

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNS COMMITTEE

12TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Report of: Service Director of Communication and Marketing

Title: Delegated and Upcoming Events Proposed on The Downs

Ward: Stoke Bishop / Clifton / Westbury on Trym

Officer Presenting Report: Peter Watts, Festivals and Events Officer
(Site Licensing)

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 922 3466

RECOMMENDATION

That the events and filming activity that has taken place on The Downs under delegated powers be noted.

That the proposed future events to take place on The Downs between Committee meetings be noted.

Summary

This is a report of the Events and Filming activity that has taken place under the Delegated Powers of the Downs Committee, as authorised by the Film Office and Events Team. It also presents an outline of the minor events proposed to take place between Committee meetings. The report is intended to update the Committee and provide an opportunity to raise any issues concerning events on The Downs.

The significant issues in the report are:

- a) Filming activity that has already taken place under Delegated Powers since the last Downs Committee Meeting (Paragraph 7).
- b) Events activity that has already taken place under Delegated Powers since the last Downs Committee Meeting (Paragraph 8).
- c) Proposed future events that will take place under Delegated Powers between Committee Meetings (Paragraph 9).
- d) Proposed schedule of Charges for 2012 – 2013

Policy

1. All events that take place on The Downs have to adhere to the 'Policy for events on The Downs'.

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Robert Westlake – Downs Ranger
Tony Whitlock - Resources
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

4. The following filming activity has already taken place under Delegated Powers between Downs Committee meetings and is presented for the information of the Downs Committee.
5. The following events have already taken place under Delegated Powers between Downs Committee meetings and are presented for the information of the Downs Committee.
6. The following events are proposed to take place under Delegated Powers.

Proposal

7. Filming that has taken place since previous report (4th July 2011):

Production Company	Filming Activity	Dates and times of activity	Location Fee
BBC Casualty	Parrys Lane Unit Base	8 th July 2011	£350.00
Company Productions (Skins)	Parrys Lane Unit Base	24 th July 2011	£350.00
BBC Casualty	Parrys Lane Unit Base	27 th July 2011	£350.00
Company Productions (Skins)	Filming on Circular Road	2 nd August 2011	£150.00
BBC Casualty	Filming on Observatory Hill and Unit Base at Ladies Mile	22nd August 2011	£500.00

8. Events that have taken place since previous report (4th July 2011):

Organisation	Event title and description	Dates and times of event	Site Fee
Cancer Research UK	Race for Life 2011	10 th and 11 th July 2011	£596.25
Highcroft Veterinary Group	Veterinary Day	17 th July 2011	£30
RSPB	Information Day	21 st July and 19 th August 2011	£60

9. Proposed future events under delegated powers

Organisation	Event title and description	Any road closures or restrictions?	Dates and times of event	Site Fee
Run for the Future	Charity Fun Run, Jog, Walk	Yes	18 th September 2011	£155.00
St. Christopher's School	Michelmas Walk	No	25 th September 2011	TBC once application received
Sue Rider	Charity Abseil	No	2 nd October 2011	£90.00

Other Options Considered

10. Explore how feasible it is to raise Funderworlds Licence Fee's to £100k.

The Downs Committee respectfully requested that an investigation into the feasibility of raising Funderworlds site fees from the current 25k to approximately 100k.

I would like to report that I do not feel this would be an appropriate fee to charge for the following reasons:

1, Currently Funderworld only attends Durdham Downs, after withdrawing from Colchester and Bournemouth due to falling attendance.

2 The site fee for Bournemouth was £4500 which is considerably lower than the £25k we currently charge for the use of the site.

3, Raising the fees significantly higher than our published schedule of charges will invite criticism and scrutiny regarding fairness and openness in our dealing with commercial operators.

4, A significantly large increase in site fees may result in Funderworld choosing to relocate to another site in Bristol which is solely BCC owned and managed and as of such would adhere to the agreed and published schedule of charges.

5, The schedule of charges are based on type of activity and duration, they are not assessed against perceived (real or otherwise) profit margins.

6, The Circus tender has just been awarded, with site rental fees of 30k per year for 3 years. It would be prudent to bring Funderworld in line with these figures.

7, Raising the charges significantly will invite a tendering process which is time consuming and could possibly result in loss of income for one year due to the difficulty in securing a tender in time for The committee and SAGE to approve the visit.

Schedule of Charges 2012 – 13

A proposed schedule of charges was presented to Cllr Simon Cook and Cllr Gary Hopkins on the 17th August. Both were in agreement that the proposals were acceptable. Key Changes to the schedule includes:

A 5% rise in Commercial and Cultural rates in line with the expected inflationary rate. High rate rises were considered but due to the continued economic difficulties facing the Eurozone, UK and USA a sharp rise in rates could deter commercial event activity in Bristol.

A rate freeze is proposed to help protect Charity and Community events during economic uncertainty and to demonstrate a commitment to enabling and supporting local community and charity events.

The Personal Training permit rate has been frozen to help support the fledgling scheme and gain increased buy-in from trainers across the city.

Leafleting and Sampling rates received a significant increase in fees (23%) to bring them in line with Commercial event rates as many PR companies were scaling back event activity to take advantage of the cheaper rate.

A 25% fee discount may also be applied to event activity between October and March in an attempt to generate event activity throughout the year.

Risk Assessment

The recommendation of this report is for the events on The Downs that have taken place or are due to take place to be noted. Events on The Downs contribute to the following vision of Festivals and Events:

- To raise Bristol's National and International profile as a festival city, to make Bristol outward looking and an inspiring place to visit and live.
- To nurture, develop and deliver an annual programme of cultural events and festivals that act as a stimulus to the regions cultural and tourist economy, from which all Bristol residents can benefit.
- To be a professionally organised, events-friendly city that recognises quality, supports and exports home grown talent and attracts international, artists, festivals and events.

If events were not to take place then as well as impacting on the financial income for The Downs budget the cities annual events programme would be substantially reduced. Event organisers may also choose to use other sites, which would mean The Downs is not animated throughout the year by a range of cultural and sporting events. Events on The Downs also attract an audience to The Downs who may not otherwise visit and understand the uniqueness of The Downs to Bristol.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) 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.
- 8b) All event organisers are sent the Schedule of Terms and Conditions for licences when they are issued with their licence. This schedule details the council’s commitment to promoting equality of access to all services it directly provides or facilitates through its hire of land to others. The Licensee shall conform to the principles contained in the Council’s Equalities Policy. The Licensee shall ensure that nothing the Licensee or the Licensee’s servants or agents or any sub-licensee or sub-licensee’s servants or agents does:
- a. Has the effect; or
 - b. Is intended to have the effect; or
 - c. Is likely to have the effect,

of harassing or causing the use of violence against any person who attends or wishes to attend the Event or discriminating either directly or indirectly against any person who attends or may wish to attend the Event, on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 provides that The Downs should remain as a place for the public resort and recreation of the citizens and inhabitants of Bristol, and that a committee should be appointed to manage them. The recommendation contained in this report is within the powers conferred by this statute.

Financial

(a) Revenue

Site Fees are based on the schedule of charges 2011 / 2012 agreed at the Downs Committee on 11th April 2011.

Income since last report under Delegated Powers (4th July 2011):

Film Office	£1700
Events already held	£686.25
Events Proposed	£245

(b) Capital

None

(Financial advice provided by *Tony Whitlock, Principal Accountant*)

Land

The land is under the control of the Downs Committee.

Personnel

Not applicable

(Personnel advice provided by n/a)

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
Background Papers:

Event Site Licence Applications File

Bristol City Council Schedule of Charges for Events 2011/12

Schedule of Terms and Conditions for licences

