

Downs Committee
Matters Arising Events & Finance Sub Group Meeting
22nd May 2019 at 2.00 pm

Below is a precis of matters that were discussed at the Events and Finance Sub-Group. Note that confidential items discussed within this group cannot be published. For Events, Maintenance and Finance updates see their respective reports in this pack.

Events Update Report

1. **Cycle Sunday:** the organisers had confirmed that this event would not be going ahead this year, but they hoped to organise an event in 2020;
2. **Freedom of Mind Fun Day:** the organisers had requested a date change which clashed with another event on The Downs and as a result the event had moved to an alternative site in Bristol;
3. **Post-Halloween Event:** the Sub-Committee agreed that this event would not be suitable due to the potential for ground damage during November.
4. **Foodies Festival:** the festival was a success and there had been no complaints from residents about noise, although the organisers had raised a concern about ground damage which had occurred as a result of the Funderworld event.
5. **Funderworld:** there had been an alleged racist incident that was the subject of a police and SARI (Support Against Racist Incidents) investigation and an accident which had been investigated by the Health and Safety Executive.
6. **Funfairs on The Downs:** the following response was agreed in relation to a press enquiry:
“Applications to host events on the Downs are scrutinised and assessed by the Downs Committee. For some time there has only been one operator of a funfair approved by the Committee and at present there are no plans to introduce a second funfair. Any previous bar on an organisation from applying to host an event could not be upheld under current rules and regulations however historic events are taken into consideration by the Committee when determining an event application.”
7. **Bristol Pride:** a fee had agreed with organisers.
8. **Lady Boys of Bangkok:** fee negotiations were ongoing.

9. **Rotary Event:** there had been no further information about this event and so it was assumed that the event would not be going ahead.
10. **Midnight Walk:** this event was the subject of negotiations and no fees had yet been agreed.
11. **Licensed Activities on The Downs:** The Sub-Committee noted that it was difficult to enforce a licensing fee for all users of The Downs but undertook to look into a complaint from a member of the public about individuals using The Downs for income generating activities without a licence.

Finance report

The full year finance report was received.

Other Issues

1. **Sea Walls Café Planning Application:** The Secretary of State would be attending a site visit in September.
2. **Football on The Downs:** negotiations were continuing with Bristol University and The Downs League in relation to fees and facilities for 2019/20.
3. **Zoo Parking Renegotiations:** the Sub-Committee were negotiating the details of entering into an agreement with Bristol Zoo to secure a substantial increase in licence fees for car parking with a greater tenure and a review mechanism in place.
4. **Cycling on Downs:** this would be the subject of a discussion at a future meeting of the Movement and Place Sub-Committee.