for rare plants, insects and other animals				Not carried out to date due to lack of resources. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to fund these surveys based on report to be produced by BCC conservation officer
7.4.4	Goats monitored daily by the Downs Team				Continued daily monitoring takes place by the Downs Team and FODAG do this on the weekends. In the last year 2 incidences of note. One of the goats got injured and was removed to the zoo for treatment. In September a large Black Pine was blown over onto fence line. Spotted and cleared up by downs team. Fence repaired.
7.4.5	Reviewing goat grazing project				Ongoing by BCC, Natural England, Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project and FODAG
7.4.6	Undertake grazing feasibility study of The Downs				This has not been progressed. Members are asked whether or not to still progress this action in 2015.
7.5	Antisocial behaviour				
7.5.1	Produce a detailed plan to manage fairyland with the aims of encouraging greater public access				No detailed plan has been produced. The Downs team have been removing scrub from this area and will work to a detailed plan to be produced in 2015 in consultation with AGDWP
7.5.2	Investigate ways to control traffic speed on the Downs. FODAG to present a report to Committee				20 MPH speed introduced by Highways across the Downs
7.5.3	Improve enforcement of byelaws especially those forbidding the parking of vehicles on the grass				Traffic subgroup considered this problem and highways agreed to x, y z see Norman
7.5.4	Improve the enforcement of the byelaws forbidding the lighting of fires(barbeques). A recommendation will be brought to committee				Downs Committee considers that the establishment of permanent designated BBQ is the best way to

					control this activity. Subcommittee met to consider options for locations of BBQ area and recommended x, y, z
7.5.5	Further the process of "preventing" vehicles from parking on the grass by the use of physical barriers and reinstate existing damage to turf (whilst being sensitive to ecological considerations, where appropriate).				Traffic subcommittee met and agreed that physical barriers would not be the solution to preventing parking on the Downs as they cause maintenance problems.
7.5.6	Implement fixed penalties for acts of littering and dog fouling. Dog warden service to assist				Patrols by BCC Security Services are used to deter these and other anti-social activities.
7.5.7	Evaluate the arguments for and against the provision of litterbins and the cost thereof. Objective achieved				
7.5.8	Provide more comprehensive cover of dog bins, Achieved with additional bins				A rolling replacement programme of poor quality bins is underway. It is intended to seek further assistance from the Dog Warden Service.
7.6	Management and resources				
7.6.1	Investigate and experiment with all options to reduce the effects of joggers eroding grassed areas and any associated 'wildlife'.				FODAG continue to maintain and create dead hedges still waiting for finance Maintenance and extension of areas protected by 'dead hedges' completed and is continually monitored. FODAG carry out renovations of fences every winter. Avon Gorge and Wildlife Project produce signs to explain why dead hedges are there

7.6.2	Monitor users enjoyment of the Downs through regular Surveys				The Downs team require specialist assistance for this piece of work. Members are requested to consider whether they wish to commission visitor surveys given current budget constraints
7.6.3	Continue to monitor the playing quality of the sports pitches and ensure the quality of the playing surface.				<p>All playing surfaces are subject to an annual inspection by the Downs Supervisor and remedial action taken as required City wide new grounds maintenance regime</p> <p>The height of cut grass has been amended to reflect the requirements of Estates including the Downs. Formal monitoring of the specification revised in 2012.</p> <p>Downs Ranger and head Gardener carryout informal monitoring. Head gardener carries out formal monitoring</p>
7.6.4	Monitor demand for sport provision and report all changes to committee with recommendation's for reaction				Current use is Saturday downs league football, and Wednesday Bristol university football. Any new applications to use Downs would come into BCC sports lettings, who would then contact downs management.
7.6.5	Review the present specification for grounds maintenance. Objective acheived				

7.6.6	Consider ways to introduce car parking charges for events and predict the affect on attendance/income generation				A trial was established with the 'Wool Fair' event in September 2014 seeking £1 per parked car. With the formulation of The Downs Committee Sub group for events , DC have the opportunity to meet with larger events to formulate an approach to charges on a case by case basis. It is expected that the baseline £1 per car will be a model that will generally be adopted in the future. If parking restrictions are to be implemented across The Downs the introduction of additional Car Parking charges should lead to an increase in event revenue from at least Funderworld and The Circus.
7.6.7	Investigate ways to increase income through donations and sponsorship of e.g. benches and trees.				Bench sponsorship averages approximately 10 a year generating £7.5k. Sponsored trees form part of the Tree Bristol scheme.
7.6.8	Investigate all grant funding opportunities for capital works				BCC conservation officer looking opportunities for obtaining grant funding for removal scrub in Avon Gorge with Natural England
7.6.9	Retain Green Flag award				Deferred until further notice due to financial constraints

7.6.10	Produce an interpretation and promotion plan Objective achieved				.
7.6.11	Audit the EMAS action plan				The Downs Supervisor carries out an annual audit.
7.6.12	FODAG well established and the expansion of the groups role to evolve through the life of the Plan. Objective achieved				The group make a significant contribution to the running of the Downs, including, goat management, traffic surveys, mammal and butterfly monitoring, working parties, assisting at events, litter forays and supporting the Avon Gorge Wildlife project
7.6.13	Develop the existing staff on site to enable them to enforce byelaws and assist members of the public as they arise				This requires Downs Team to obtain specific training. Officers deal public enquiries.
7.6.14	Investigate and encourage volunteer assistance for the Downs				3 work placement successfully completed. These significantly helped the Downs Team at times of staff shortages
7.6.15	Investigate the options and benefits of establishing a volunteer ranger service				FODAG continue weekend goat monitoring
7.6.16	Provide an information point adjacent to Stoke Road, which includes emergency telephone contact numbers and information such as public notices				Information point will be put on existing sign at Stoke Road 2015
7.6.17	Manage the Downs budget as business unit				The Downs finance officer reports to the Downs Committee on budget spend

7.6.18	Carry out risk assessments				Downs Supervisor and Area manager North review R/As on annual basis . Electronic and hard copies are available at the Downs depot.
7.6.19	Revise the 5 Year work programme				Work programme revised annually by the Downs Management Team
7.6.20	Non listed building and structures inspected by property services				Carried out annually by property services
7.6.21	All listed buildings and structures inspected by the property section				Carried out annually by property services
7.6.22	Downs Committee monitors the implementation of the five year plan.				Heritage Planning and Partnership Officer reports directly to Committee with an update of current activities and progress against the Plan.
7.6.23	Avon Gorge Downs Project produce annual review of project				The steering group present an annual report to Committee.
7.6.24	Parks Grounds Maintenance Manager reviews the Departmental Asset Management Plan for the maintenance of buildings and structures.				This will carried out by BCC Area Manager North.
7.6.25	Monitor income and expenditure against annual budget.				The Heritage and Planning officer meets with the Downs Finance Officer quarterly
7.6.26	Monitor and record the number of events				Historically the Site Permissions service reports 5 times a year to DC via the delegated powers report with larger events requiring a separate report for consideration. . The recent formation of the Sub group for Events

					builds on this reporting function and ensures any increased event activity is fully considered.
7.6.27	Monitor and record number of football games and income generated				The Downs Supervisor monitors and records weekly football games. Income generated in monitored by the BCC Finance Officers
7.6.28	Downs Supervisor formally monitors quality of work against specifications				Ongoing compliance with BCC grounds maintenance specification
7.6..29	Play ground checks carried out weekly and filed in the play section				The playground is monitored weekly by the play inspector and records filed centrally. New playground installed and grounds reinstatement carried out Two sets of OTIS fitness equipment installed on one year trial basis. Downs Team monitor condition.
7.6.30	Informal ground maintenance quality inspections carried out the Downs supervisor				Ongoing duty of the Downs Supervisor
7.6.31	Review the environmental register currently used by the landscape design Team. Adapt and adopt it for specific needs of the Parks and Estates Services				Awaiting advice from John Williams on how this has been taken forward.
7.6.32	Revise the Management Plan				To be reviewed in 2018/19 by Estates Management Plan Officer in consultation with Heritage Planning and Partnership officer
7.6.33	Downs Committee monitor the implementation of the 5 year plan through Regular Heritage Planning and Partnership reports				Ongoing Heritage Planning and Partnership reports to Downs Committee
7.6.34	Downs Committee reports to the Council reports to the Council and Society of Merchant Venturers				This is reported annually.
	Additional Works Undertaken				
1	Established and managed successful partnership with Community Payback				Community payback completed Refurbishment of the Downs dressing rooms and scrub clearance of the iron age fort

2	Bridge Valley Road				The Downs Team will close the road and carry out annual scrub clearance in new year 2015 to permit rock safety inspections.
3	Downs Events				Downs Events Managed by BCC events Team
4	Working Groups				Subgroups include rockfall group Traffic group and Events Group. Downs Events group was set up with delegate powers to decide on approving events but report to Downs Committee
5	Bristol Resilience Scheme				Bristol Water installation of major new pipeline was completed in summer of 2014
6	Staff Development				<p>New organisational structure has resulted ie. Downs Supervisor and 6 gardeners posts plus support from Heritage planning and partnership officer</p> <p>The Downs team have all received annual PMDS's and training shortfalls and development opportunities identified.</p> <p>One staff member completed 12 month secondment to gain a wider experience within the wider estates.</p>