

AGENDA ITEM NO:

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNS COMMITTEE

2nd July 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:

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

Date	Company	Amount
18/04/2018	Brief Media Ltd	75.00
20/04/2018	Sketch Events Ltd	175.00
02/05/2018	Omni Productions	225.00
06/06/2018	Tusko films	45.00

3b) Event & Festival Updates

Since the last Downs Committee meeting, we have had the Foodies Festival and Let's Rock. The Foodies Festival had a capacity of 4,999 people at any one time whilst

operating on the 11th to 13th May 2018. Bristol City Council Culture Team received a higher level of complaints than in previous years from residents regarding noise.

The Foodies Festival de-brief meeting with Bristol's Safety Advisory (SAGE) is will take place July 13th 2018. This meeting provides an opportunity for the event organisers and members of the SAGE to feedback and review the 2018 event and discuss future planning.

This was the first year Lets was held on the Downs with a capacity of 10,000 at any one time on the 2nd June. This event was attended by a Site Permissions Officer and an Event Officer during key times at the event. Complaints have also been received regarding noise. The organisers will also be required to attend a de-brief with the SAGE in July in order for SAGE members and event organisers to feedback and review the 2018 event.

In addition to the SAGE de-brief meetings officers from the Site Permission, Environmental Health and Licensing department at Bristol City Council will be reviewing complaints received and can provide a further update once completed.

3c) Proposed future events 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 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
- The Student Union Welcome Fair will be operating in 2018 dates is still to be confirmed. A meeting will be set up with the organisers regarding the fees 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.

3d) Finances

2018/2019

The income for 2018/2019 between April to July is £50,653.75. £43,055.69 of this (85%) is allocated to the Downs parks budget.

Site Fees are based on the schedule of charges 18/19.

4. Parks Update

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

From April to June we engaged with 8,070 people through the education programme. This

included: four guided walks, two courses, a musical event for toddlers and a children's holiday event. In May, we also ran an 'Ups and Downs in the Avon Gorge' walk in partnership with the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FODAG) as part of the Bristol Walk Fest.

During this period, we taught 195 University students, 976 school children (with three of the schools visiting the Downs for the first time) and two Rainbow groups who visited for evening education sessions.

We ran our first two sessions with refugee families as part of the 'Wild Adventures Family Project' (this is the project that we are running in conjunction with Bridges for Communities, the Bristol City Council Inner City and East Bristol Health Improvement Team and FODAG, as part of the Audience Development Plan). The first session was an introductory session which included a pre-project focus group for the adults and a children's wildlife craft workshop. The aim of the focus group was to ascertain the participants' current level of wildlife knowledge, awareness of the Avon Gorge and Downs and connection to nature so that we could shape the future sessions to their interests. Two members of Bridges for Communities translated for us. Later, we gave a talk about the wildlife of the Avon Gorge and Downs which was well received.

Our second session was a guided walk on the Downs. We explored the route between the Lord Mayor's mansion and the Suspension Bridge talking about the history, flora and fauna of the area with some sensory activities for the children. Two members of Bridges for Communities translated what we were saying into Arabic. It was a great success with the participants giving us really positive feedback.

As part of the Audience Development Plan we also began a new pilot project called 'Roots to Wellbeing' (a programme of guided wellbeing walks for elderly members of the community from St Paul's and Easton). In May, we visited 'Sammy's Pop Up' project in St Paul's with a FODAG member and the Inner City and East Bristol Health Improvement Team co-ordinator. This gave us a chance to meet the group, give them a talk about the Avon Gorge and Downs and tell them a bit about the project. Later in the month we held our first walk on the Downs. Unfortunately only five people came on the day (probably due to cold weather and a forecast for rain). Despite this, the walk was enjoyed by all who did attend; we saw the hawthorn in full bloom and heard blackcaps and chiffchaffs singing before enjoying lunch together at Café Retreat. Hopefully the attendees will report back to the group and encourage more people to come along to the next walk.

We also held our second 'Downs Challenge' session with Imayla (a project that supports children facing difficult times). We led the children on a tree trail identifying 16 different trees, had a picnic by one of our Bristol whitebeams, made tree spirit sculptures and played a sensory game to explore individual trees using touch. One child reported that it was the one of the best trips she had ever been on, and all seemed to have a great time with the group playing really well together and getting involved with the activities with lots of enthusiasm.

We also attended two public events. In May, we took part in the Clifton Suspension Bridge's 'From garden to gorge' event, taking along our range of leaflets and talking to visitors about the wildlife of the Avon Gorge and Downs.

In June, we took along our display and leaflets and ran wildlife activities for children in the Bristol Zoological Society tent at the Bristol Festival of Nature. This included making masks of wildlife found on the Avon Gorge and Downs and giving children the opportunity to role play at being young ornithologists, weighing and measuring life size toy peregrine chicks before ringing them and returning them to their 'nest.' Our section was hugely

popular with 7,276 people visiting the tent over the weekend.

4b) Management and Resources

Downs Team Report; provided by Ben Skuse.

The first half of the summer has been busy as usual. The large proportion of the work that the team carry out at this time of year is based around litter removal and grass cutting. In order to keep the grass in check we are pretty much mowing continuously throughout May, June and July before the lack of rainfall in the second half of the summer slows the grass growth down.

Our areas of wildflower meadow look particularly good in June and I can certainly recommend to members to go and have a look if they are in the area.

In between events (Foodies and Lets Rock), we have been carrying out remedial ground repair works. However it is only really from June onwards that the Water Tower site gets a bit of a break and the grass seed and soil that has been added can have a chance to bed in. Much of the damage though is superficial discolouration and will heal itself from now on.

All the Football pitches have been re-seeded with soil added to the goal mouths and other worn areas.

Goat monitoring continues daily with help from FODAG volunteers on weekends and bank holidays. Our remaining 4 are doing well and I sincerely hope that the troubling incidents of last year are behind us due to increased vigilance, talking to the public walking dogs in the vicinity and more signage.

During May we have trialled the use of designated re-cycling bins on the Downs. These have been placed in key areas during peak times when the sun is out around weekends. There are some operational difficulties that need to be worked out between myself and Bristol Waste company to enable this important trial to continue and discussions are ongoing about how best we can continue this provision which I certainly believe is worthwhile and needed.

Members may note that there is no council provided summer bedding in parks this year due to budgetary pressures. This is city wide apart from College green. I have had discussions with ex Bristol and Clifton in Bloom colleagues who believe they can come up with some plant provision from local businesses for our beds at the top of Whiteladies Rd.

Since the last meeting we have managed to fill the vacancy in the team and are now back to a compliment of 5 staff.

Update on Toll Houses Redevelopment – Clifton Suspension Bridge Trish Johnson (Bridge Master)

The tenders for the above works have now been received and the Main Contractor will be appointed soon following final checks.

Enabling works have been ongoing at the bridge over the last few months – these works involved the construction of a temporary pathway, diversion of services and erection of the temporary toll houses and signage. The main aim of these works was to reduce the programme length on the main contract.

It is envisaged that once the contractor is appointed work will start on site within a week with the compound being one of the first areas of work.

The programme for the works has significantly reduced and it is envisaged that the compound on the Downs will be in position for nine months. The proposed dates will be end of June to end of February 2019.

Once the Contractor has been appointed I will come back with final dates. The Trust as well as the Downs Committee is keen that the work progresses as efficiently as possible.

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