

AGENDA ITEM NO:

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNNS COMMITTEE

9th April 2018

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
Ben Skuse, Downs Supervisor

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Recommendation: That the committee approves the Clifton Suspension Bridge trust's plans to use part of the Downs at Sion Hill Clifton for a compound.*

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) Event & Festival Updates

The Events & Finance Sub Group Meeting took place on the 23rd March 2018. The following was discussed.

Team Love concert: sub-committee were disappointed that promoters are unable to secure a second day concert. Agreed that in light of this, there should be no 3-year agreement.

The event team are in negotiation with promoters regarding the fees and it was agreed by the sub group to request increase on the current price per head.

Grand Appeal: sub-committee noted proposed fee for new Gromit trail to be split across 22 locations.

Tour of Britain: initial discussions are being held on the Tour of Britain returning to Bristol.

Sub-committee stressed the importance of the Downs Committee being consulted on organisation and recompensed for any maintenance costs. It was recommended that the Events Team liaise with Cllr Kye Dud, Cabinet Member for Sport to brief and discuss next steps.

3b) Proposed future events 2017

Funderworld are currently onsite on the Water Tower Site at the Downs. They pulled onsite a week earlier than usual so that they could operate longer due to Easter being early this year. The event days are from 16th March to 8th April. The timings for the event have changed this year. The event will only run till 9pm every evening.

The Foodies Festival will be on the Downs from the 8th till 15th May 2018. The set up days are 8th- 11th May; Operating dates are 12th-13th May; breakdown dates are 14th-15th May. The Bristol 10k will be taking place on the 13th 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 17th to 20th May 2018. The set up date is 17th May; operating dates are the 18th to 19th May; the breakdown dates is the 20th 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 28th May to 5th June. The set up dates are 28th May to 1st June; the operating day is 2nd June; the breakdown dates are 3rd-5th June. They plan to close Parris Lane so that they can use this as a bus stop and taxi drop off point. No parking allowed for this event.

The Lady Boys of Bangkok took a break in 2017, but will be operating on the Downs in 2018. Their previous location, Castle Park, which is undertaking some works to reinstate the grounds. It will be onsite from 5th-25th June 2018 with the capacity of 400 per show. The set up dates are 5th-7th June; the operating dates are 8th-23rd June; the breakdown dates are 24th-25th 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 30th June to 1st July.

Gromit Unleashed 2 will be placing some statues on the Downs as part of their arts trail. There will be 3 statues placed on the Downs for this event. They will be onsite from 2nd July to 2nd September. 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 2nd July until Sunday 2nd 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.

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



b) The Downs, Stoke Road near Downs Water Tower



The Downs Concert will be returning in 2018. This will be a one day event only for 2018. This event pulls onsite on the 24th August to 7th Sept; the event day will be the 1st September located at Sea Walls.

The Student Union Welcome Fair will be operating in 2018, the dates are still to be confirmed. A meeting is set up with the organisers to confirm their plans for this year.

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 but will take place during late September/early October.

4. Parks Update

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

The Avon Gorge and Downs education officer, Ariane Duperon, left at the end of February and Jill Parsons took on the role of at the beginning of March.

Although it's a relatively quiet time of year, we engaged with 421 people through the education programme. This included: two guided walks; two talks; one children's event; three talks to community groups and a lecture to one higher education group. We have also been busy booking in school educational visits for the spring and summer terms. As part of the Audience Development Plan, we met with staff from Bristol City Council's Inner City and East Bristol Health Improvement Team and staff from Bridges for Communities (an organisation that works with refugees and asylum seekers), to plan the 'Wild Adventures Family Project'. Through the project we are aiming to provide opportunities for Syrian families (who are new to the city), to have some fun together and to learn about the special wildlife living on the gorge and Downs. We have suggested a number of dates and themed visits, and Bridges for Communities are now contacting the

Syrian families to invite them to take part in the project.

At the end of March we ran our first session in our new 'Downs Challenge' programme. This project was developed as a result of the Audience Development Plan and is a partnership programme with Imayla (an organisation that works with children facing difficulties). During a series of sessions throughout the year, the children will complete different 'challenges' to discover the wildlife of the gorge and Downs and develop a sense of attachment to place. Our first session was a great success - 13 children had a wonderful time finding out about the rare plants of the Avon Gorge and visiting the goats in the Gully. We have given every child a ring-binder to keep activity sheets from each session in. The activity sheets will enable ongoing learning, discovery and creativity between sessions.

4b) Management and Resources **Downs Team Report; provided by Ben Skuse.**

Snow has been quite prevalent in the period covering this report. Unseasonably cold weather on two occasions has certainly meant changes to the normal line up of jobs and routines for the team at this time of year.

I and other staff, plus our 4x4 vehicles were commandeered by the civil protection team to assist meals on wheels and homecare nurses to get around the city. Team members left at the Downs worked hard to get grit onto our footpaths and battled through drifts to keep bins emptied.

Due to the snowfall the ground in parts of the Downs remains quite saturated and it was not an ideal situation to have Funderworld arriving to set up in time for an early Easter. Normal duties as best as possible, have been maintained complemented by some unseasonable additions, like breaking the ice on the water tank in the goat enclosure for a number of days!

Since February 1st the team have taken over temporary duties opening/closing and cleaning the sea walls toilets. This agreement is meant to bridge between Feb 1st and March 23rd when I hand them over to a cleaning company commissioned by the Downs Committee to run them going forward. That hand over has currently been delayed somewhat due to some outstanding repairs. However when they are handed over this will allow for a more suitable coverage for locking up times and at weekends than parks staff can give currently.

The team still stand at 4 in number since one member of staff left in December. I am in discussions with the North area parks manager about how to get a solution to this. I hope to be able to report at the full meeting in April that I am back to a compliment of 5.

New bridge works compound

Members will remember from the last meeting that the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust wishes to build new toll booths for the Clifton Side in 2018. It was thought that more detail was needed about the proposal to have another compound on the Downs on Sion Hill.

I have with me copies of the more detailed plan form Trish Johnson the Bridge master. I also have plan diagrams of the works for discussion.

Members will note the comment in her email that "this approval will be required before we can issue tender documents".

- **Recommendation: The committee approves and permits the Bridge trust to**

have another compound on Sion Hill, Clifton in summer 2018.

4c) Management Plan

The draft document is just having maps finalised by the GIS team. Stakeholders have been identified. They will be sent the document for a 6 week consultation period. 1 week to review responses then 2 weeks for design team to update the draft. The plan is to be complete in June. Then it can be presented to the committee at July's meeting.

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

The sub-group has met on 2 occasions since the last full committee. The key points of the plan were reviewed and assessed. A funding source has been identified to enable part of the works to realise a seven sister's loop (pedestrian and recreational cycling). It was thought by members that given this funding opportunity realising this aspect of the framework was achievable and would represent a good place to start. In this way realising other aspects of the framework in the future could be looked at with some context and we will have better understanding of how achievable other aspects may be.

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. Sadly, we have a dead Monkey puzzle tree on Zoo banks, the only one on the Downs. It is being inspected and the likelihood is that it will have to be removed.

4f) Health and Safety:

The way that we use BCC security services officers on the Downs to enforce bye-laws is being reviewed. Prior to committing to using and paying for the services of this section for 2018 I am trying to identify what exactly they can do in terms of enforcement and to what extent this matches up with what the committee wants in terms of enforcement. If it turns out that BCC security services cannot provide the level of enforcement members deem necessary then other options can be explored.

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