

**AGENDA ITEM NO:**

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**DOWNS COMMITTEE**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**

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

**Title:** Downs Management and Events report

**Ward:** N/A

**Officers Presenting Report:** Melissa Inman, Senior Events Officer  
Ben Skuse, Downs Supervisor

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 9037141

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- *Recommendation: The committee approve the use of Sion Hill (where Gromit was, Princes' Lane/Sion Hill Corner, Clifton, BS8 4LD) and The Downs, Stoke Road near Downs Water Tower for two of the Gromit Unleashed trail sculptures*
- *Recommendation: The committee approve the use of an area of the Downs by the Suspension Bridge Trust for a compound between Aug 2018-July 2019.*
- *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, Senior Events Officer

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

#### 3a) Filming

<b>BFO Date</b>	<b>Description / Episode</b>	<b>10359 Downs</b>
07/04/2017	The Great West Way	
13/04/2017	Babylon	
19/04/2017	Bomb	
19/04/2017	Utopias	
08/05/2017	Happy Hour	
18/05/2017	Breakfast	
07/06/2017	The First Brit	
03/08/2017	Kiri	
05/07/2017	Hugh's Health Kick	
19/07/2017	Acorn Lifestyle Shoot	
18/07/2017	Vocal Heroes	
01/08/2017	Womens Running	
09/08/2017	Kiri	
14/08/2017	Bristol	
18/09/2017	Tefal: The Toast of Breakfast	
25/09/2017	isite	
06/10/2017	Great Britain	
01/11/2017	Wild Britain	£2720

#### 3b) Event & Festival Updates

No updates from the Site Permissions team.

#### 3c) Proposed future events 2018

- Funderworld will be returning to the Downs in 2018. They will be operating an extra weekend for 2018 as the Easter Holidays are earlier in the year. Funderworld will be onsite from the 7<sup>th</sup> March till the 13<sup>th</sup> April: Set up dates: 7-15 March 2018; Operating dates: 16<sup>th</sup> March - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018; Breakdown dates: 9 -13<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- The Foodies Festival will be on the Downs from the 8<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The set up days are 8<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> May; Operating dates are 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May; breakdown dates are 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May. The Bristol 10k will be taking place on the 13<sup>th</sup> May whilst Foodies Festival is taking place.
- Tough Mudder 10k is a new event for the Downs. This is a challenging 5k obstacle course. There will be no mud and water involved in this event. The event will be

onsite from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The set up dates are 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May; operating date is the 19<sup>th</sup> May; the breakdown dates is the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

- Let's Rock will be moving from Ashton Court to the Downs for 2018. This event will be a 1 day concert based around 80's music with a capacity of 10,000. They will be onsite from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June. The set up dates are 28<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June; the operating day is 2<sup>nd</sup> June; the breakdown dates are 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June.
- The Lady Boys of Bangkok took a break in 2017, but will be operating on the Downs in 2018. Their previous location, Castle Park, is undertaking some works to reinstate the grounds. It will be onsite from 5<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 with the capacity of 400 per show. The set up dates are 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June; the operating dates are 8<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June; the breakdown dates are 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- Race for Life will be returning to the Downs in 2018. In previous years, the Site Permissions team and the Parks team have received complaints regarding the parking at this event. Ben Skuse from Parks and Zoe Walmsley for Site Permissions, met with Race for Life to discuss the parking issue. It was recommended to the organisers that public transport would be the best option of transportation to and from the event. Race for Life have agreed to advertise a 'no parking available' for their event. This event will be onsite from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July.
- The Downs Concert will be returning in 2018. Discussions are still happening in regards to extending this event to a 2 day event. Waiting on confirmation from the organisers. It will be onsite from the 26<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September. The set up dates are 26<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> August; operating dates are 31<sup>st</sup> Aug(TBC) and 1<sup>st</sup> Sept; breakdown dates are 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September.
- The Student Union Welcome Fair will be operating in 2018 dates still confirmed.
- The Russian Circus will be returning to the Downs. Their tender agreement has been extended another year. The dates for this event are still to be confirmed.

## **Gromit Unleashed 2 Arts Trail**

The Grand Appeal together with Aardman will be launching a brand new arts trail in Bristol next year following the international success of their previous two trails, Shaun in the City and Gromit Unleashed.

Bounding back onto the streets of Bristol for his second starring role in the sculpture trail is Nick Park's much loved character Gromit, but this time he's not alone, the lovable canine will be joined by his pal Wallace and arch nemesis Feathers McCraw.

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018, over 60 original sculptures will descend on Bristol and will raise money for Bristol Royal Hospital for Children Special Care Baby Unit at ST Michaels Hospital.

Recommendation: The committee approve the use of Sion Hill (where Gromit was, Princes' Lane/Sion Hill Corner, Clifton, BS8 4LD) and The Downs, Stoke Road near Downs Water Tower for two of the sculptures (see Image **a.** and **b.** below).

**a) Sion Hill (where Gromit was, Princes' Lane/Sion Hill Corner, Clifton, BS8 4LD)**



## b) The Downs, Stoke Road near Downs Water Tower



## 3d) Finances

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) Management and Resources

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

This report covers a time of the Downs year where we do most of our scrub removal work with the 10 year scrub removal management plan. The team will be working with the plan up to February 28<sup>th</sup>, identifying and removing scrub compartments to enable limestone grassland plant communities to have a space to survive and thrive.

Daily litter removal and Goat monitoring continues. Since the latest incident involving Dogs in the enclosure off leads, we have changed our signage to be more pictorial and are getting regular additional patrols by the Bristol City Council Dog wardens. Discussions are still being had about whether we can ban Dogs completely from the enclosure and what level of enforcement is available to us.

Staff cleared leaves from footpaths on the Downs prior to Christmas and briefly, snow from footpaths after Christmas.

Weekly Football provision continues, various works to keep the surfaces playable are carried out in this generally wet period.

All of our pitches and our 3 event areas have been fertilised. This has not been carried out since around 2002 so it was felt necessary as the quantity of Football played plus more

and more events are causing the Downs surface to become increasingly threadbare in places. The aim is that this application will see a really good flush of grass growth in the spring that will be of benefit to both the Football pitches and event areas.

Bench repairs continue as and when we see damage. A programme of cleaning and re-wood staining will commence in the spring, potentially involving community payback teams.

Discussions have been ongoing regarding the status of the toilets on the Downs. Through these discussions, involving myself and merchants, it is hoped solutions can be found to maintain an adequate toilet provision at the Downs.

As reported by myself at any other business in the last meeting, we have a staff vacancy currently. I am in ongoing dialogue with the north area parks manager about how and when this vacancy can be filled.

### **New bridge works compound**

Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust is planning to replace the toll booths. They seek permission to erect a contractor's compound on Sion Hill and to provide a temporary footpath for pedestrians onto the bridge. They are envisaging that the compound will be needed from August 2018 until July 2019. The compound would be screened with the same green netting as before, and the buildings within would only be one storey.

- ***Recommendation:* The committee approves and permits the Bridge trust to have another compound in this area.**

### **4b) 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 6 week 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 in April for final approval and implementation. The question of approving the spend of £2500.00 for the document to be converted from its current format to a designed corporate plan will be decided upon via the finance sub group meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.

- ***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.

### **4c) 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.

#### **4d) Tree safety works**

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

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

There will be 3 planned road closures of Bridge Valley Rd on consecutive Sundays in the coming weeks.

Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>

Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>

Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>

This is to carry out vegetation and tree cutting on the slopes above the road to enable inspection by rock safety officers from WSP.

### **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