

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**DOWNS COMMITTEE**

**Report of:** Place Directorate, Culture Team

**Title:** Delegated and Upcoming Events Proposed on The Downs

**Ward:** Stoke Bishop / Clifton / Westbury on Trym

**Officer Presenting Report:** Adam Mullinger, Festivals and Events Officer  
(Site Permissions)

**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 Site Permissions 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.

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- 6- Gross Income to date / forecast (*subject to final fee discussions*)

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

## Consultation

### **Internal**

Downs Ranger  
Legal Services  
Parks  
Finance

### **External**

(Not applicable)

### **1. Filming activity that has already taken place under Delegated Powers since the last Downs Committee Meeting**

Description / Episode	Amount	BFO Filming Commission	Downs
Golden Years	175.00	87.50	87.5
Kathmandu 24 Hour Britain	75.00	37.50	37.5

### **2. Events that taken place since the last meeting under delegated powers**

Organisation	Event title and description	Date on Site	Gross Site Fee
Gaza Winter Walk	February	28	£36
Cats Protection Abseil	March	8	£100
Funderworld	March	12	£19,500
Cycle Sunday	Apr	19	£250.00
The Tent Show	May	16	£1,000.00

### **3. Proposed future events that will take place under Delegated Powers between Committee Meetings**

Cycle Sunday	Jun	14	£0.00
Rainbow Run	Jun	19	£500.00
Foodies Festival	Jun	23	£9,000.00
Shaun in the City	Jul	2	£0.00
Race for Life	Jul	3	£1,000.00
Cycle Sunday	Jul	12	£0.00
Caught Out	Jul	12	£0
2015 Family Rounders day	Jul	18	£0
Kite Festival	Aug	21	£3,000.00
Cycle Sunday	Sep	20	£0.00

#### **4. Staffing Update**

Following period of this is to confirm no cuts or changes and consistent cover has been arranged for Site Permissions Officer vacancy.

Adam Mullinger has been seconded to the site permissions officer role and will be the main point of contact for the site permissions team until the permanent position for this role is filled.

#### **5. Event & Festival Updates**

- **Circus tender**

The circus tenders have been scored and a new contract awarded to The Great Russian Circus Limited who are now required to go through the council's site permissions process. As the winner is not Tony Hopkins / New World Circus a series of SAGE meetings and possible introductory meetings will be established.

- **Site Fee and Charges 2015 -16**

The site Fees for 2015 – 16 have been agreed for the financial year and will apply to any events taking place from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. See Appendix A for a breakdown of the sites. Downs charges are in bold.

- **Foodie Festival**

A new food festival to the downs which is all set to go the organiser attended safety advisory group and conducted site visits with Park officers and the site Permissions teams will be working with the organisers to ensure a smooth transition during the hire period. Visitors to the festival can look forward to a feast on a vast array of culinary activities.

The opening hours of the event are:

- Friday 26th June: 11am until 7pm
- Saturday 27th June: 11am until 7pm
- Sunday 28th June: 11am until 6pm

#### **6. Gross Year End Figures to date (subject to final fee discussions)**

- Film Office: **£125** (Net to Downs Committee))
- Events Already Held: **£34386** (Gross)

Total Year End Forecast (March 2016): **£34511** (Gross)

## **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 2014-15 / 2015 -16*

*Income since last report under Delegated Powers:*



## REPORT TO DOWNS COMMITTEE HALF YEARLY WRITTEN SUMMARY JULY 2015

*A yearly report will be presented to the Committee in November when questions will be welcomed.*

### SECTION I FOD+AG

FOD+AG (Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge) are an independent volunteer group recognised by Bristol City Council. Our group, which now has some 185 members, was formed in February 2008 in response to a City Council initiative. We have our own constitution and all legal and liability matters are covered by the City Council.

**Objectives.** FOD+AG is established to initiate, promote, support and conduct activities that will:

- Preserve, conserve and enhance the overall and several distinct environments within the Downs and Gorge for the benefit of all legitimate users of the area and
- Deepen users' knowledge and understanding of the history, natural history and evolving social demands of the area.

The basis of our policies is education and knowledge leading to self policing and working with other groups with similar aims.

In addition we are preparing our own position papers and policies to guide our activities, The first two are on Cycling and Social behaviour

### SECTION II ACTIVITIES – since January 2015

**Walks.** We have co-operated with the Gorge and Downs Project in two walks for the "Five ways to health" organisation, and one as part of the Bristol walking festival, and one as part of the Portway Sunday. Other walks have been organised in association with various interest groups.

**Deep Litter Collection.** On the last weekend of each winter month we collect litter for two hours from the depths of scrub. This has involved 60 members and removed 45 bags of litter in the last season alone.

**Dead Hedge Building.** In co-operation with Mandy Leivers and the Downs team we have spent three mornings building five sections of dead hedge to direct runners clear of the meadows.

**Adopt-a-thorn.** Fifteen individuals have adopted 47 hawthorn trees, and over the winter have removed ivy, and cleaned the areas around the trees.

**Goat monitoring.** Nine members on a rota check the Goats in the Gully every weekend.

**Butterfly transects.** 2015 is year 6 of our monitoring of the size and diversity of the Downs' butterfly populations for UKBMS, involving a team of 8 registered

plus another 12 assistant monitors walking our 2 standard transects each week between April and October to count, identify and record all butterflies observed.

**Botanic garden meadow monitoring.** Since 2012 two members have monitored the plants in the experimental limestone plot in the Botanic Gardens every fortnight between March and October.

**Goat enclosure plot seeding.** English nature asked FOD+AG to try to improve the plant diversity on the grass plot at the top of the enclosure. A complete plant survey was done in 2014, seeds of 25 species were sown in August 2014, a few plugs were put in in March 2015. The success will be monitored and further sowings attempted.

### SECTION III                    ACHIEVEMENTS

**The conservation of the Victoria Steps.** This is a project we selected for the Green Capital Year. Phase 1 of the project to reconstruct the 1880s path down the Gully has been completed with the help of The Public Rights of Way dept and funding from the Downs Committee and the Merchant Venturers Charity.

**A pedestrian bridge over Bridge Valley Road.** This UWE project was initiated by FOD+AG, and after a great deal of work a planning application was submitted to the Bristol City Planners. After constructive comments from the planning department further work will be carried out and the application resubmitted.

The **"Your Downs"** initiative is a collaboration between FOD+AG, the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project and the Bristol City Council Downs Team. Through the initiative we aim to widen the audience, visiting, enjoying and learning about the Downs

**Publicity.** Articles about the Downs are placed every month in the free magazines BS6, BS8 and BS9. 34 have been written to date.

**Newsletter** Produced quarterly and distributed to members.

### SECTION IV                    THE FUTURE

#### **To come**

- An up-graded web site
- An App, in association with UWE

#### **Areas of Concern e.g.**

- The criteria for new uses other than income
- The access opportunities for all including working with other User Groups
- Anti social behaviour including litter
- Built environment

Over the coming months we will be looking forward some 20 to 50 years hence. At first this may seem a long time in the future but looking back the same number of years it was 1995 and 1965.

Already we have found that, in many ways, Bristol is not unique.

*Jack Penrose Chair FOD+AG June 2015*