

## AGENDA ITEM NO:

### BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

#### DOWNS COMMITTEE

20<sup>th</sup> Nov 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, Parks Operations Co-ordinator.

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 9037141

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Recommendation: That the Downs Committee agrees to a Music concert taking place on the Downs in September 2018 subject to fees being agreed at the next Event Sub Group Committee meeting, licensing and Site Permissions approval.
- Recommendation: That the Downs Committee agrees to the proposal for the 2nd concert (Classical/different genre) subject to the approval of the Event Sub Group committee at the next meeting taking place in in January 2018 as well fees and charges being agreed and licensing and Site Permission approval.
- *Recommendation: The committee approve the annual spend from the 2017/18 Downs budget of £5k to go to the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project budget.*
- *Recommendation: The committee approve the spend of £2500 for BCC Bristol Design Team to transform the new combined Downs and Avon Gorge Management Plan from a text document to a designed corporate looking plan complete with relevant images and maps alongside the text.*

#### 1. Policy

Not applicable

#### 2. Consultation

##### a) Internal

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

#### 3. Events Report; provided by Melissa Inman.

### 3a) Filming

Date	Production/Company
02/03/2017	Screwfix
22/03/2017	Flying Solo
10/04/2017	Bristol 360
12/04/2017	Babylon
10/05/2017	Happy Hour Productions
17/05/2017	BBC Breakfast
18/05/2017	The Old People's Home For Four Year Olds
26/05/2017	Location Location Location series 20
07/06/2017	Streetmate
27/06/2017	Long Road Home
30/06/2017	Hugh's Health Kick
05/07/2017	Long Road Home
07/07/2017	KIRI
14/07/2017	Acorn Lifestyle Shoot
16/07/2017	Vocal Heroes
28/07/2017	Women's Running magazine
08/08/2017	KIRI
11/08/2017	Bristol
11/08/2017	The Converging World
16/08/2017	KIRI
02/09/2017	The Downs
20/09/2017	Tefal: The Toast of Breakfast
27/09/2017	iSite
27/10/2017	Great British Germ Hunt
Total income	£5435.00

### 3b) Event & Festival Updates

An Event and Finance subgroup committee was held on the 1st November 2017.

A report was presented by the Site Permissions Team on the review of the schedule of charitable walking, running and cycling event proposals for 2018 for discussion at the meeting.

As a result of the discussions it was agreed that the Site Permissions Team should:

- Stagger the Charity walks, run and cycling event timetable to ensure the timetable is spread out during the summer months to reduce impact where necessary. See Appendix for the list of proposed events programme for 2018/19.
- Review car parking. More stringent monitoring processes in place for large charity events e.g. Race for Life.
- A timetable for Charity events to be presented to the Events Sub Group Committee in August each year which considers capacity, frequency and impact on local user groups.

The proposed events programme for 2018 was also presented to the committee and discussed. There were no issues raised with regards to the proposed programme for 2018. Fees were agreed for Thunderworld, Foodies, Let's Rock. Fees for other events listed are still to be negotiated and set.

### Music Concert Downs - Team Love

Team Love would like to hold a contemporary music concert on the Saturday 1st September 2018, along a similar style of musical planning and layout of the site as the last

two years.

Team Love are currently exploring hosting a second day of music on the site on the Sunday 2nd September 2018 using the site infrastructure on the second day to host a classical music concert or something with a different musical offering to the Saturday. These conversations are very much in their infancy.

As such it was agreed by the Event Sub Group committee to give their approval for a contemporary music concert on the Saturday 1st September 2018 subject to site permissions and licensing.

The Event Sub Group Committee requested that further details for 2nd concert event on the Sunday (Classical/different genre) including recommended fees and charges are presented at the next Event Sub Group committee meeting for their agreement.

**Recommendation:** That the Downs Committee agrees to a Music concert taking place on the Downs in September 2018 subject to fees being agreed at the next Event Sub Group Committee meeting, licensing and Site Permissions approval.

**Recommendation:** That the Downs Committee agrees to the proposal for the 2nd concert (Classical/different genre) subject to the approval of the Event Sub Group committee at the next meeting taking place in in January 2018 as well fees and charges being agreed and licensing and Site Permission approval.

### **Update on meeting with SPRA**

A meeting was held on Friday 3rd November 2017 with the chairman and deputy chairman of the local residents' association SPRA, Cllr Peter Abraham and Cllr John Goulandris, Melissa Inman (Senior Events Officer) Mark Curtis (Senior Environmental Health officer, Regulatory Services) and the organisers of Team Love.

The chairman and deputy chairman fed back that Team Love's organisation of the concert's logistics - parking, road closures, crowd control etc – are considered reasonable. The one issue, which they felt had not been addressed to date, is the noise nuisance and ways in which it could be mitigated. It was discussed that Like many other local residents they recognise that the Downs needs to generate income and are willing to put up with some level of disruption to help the Downs achieve its financial goal.

The key issue fed back was the amount of disturbance, which is fair and reasonable for residents to be expected to accept together with exploring all possible ways of mitigating that disturbance.

It was agreed that Team Love continue to a dialogue with SPRA around planning and exploring ways to mitigate impact on residents and that Team Love would coordinate future meetings with representatives of SPRA.

### **3c) Proposed future events 2017**

#### **Funderworld - Ticketed funfair**

Set up dates: 7-15 March 2017

Operating dates: 16th March - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Breakdown dates: 9 -13<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Projected events site fee income to the Downs Committee for 17/18: **£108,321.88** (not including the concert levy at £1 per ticket sold)

Site Fees are based on the schedule of charges 17/18.

#### **4. Parks Update**

##### **4a) Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project Education Programme; provided by Mandy Leivers.**

During September and October we engaged with 963 people through the education programme.

The planned public events included: three guided walks; one talk; three children's and family events; and a talk to a community group. Unfortunately, due to storm Brian, we had to postpone the owl prowling walk and cancel a family event.

We ran 19 education sessions for 431 school children. This included two sessions with early years children from Bannerman Road Community Academy. It was the first time that we had worked with this nursery. They are keen to build on the relationship and bring children for sessions next year.

At the other end of the education spectrum, we took 17 students, on the Foundation Degree in Integrated Wildlife Conservation, on a guided tour of the Avon Gorge and Downs. We also shared a stall with the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FODAG) at the University of Bristol Freshers' Fair which was held on the Downs. Over the course of the day we spoke to 164 students, 46 expressed interest in volunteering and 3 have already applied.

The Peaceful Portway event on 17th September was a great success. We organised a family trail which took participants along the gorge to meet experts in wildlife, geology and history from: Clifton Suspension Bridge; FODAG; the National Trust and University of Bristol. We also ran a wildlife craft stall. Overall, 181 people took part in our activities. We had planned two 'Your Downs' walks in conjunction with FODAG; the first with the charity Headway and the second with the 'Five ways to wellbeing' group. Unfortunately both walks had to be cancelled (double-booked minibus and sickness in the group).

The Avon Gorge and Downs seasonal education officer's contract has been extended so that we can prepare an Audience Development Plan and work plan for the next three years. These will be used as part of our funding applications.

##### **4b) Management and Resources**

###### **Downs Team Report; provided by Ben Skuse.**

Daily duties continue, as Autumn gets into full swing, grass cutting activities have ceased and leaf clearing has begun. Regular blowing of footpaths and removing large build ups of leaves on the Promenade in Clifton and on Saville Road will continue throughout the Autumn up to Christmas. Work on the Downs scrub management plan will be taking place across the Winter. Members who walk regularly on the Downs will probably see this work in progress.

Providing Football pitches for both Wednesdays and Saturdays is a task that will continue weekly now until late Spring. We are carrying out our yearly audit of bench stock on the Downs. Carrying out repairs to benches that got broken over the Summer months. Between now and the Spring we aim to get a quarter of our stock cleaned and repainted and stained. It is also our intention to repair and repaint some of our bin stock over the Winter.

We have replaced the old and worn cliff edge warning signs with new ones and have removed the padlocks that had accumulated on the fence at the Observatory. These were

actions that came from the Downs supervisor's presence at a working group looking at ways to lessen the incidences of people accessing the cliff tops of the gorge at the Downs.

The team have helped out at two volunteer litter picks this month: 1, by FODAG on the Downs itself. 2, by Surfers Against Sewage down along the banks of the Avon in the Gorge. I have recently been contacted by a local McDonald's franchisee who would like to bring some of their staff up to the Downs in the Spring for a volunteer litter pick so this will be scheduled also.

Members may notice if they are out and about on the Downs that we have a new volunteer staff member in the team. Unfortunately he is not permanent! We have a student called Tom working with us one day a week as part of his Land and Wildlife management course at Bridgewater & Taunton College.

Since the last report the Circus have been and gone. As ever with the Circus as they operate in October the ground is going to take some work to get it fit again, but this work has already begun and I would expect no permanent damage to the ground at the circus site.

Now that our full event portfolio at the Downs for 2017 has come to an end I am happy to report that all 3 of our event sites are in a relatively good condition and we got through with no major renovation problems. This is down to a number of factors. Good grounds protection plans implemented by organisers, alongside a clear and well used site sign on/sign off procedure used by the Downs Supervisor. The skills and equipment that is in the Downs team to get the ground back fit for purpose and lastly but not least, relative good luck with weather conditions!

With an ever growing portfolio of events at the Downs, subject to DC approval (7 events) for 2018. To ensure that the ground at these sites stays fit for purpose and undamaged there will be a requirement to be able to invest in the materials and equipment needed to keep the ground intact and to maintain a team based on the Downs that can carry out regular remedial works on our event sites throughout the year. Without this there is ever present risk that permanent damage could occur over time which would affect the enjoyment of regular Downs users throughout the year.

**Recommendation:** The committee approve the annual spend from the 2017/18 Downs budget of £5k to go to the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project budget. This budget is used along with funds provided by the Merchant Venturers and Natural England, to pay for the annual winter conservation works in the Gorge, using specialist rope –access contractors. The works are co-ordinated by Becky Belfin, Ben Skuse and Natural England.

### **Sustainable Drainage Scheme:**

- Trial pit dug on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. The report outlines they encountered limestone at relatively shallow depth, less than 1m and terminated the holes there as they were unable to break out the rock. The soakaway tests showed favourable results, as might be expected in limestone. The scheme is currently on hold for the moment as there are not the funds or resource to progress the scheme currently.

### **4c) Management Plan**

The first initial draft has been produced.

The plan has been circulated to Committee members and will now go out 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 final approval and implementation.

- **Recommendation:** The committee approve the spend of £2500 for BCC Bristol Design Team to transform the new combined Downs and Avon Gorge Management Plan from a text document to a designed corporate plan. The budget allows for alterations to be made should there be amendments after the consultation.

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

#### **4d) Movement and Place Framework subgroup**

A sub group is to be booked.

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.

#### **4e) Tree safety works**

The tree officer continues inspections for dead or high risk trees and tree removals follow as required.

#### **4f) Health and Safety:**

- A tactile rope access inspection of Sea Walls rock face is taking place on week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> Nov to determine the extent of loose rocks if present and condition of the rock face itself.
- 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.

**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