

Committee Report

COMMITTEE: Downs Committee

DATE: 16 September 2024

TITLE: Use of North Car Park

Officer presenting the report: Luke Mackenzie **Job title:** Business Development Manager – Clifton & Durdham Downs

Purpose of Report: To seek approval for an agreement to be reached with a commercial provider for the North Car Park to be re-opened for pay and display parking

Evidence Base / Options to consider:

1. The area known as the North Car Park forms part of Clifton Down (see attached plan at Appendix A). Clifton Down is owned by the Society of Merchant Venturers and the land is governed by The Clifton and Durham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 (the 'Downs Act').
2. The land was used for car parking by Bristol Zoo for a number of years and is currently unused, with the Zoo having closed to the public.
3. Section 8(1) and 8(3)(c) of the County of Avon Act 1982 provide that up to one twelfth of the area of a park, pleasure ground or open space under the control of the local authority may be set aside for parking and facilities in connection therewith in the interests of persons using that park, pleasure ground or open space.
4. Section 8(6) of the County of Avon Act 1982 specifies that Clifton and Durdham Downs shall be deemed to be under the control and management of Bristol City Council for the purposes of the section.
5. Whilst the land forms part of Clifton Down, it was already separated from the large grassland area by a public highway prior to the inception of the Downs Act.
6. Commercial providers have expressed interest in using this land as a pay and display car park for Downs users. With no feasible alternative use, this will provide an annual revenue stream which will contribute towards the upkeep of the Downs.
7. Whilst signage would be put in place to designate the car park as being for use by users of the Downs only, it is recognised that there is no feasible way to police this (as per paragraph 4 of the court order – attached at Appendix B) and that signage to this effect is the only proportionate measure available in this regard.

Officer Recommendations:

That the Downs Committee:

1. approves the proposal that the North Car Park be re-opened for pay and display parking for Downs users;
2. authorises the council to select and enter into of an agreement with a commercial provider in order to give force to the recommendation above.

Appendix A

The car parking area is outlined in red on the attached plan. This is an approximate outline for the sole purpose of indicating the parcel of land to which this report relates.

Appendix B