

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Downs Committee,

### **Re: Downs Loop Proposal**

We hope this email finds you all well. We are writing to update you on progress with the Downs Loop and to ask for your response so that we can proceed to public consultation on the project.

We have updated the proposal which we originally presented to you in May 2019 (when we walked around the Downs with the committee). Key changes as agreed at the Downs Committee meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January are:

1. Route change at Ivywell Road. Route crosses to the existing path on the north side of the road.
2. Circular Road to become a 20mph zone (currently it just has a 20mph speed limit). This will mean the introduction of physical traffic calming measures while maintaining access.
3. Embrace the design methods used by the National Trust for their new multi-user trails. These methods have been used for the newly completed Ashton Park Link path built by Greenways and Cycleways at the bottom of Ashton Court.

The proposal is attached, and the key changes can be found on pages 7, 8 and 9, 11 and 12.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February, we held a productive workshop with Richard Goldthorpe (City Design Group) to scope out the project. Bristol City Council officers Robert Grieve (Local and Sustainable Transport), Steven Riley (Strategic City Transport), and David Lucas (Road Safety and Local Engineering) attended. A draft project timeline is attached to this letter.

The session gave us invaluable insight into the following areas:

- Highways: the process of adding traffic calming measures to Circular Road
- Planning Requirements such as a policy context document and public engagement
- Outlining the distinct Project Development and Project Delivery phases.

For the next step of Project Development, we are looking at how to conduct a public consultation given the current restraints due to Covid-19. We have development funding from a charitable grant and can use this fund to pay for a consultant. A public consultation at this stage will enable us to gauge response to the Downs Loop in principle and to adapt the plans where appropriate. Detailed discussions with yourselves re surfacing, exact line of the path etc could happen during this time. Capital funding for the Project Delivery phase would be sought once planning permission has been granted.

We would like to request at this stage that the committee confirm its support for the project. At the moment we have the resolution from the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January supporting the project in principal, but subject to discussion of detail. We would like to clarify this before spending more charitable money on the next stage of Project Development. If you are able to send a response by email, we would be grateful, as we could then get the public consultation up and running before the school summer holidays. We understand however, that there are plans for the committee to meet by Zoom on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, so if a decision prior to then is not possible, we ask that this project be an agenda item at that meeting with the objective of a decision on that date.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Cracknell and Jonny Wood