

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Downs Committee

4 July 2016 at 11.00 am



Members Present:-

Councillors: Clare Champion-Smith, Jeff Lovell (Chair), Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Martin Fodor, Nicola Beech, T Ross, J Baker, A Brown, A Densham, F Greenacre, C McAlpine and D McArthur

Officers in Attendance:-

1. Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received from Councillor Clark.

Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Change of Downs Committee Membership

Resolved – that the changes to the BCC Membership be noted.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Resolved – that the Minutes of the last Meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

4. Declarations of interest

The following declarations were received and noted:

1. Dayrell McArthur – Member of Clifton Bridge Trustees
2. Councillor Alexander – Member of the Public Safety and Protection Committee.

5. Public Forum



The following Statement was received and noted:

David Anderson, Bridge Master – Clifton Suspension Bridge.

A copy of the Statement is contained in Minute Book.

6. Downs Management Report (30 minutes)

Andrew Gordon introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Place and Movement Framework

The situation concerning this was noted and it was agreed that the issue should be progressed but that funding was crucial to any scheme.

Sea Walls Concession

Councillor Abraham reminded the Lord Mayor that he had requested that consideration of this item be deferred until the Meeting on 26th September 2016 as he had previously been advised that the item would be considered until that date. It was explained since that information was given to Councillor Abraham circumstances had changed. The Lord Mayor – as Chair of the Downs Committee – had received a letter dated 15th June 2016 from the Licensing Authority requesting an early response from the Downs Committee to enable the Public Safety and Protection Committee to determine the Street Trading Consent Application. The Lord Mayor stated that he had carefully considered the request from Councillor Abraham and had decided that the item would be considered by the Committee at this Meeting to enable a response to be provided to the Licensing Authority.

Some Members of the Committee expressed concerns about the operating hours of 07.00 to 22.00 hours seven days per week as they considered them to be inappropriate. It was noted however that these were the hours agreed by the Downs Committee and were included in the tendering process for the Concession. It was also noted however that the applicant had applied for operating hours from 06.00 and this was not agreed or supported by the Downs Committee. It was noted that the Public Safety and Protection Committee would set the operating hours should it grant a Street Trading Consent to the Applicant

The background to the decision concerning the Concession was explained and it was confirmed that the Downs Committee had considered the Sea Walls Concession over a long period and in great detail before agreeing to it. The Committee had received several reports on the issue which enabled Members to consider all aspects of the Concession in depth before coming to a decision.

Works Compounds



It was agreed that the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust should be allowed an exemption from paying the £200 per week, provided that the specified period for a Works Compound to be in place is not exceeded.

Resolved – (1) that the report be noted and that the recommendations in the report be agreed including the following:

- (a) that FOD+AG’s proposals be supported and that consideration to making a contribution to funding the repair and maintenance of the listed structures be agreed subject to budget constraints;**
- (b) that the proposed management plan review programme be approved;**

Councillor Abraham voted against the following three resolutions.

- (c) that the Committee acknowledged the 140 objections received in respect of the application for a Street Trading Consent;**
- (d) that the Committee confirms its consent for the Concession under the Downs Byelaw**
- (e) that the Downs Committee gave its consent under the Byelaw to the successful applicant for the Concession in accordance with the agreed specification used for tendering purposes, including operating hours of 07.00 to 22.00 seven days per week;**
- (f) that a charge of £200 per week for allowing temporary compounds on the Downs be approved but that the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust be allowed an exemption from paying the £200 per week, provided that the specified period for a temporary compound to be in place is not exceeded; and**
- (g) that the H & S report and costs for producing a specification/ tender documents for repairing the Black Rock Quarry catch fence and the repairs be noted.**

7. Delegated and Upcoming Events Proposed on The Downs including the Tour of Britain (15 minutes)

Melissa Inman and Philip Walker introduced this report and summarised it for everyone.

Members of the Downs Committee acknowledged the size and importance of this event nationally and to the City, and were very supportive of it. However concerns were raised that permission for the event to take place on the Downs had been agreed without seeking the permission of the Downs Committee. Concerns were also raised that the Downs Committee is not to receive any fee for the event.

Resolved – that the report be noted.



8. Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge Report (10 minutes)

Jack Penrose introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

9. Clifton Village Signage Information (10 minutes)

Carrie Pooler introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Whilst it was noted that the proposals are supported by Local Councillors, the CHIS and the N P, concerns were raised about the signs and their relevance to the Downs.

It was therefore

Resolved – that BID Clifton Village should apply for planning permission and that after the application has been determined a further report should be brought back to the Downs Committee.

10 Vehicle Access Request - Observatory (10 minutes)

Ian Johnson introduced this report and summarised it for everyone.

Following a short debate it was agreed that a Sub Group be formed to consider the issue.

Resolved - that a Sub Group of 3 to 4 Members be formed to consider the issue.

11 Finance Report (10 minutes)

Mike Allen introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

12 Any Other Business

There was none.

13 Date of Next Meeting



Meeting ended at Time Not Specified

CHAIR _____

