

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**DOWNS COMMITTEE**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017**

**Report of:** Service Director, Neighbourhoods and Service Director, Culture

**Title:** Downs Management and Events report

**Ward:** N/A

**Officers Presenting Report:** Melissa Inman, Arts and Events Manager  
Sarah Blazier, Operations Co-ordinator  
North Parks

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 9037141

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Approve that Event proposals are discussed in detail at forthcoming the Event Sub Group meeting. Event Sub group committee then to report back at the next full committee meeting.
- Approval of the install of sensitively placed Samaritan signs at the Sea Walls location.
- Authorise permission for helicopter landings by Search and Rescue helicopters on the Downs.
- Approval of ground investigations and infiltration testing for potential Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) pond on Durdham Down near Henleaze Road.

**1. Policy**

Not applicable

**2. Consultation**

a) Internal

John Williams, Area Manager North.  
Becky Belfin, Parks Development Officer  
Sarah Blazier, Operations Coordinator North  
Gemma Dando, Service Manager  
Melissa Inman, Arts and Events Manager

**3. Context**

### **3a) Filming**

BFO Date	Company	Description / Episode	Amount	10359 Downs
07/04/2017	Orchard Films	The Great West Way	100.00	50
19/04/2017	Wall to Wall	Bomb	490.00	30
13/04/2017	Aspect Films	Babylon	90.00	45
19/04/2017	Clear Story	Utopias	150.00	37.5
08/05/2017	Happy Hour Productions	Happy Hour	85.00	42.50
02/06/2017	Teriyaki	Bristol Axis	135.00	21.25
18/05/2017	BBC	Breakfast	675.00	337.50
07/06/2017	Plimsoll Productions	The First Brit	135.00	42.50
			<b>1860.00</b>	<b>606.25</b>

### **Proposed future filming/Event**

- **BBC Countryfile Charity Walk in support of BBC Children in Need**

The proposed filmed event for the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 showcases places to ramble close to any city and this year they have chosen to showcase Bristol as the main city ramble.

Start point from the Clifton Observatory – over the bridge through Ashton Court and walk back through the pathway. The organisers would like to use the Downs to congregate the walkers at the start of the event. A marquee would be needed to register people on the walk/ 2 x concessions, lost child, medical portaloos, baby changing. 1-2 days of build time would be needed. Event Times 9.30-4pm. The film crew and event will consist of 1 x Presenter, Event Crew, Film Crew x 8 pax and involve approximately 800 walkers.

### **3b) Event & Festival Updates**

#### **Events previously reported to the Downs Committee:**

1. Foodies Festival took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Site Permissions team have not had any complaints come through regarding this event.
2. The Rainbow Run is to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> June.
3. Race for Life will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. They will be onsite from the 30<sup>th</sup> June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. This will be a 5k and 10k run, with a 5k muddy run.
4. Cycle Sunday has provisionally been approved by the Committee further an email being circulated to members. Site Permissions are in

the process of finalising their application. This event will happen on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

5. Bristol Students University Fair is onsite from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The event will be open to public on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.
6. The Concert on the Downs will be onsite from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September. The event day is Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Their premises license has been approved with conditions applied. Event plans were presented to SAGE on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, no specific concerns or issues were raise with the proposals by SAGE members. SAGE members will continue to advise on Event Management Plans going forward to support Team Love in delivering a safe and successful event.
7. Moscow State Circus will be onsite from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October. The event days are from the 4<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Fees and charges agreed for the events listed above:**

EVENT	MONTH	Site Fee	85% site fee income, to the Downs Committee	15% site fee, income to BCC
Foodies Festival	May	£10,575	£8,988.75	£1,586.25
Rainbow Run	June	£900	£765	£135
Race For Life	July	£1,631	£1386.56	£244.69
Music Concert Team Love	September	£46,060.00 (£28,000 Capacity) Plus voluntary levy £1 per ticket, currently predicting 20k /based on 20,000 sales in advance for the event	£39,151	£6,909
Student Fair (Fees to be agreed)	Aug/Sept	TBC	TBC	TBC
Moscow State Circus	October	£32,000	£27,200	£4,800
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£91,166</b>	<b>£77,491.31</b>	<b>£13,674.94</b>

	(Projected £20K concert levy not included)	(Projected £20K concert levy not included)	(Projected £20K concert levy not included)
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### 3c) Proposed future events 2017

Bristol City Council have received a number of applications to hold small - medium scale on the Downs in 2017, these include:

1. On the **8<sup>th</sup> July 2017**, the Midnight Walk. This will happen late at night and the route is a 5-10k walk around the city this is organised by St Peter's Hospice and takes place every year. The impact on the Downs will be minimal as they are only passing through.
2. The Brooks Run Signature Tour is visiting key running cities across the UK & Ireland throughout 2017. The tour itself consists of the Run Signature Tour van measuring 10M long x 4M wide x 3M high. Inside this is a treadmill for the Run Signature gait analysis. The organisers have requested a date of the **19<sup>th</sup> August 2017**.
3. Badminton School would like to host a 5k run this year on the Downs. They have requested the **9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**. A site plan has not yet been submitted.
4. Open Air Cinema is not yet confirmed as still waiting on a response to move the date as it clashes with the concert on the Downs. It is unlikely this event will go ahead
5. She Runs the Night is a 5k run scheduled for the **21<sup>st</sup> October**. The Site Permissions team are in the process of looking at the supporting documents before sending it out for consultation.
6. Tony Miles, Smiley Miley Events On behalf of Timmy Mallet TV presenter, broadcaster, and artist and personal manager John Miles is seeking permission to site a Traditional British Telephone Box that has been painted by artist Timmy Mallet with members of the British Royal Family on three sides, depicting Queen Elizabeth 11, Prince Harry and Catherine Duchess of Cambridge, which has been sited outside Windsor Castle for a number of years and has become a massive tourist attraction world-wide. The proposed site location is for the art work to be installed to the approach green to Clifton Suspension Bridge corner of Sion Hill Clifton. The length of time to be installed is to be agreed. This installation will attract positive media attention for the City of Bristol to encourage Tourist to Clifton Village. This installation was originally part of the BT Artbox project, to raise money for ChildLine.



**Fees and charges will be based on Bristol city Council's Fees and charges 17/18 - all fees yet to be agreed with event organisers.**

EVENT	MONTH	Site Fee	85% site fee income, to the Downs Committee	15% site fee, income to BCC
Midnight Walk	July	£350	£297.50	£52.50
Brooks Run	August	TBC	TBC	TBC
Badminton School Run	September	TBC	TBC	TBC
Open Air Cinema (unlikely to go ahead)	August-Sept	£7,200 (TBC)	£6,120 (TBC)	£1,080 (TBC)
She Runs the Night	October	£700 (TBC)	£595 (TBC)	£105 (TBC)
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£8,250 (TBC)</b>	<b>£7,012.50 (TBC)</b>	<b>£1,237.50 (TBC)</b>

## Event proposals for 2018

**1. Comedy Garden** - Bristol Comedy Garden currently provides a five-night event presenting a world-class programme of live comedy performance in an attractive and accessible event space in Queen Square. Returning for the sixth year this popular event has become an annual highlight in the South West's cultural calendar since it launched in 2011. The event is open to ticket-holders only, shows take place inside the 1,500-seat Big Top tent surrounded by a quality selection of bars and food stalls in a highly decorated event space.

### **2. Let's Rock –**

UK Live limited has requested to use The Downs in 2018 to hold Lets Rock Bristol. The show would be a 1 day format, with no camping. Bristol

is a very important city to UK Live Ltd as it was the first venue outside of Cookham where Lets Rock was held. The organisers feel Ashton Court is inherently expensive to manage by way of infrastructure needed (due to the size and layout of the site) and site fees, as well as the complexities of dealing with dual authorities.

The two dates that the organisers have expressed an interest in are Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (current weekend) or Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### **3. Lady boys of Bangkok –**

Bristol City Council, Site Permissions Team has been approached by the organisers of *The Lady Boys of Bangkok* a touring cabaret held in the Sabai Pavilion, which has previously been held in Castle Park in Bristol City Centre. Due to Castle Park developments a meeting has been set up with the organiser to discuss alternate sites. The organisers have expressed an interest in operating on the Downs in 2018.

**Recommendation:** Approve that the proposals are discussed in detail at forthcoming the Event Sub Group meeting. Event Sub group committee then to report back at the next full committee meeting.

### **Downs Management update**

#### **3d) Access:**

- The Bridge Trust compound remains on the Downs whilst they paint the suspension bridge, as agreed at the November 2016 committee meeting. The compound will be onsite for a maximum of 6 months, they plan to be less time if possible but works are weather dependant, any additional time will be charged. (started 13<sup>th</sup> March).
- Bristol City Council have received a request from Search and Rescue (SAR) Pilots for Hospital Helicopter Landings on the Downs. It is considered imperative that there is adequate provision in place for SAR helicopters to be able to deliver patients to the Bristol area in the event that the Southmeads helicopter landing site is not available and as an enhancement to capability in the event of a major incident in the area. The Downs has previously been approved for use by the Air Ambulance. Procedures will be put in place to ensure the landing site is secured by the local police and ambulance services are fully aware of the location for a seamless handover between medical services.

**Recommendation:** Permission to be authorised by Downs Committee.

#### **3e) Movement and Place Framework subgroup**

A sub group is due to take place. Date TBC.

Movement and Place sub group members are: Lord Mayor, Councillor Peter Abraham, Councillor Martin Fodor, Anthony Brown, Francis Greenacre, Tim Ross, Richard Ennion, Richard Goldthorpe, Sarah Blazier, Mark Sperduty, Ed Plowden, Oliver Coltman, Mandy Leivers, Becky Belfin.

#### **4. Landscape:**

##### **4a) Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project education programme, Report provided by Mandy Leivers;**

This year's Avon Gorge and Downs Seasonal Education Officer, Ariane Dupéron, started on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and will be with us until the 27<sup>th</sup> October. (A Seasonal Education Officer has been employed since 2008, to help meet demand for events and education sessions during the peak months and to increase the range and diversity of people visiting the site).

Since the beginning of the year we have worked with 8,925 people. 703 people attended 22 public events including: walks, talks, courses, a musical event for toddlers and a children's holiday event. We also taught 139 University and Higher Education students and 950 school children (with four of the schools visiting the Downs for the first time). A teacher from Elmfield school (which caters for pupils who are all hearing-impaired) emailed after their session: "*The session was an outstanding addition to our classroom work. It is so worthwhile to get the children out on the Downs and raise awareness of how important this area and others like it are to us... This is why we come back to it every year, such valuable learning experiences children remember and talk about for years*". A teacher from Hotwells Primary wrote "*Thank you for what you provide. Our children love your sessions and your staff are outstanding. They learn so much and gain respect for our local area*".

In partnership with Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG), the Downs supervisor and Walking for Health, we continued to develop and deliver the 'Your Downs' initiative (a series of events to widen the range of people who visit and enjoy the site). In the spring we led walks for Headway (the charity that works with people recovering from head injuries and strokes) and the Bristol City Council Health Improvement Team 'Five ways to wellbeing group' from Lockleaze. During the Easter holidays, 20 children and 7 parents from the Somali Forum joined us for a walk in partnership with the Bristol City Council Health Improvement Team. In May, we also ran an 'Ups and Downs in the Avon Gorge' as part of the Bristol Walk Fest.

In June, we joined forces with the Zoo and Wild Place Project education teams to run a tent at the Bristol Festival of Nature. We taught 120 children in our 'peregrine falcon and foodchains' sessions on the schools day and saw over 7,180 people visit the tent over the weekend as a whole.

##### **4b) Tree safety works**

The tree officer continues inspections for dead or high risk trees and tree

removals follow as required.

#### **4c) Management and Resources: Downs Team Report**

- As we are now at high summer, the team are focusing on clearing up litter and keeping the grass mown. Daily goat monitoring continues alongside other on-going core duties.
- Across late April to early June was the unfortunate arrival of not 1 but 2 traveller encampments, back to back. They set up on the grass between Ladies Mile and the depot. The levels of anti-social behaviour were quite high and we experienced 2 break-ins at our depot. Members of the public were understandably angry and a lot of time was spent placating people who were dropping into the depot to complain. After both encampments there was significant fly tipping to clear up and the team worked hard and quickly to restore the area to its usual standards. Very frustrating to do this then see them return soon afterwards and to know that our hard work was about to be undone.

On both occasions the Downs supervisor notified Bristol City Council's traveller liaison officer and proceedings were started immediately. There does however seem to be some slowness in the process at the court end of the chain.

Unlike other estates and parks the Downs does not have walls and gates to lock so we will never have the ability to be completely secure the site from this UK wide problem. It is not realistic to block access to the grassed areas with bollards and stones because the quantity you would need would be vast and the costs prohibitive. There needs to be greater levels of legislation available to local authorities to prevent more of this type of behaviour.

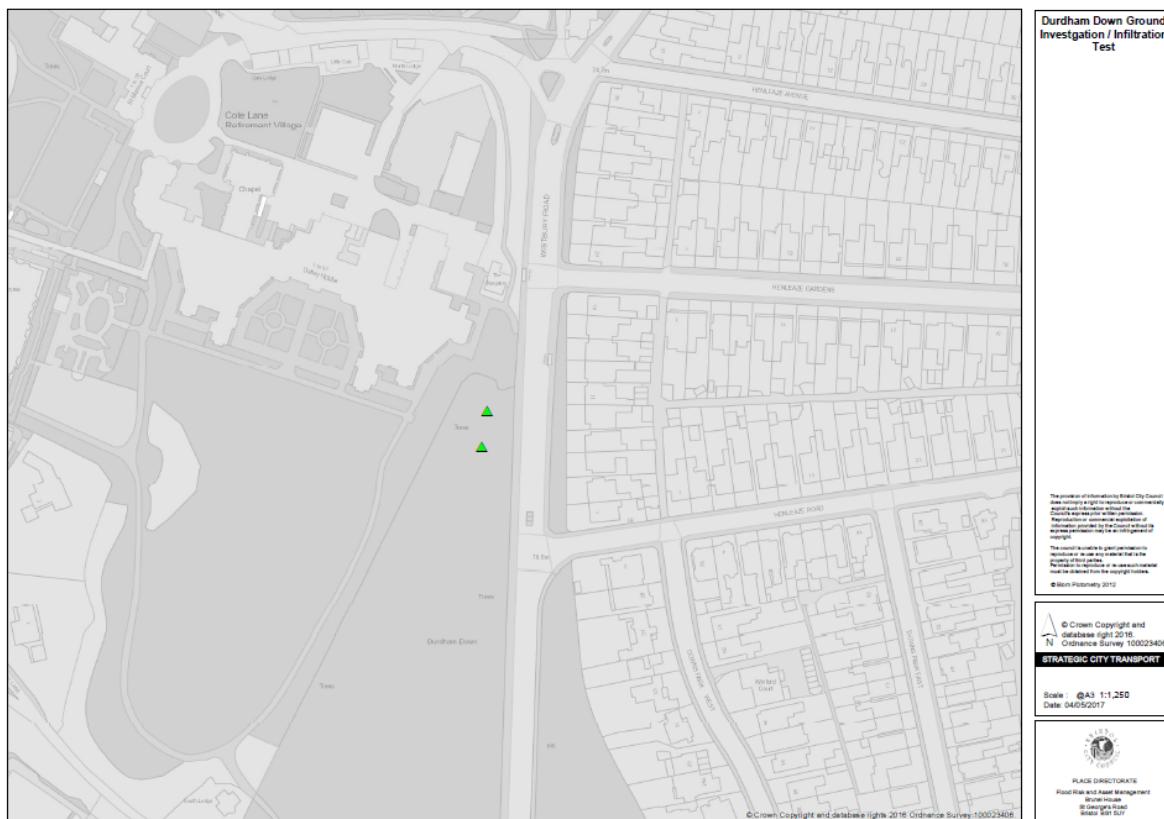
- On a lighter note the summer bedding has been installed at the top of Blackboy Hill and looks good. Also improvements are being made to the surrounds of the toilet block on Bridge Road with new planting and hanging baskets prior to Clifton in Bloom judging in July.
- Subsequent to the football season ending and Funderworld and Foodies Fest leaving site, a large amount of over-seeding has been carried out in these areas to maintain surfaces fit for play and further event activity as we go on through the year. We look forward to welcoming our 2 charity runs (NSPCC Colour Run and 2017 Race for Life) in the coming weeks.
- The annual haycut contract has been issued and the Downs will be cut as soon as possible after the 24<sup>th</sup> July (subject to weather conditions). The hay from site will go to Hartcliffe and Lawrence Weston City Farms and any remaining bales to Horseworld.

- Ben and Sarah attended an Avon Gorge Working Group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April chaired by Chief Inspector Zoe Chegwyn. The aim of this group is the prevention of suicides and multi-agency response to incidents. An outcome of this meeting was to explore the possibility of installing signage on Sea Walls with the Samaritans phone number, as per on the suspension bridge. The Samaritans have confirmed they would support this and could provide the signs.

**Recommendation: Downs Committee approve the install of sensitively placed signs at the Sea Walls location.**

#### **Sustainable Drainage Scheme:**

- A request from the Bristol City Council Flood Risk Team has been received by Parks to potentially install a sustainable drainage pond on Durdham Down, near Henleaze Road.
- The purpose of this project to try and alleviate surface water flooding from occurring on Reedley / Great Brockridge Road in Westbury on Trym. During extreme rainfall the surface water sewers within the area become overwhelmed leading to flooding. To try and stop this from



happening, we are proposing to temporarily store surplus surface water within a small area on Durdham Down, near Henleaze Road. There will be a need to excavate the ground to make be able to hold water, but it will be designed in way that will be still accessible to the public. It will have gentle sloping side slopes and it will be grass seeded as normal. Water will only be stored during the most extreme rainfall events, the majority of the time it will be dry. Following the rainfall event, the water

will released back into surface water sewer.

- As part of this scheme we are also proposing to store surface water within an underground tank within the Badminton School. These two schemes will hopefully reduce the risk of flooding 11 properties.
- The scheme will be a partnership funded scheme between Bristol City Council, Environment Agency and Wessex Water. The Durdham Down element will be maintained by Bristol City Council. As stated above, we will design it so the public can still use the space as normal as it will just be in a depression, so hopefully no compensation will be required.
- We need to complete a ground investigation by digging two trial pits. The trail pits will be filled back in following completion and returned as normal. The ground investigations and infiltration tests need to take place initially as shallow soils may make the project unviable.

**Recommendation: Approval of ground investigations and infiltration testing for potential Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) pond on Durdham Down near Henleaze Road.**

**4d) Management Plan**

The first initial draft has been produced. This was circulated to the sub group and a sub group meeting took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, during this meeting comments and amendments were raised by the group and the plan is now being updated to reflect these.

The plan will next be circulated to all Downs Committee members and then to the key stakeholders for consultation. Following the consultation period the sub group will meet to review any comments, final alterations will be made as appropriate before the plan is brought back to the Downs Committee for approval and implementation.

Management plan sub group members are: Councillor Fodor, Councillor Alexander, Anthony Brown, Francis Greenacre, Mandy Leivers, Becky Belfin, Ben Skuse and Sarah Blazier.

**4e) Health and Safety:**

- The rock catch fence replacement was completed at Sea Walls, Black Rock Quarry in April / May 2017.
- The annual rock face inspection for the zig zag path, childrens playground and slopes above Bridge Valley Road were completed in March 2017. Next year the Bridge Road rock face will be included in the report.
- Black Rock Quarry / Sea Walls had a qualitative rock face risk assessment in February 2017.

## **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**

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:** Financial advice provided Finance Section Business Partner.

**7. Land:** The land is under the control of the Downs Committee.

**8. Personnel:** Not applicable

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

Background Papers: None