

Matters Arising From the Events and Finance Sub-Group – Wednesday 26th February 2020

Below is a precis of matters that were discussed at the Events and Finance Sub-Group. Please note that confidential items discussed within this group cannot be published. For Events, Maintenance and Finance updates please see the respective Agenda Items in the agenda pack.

Members:

Ross Ancell - Merchant Venturer (Master and Chair)

Councillor Don Alexander

Jonathon Baker - Merchant Venturer

Peter Rilett – Merchant Venturer

Tim Ross – Merchant Venturer

Bristol City Council Officers:

Kevin Jay – Finance

Jeremy Livitt – Democratic Services

Amanda Sharpe – Events Officer

Ben Skuse – Grounds Supervisor

Matters Arising From Previous Meeting – 15th January 2020

Kevin Jay reported on action arising from further discussions between the finance team, parks officers and appropriate Sub-Group members to provide further detail on some of the entries.

Finance Update

The Sub-Group noted the update report and changes to the budget which would be required as a result of entries in the Downs Committee accounts that needed to be changed. A detailed financial report was received on the proposed new café and WCs at Seawalls

Events Update Report

Funderworld (27th March 2020 to 9th April 2020)

They had agreed to pay an increased £35,000 site fee for 3 years. The event would be taking place in April 2020.

Foodies Festival (8th to 10th May 2020)

The organisers had agreed to pay the required site fee but had requested a three year agreement at this fee level. The Sub-Group also considered a late submission of the planned site which would impact on a nearby footpath. A fixed fee was agreed for three years but with payment up front and as previously requested, the organisers asked to provide a more balanced festival reducing the number of takeaway stands.

The organisers will be requested to alter the site layout to avoid blocking the footpath or if this was not possible to be requested to move back to the location used in previous years

VE Day Commemoration (8th May 2020)

It was noted that a 55 metre space needed to be clear at the front. The Safety Advisory Group would advise on any safety concerns. This event was agreed with no income to be provided.

Race for Life (28th June 2020)

The Events Team would monitor parking. If this failed to improve in 2020, it was noted that the organisers would be advised that the event would not be allowed in future years.

Pride (11th July 2020)

It was noted that this event was now fixed.

Downs Festival

It was noted that, whilst the organisers had put a lot of effort into finding a headliner for this event, they had been unable to find one. Therefore, the event would not be taking place for 2020. It was noted that the missing income would be replaced if the new café was approved but there would be a temporary cash flow shortfall.

It was acknowledged that it would be extremely difficult in such a short period of time to find a similar replacement event. Any replacement event organisers would need to have their track record thoroughly checked to ensure they could meet the same standards. In addition, Team Love were heavily focused on local events (ie they organised an event in Castle Park and also at Glastonbury) which might not apply for other organisers.

It was noted that an alternative might be to find two smaller events to fill the gap temporarily for 2020.

Students Union Welcome Event (25th to 26th September 2020)

A response was still awaited from the Students Union as to whether or not they are prepared to pay the proposed event fee.

Downs Circus (23rd September 2020 to 11th October 2020)

The provisional dates for this year's event were noted.

"Come Together"

This new proposed one-day event in late August or early September would be part of a media campaign launch to break the stigma of isolation and loneliness and encourage interaction between generations.

It was noted that, whilst this event was the first day of the football season, the proposed site used by the Circus would not cause any problems.

The event is agreed for a one-day event at an appropriate cost.

Tough Mudder

It was noted that this event had been held in July 2019. Officers were still waiting to hear from this group whether or not they would be able to hold a proposed event in Summer 2020.

Any Other Business

Circular Route on the Downs - Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project had agreed to bid for National Heritage Lottery Funds for this scheme. Forestry England would be the main bid writer. The group working on this project was Councillor Don Alexander, Simon Cooper, Francis Greenacre, Mandy Leivers and Ben Skuse.

Future Arrangements for Downs Committee Sub-Groups – It was noted that, following the decisions at the Special Committee on 20th January to proceed with the Leisure Loop and A3170 schemes, the Movement and Place Sub-Group will have far less work than it has currently.

It was proposed that a report is taken to the next Downs Committee on future arrangements for Sub-Groups proposing that the M and P Sub-Group is abolished - in future all issues in this area of work would be dealt with as required by the Downs Committee setting up on each occasion a Task and Finish Group. This group would be set up each time it is required by the Downs Committee with instructions to report back to the main Committee to make the final decision.

In the meantime, the residual work that is being prepared for the Leisure Loop and A3170 schemes will continue to be done by the parties meeting informally as required until they are ready to report back to the main Committee.

The Events and Finance Sub-Group would continue to operate as currently ie with 4 Councillor and 4 Merchant Venturer Reps and the Master acting as Chair.

The Master and Lord Mayor have agreed this approach. A report will be submitted to the Downs Committee on Wednesday 25th March 2020 proposing the above changes.